

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

My fellow Sportsmen,

Congratulations BLUE GRASS, you have proved to be proactive sportsmen again! As you all know, we were faced with a dues increase at the December General Meeting and after viewing the presentation, you made the tough decision and voted to increase the dues by 25%. While I did receive some opposition to the motion prior to the vote, all I asked was that those folks come to the vote with an open mind, be ready to take a hard look at the presentation and make your vote based on the facts. Not only did the increase pass, the vote was unanimous, not a single nay vote was heard.

This speaks volumes to the commitment of our members and their passion for this awesome club!

With the vote behind us, let me assure each of you that I will be as diligent as I know how and that everything comes down to the club and our members. Over the last few years, we have started to streamline operations and this will continue. I truly believe that Blue Grass is the best club, the best value for any sportsman and their family but also that we aren't even close to our potential. This facility is very unique in that it has something for everyone. I can't think of any investment of dues that will return what a BGSL Membership can.

This increase in revenue is not a cure all of our financial woes, but is a stop-gap and will bring some time to the club to get the some more streamlining done. The one big key for the club will be to hold retention as high as possible. It has always been a big problem after a dues increase and we must limit the attrition if we can. The second key will be to keep our recruitment up to the budgeted figures we need. It is the duty of each of us to recruit new members. If each member were to bring in 1 new member, this would be the cure all. It would stabilize the finances and create a waiting list that would make each membership more valuable. If we can recruit the new members through our existing rolls, we will know who we are bringing in instead of opening up the club. This is how it should be. **Just 1 new member each!**

Happy
New Year
"BLUE GRASS !
61 years of Heritage

Next Meeting

Tuesday — Jan. 3, 7:30pm

Please direct any membership concerns to the
BGSL bookkeeper at 859-858-4060 or
e-mail at BGSLinc.com

On this recruitment note, I would like to introduce a recruiting incentive to the membership. If you can recruit so many new members in 1 year we will pay your dues the following year. If you can recruit consistently over a period of years you can earn a BGSL Life Membership. These are the main points of this program and there is a little more, look for more information in this newsletter. I think you will find it worth a look. This is just one of some proposed changes you will see in the next few months. Some of the others will be some house cleaning (updating) of our By-Laws and more streamlining of our operations.

One very big recruiting opportunity for the club will be the annual **Kentucky Sport, Boat and Recreation Show** in the 1st week of February. Those dates are **Feb 2nd through Feb 5th** and we will be there with a recruiting presence. We will feature the club facilities as best we can offsite along with the value of a BGSL membership. **We need volunteers to staff this event.** If you would consider helping out please contact Kathy or Greg Delabar to get involved.

Let's enter the New Year with a renewed sense of ownership of the BGSL. Always remember, **this club is what you make it. Paying your yearly dues makes you a member but does not make you a part of anything until you step up. The BGSL should in no way resemble the YMCA!**

You are "BLUE GRASS !

Hope to see you at the club! (With a guest!)
At Your Service,
Greg Delabar
president@bgsline.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

League Officers:

President Greg Delabar 523-0250
Secretary Terry Hagar 885-3058
Treasurer John Burke 312-9165

Directors At-Large:

Bill Blackburn 278-1486
Claude Jacobs 608-1215
Mike Kass 887-1742
Earl Mewhorter 271-0975
Terry Morgan 858-4630

Division Directors:

Archery Robert Burgess ... 887-5752
Ken Maness 885-9443
Air Gun Steve Cox 263-8378
Jamie Piotrowski .. 948-3321
Bass Walter Bowman ... 223-1572
Mike Tester 255-5304
Castling Dan Fister 245-2459
Jackie McClanahan 523-2552

Kitchen Russ Steel 277-2672
Muzzle Bruce Shaeffer 259-1866
Loader Marvin Inman 885-7327
Pistol Brenn Combs 259-1866
Richard Gehlbach . 269-6658
Pointer & Setter Mike Pinkston 548-3608
Steve Martin 858-2880
Rifle Steve Sanson 885-7212
Jack Lyons 266-0234

Skeet & Sporting

Clays Robbie Mulcahy... 885-5301
Danny Barnes 881-4200
Trap Bruce Sanders 219-9414
Tim Ore 223-6358

Past President

John Burke 312-9165

BGSL Chaplain

Jeff Tomlin 858-4924

BLUE GRASS SPORTSMEN'S LEAGUE

Board of Directors

Minutes

Tuesday, November 29, 2005

1. ROLL CALL

President Greg Delabar called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. President Delabar called the roll and a quorum was present.

2. READING OF MINUTES

Motion #1 by MeWhorter, second by Maness to dispense with reading the minutes and accept as written with one noted correction. Motion carried unanimously.

3. TREASURER'S REPORT

President Delabar presented the Treasurer's Report. Motion #2 by Fister, second by Jacobs to accept the Treasurers Report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Delabar reported that new target frames have been installed at some of the ranges and expressed concern regarding members shooting at the new frames. Dan Fister noted that this issue of shooting the target frames needs to be discussed in the Sportsman's Trail. President Delabar asked each member to continue reviewing the constitution and bylaws so that any changes can be presented to the general membership for a by-laws change in February, 2006. President Delabar noted that the Drop List was available in the packet.

5. OPERATIONS MANAGER REPORT

Operations Manager Ben Riffell reported that he had reviewed the BGSL property boundaries for improvements that are needed. Mr. Riffell provided an update on the timber harvest Mr. Riffell reported on the recent livestock purchase.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Clubhouse and Lodge. Mike Kass reported that the white house breaker system needed to be replaced or updated as soon as possible. Mr. Kass reported that the approximate cost is \$1800-\$2000. Motion #3 by Blackburn, second by Combs to authorize the President to take whatever action is necessary to repair the electrical service in the white house. Motion carried unanimously.

Claude Jacobs noted that the Bath House heaters would need to be replaced if that facility is kept open in the winter. It was the general consensus of the Board to close the bath house for the winter and investigate the cost for new heaters prior to re-opening the bath house.

Security. Claude Jacobs reported that the front gate installation is in progress and should be completed at the end of December. President Delabar asked if the letter was sent to the teenagers' parents that were on the ranges without supervision last month. Claude Jacobs stated that letter had not been sent.

Finance. President Delabar reported that in March there would be a 6-month review of the budget including the capital requests.

Farm. Secretary Hager reported on the cow/calf operation. Mr. Hager also noted that the hay income for the month of November was \$2,670 with \$8,850 total income since September 2005. Mr. Hager noted that the tractor is still in

need of repairs and the purchase of a new farm truck has not been completed.

Constitution and By-Laws. No Report.

Wildlife and Natural Resources. Craig Phinney reported that 17 deer had been harvested off the property. Mr. Pinney noted that gun season has closed without any mishaps. Marvin Inman asked if the hunt procedures prohibited hunting close to or on an active range. Mr. Phinney stated that the hunt procedures do prohibit hunting on an active range.

Youth. President Delabar reported that the Youth Wild Game Dinner would be held on December 3, 2005.

President Delabar also reported that a Hunter Education Instructor Course would be held on January 13 and 14, 2006.

Training Committee. Brenn Combs stated that the training committee has a proposed schedule of classes that will be forthcoming. Mr. Combs also stated that the Law Enforcement Use Policy needs further review. There was much discussion by the Board on this issue. Richard Gehlbach and Jack Lyons will help Mr. Combs in reviewing the Law Enforcement Use Policy. Combs offered a preliminary BGSL Core Instructor Policy and will continue to revue for adoption soon.

Technology Committee. Richard Gehlbach reported on the DSL Service for the office and other computer updates.

OWL Committee. President Delabar reported that the OWL calendar of events is on the table in the front lobby.

Trails Committee – No Report.

Membership. President Delabar reported no report.

Member Services/Special Events. No report.

7. OLD BUSINESS

1. Committee Assignments - President Delabar stated this issue was deferred until December 13th.

2. Front Gate - See discussion under Security Committee.

3. Newsletter – President Delabar presented the new format for the upcoming newsletter and stated that advertising rates for larger advertising will be presented at the December 13th meeting. President Delabar stated that the newsletter would be sent electronically to all members that would like to receive it by e-mail in order to cut the printing cost of the bulletin.

4. Division Officer Reporting. President Delabar asked the Rifle and Casting Divisions to submit their officer listing for 2005-2006.

5. Kitchen Division. President Delabar read Motion #8 from the October 25, 2005 Board of Directors that read: Motion #8 by Schaeffer, second by Sanders to change the Kitchen Division into the Kitchen Committee. There was much discussion by the Board. Motion #4 by Mewhorter, second by Fister to table changing the Kitchen Division to the Kitchen Committee until the January 2006 Board Meeting to allow the representatives from the Division to appear. Steve Cox offered a friendly amendment to the motion to write a demand letter with proposed actions included in the letter. The amendment was accepted. Motion carried unanimously.

6. December Board Meeting

President Delabar stated that December 13 meeting will be a brainstorming session and dates will be set

for the Family Fun Days, Fish Fry and other club activities.

8. New Business

1. BGSL Shotgun Venue. Motion #5 by Mulcahy, second by Barnes to allow the Skeet and Sporting Clays Division to spend all proceeds derived from the Skeet and Sporting Clays division improvement campaign for the purchase of automatic traps and sporting clays course improvements. Motion carried unanimously. Motion #6 by Mulcahy, second by Barnes to allow the Skeet and Sporting Clays Division to use \$10,200 of division funds for the purchase of automatic traps and sporting clays course improvements. Motion carried unanimously. Craig Phinney, President of Skeet and Sporting Clays Division stated that the improvements would allow the operation of the Skeet and Sporting Clays Division to operate 7 days a week without an attendant. Dr. Blackburn congratulated the Division.
2. BGSL Sportsman's Citizenship Award. President Delabar stated that the nominations are being accepted for the Sportsman Citizenship Award, which will be awarded in January, 2006.
3. BGSL Orientation Dates. President Delabar stated that the schedule of new member orientation dates is included in the packet.

9. Other Business

1. Acceptance of Hunting Book Collection. Terry Hager stated that a member has offered to make a donation of hardback hunting books for the start of a BGSL library. President Delabar stated that the books would be accepted by the BGSL-E and the issue of further donations will be evaluated in the Membership Committee.
2. Proposed BGSL Utility Vehicle Policy. Earl Mewhorter presented a proposed BGSL utility vehicle policy for adoption by the Board. Motion #7 by Fister, second by MeWhorter to accept the proposed BGSL Utility Vehicle Policy as written. There was much discussion by the Board. Mike Kass asked for a roll call vote. Motion failed by a vote of 15-3. Members voting for the motion were: MeWhorter, Fister and Inman. Members voting against the motion were: Hager, Blackburn, Jacobs, Kass, Morgan, Maness, Cox, Shaeffer, Combs, Gehlbach, Garrett, Lyons, Barnes, Mulcahy, and Sanders.
11. Motions:
 3. Motion #8 by Combs, second by Jacobs to allow BGSL certified Hunter Education Instructors to bring guest that are not members to use the facility and ranges to obtain their orange card. This could help our recruitment efforts by bringing new people to our club. Also most of these people are youth. Motion was withdrawn.
 4. Motion #9 by Combs, second by Gehlbach to permit the Wilmore Police Department and the Jessamine County Sheriff's Department to use a BGSL range for training and qualification up to one day per quarter per department as long as the training is conducted on a weekday during normal hours of operation and provided that all training is supervised by a police firearms instructor certified by the Kentucky Department of Criminal Justice, NRA or FBI. Motion carried unanimously.
 5. Motion #10 by Jacobs, second by Kass to allow LKS to host Family Fun Days on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, June

2nd through June 4th use of the clubhouse and ranges fee exempt. Motion carried unanimously.

6. Motion #11 by Lyons, second by Garrett to approve the Rifle Division Schedule (Bench Rest) for the 2006 calendar year as follows:
 - February 26-2006 at 12:00(noon)
 - March 26, 2006 at 10 a.m.,
 - April 9, 2006 10 a.m.
 - May 21, 2006 at 10 a.m.
 - June 11, 2006 at 10 a.m.
 - July 9 2006 at 10 a.m.
 - August 13, 2006 at 10 a.m.
 - September 10, 2006 at 10 a.m.
 - October 8, 2006 at 10 a.m.
 Motion carried unanimously.
 - Motion #12 by Sanders, second by Blackburn to allow the Trap Division to purchase six pallets of targets. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Motion #13 by Sanders, second by Blackburn to allow the Trap Division to buy an automatic trap for the sixth trap field at a cost not to exceed \$5500. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Motion #14 by Combs, second by Gehlbach to approve hosting an NRA Law Enforcement Activities Division handgun/shotgun instructor class for March 27-31, 2006 (Monday thru Friday), Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m



The League of Kentucky Sportsmen has released a new license plate that should be ready for delivery at your local county court clerk's office by February, 2006. These plates will be made available to the public for a ten dollar donation to the LKS. The League has established a fund that all money generated from the donations will be used for public hunting and fishing acquisition, access and habitat improvement.

We are asking you to go to the LKS web site and "click" on the license plate. There is an application that you can download to reserve one of the first 900 plates issued. These plates will be held in your name at clerk's office. <http://www.kentuckysportsmen.com>

The League is working on several issues that will affect the sportsmen of this state. The biggest issue (as this is written) is the LKS is encouraging the Governor to include within his upcoming budget a Conservation Tax Easement, which will open up more public hunting grounds in the Commonwealth.

Please feel free to contact me with any issues or concerns you would like to discuss.

Rick Allen
 VP League of KY Sportsmen
 LKS Director, 6th Federation
 859-273-5652
r.allen@insightbb.com

PISTOL DIVISION

The next **Pistol Club meeting** will be held Friday, January 20, 2006 at Buell Armory in the Barker Building on Administration Drive on the University of Kentucky campus. The meeting will begin at approximately 7 p.m. (at the conclusion of the weekly **bull s-eye** practice session.) Why not come a little early and join us from 6 — 7 p.m. to practice your pistol skills. Pistols are limited to .22 caliber. Standard velocity ammunition, please. This year we are forming a league shoot with handicaps for the Friday night sessions. See Glen Wood (**Glen Wood, (859) 492-4668 or glenwood@clarkmhc.com**) for details. After the shoot and meeting, all are invited to adjourn to the Tolly Ho restaurant.

Cowboy shooting will begin early spring with the first match March 26. **Contact: Byron Daniel (859) 333-9839 or byrondaniel@alltel.net.**

USPSA/IPSC: Thirteen hardy shooters turned out for the December match. If the temperatures for that match were just too warm for you, join us Sunday, January 1, for the first match of the New Year. **Contact: Barry West, (859) 885-9710 or e-mail: vikingtactical@alltel.net.**

IDPA: The December match hosted 29 competitors. The next match will be Saturday, January 14. As always, sign-ups are from 9:30 - 10:00. New shooters must be there by 9:30. **Contact: Lin Edwards, (859) 273-2768 or rledwards@att.net.**

The Pistol Club still has some **raffle tickets** remaining for the Glock Pistol Certificate. This certificate is good for a **free Glock 17, 19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 31, 32, or 33.** Any other Glock is available with an upgrade fee ranging from \$21 to \$107. Glock even covers the KY sales tax. The lucky winner will just need to pay the transfer fee to have their FFL receive and transfer the pistol for them. **Tickets are \$5 each and there will be only 200 sold.** If you are interested in purchasing a ticket, contact Lin Edwards rledwards@att.net).


Finally, Len Baxley, founder of the Texas Defensive Shooting Academy (TDSA), has agreed to come to Kentucky May 13 — 14, 2006 to conduct an Advanced Pistol One (AP1) class. Len will have at least 2 assistant instructors. Visit www.tdsa.net for more info and testimonials.

The cost is \$400 (plus a \$25 range fee for non-BGSL members). Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.


Shooters of all skill levels will benefit from this course, as great emphasis is placed on proper grip, body position, and trigger control. These fundamental elements will allow the students to significantly increase their shooting speed while maintaining accuracy even while on the move. Also covered is handgun reloading techniques which are benefit to both competitive and defensive shooters. **Contact: Lin Edwards, (859) 273-2768 or rledwards@att.net.** to sign up.

Respectfully,

Cecile Bevent, Pistol Club Secretary




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BGSL New Member Recruitment Incentive

Incentives:

1. Recruit (5) new members in a 12 month period and receive the next years members dues complementary. (January to January)
2. Recruit (3) new members in a 12 month period and receive \$25.00 gift certificate.
3. Recruit (50) new members in an 8 year period and receive a BGSL Life Membership.
4. A top recruiter award for the most active (recruiter).
 - o Ties will be broken with a draw of names from a hat.
 - **A tracking procedure**
 - o A data base for tracking through the BGSL Bookkeeper is in place.
 - o A **sponsored by** line will be added to the application and the web site.
 - o All counting will apply at orientation with paid membership.

Archery Division

Belated Merry Christmas to all from the Archery Division. Hope everyone got a new bow in their stockings this year?

We just scheduled our big event for the year, Rinehart R100. This is a 3D shoot with some very unusual targets. New for this year is a LIFESIZE GIRAFFE . Don t ask me how we will set it up. The R100 is geared for fun and alleviate some of the intimidation some may feel at traditional 3D shoots. Kids and families are strongly encouraged. Door prizes are awesome. Several of our division members have won Matthews bows in the past. **Dates Are March 17, 18 & 19, 2006.** See this newsletter next month for more details.

Also visit <http://www.rinehart3-d.com/r100.html>

Anyone interested in Archery or just to visit with us come on down January 21 anytime after 2PM at the Archery Division. Plan on some shooting games, fire to warm you. Bring a fork and we will feed you. Families welcome.

Joel McClintock
859-257-1242

2006 S.C.O.P.E Calendar

December 30th / 31st & January 1st

Youth Mentor Deer Hunt
Delabar Lodge Friday Saturday and Sunday

January 13th and 14th

KY Hunter Safety INSTRUCTOR Class
Main Clubhouse Friday and Saturday

February 11th

Youth Quail Field Trial
BGS� Pointer & Setter Division Saturday

February 24th & 25th

KY Hunter Safety Education Class
Main Clubhouse Friday and Saturday

March 4th

Reactive Targets
BGS� Pistol Division Saturday

March 11th

Deer Shed Antler Hunt
Delabar Lodge Saturday

April 1st & 2nd

Youth Turkey Hunt
Delabar Lodge Friday and Saturday

April 22nd

Cowboy Action
BGS� Pistol Division Saturday

May 13th

Air Gun
BGS� Air Gun Division Saturday

June 2nd / 3rd / 4th

Family Fun Days
Club Wide Event Friday Saturday

July 8th

LKS Squirrel Rifle Kick-Off / Sporting Clays
General Purpose Range / BGS� Skeet Division Saturday

August 4th & 5th

KY Hunter Safety Education Class
Main Clubhouse Friday and Saturday

August 12th

Archery
BGS� Archery Division Saturday

September 2nd

Youth Dove Shoot / Deer Hunt Qualification
Delabar Lodge Saturday

September 8th & 9th

KY Hunter Safety Education Class
Main Clubhouse Friday and Saturday

September 16th

Youth Tournament Fishing
To Be Announced

September 23rd

Trap / Primitive Camping and Star Gazing Party
BGS� Trap Division / Delabar Lodge Saturday

September 30th

Muzzle Loaders
BGS� Muzzle Loader Division Saturday

October 6th / 7th / 8th

Youth Deer Hunt and Hunt Camp
Delabar Lodge Friday / Saturday / Sunday

November 4th

Centerfire Rifle
BGS� Rifle Division Saturday

December 2nd

Wild Game Dinner
Delabar Lodge Friday

As always S.C.O.P.E. and BGS� youth events are open to you and any friend's, families and groups that you want to bring or let know about our program. (Feel free to pass this flyer along to anyone you may feel is interested.) And there are usually no costs. Come on down to the club and let's have some fun!

KY Hunter Safety Education INSTRUCTOR COURSE

January 13th & 14th, 2006

Friday Evening 6 PM to 9 PM Saturday 8:30 AM
to 4:30 PM

The BGS� Instructor Corps would like to invite all to join us in the most satisfying program you can be apart of. We are 15 members strong and have as much fun and we all learn something each class. There are no costs involved and the level of knowledge required is minimal. If you ever

considered being involved with the shooting sports, this is the place to start.

January 13th and 14th

(Friday evening and Saturday)

You would be surprised how good it feels to mentor the youth of the shooting sports world! Come and join the BGS� Instructor Corp and find out! For more information contact Greg Delabar or the KDF&WR.

Youth Mentor Deer Hunt & Deer Camp

December 30th, 31st and January 1st

Friday, Saturday & Sunday @ the Delabar Lodge

This is a free hunt weekend for the states youth and we will support the weekend out of the stone lodge. This is for BGSJ members and includes all kids under 16 years old. For more information contact any Youth Committee member.

KY Hunter Safety Education Instructor Course

January 13th and 14th (Friday evening and Saturday)
You would be surprised how good it feels to mentor the youth of the shooting sports world! Come and join the

BGSJ Instructor Corp and find out!

February 11th

Youth Quail Field Trial

BGSJ Pointer & Setter Division Saturday

KY Hunter Safety Education Class

February 24th & 25th

Main Clubhouse Friday and Saturday

March 4th

Reactive Targets

BGSJ Pistol Division Saturday

BRING-A-KID / TEACH-A-KID

As always S.C.O.P.E. and BGSJ youth events are open to you and any friend's, families and groups that you want to bring or let know about our program.

(Feel free to pass this flyer along to anyone you may feel is interested.)

And there are usually no costs. Come on down to the club and let's have some fun!

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BGSJ Electronic Security Gate

The front electronic gate that has been waiting to be moved to the new entrance is in the works and will be in operation soon. It will be a process to get everyone on the new cards that will activate the gate. Look for more information in the near future and at the next general meeting. The new gate will operate a little differently than the old gate as it will open and close the actual gate itself. **All members will need their gate cards when they arrive at the club.** We will have to change out all the old cards that slide through the old reader to the new proximity card that you wave by the reader. We will publish this process in the next newsletter so that all can get the new card and enjoy the benefits the gate will provide.

E-Mail Newsletter

We are exploring ways to try and cut our expenses. One way to save some funds is to reduce the amount of mailings that take place. This newsletter is somewhat expensive to provide but remains the clubs main form of communications. We currently are compiling a data base of our members email addresses and want to convert as many members to an email delivery of the newsletter as possible. This expense is about \$12,000 a year.

If you would consider email delivery of the Sportsman Trails newsletter, please email membership@bgsjinc.com. You will find this address on the website on the Contacts page. You may also, from the website, up date your membership information with your email address. Let s be PROACTIVE!

BGSJ Hat Pins / Hats

BGSJ hat pins are now available at the main clubhouse in the office. The cost is \$5 for the pins and \$10 for the hats. The pins turned out very nice and the hats come in a variety of colors and styles. They are nice. We also still have some 60th anniversary items left, hats, t-shirts, pins and bandannas. These are a 1 time, never to be available again items and should be in your collection. The anniversary item revenue benefit the new BGSJ-E and will help in the launch of this important BGSJ mission.

Ron's Elk Hunt

In 1750, when Dr. Thomas Walker led the first white explorers through the Cumberland Gap, elk were plentiful in Kentucky. Just 100 years of settlement later the elk were all gone. In 1997, the Kentucky Dept. of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) decided that elk had been absent from the mountains of Kentucky for far too long and an ambitious restoration project was begun. Today, eastern Kentucky is home to over 5,000 free-ranging elk, the largest herd east of the Mississippi River. In 2001, 12 lucky hunters were selected by drawing to participate in the first elk hunt in Kentucky in over 150 years.

I have purchased two elk draw tags, one for me and one for my son, every year since 2001. I never expected to get drawn, I just counted the cost as a donation to a great program. Well, this was my lucky year. When the drawing was held in August, I won a tag for the December cow elk hunt.

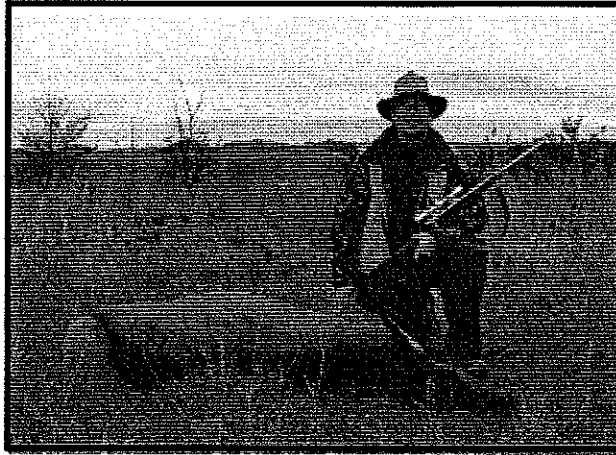
I was full of questions, who would go with me, where would I hunt, how do you hunt elk, what gun should I use? The first decision was easy, my son and hunting partner, Dalton, would go on the hunt as my guide. What gun to use was not so easy. The flintlock long rifle I built years ago or my trusty .30-06? This decision also became an easy one when the parents of the Boy Scouts in my troop presented me with a brand new rifle in appreciation of my 10 years of service as their Scoutmaster. After scouting the hunt areas, I decided to hunt on the Laurel Fork section of the Robinson Forest. This is big, beautiful country with open grassy hillsides and benches, mixed with brush and stands of pines and hardwoods for cover. It's hard to believe it is all reclaimed strip mine property.

Opening day finally arrived with overcast skies and the temperature in the mid-teens. Perfect! We drove to an area where we had seen elk before and waited for the sun to come up. Unfortunately, we weren't seeing any elk, so I decided to climb to the top of the mountain and have a look around. Once I made it to the top, I could see much more of the next ridge and it was covered with elk! So back down the mountain I went in a hurry, sliding on my backside at times. We drove about a mile east to the base of the ridge and began the long climb. About half way up, we came to a bench and within 200 yards, there were 15 elk. They were all bulls and me with a cow tag! We could see some cows further out the ridge, but they were out of range. The wind would not allow us to move to the left. And to the right, a half a mile away, on the side of the mountain I had climbed

earlier, was another herd of elk. If we went that way, they would surely bark and alert our herd. We had no choice but to backtrack down the mountain.

We went back to where we had started the morning and climbed the mountain for a second time. We tried to locate the herd we had seen from the east ridge but we couldn't find them, so we decided to make our way back to the east ridge on foot. At least we knew there were elk there. We made several approaches and each time an elk we hadn't seen would bark and we would have to backtrack again to keep from spooking the herd. Finally, we decided to climb down the back side of

the mountain we were on, hike around the base of the east ridge and climb back up at its highest point. If the herd stayed put we would be above them and maybe get a shot.



After climbing 4 mountains and hiking 7 or 8 miles, we were finally getting close to some elk. We made it to the crest by crawling the last 100 yards with only blown over grass and a few small pines for cover. The herd was just below us but still hidden by the curve of the hilltop. I only needed to move a few

yards closer, but I decided to take one last look around to make sure I didn't alarm one of those unseen elk. I couldn't believe my luck! There was a huge bull, not 30 yards away, staring right at me. The bull watched me for what seemed like an eternity and then he turned and walked down the hill toward the rest of the herd. This caused the other elk to stop feeding and look around for what had disturbed the big bull. I knew it was now or never and I quickly crawled the last few feet into position. There in the middle of the herd, approximately 180 yards away was a large cow. I slipped the safety off, settled the crosshairs behind her shoulder and fired. The other elk ran off but my cow just stood in place. Surely, I hadn't missed? I chambered another round and found the cow through the scope just in time to see her fall.

Once the field dressing chore was completed, I called the KDFWR hunt staff as they had instructed and they sent a team to check my cow. They said she was probably 4 years old and weighed around 600 pounds.

I had always dreamed of making a trip out west to Colorado or New Mexico to hunt elk. Who would have thought my elk hunting dream would come true by heading 100 miles east to Breathitt County? The 2006 Elk Draw tags will be going on sale soon, so I guess I will buy two, just like I do every year.

Blue Grass Sportsman Trails

Please check your mailing label for your membership expiration date.



Blue Grass Sportsmen's League

INCORPORATED



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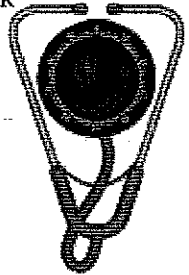
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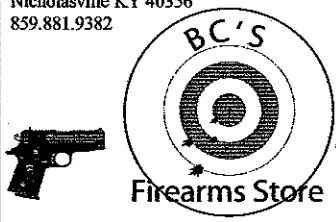
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