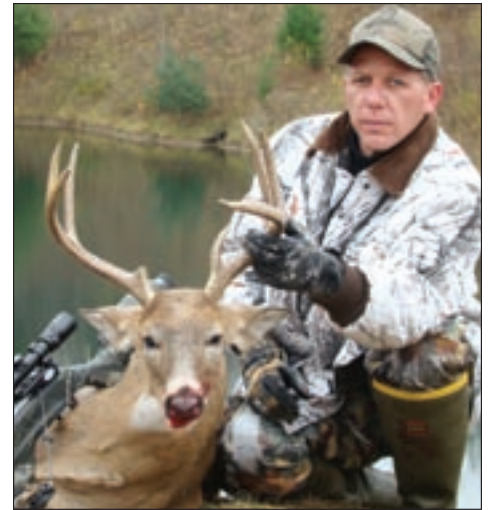


THE ACF LION HEART AWARD



Starting with the Summer 2007 issue, the Horizontal Bowhunter Magazine instituted a new award to be presented on a quarterly basis to an outstanding supporter of the grassroots crossbow movement. The **HBM Lion Heart Award** is presented to a deserving individual that has gone the extra mile in helping to promote and preserve the crossbow hunting opportunity during the course of his or her daily life.

Any ACF Member who is a current, paid member or a paid Life Member may present the name of a prospective candidate to the HBM Main Desk. The criterion is simple. Each candidate should be nominated because of the effort that he or she is putting forth to expand the crossbow hunting opportunity. We are not looking for the professional writers, TV personalities or other industry figures, instead we are looking for the grassroots crossbow advocate. You folks know who they are when you see them.

They may be working with legislators or doing public speaking on a local basis. They may be working to organize crossbow events or organizations. They may be posting on web sites and taking the lead in crossbow discussions and debates. But, whatever they are doing, they are doing it to help create more opportunities to hunt with and shoot the crossbow, worldwide.

If you know of someone you believe deserves special recognition for the effort he or she is putting forth, please send us their name, address and telephone number and we will take them into consideration for this quarterly award. Each recipient will receive a one-year gift membership to the American Crossbow Federation and a Certificate of Recognition. If the recipient is already a member of the ACF, their current membership will be extended for one-year. We will also do a short write up about the award winner in HBM, sharing his or her efforts on behalf of the crossbow.

If we are to succeed in expanding the crossbow hunting opportunity, then no effort or no character's role is too small. There are a lot of unsung heroes out there and we desire to give special credit where credit is due.

About 10 years ago, Paul injured his left arm during S.W.A.T. training classes. Paul could pull his vertical bow back, but doing so resulted in a weeks of pain. He continued to hunt with a vertical bow in NJ, but because of his inability to practice, his shots were limited to 20-yards or less and his confidence lagged. He applied for a New Jersey Handicap permit, but was denied, so turned to PA for a crossbow permit under their more liberal requirements for a handicap. He still wanted to hunt in New Jersey with a crossbow, however.

Three years ago, Paul decided to try to start a grassroots effort to legalize crossbows in New Jersey. The road was a long and hard one from the beginning, but eventually the tide began to turn. Statistics and data from states that allowed the crossbow during archery season caught the eye of New Jersey's Dept. of Fish and Game open-minded leaders. At one point during the debate on regional Internet forum, someone suggested that if Paul didn't like how the UBNJ (United Bowhunters of NJ) felt about crossbows, that he should go form his own organization. Thus the UXBNJ (United CrossBowhunters of NJ) was formed. That organization was formed with the goal of the legalization of crossbows in New Jersey, but it did not at any time lose track of the need to SUPPORT ALL FORMS OF HUNTING IN NJ, no matter what weapon is used. Through consistent commitment to the FACTS, the organization gained the respect of the Fish and Game Council, the Dept. of Fish and Game, the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs as well as the majority of the bowhunting community. Under Paul's leadership, the membership of the UXBNJ campaigned extensively in sup-

port of crossbows. There were many long hours on the road, attending meetings and conventions, putting on presentations, countless hours on the phones, and endlessly promoting crossbows to ANYONE that would listen.

On June 16th 2009, the NJ Fish and Game Council voted unanimously to allow crossbows during any season that a vertical bow can be used. Though this had always been the goal, the UXBNJ will not stop there. Now they look forward to helping their fellow crossbow supporters in other states in their quest for inclusion of the crossbow in the archery season. We ARE winning the war, one State at a time.

Our movement is very lucky to have Paul Wells on our side to help us with anything and everything that affects the future of our sport. The entire ACF membership would like to thank Paul Wells for his passion, his spirit and for just being there in the good times as well as the bad. Thank you Paul for sharing your time, effort and personal resources that you have put forth for all hunters, especially those who advocate the crossbow. Congratulations Mr. Wells and please keep up the good work that you do to preserve our hunting heritage. 🏹

NOMINATION BY ACF MEMBER KATHALEEN MEYER:

Hi Dan - I would also like to nominate Paul Wells, screen name Nightstalker911 and President of the United Crossbow Hunters of New Jersey (UXBNJ) for the prestigious Lion Heart Award. He has fought the good fight for more than 3 years. Since he started the UXBNJ, he has also worked non-stop, going to many meeting, debating and promoting full inclusion of crossbows in NJ. He has taken on the UBNJ (NJ bow org) and proved to them that the myths and fears they were throwing out there have all been rebutted. The Council went with the facts that Paul presented to them, along with, the power point presentation and answering their questions, ect. I know, first-hand, the work that Paul Wells has done regarding this issue. Paul is an avid hunter and uses both bow and gun. He has a disabled permit from PA and does use a crossbow there; however, now he'll also be able to use his crossbow in NJ. He could not get a disabled permit in NJ, as he did not qualify under their regulations. The countless hours he has spent, even 'after' his bad accident last year, is also reason why I feel he deserves the Lion Heart Award. Not sure if you know, but Paul fell 25' out of a tree last Dec and has been working hard to fully recover, but still kept up the fight for crossbows in NJ. On a personal note, Paul is one hell of a guy...great sense of humor, even when he's in pain. Dan, I hope you guys will seriously consider Paul Wells for this wonderful award. Kathy Meyer - NJ