

Douglas C. Kerr June 15, 1953 – April 5, 2003

(Compiled by Bryan & Greg Szalewski)

Throughout Doug's life there were several things that he truly loved to do: hunt, fish, and pass on his knowledge to youth. His love for hunting and sharing the sport is what inspired him to start the first PBS Youth Hunt in 1997. Doug saw the hunt as an opportunity to keep youth interested in hunting and to help make them future leaders in our sport. It is because of everything that Doug Kerr did for the PBS Youth Hunt that today we are participating in the Doug Kerr Memorial Bowhunt.

Doug was a life member of the PBS and served on the PBS council. He was also a charter member of the New York Bowhunters, in fact, Doug contributed the first hundred dollars to start the NYB in his home state of New York. He also served on the board for the NYB and was the chairman of their legislative committee. In addition to the PBS and NYB, Doug was a member of New Jersey United Bowhunters, American Bowhunters Committee, United Bowhunters of Rhode Island, the National Wild Turkey Federation, The Ruffed Grouse Society, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the NRA, the Appalachian Mountain Club, Wilderness Society, Sierra Club, North American Wild Life Enforcement Officers Association, Nature Conservancy, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Alliance, Coral Reef Alliance, America Rivers, American Canoe Association, Florida Conservation Association, Atlantic Salmon Federation, Montana Trout Foundation, OCEANA, Center for Marine Conservation, Coastal Conservation Association, Alaska Fish and Wildlife Safeguard, Waterfowl USA, Ducks Unlimited, Trout unlimited, Theodore Gordon Flyfishers, and Catskill Fly Fishing Center and Museum. Doug loved to make all of his own archery equipment as well as flies for fly fishing. Doug loved tying flies so much that he was teaching fly tying at two schools at the time of his death.

Doug was a New York Conservation Officer for 25 years and helped found the New York Conservation Officers Association. Additionally, he helped create New York's "turn-in-a-poacher" hotline and was politically active in the New York State Conservation Council. Doug held high ethical standards for himself and others when it came to conduct in the outdoors, and this was no doubt reflected in his career as conservation officer. We should count ourselves lucky to be in the midst of a legacy of someone who felt so strongly about our sport to believe not only that we must uphold a certain level of dignity and conduct in the world of bowhunting, but that we also need to take the time to pass these values to the next generation. Doug, as you may or may not know, also intended to educate the youth about the cultural, spiritual, historic, and artistic aspects of bowhunting—if you have ever read his short prose piece entitled "Imagine", you know exactly what I'm talking about.

By putting so much support into the Youth Program, Doug showed us all that the youth are not to be simply discounted, but that they, like the ground under your feet that you often don't think about, can sprout many great things and ideas when given the proper care. Thank you Doug Kerr!