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June 2007

Why I hunt! (Allen Smith, ADHA President)

My reasons for hunting have evolved over the years. Part of me desires to hunt and another part of me "needs" to hunt. It's almost as if I were genetically destined to be a hunter. It is a passion. Without hunting a part of my life would feel empty. There is a natural food chain for which I along with the animals of nature are all linked. Where everything consumes and is consumed. Where death is ever present and the strongest survive. Just as it has been for thousands of years, animals continue to be recycled back to mother earth whether its through hunting or death by natural causes. Hunting reminds me that I too am integrated in that cycle.

Hunting provides an opportunity to pause, to think and to clear my mind; to be at peace with myself and the world around me. It allows a chance to be with friends and make new ones; to spend quality time teaching my sons and daughter how to hunt and how to do it right. To teach them how to properly handle, use and respect a firearm. To see the eager anticipation in their eyes and the joy of their success; a chance to spend quality time with my dog and see him work and play, and show his never ending love and loyalty; a chance to breathe some fresh air and to smell the fragrances of nature as I walk or sit in the woods; to see the starlit sky turn into a brilliant sunrise; to feel the crisp cool thermo-currents come rushing by; to hear the breeze blow-

ing through the autumn leaves and hear acorns dropping to the ground; to see the fog lifting from a valley; to hear the woods come to life with the sounds of birds, squirrels and other animals; to see an eagle or a hawk soar, or hear the screech of an owl; to hear the sounds of fish jumping in a pond and water cascading over the boulders; to hear the sounds of a bullfrog croaking, crickets chirping and the splash of a tree felled by a beaver hard at work; to see the many abundant animals of the forest and to get an occasional glimpse of a rare animal I'd otherwise never see; to see the beauty of many colorful wildflowers, plants and trees; to stand and marvel at natural geological formations; to see a spider weaving its web; to see reptiles warming in the sun and insects flying and scurrying about; These are all things I have seen or heard while hunting.

Scripture can be found in the Holy Bible that commands us to hunt. It is legally supported and encouraged by our federal and state governments and wildlife authorities; Our forefathers were dependent on hunting and the traditions are older than history itself. When hunting I'm doing my part to control deer overcrowding; and because of my actions several deer won't starve to death or suffer from diseases and natural predation. Because of my actions the deer I harvest will never dart in front a vehicle and cause a fatal accident; or destroy a farmers crops, or a person's

garden or fences. I always consume what I kill., and try to utilize its hide and antlers. I enjoy being a conservationist and a hunter. Because of my conscience and discipline, I'll take an accurate and deliberate shot that will eliminate or reduce any suffering of my quarry. Hunting is a management tool that ensures a balanced and healthy herd for which I am doing my part. Being an active hunter keeps my senses alert and my body physically fit, preserving my youthfulness and extending my life. I enjoy the relaxation and the exhaustion from hunting hard with an unending perseverance. Hunting is a way to relieve mental stress and fatigue and not become docile. It provides a chance to get away from a complicated world, to get away from a constantly ringing telephone and rush hour congestion. Hunting reminds me of the many things that I am thankful for, and ample time to say my prayers of thanks. Hunting is knowing that each hunt will provide unequaled satisfaction and leave lasting memories and stories to pass to my grandchildren. By hunting, I am continuing an age old tradition that was handed down to me through successive generations of hunters.

It's because of all of these reasons and more that I choose to hunt.

Guide to Leasing or Obtaining Permission of Hunting Land

(Lee Lane, Region 1 Assistant Director)

With today's society gaining, permission to hunt or lease land is dang tough. Many landowners don't want the hassle of letting someone hunt on their land. We as hunters have taken the landowners for granted for many years, and frankly in my opinion, some of us are partly to blame for the lack of hunting land being closed for other hunters.

Before one can successfully gain permission with a landowner he must overcome some of the misconceptions landowners have of us as hunters. Let's face it! We all have heard the bad stories of hunters littering, rutting up the ground with mud grip tires or ATV's, or taking friends and relatives on the property and not obtaining permission from the land owner. And, in the extreme case, we have heard landowners catching hunters poaching or going over the bag limits. Then go to the opposite side of the spectrum to cutting small trees for shooting lanes, to maybe a misdirected gunshot hitting livestock. There are a thousand reasons a landowner would not want a hunter on his land. We live in a time where folks just don't trust anyone they don't know and some that they do know.

Let me go back up to a statement I made about us hunters being partly to blame. Now before anyone gets his or her feathers ruffled, let me explain. For generations to generations we as hunters have had wide open land for many years to hunt in Arkansas. I am not that old but I started my hunting life when there were no "posted" signs or purple paint. You hunted land and didn't worry about property lines in my little hunting area and I suspect it was like that in some form across the state. Your neighbors hunted on you and you didn't worry about ole Joe down the road hunting on you. I remember families camping down the road from our family camp, and they just came in and pop up their tents and hunted the land. I never heard of anyone having a problem with this. As time progressed this practice has slowly stopped. Some land owners soon became disgruntled, and purple paint was introduced, and trespassing laws were enacted, and now much of our hunting land is locked up unless you have family or friends you can hunt on or go to public ground.

Another aspect is landowners soon saw the value in letting hunters hunt their land from a monetary gain. And thus leasing came about with a vengeance. Land owners now can make an agreement with a hunter to lease his land for hunting rights, and this can be very lucrative for the land owner. Many have adopted this leasing practice to help offset property taxes and basic income throughout the year. Timber companies make up the bulk of our lease land in Arkansas, and with any business, things change as time goes along. Some timber companies have divided their land up for liquidation, and hunters are either faced with finding another place to hunt, or pull together resources and buy land.

So with all that said, you may ask what is a hunter to do and how can he overcome some of the problems we face in finding and obtaining hunting land to share in the great outdoor experience? Well, the answer is not easy but I believe there is still land out there that hunters may be able to gain access to even in today's time.

How do you find this land, and how do you go about getting a lease or permission to hunt it? First you have to locate land and figure out who owns it. You can do this several different ways. You can drive around your hunting area and basically look for raw land that is either posted or not posted. It's very rare today to not see land posted, but as we all know some land is posted and hunters just

assume there is no chance to hunt the land and move on. If you live in the area you wish to hunt you can observe throughout the season if anyone is hunting the land. This is a good indicator if anyone is hunting the land. Now there is a practice of some hunters to outbid other hunters on his lease. I absolutely do not believe in doing this. I believe it's just disrespectful to undercut another hunter and his hunting lease. But I also believe it doesn't hurt to contact a landowner and at least put your name in the hat in case the leaser's drop the lease in the future, but make sure you explain you are not interested in a bidding war or undercutting someone else. Some landowners try to get a bidding game on their land, and I personally wouldn't get into that. Some may think this is ok, but I find if you do outbid someone that you too will get outbid somewhere down the road. So if you do get a lease under these conditions, expect to continually raise your lease fees or get outbid on your lease. It's a cut throat world in leasing ground or holding onto private ground to hunt.

Back to finding your land and let me say finding the land is probably the hardest part of this whole deal. But if you can't drive around and find your land, there are several websites, like TerraServer.com that you can look on-line and see satellite imaginary of land from space and this can greatly help you in seeing land that's not off roads. But let me explain if you use this, you cannot see property lines and how much acreage an individual owns. The best way to find this out is to go by your county court house or extension office or tax assessor office and get a plat book. A plat book is a book that shows you all the land in your particular county. The lines are drawn and it shows the exact amount of acreage a owner owns, and puts a name of who owns it. This book is a great help in finding how much acreage is owned and the name of the owner of the land. So if you can find the amount of acreage the land you are looking at and the name of the owner this is a quarter way to obtaining hunting land.

Next you have to find out where the owner lives and some contact information. This can be really hard, but the state requires everyone to pay a tax on property. So the best place to get contact information is the county tax assessor's office. I recommend actually going to this office in person instead of calling. Take your plat book and actually show the location of the land you wish to make contact with the owner. It's hard to do this over the phone and the assessor feel more comfortable in giving out this information. Now I have never had a problem getting an address of a owner, but I have never got a phone number. Once you get the address or contact information, it's time to make contact.

If the owner lives in the area, I would say this is the best scenario to make contact. If the owner lives out of area or out of state, this can be a good thing for you, or a bad thing. It all depends. And let me (continued on page 3)



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(continued from page 2)

explain. If the owner lives out of state, and he has not turned down anyone's request to hunt previously, you got a good chance to get permission, if you approach the situation right and I will explain that in greater detail later. But if the owner lives in the area, and you have the address, you need to lay your plan out. Now you may ask why do I need a plan? Well, in Arkansas, there is not much land that hasn't been attempted to gain permission to hunt. Therefore, you are more than likely going to be following other hunters in attempts to gain hunting permission.

So what kind of plan should you lay out. Well let me say this is not an exact science, but I feel there are certain things one should do and not do when approaching someone and asking them for something and they have no idea who you are and what you are about as its tough in today's time. I read a book once called, "How to Win and Influence Friends" by Dale Carnegie. This book lays out a couple things that can surely help you in approaching folks with a proposition. Here are some of the books main points:
1. Fundamental Techniques in Handling People
2. Six ways to make people like you
3. Win people to your way of thinking
4. Be a Leader: How to Change People Without Giving Offense or Arousing Resentment

I would encourage you to read this book and apply some of the fundamental's it lays out. I have, and it really works, plus I believe it just helps you in being a better person in society. When trying to obtain permission, you really need to put your best foot forward, and continually put that foot forward even after you obtain permission. It's one thing to get your foot in the door and another to keep it there. There are struggles throughout the entire process. Never forget that and never lay your laurels down, ever.

So let's say the landowner you have decided to get permission from lives in the area and you want to make contact. There are some key things I feel that need to be considered before walking up on someone's porch and ringing the door bell. First and foremost, you need to be dressed appropriately and present yourself in the best possible light you can. I recommend doing this in the off season for many reasons. A landowner may not have hard feelings toward hunters that they might have gotten from the prior hunting season. Trespassing and/or rude hunters doesn't put you in a good light so you may have to overcome some of these things. Another thing is doing this in the off season might give you some time to build confidence in the land owner with you, if you are turned down the first time.

I have not had many properties that I hunt, that I have not been turned down once before on. Now I don't suggest you pester an owner, as that will not get you where you want to go. But I do suggest you approach the situation in a non-direct way as to not ask for a yes or no response. Introduce yourself and ask if the owner has a minute to talk with you. I like to catch an owner outside around the property or their house first. I don't know why, but knocking on a door and interrupting them from what they are doing inside, seems to not work best. Then give a brief introduction and a little about yourself. You should mention information like where you work, went to school, and where you grew up in the area. The art of communication is something we don't really reflect much on, but it is an art and some are better at it than others. If you are shy and not very talkative, you may be hurt in the whole process that I am talking about here. I don't claim to be a great talker but I find that listening can be just as good. A great listener must probe for information and then sit back and listen. Sometimes this works better with some

individuals. The whole point without going into the art of good communication is to just know there is an art in human communication. One needs to be natural in his contact and not seem stiff or insincere or coming off as fake.

I mentioned being a good listener. Well let me say, once we have the introduction over and I have given a little history on myself and mentioned the fact that I like to hunt and some of my hunting ethics then it's time to ask a few questions. And remember - don't forget your manners, always use Sir or Ma'am when talking. But ask if they have any problems with hunting or hunters in general. Once I feel comfortable in the communication, and the person seems to have let his wall down, I ask the question if anyone can hunt the property. And let me say, everyone who talks to you that don't know you, has a wall up for a period of time. But this is part of the whole communication process. You have the sender, you, the message and the feedback - this is a process, and remember it's an art. And overcoming walls is part of that. Sometimes you can overcome them and sometimes you can't. It all depends on the person you are talking too and how the person communicates and mutually accepts your message.

But after you converse for a period of time, ask if the landowner has anyone who hunts their property. If they don't, then ask if they have any problems with anyone hunting on them? If they say no, then congratulations you might have got your foot in the door. If they seem a little unsure, then ask if you can give them a card with your name and phone number on it in case they change their mind down the road. I also prepare a sheet of information with a general background of myself in an envelope, with your hunting ethics, background in hunting, and suggested rules you would abide by if the owner so chooses to change his mind. Be sure to include your home, cell and work phones numbers. If the owner was pretty adamant in his refusal, I would thank him for his time and move on. But these hard line cases are not always lost. I have seen some get permission after several years of making contact and laying the ground work of letting someone get to know you. And really that's what this is all about. Letting someone get to know you and trust you when they don't have a clue as to who you are or what you are about.

Good luck in your endeavor of finding hunting land to gain permission. It's tough but the rewards can be great.

Why I Hunt and/or Fish!

(The following are excerpts from a forum that I am on— I am omitting names so as not to embarrass anybody!)

"To be in nature and enjoy every one of gods creations (except ticks, mosquitoes, and gnats). I enjoy the sit as much if not more than the reeling in or pulling the trigger. I fished today and watched small bass hitting the top of the water for hours and watched a good catfish swim along the bank, HUGE CAT-FISH!!!! "

"I remeber when i was a little kid seein all my cousins, grandparents, uncles, and my dad doin it. I always wanted to go and finnaly got 2. It was jus in my blood i guess, i get enjoyment sittin in a deer stand on a clear overcast day. I dont get that kinda enjoyment in the house or my school. I spent every minute i can in the woods jus watchin animals. I rather watch them all day than kill one but i will so i can eat some of that delicious meat that god intended for us to have. "

Microsoft Funds the Anti-Hunting Movement

Microsoft has rejected a U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance request to abandon its partnership with the nation's leading anti-hunting organization.

Microsoft, the software giant, will make a \$100,000 donation to the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and is partnering with the group on a pilot program called the i'm Initiative. Through the new program, whenever a Windows Live Messenger user has a conversation using i'm, Microsoft will give a portion of the program's advertising revenue to one of ten organizations selected by the user. The HSUS is one of the choices, and there is no limit to the amount of money that can be donated.

The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, the nation's leading sportsmen's advocacy organization, has urged Microsoft to end its support of HSUS, but the company refused. According to Microsoft representative Tara Kriese, Microsoft believes the i'm Initiative is "a great way to enable people to help causes that are important to them."

"Microsoft is going to pour hundreds of thousands of dollars, probably more, into an organization that recently issued a manifesto that targets hunting for extinction," said USSA President Bud Pidgeon. "If there was ever a time for sportsmen to take grassroots action, this is it."

Sportsmen should contact Microsoft and demand that its financial support of HSUS be terminated. Contact Bill Gates, Chairman, Microsoft, 1 Microsoft Way, Redmond, WA 98052. Phone: (425) 882-8080. Fax: (425) 936-7329.

The Humane Society of the United States opposes all animal use, including trapping,

hunting and fishing. It was a key player in the campaigns to outlaw dove hunting in Michigan, trapping in California, and black bear hunting in Colorado. The organization has created a hit list of hunting traditions that it hopes to dismantle, including bear hunting and hunting with hounds.

"The HSUS already has a multi-million dollar budget that it invests in legislative and ballot campaigns to ban trapping and hunting," said Pidgeon. "The partnership that it has formed with Microsoft, the maker of the Xbox, will allow the organization to make money hand over fist, and continue to fund efforts to ban outdoor sports."

Sportsmen can make a difference in an issue like this. Companies such as Iams, General Mills, Accor Hotels, Pet Safe, Sears, and Ace Hardware ended relationships with HSUS after thousands of sportsmen levied strong protest.

In 2002, Jeep raised the ire of sportsmen when it aired a blatantly anti-hunting commercial called the "Deer Hunter." After a flood of sportsmen's contacts, Jeep pulled the commercial in three days.

The U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance is a national association of sportsmen and sportsmen's organization that protects the rights of hunters, anglers and trappers in the courts, legislatures, at the ballot, in Congress and through public education programs. For more information about the U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance and its work, call (614) 888-4868 or visit its website at www.ussportsmen.org.

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Defending Hunting Rights on Refuges

The U.S. SLDF continues to take on the anti's in an ongoing lawsuit to ban hunting on seven units of the 100 million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS). The suit was filed in 2003 against the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) by the Fund for Animals, which has since merged with the Humane Society of the United States. In August, U.S. District Judge Ricardo Urbina ruled that the USFWS must evaluate the environmental impacts of hunting on the entire NWRS. The astonishing decision, which runs contrary to the USSA-backed law that directs the agency to facilitate hunting on refuges when possible, came after the judge granted a USSAF motion for partial dismissal of the case. He had ruled that comprehensive environmental studies were not

necessary for goals outlined in the USFWS strategic plan. The U.S. SLDF promptly asked Judge Urbina to not terminate hunting and fishing on these refuges while the USFWS complies with the ruling to update environmental impact records. The USFWS has committed to updating the studies by summer 2007.

The U.S. SLDF is representing sportsmen's interests along with Safari Club International, Ducks Unlimited, Delta Waterfowl, Izaak Walton League and the California Waterfowl Association.

(Used with permission of U. S. Sportsmen's Association)

Annual ADHA members should read the back page of this Newsletter concerning expiration of your membership.

Yellville Youth Deer Day

Yellville Youth Day was held on Saturday, April 21, 2007 at the Fred Berry - Crooked Creek Education Center at Yellville, Arkansas. It was a warm bright clear day, absolutely perfect weather. More than 300 kids attended the days events. Events provided were a Turkey Calling Seminar, K-9 - Wildlife Officer Seminars, Antler Scoring Seminar, Fishing, Air Rifles, Genesis Bow Shooting, making plaster wildlife tracks, bird-watching and geocaching. Food consisting of hamburgers, grilled chicken, deer brats, deer jerky, deer summer sausage, potato salad, BBQ beans, chips, drinks and an assortment of condiments were served. Arvest Bank provided a smoker and Mark, the cook. He did a great job cooking! Several ADHA members volunteered their time along with some spouses. They worked hard all day long, and deserve many, many accolades for their effort. Tony Ramey deserves a particular mention for taking the ball and running with it. He did an incredible job for us. Marilyn of the AG&FC did a tremendous job of coordinating the events and making sure everything ran smoothly. The AG&FC gave a tremendous effort as well. Fred Berry for whom the facility is named was also in attendance. We gave away numerous door prizes to the kids whom were upbeat, appreciative and enthusiastic all day long. We had several sponsors provide the food, drinks, door prizes and other goods

and services. Their generous donations are greatly appreciated. We are truly grateful for everything that everyone contributed. The event was jointly sponsored by ADHA and AG&FC, and was an overwhelming success. Everyone should be proud of your work - this was a job extremely well done!

The following is a short list of those businesses and individuals that contributed to the success of this event.

Arvest Bank
Preston Pittmon Game Calls
AG&F
Zero Mountain Cold Storage
Pepsi of Harrison
Gelco Boots of Rogers
Sunfest Market of Gassville
Town & Country of Mountain Home
Wal-mart of Flippin
Ranger Boats of Flippin
Twin Lakes Plumbing of Mountain Home
Harps Food Stores
Dollar General

Turkey Day at Sportsman's Warehouse in Springdale!

(Alan Beard, Region 7 Director)

During the last weekend of April, the ADHA set up it booth at Sportsman's Warehouse in Rogers. It started out Friday evening with a small get together with Barry Comer, his sister Robin, Rodney Johnson, my wife Missy and myself. We met at the store and then headed out to the Ryan's Steak House for dinner.

Afterwards we returned back to the Sportsman's Warehouse and set up the booth in preparation for the following day and then went home for the evening. Upon our arrival back the next morning we set up the merchandise and other materials for the day. The weather was not participating very well as it was a cold and windy morning and the threat of rain was great. Just before the day started the skies opened up and we quickly headed into the store with our tables and merchandise.

Setting up in the center of one the aisles we began conversing with customers and telling them about the ADHA. We met a great many people and had a great day eventually setting up back outside when the rain stopped. As the day wound down there was hope for the next day as the weather man was promising sunshine and warmer temperatures.

On the first day, Saturday, we signed up 11 new members and two charters, not to mention we met some very good people and made new friends. We also handed out lots of pamphlets and got the word out about our organization.

Sunday turned out to be a great day as well and again we met with customers and talked with friends and signed up another seven new members as we again passed the word about ADHA. All in all the event was a

success and we spread the word of our organization and gained new members.

I would like to thank Sportsman's Warehouse managers for inviting us to attend this event and hope that we will be able to do it again next year. I would also like to say thank you to all of the help from the following members and their families that showed up to help. They include Barry Comer, his sister Robin, Joey De Frates and Rodney Johnson. This weekend would not have been as great without your help in the booth.

ADHA Elk Hunt Drawing
to be held in Jasper, AR,

June 30, 2007

at the conclusion of the
Arkansas Game & Fish
Commission's drawing

that afternoon!

Need not attend to be in-
cluded in the drawing!

(New members & referrers!)

Membership Numbers

We continue to grow as we picked up many new members during the past six months. Our current membership numbers are about 500 Regular Members and about 50 Charter Members, for a total of about 550 members. We will continue to sell Charter Memberships until that number reaches 100. Once we have 100 Charter Members we will begin offering Lifetime Memberships at an increased rate of \$150.00. Please remember to keep your membership renewed and active.

More — Why I Hunt and/or Fish

“My grandfather and father both farmed. From the time I was a young boy, I learned to enjoy the outdoors and all the wonderful things there that God has created. I used to ride my bike for miles just to get to fish in an old ditch. As I have grown older and watched my children grow up, I have tried to instill the same love of the outdoors in them. My oldest son hikes trails all over the country and goes backpack camping. My daughter has taken up fishing again and her and my son-in-law now take my granddaughter fishing. My youngest son hunts and loves the outdoors. Being outdoors is just a way of life to me. I have had some frustrations hunting in the past couple of years but have come back to the love of the outdoors. I realize that if I get an animal that is just a bonus. Just being out there in God's creation is enough for me. That is why I spend every free weekend in the Ozarks, even if I am not fishing or hunting.”

“i love to hunt and fish, but i seem to spend more time on the hunting, as ive grew older i find myself not hunting as much as i did when i was younger, i love to take my son and was able to be there for his first fish and first two deer, something ill never forget. but far as hunting goes, i find myself getting more enjoyment form setting out cams and feeders, and setting up food plots for them, and just watching them, i love to go and check the cams and see what i have, its really nice to get a good buck on a cam, its easier for me to get one on cam then to take one with a weapon, but i still love the game, im just better at it with a cam!”

“Just wanting to be with my Dad. He stayed in the woods, doing some kind of hunting. Hey, I guess I was kind of lucky. We had bird dogs and fox dogs in the backyard. My uncle had deer dogs in his backyard.(next door). My brother and I had a squirrel dog, and we thought that we had to keep the dogs in shape! My Dad took me hunting any time I asked except on school days. I've been in the woods ever since. Isn't Life Good?”

The Officially Recognized Outdoor Wish Granting Program of Arkansas Deer Hunter's Alliance



Outdoor Wish Program

Granting the Outdoor Wishes of

Terminally III And Life-limited Children with the Continued Support of
the Outdoor Community

For more information contact 810-387-0454

Or visit our web site <http://www.b4k.org/>

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If you are interested in becoming a director or an assistant director please contact one of the above named individuals. Thank you!

Elk Hunt Drawing

The Elk Hunt Drawing will be conducted on June 30, 2007, during the 10th Annual Arkansas Elk Festival at Jasper, Newton County, Arkansas. The drawing will be conducted by ADHA Officials and will be publicly announced and is scheduled to immediately follow the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission Elk Hunt Permits drawing.

FROM:

ADHA

PO BOX 2175

JONESBORO, AR 72402

Place

Postage

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TO: _____

"Uniting all Arkansas Deer Hunter's"

Has Your Membership Expired Or Will it Soon Expire?

Please check the mailing label above for your expiration date (just after your name)! Make any necessary changes below and return this page to ADHA, PO Box 2175, Jonesboro, AR 72402, along with your \$10.00 renewal amount.

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