



Joel Riotto

For nearly seven decades Joel Riotto has exemplified the highest standards of traditional bowhunting. His fair chase pursuits have taken him across North America and Africa where he has taken dozens of big game species.

Joel joined the Bergen Bowmen in 1976, later serving as president, vice president and secretary. He joined the Professional Bowhunters Society in 1978, became a life member in 1992, and served as chairman for various committees.

He also fostered, organized, and ran the PBS Catskill Mountain Membership hunt in recent years. He founded the Traditional Archers of New Jersey in 1992 where he held multiple leadership roles including President, Treasurer, and newsletter editor. An accomplished writer, Joel has been contributing to leading publications since the late 1970's. His articles have appeared in Traditional Bowhunter Magazine, Bowhunter Magazine, Archery World, Bear Hunting, and Full Draw as well as PBS Magazine. His writings blend storytelling with education, always emphasizing ethics, wildlife management, and the deeper values of Bowhunting.



Dick Robertson

Dick Robertson is a highly respected American bowyer, hunter, and craftsman. By the late 1970s and early 1980s, he had established himself as a bowyer of distinction. Based in Montana, Robertson has spent decades building recurves and longbows that are not only highly functional but also works of art. Beyond bow building, Dick Robertson is a lifelong hunter with a deep appreciation for fair chase and wilderness adventure.

He has hunted big game across North America and beyond, always emphasizing respect for the animals and the environment. His philosophy mirrors that of many traditional archery icons: that the real reward of bowhunting lies in the challenge

He is a founding member of both the Montana Traditional Bowhunter (MTB) and the Montana Bowhunters Association (MBA). Dick is also a long-time Life Member of the Professional Bowhunters Society (PBS) and a member of Compton Traditional Bowhunters (CTB). Dick's bow building spans more than 45 years and his influence on thousands of people is a statement to his deep dedication to preserving the culture and challenges of hunting with traditional archery equipment.



Vern Struble

For more than half a century, Vern Struble embodied the very best of traditional bowhunting—ethical, skilled, generous, and dedicated to passing on the heritage of the bow. Vern spent most of his life in Corvallis Oregon. He exemplified dedication to traditional bowhunting through a lifelong commitment to education, mentorship, and leadership. He was a highly respected leader and Vice President of the Professional Bowhunters Society.

A founding member of the Benton Bowmen Archery Club in Corvallis, Oregon, Vern guided the club in securing land and developing a premier facility. He established and ran the 4-D Archery Shop, and for 33 years coordinated Benton County's 4-H archery program, directly teaching more than 1,100 students. Widely admired for his sportsmanship, craftsmanship, and integrity, Vern was as comfortable teaching a youngster to sharpen a broadhead as he was testifying at a legislative hearing.

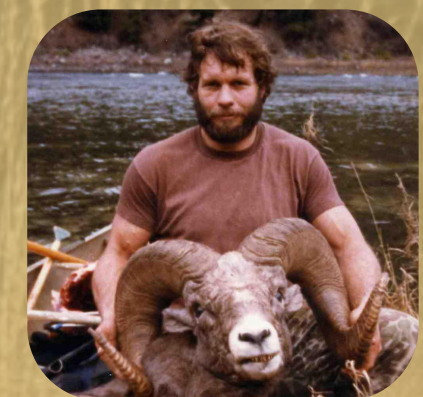
Vern pursued big game across Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, North Dakota, and Wyoming, taking numerous big game animals, though he often reminded others that success in bowhunting was measured not in trophies but in the experiences of the hunt.



Gene Wensel

Gene Wensel is an iconic bowhunter, author, conservationist and outdoorsman whose name is synonymous with traditional archery and fair chase hunting for all the right reasons. Born in Pennsylvania and raised in the hills of New England, Gene and his brother Barry developed an early fascination with wildlife and the great outdoors. He has spent over 65 years passionately writing, scouting, studying and hunting wild whitetail deer. His in-depth analysis of whitetail behavior while pursuing them with traditional gear set his writings apart from most of the "clone" books and articles on whitetail deer.

He authored multiple influential books, a total of five titles strictly about whitetails, all while carrying traditional gear. He defined woodsmanship instruction, opinions, stories and reflections with his personal bowhunting philosophy. Gene's writings and seminars have inspired generations of hunters to try traditional equipment while focusing on the challenge and intimacy it provides. His storytelling ability and humor, combined with decades of experience, made him one of the most beloved voices in America's bowhunting community.



Schafer's hunts always emphasized fair chase and respect for the animals he pursued. Paul put on many demonstrations and seminars at sports shows, his influence reached thousands. Even after his untimely death in 1993 from a skiing accident, his influence has endured.

Paul Schafer was a legendary American bowhunter, guide, and bowyer whose life embodied the rugged spirit of traditional archery. Born and raised in Montana, Schafer grew up in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, where hunting and outdoor adventure became central to his life from a young age

Schafer's passion for archery led him to handcraft traditional bows, which quickly gained a reputation for being powerful, smooth shooting, and highly durable. He founded Schafer Silvertip Bows. He donated many of those bows to state and national organizations. He was renowned for his uncanny ability to stalk and harvest big game in some of the most demanding mountainous terrain in North America and on the plains of Africa.

Class of 2025 Inductees



Don Thomas

E. Donnal "Don" Thomas, Jr. has lived a life defined by adventure, craftsmanship, and storytelling, earning his place as one of the most influential voices in modern traditional bowhunting.

As a prolific outdoor writer, Thomas has contributed countless essays and features to respected publications over several decades. Through his writing, he continues to inspire bowhunters to value the journey as much as the harvest, carrying forward the timeless ideals of adventure and respect for the natural world. He also served as Co-Editor of Traditional Bowhunter Magazine, where his thoughtful prose and commitment to fair-chase principles inspired generations of traditional bowhunters.

Thomas has authored numerous influential books that reflect his passion for both the hunt and the written word. Among these are Traditional Bows and Wild Places, which captures the spirit of bowhunting adventure; Longbow Country, a tribute to the simplicity and challenge of the longbow; and The Double Helix, a novel that blends his medical background with his gift for storytelling. Respected for his integrity and eloquence, Don

Thomas has become more than an outdoorsman; he is a teacher, historian, and ambassador for traditional bowhunting

Jerry Pierce was a quiet example of the best values and spirit of traditional bowhunting, his life defined by precision, skill, humility, and boundless generosity. Jerry spent his early years in Mississippi but lived most of his life in Peoria County, Illinois.

As a bowyer, Jerry created the revered Choctaw recurve, which captured the admiration of traditional archers nationwide, graced the covers of national magazines, and gained renown as the coveted "Bow That Money Can't Buy".

His eye for innovation was decades ahead of his time with beautiful, delicate, exotic wood inlays crafted into the riser, which became known as "Pierce Points." Jerry inspired other top bowyers to adopt his designs, with Jerry willingly giving his blessing and sharing the technique behind the design. Although he never sold a single bow, Jerry donated dozens over the year to chosen organizations he cared about, like the Professional Bowhunters Society (PBS), the United Bowhunters of Missouri, Illinois, and Kansas, and even to The Dream Factory to help raise thousands of dollars to promote traditional bowhunting... one bow at a time.



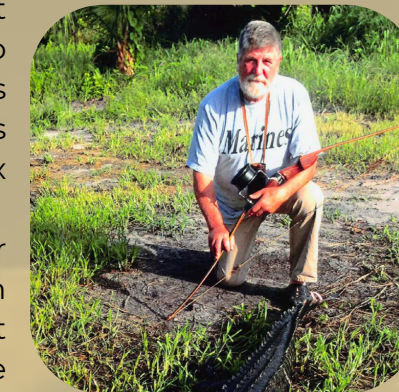
Jerry Pierce

Bill Terry, Sr. of Monroe, Connecticut, has spent more than seven decades devoted to traditional bowhunting. Now 84, Bill has hunted with longbows, recurves, and selfbows for 74 years, pursuing game across 27 states, six Canadian provinces, and Africa.

He has been a certified NBEF bowhunter education instructor and has led seminars on arrow building and traditional equipment making at numerous club events. At the Algonquin Archery Association, he founded the "Knock-a-Block" shoots, helped establish a thriving Junior Olympic Archery Development (JOAD) program.

He is a Life Member of the Algonquin Archery Association, Compton Traditional Bowhunters, and the Professional Bowhunters Society, a Senior Member of the Pope & Young Club, and a founding member of the United Bowhunters of Connecticut.

Bill has donated over four decades of service on boards and club committees, he has organized events, taught youth, and recruited many new members into local and national organizations such as the Professional Bowhunters Society.



Bill Terry

Barry Wensel is a renowned American bowhunter, author, and innovator whose passion for traditional archery has influenced generations of hunters. Alongside his twin brother, Gene, Barry grew up in New England chasing whitetails with stick bows

In the early 1980s, Barry was featured in the groundbreaking video "Bowhunting October Whitetails," the film pioneered not only bowhunting success but also his philosophy of patience, respect for nature, and the value of traditional archery. To this day, it remains one of the most influential whitetail hunting video productions ever made.

In addition to his film work, Barry has authored numerous articles and books on bowhunting. His writing blends the practical application of bowhunting with humor.

Barry's legacy is rooted not just in his personal achievements in the woods, but in the countless bowhunters he has mentored and inspired for many decades. By championing fair chase values and the challenges of traditional equipment, he has kept alive the heritage of bowhunting for future generations.



Barry Wensel

Born in Adelong, New South Wales, Dave Whiting has devoted more than five decades to traditional bowhunting. Introduced to the sport in 1969 at the age of 13.

During the mid-1970s, he became deeply involved in organized archery, joining the Southern Riverina Trophy Bow Hunters and later helping to establish the Canberra Independent Bowmen. Over the years, Dave held multiple leadership roles, including President, Treasurer, and Game Recorder, while earning countless hunting awards with his recurves and longbows, even as many peers transitioned to compounds.

In 1986, Dave became a founding force in Trophy Takers (TT), Australia's national bowhunting trophy rating system. Serving as Chairman from 1988 to 2017, he guided the organization for nearly three decades, overseeing newsletters, trophy measuring, annual awards, and national representation at hunting expos. Dave's personal hunting record is equally impressive. He has harvested thousands of rabbits, foxes, goats, and pigs, along with water buffalo, scrub bulls, and record-class fallow deer.



Dave Whiting



Hall of Fame

Class of 2024

G. Fred Asbell
Jerry Brumm
Dan Quillian
Marv Clyneke
Scott Koelzer

Legacy Inductees

Glenn St. Charles
Ishi
Maurice and Will Thompson
Saxton Pope
Art Young
William "Chief" Compton
Howard Hill
Fred Bear
Aldo Leopold
Ben Pearson
Bob Lee
Chester Stevenson
Ken and Walt Wilhelm
Art Laha
Cliff Zwickey
Roy Case
Bob Swinehart
Bill Negley
Jay Massey

New Legacy Inductees

Paul Schafer

Jack Whitney

Jack Whitney remains one of Montana's most admired traditional bowhunters, a man whose life seamlessly united woodsmanship, conservation, craftsmanship, and community service. Born in Ronan, Montana, Whitney spent his youth in Bigfork, where the hills and river bottoms surrounding his family's home fostered an early reverence for wild country.

From his home along the Swan River in Montana, Whitney explored the Jewel Basin, Swan Range, and Bob Marshall Wilderness, places that shaped his identity as a hunter and naturalist. Whitney earned a reputation as one of Montana's most successful mountain hunters. He is widely credited with harvesting more mountain goats with a bow than any other hunter in the state's history. He shared his skills generously, mentoring young bowhunters and bowyers.

He was a founding force behind the Montana Audubon Society, the Flathead Wildlife Association, where he served as president, and the Montana Hunting Heritage Foundation, earning each organization's highest conservation honor. He was the first inductee into the Montana Bowhunter Hall of Fame.

