Professional Bowhunters Society® Speaker’s Bureau

The PBS has assembled the following group of members who have graciously volunteered to speak at your function for the betterment of our way of life, and the PBS. Each speaker brings many years of experience that will both entertain and educate your group.

Members of the PBS Speaker’s Bureau (click on their name to read a brief biography).

Fred Asbell
Mark Baker
Monty Browning
Bryce Lambley
Mike Mitten
John Rook and Lenny Rock
Gene Wensel

There is no fee for the speaker’s services, but we do request as a minimum courtesy the following be provided:

1. All travel, lodging, and banquet expenses for the speaker and his spouse.
2. Any audio/visual equipment that the speaker may require.

Final arrangements will be between you and the speaker.

Please contact the PBS Home Office to request a speaker.
G. Fred Asbell

G. Fred Asbell is a modern pioneer of bowhunting. He began shooting a bow and arrow and bowhunting in about 1961 in central Indiana. Not long after, he spent a three-month stretch hunting in Alaska's wilderness.

Fred has the following to share with us. “There weren't very many bow shooters or bowhunters back then, and even fewer deer, and what information you could find on shooting or hunting with the bow was extremely limited and was, for the most part, adapted from whatever was known about hunting with firearms. I wanted to know more, but it was hard to come up with information. Most articles were written by outdoor gun writers who saw the opportunity to make a few bucks writing about a new sport. I sold my first article to a bowhunting magazine in 1971, and have been at it ever since. I started writing articles because there were things that I thought some of the bowhunters I'd met needed to know; things like how to sharpen broadheads and knives, successful whitetail tactics, and the importance of physical conditioning, and accurate shooting…which are, ironically, still important topics today.

Since then I've written about bowhunting most North American animals and have been fortunate enough to see most of the United States, Canada and parts of Africa, and some of Europe in the process. I've written three books, INSTINCTIVE SHOOTING; INSTINCTIVE SHOOTING II; and STALKING AND STILL-HUNTING; THE GROUND HUNTER'S BIBLE; and an instructional shooting video, also named INSTINCTIVE SHOOTING.

I've always been involved in bowhunting organizations at all levels, from local and state, to national, serving as president of the Pope and Young Club for 18 years, and currently serving as president of Compton Traditional Bowhunters. From 1977 to 1991 I built custom traditional bows as Bighorn Bowhunting Company in Colorado. For several years Bighorn was the only traditional bow company advertising in the national media. I've never owned or hunted with a compound bow.”

“I believe that Fred has done more in the past two decades to resurrect and promote the use of traditional equipment than any person I know. Through his books, videos and seminars on instinctive shooting he has intrigued and instructed a whole new generation of hunters to return to the ways of Howard Hill and Fred Bear. (Not to mention a lot of "Old Dogs" returning to the stick and string as well!)” Ken Beck, Black Widow Bows
Mark Baker

Mark Baker has been shooting recurves and longbows since the age of 7 years, and naturally took to hunting with them while in college. He killed his first deer his first year out with a recurve back in 1978 and instantly fell in love with bowhunting. Living in Montana, Mark has had the opportunity to pursue multiple species with stick and string there and elsewhere throughout his almost 30 years of bowhunting. He got into building his own wood bows in the late eighty’s, and is an accomplished self-bowyer, hunting almost exclusively with his homemade tackle.

Mark worked as a bowhunting guide for elk and deer in Montana for nearly a decade, has been a whitewater raft guide, fly-fishing guide, museum director, but has worked mostly in the construction trades his entire adult life. Mark answered the call to give back to the sport of bowhunting by serving on the board of directors for the Montana Bowhunters Association for nearly ten years, the last four of which as two-term President. He has also served for two-terms as President of the Traditional Bowhunters of Montana, and has taught Bowhunter Education for the state of MT for 15 plus years. Mark is also a regular member of PBS, and enjoys entertaining bowhunters and others with his unique brand of bowhunting music and powerpoint presentation as well as having authored several articles for various publications.

But among Mark’s accomplishments, he is perhaps proudest of his two son’s having taken up his favorite pastime with him, and joining him as two of his favorite hunting companions.

Need some unique entertainment for one of your gatherings, banquets, or functions? Mark performs songs from his CD’s live, along with a spectacular power-point presentation arranged just for such occasions. For multi-day functions, he can also do seminars and will willingly take questions and dole out opinions.

Mark has played for the following functions….North American Longbow safari, PBS biennial banquet, and odd-year west gathering, the Traditional Bowhunters of Montana banquet, Albertal Traditional Bowhunters, United Bowhunters of Missouri rendezvous and summer shoot, The Colorado Bowhunters Association, the Kansas Bowhunters Association, United Bowhunters of Illinios, and many other smaller functions, feeds and shoots.
Monty Browning is a hunter-adventurer and wildlife enthusiast of old-school proportions.

On several occasions he has spent 30 days alone in the Alaskan wilderness hunting moose. He has stalked Cape buffalo in Mozambique on his hands and knees; floated by himself over 100 miles in an Arctic river filled with ice; and pursued just about every game animal in North America at one time or another. When he was 5, he surprised his mother by swapping his bicycle for a bow and arrow.

“I have just always enjoyed archery and bow hunting,” said Browning.

Speaking about his latest experiences hunting, Browning said, “I use the longbow exclusively. I have never even hunted deer with anything but a bow.”

Monty is a true Southern Gentleman and is a fantastic story teller. He entertains audiences large and small with his humor filled hunting anecdotes.

Annie, Browning’s wife of 38 years, is a partner in the Carlson-Wagonlit Travel Agency new location in Victoria Square in Clemson. On display are many big game-related items, including a new addition, an alligator rug.

“I am very proud of the (world) record water buffalo that I hunted in Australia. It is the largest ever killed with a bow, and it is at the travel agency,” Monty Browning said. “We hope that everyone interested in animals will come by and see the natural history display that we have created. This goes especially for kids. I want them to see animals up close, touch them, identify them and study them. This exhibit is about education as much as anything. As a young boy I spent a lot of time at a natural history museum in Rock Hill. That experience had a big influence on my life.”

A full-sized taxidermy mount of large animals such as water buffalo or white rhino could cost $25,000—$30,000, he said. “It has gotten way too expensive,” he said. "I am glad to have the...
animals that we already have on hand, because I am not a rich man. I work every day for a living, and I am still paying off some of the debt from this exhibit.

“For me the thrill is traveling from South Carolina to somewhere like British Columbia, riding on horseback to elevation until the trail ends and then hiking for 2-3 days and hoping to catch a glimpse in the distance of a speck that you know is a big game animal … then creeping in as close as you can you can watch as its nostrils flair, and you can hear the animal breathing. Seeing an animal where it lives is an important part of what hunting is all about.”
Bryce Lambley has been seriously bowhunting big game since 1981, and using traditional archery equipment since 1988. A schoolteacher and coach from Fremont, Nebraska, Lambley also writes the weekly outdoor recreation column for his local daily newspaper, the Fremont Tribune, in addition to freelancing for various hunting magazines, primarily Traditional Bowhunter, Bowhunter Magazine, and The Professional Bowhunter.

In 2008, he released his first book, My Neck of the Woods, to solid reviews. It is available directly from the author or from traditional vendors Three Rivers Archery, Kustom King Archery, and the Nocking Point. A second book is in the works and is expected in the next year.

Bryce grew up as the eldest of four sons and a daughter to a father who was a teacher/coach and avid outdoorsman, and a mother who was an avid writer. It would seem the apple didn't fall far from the tree. Introduced to hunting, trapping and fishing at an early age, his love for the outdoors is wide-ranging but bowhunting big game is his greatest passion.

He generally spends anywhere from 80 to 100 hunts in his home state trying to outwit white-tailed deer. In addition, he frequently hunts Iowa and has also made trips to South Dakota, Colorado, Alaska, Manitoba, and Alberta. He has also made two journeys to Zimbabwe and South Africa.

Lambley feels he could present information on whitetail hunting, trail cameras, the general family outdoor experience, African safaris, alpine Sitka deer in Alaska, and bears over bait in Canada.

Bryce has two daughters, Hayley (10) and Emily (8) who frequently accompany him to the field.
Mike Mitten was born in 1958 and still lives in the town where the Mitten family grew up, Beach Park, Illinois. Living on the edge of urban sprawl with a rural heart, it didn’t take long for the Mitten children to find a connection with nature in the fields and ravines near their home. Woodsmanship skills were learned early on during camping and fishing trips with their father and through Boy Scouting where Mike earned the highest rank of Eagle. During high school, Mike worked part-time at the local Farm Supply store. That job, along with running a trap-line, provided him the financial means to attend Northern Illinois University. Graduating in 1983 with a degree in biology, Mike found work literally as he was filling out the job application at the pharmaceutical company, Abbott Laboratories. Today, Mike is a dedicated member of a research team that discovers new treatments for infectious disease and cancer.

Mike cut his bowhunting teeth on the family’s vacation property and surrounding Chequamegon National Forest in north central Wisconsin. His passion for bowhunting whitetail deer is offset each year by annual hunting adventures to distant western states, Canada, or Alaska. Over the years, Mike has frequently shared his stories and experience by authoring articles published in hunting magazines such as *North American Whitetail*, *Traditional Bowhunter Magazine*, and *Bow and Arrow Hunting*. He also encourages membership in local and state hunting organizations along with national organizations such as Professional Bowhunter Society, National Rifle Association, and Pope and Young Club.

Mike attributes his life’s passion for the outdoors and bowhunting success to an understanding and loving wife, Paula, and their five children. He is now able to teach his own children and help them understand the stewardship and responsibility each generation has for conservation of our natural resources. One of his most memorable hunts was a three week long solo trip in 1995 to the Alaskan wilderness where over 40 bull moose were sited. The physical and emotional extremes experienced on this hunt, where no game was taken, are among his most cherished memories, clearly defining him as a hunter. Much of Mike’s contribution to *Primal Dreams* was through the eyes of a solo hunter with a video camera in one hand and a bow in the other. Mike also recently completed his first book “*One with the Wilderness*” Passions of a Solo Bowhunter.
John Rook & Lenny Rock

Pat Lefemine (Owner Bowsite) – “John Rook is perhaps, the finest bowhunter I have ever met. He tirelessly promotes archery, he unselfishly helps others, and few have as high a passion for archery and bowhunting. He has shot 45 big game animals including, 19 whitetails, 5 bears, even animals as far away as Australia. While these accomplishments alone are impressive, the fact that he did this since he's been blind is nothing less than legendary.”

John Rook and Lenny Rock have known each other since 1960 and have been hunting together since 1982. John has been involved in archery since 1946 and Lenny started shooting a bow in 1960.

Lenny has been John’s eyes for hunting for many years and their success and system is legendary. The two explained the system, as follows, during an interview with Pat Lefemine.

Lenny – At first I would get behind him, 3-4 feet. It did not work very well at all. I would grab him by the shoulders and jerk him around, trying to get him to pull the bow back, and I would aim him. At first, we just used a bare bow, but later on we mounted a sight on the opposite side of the bow, and I would use that as a reference. That was the original setup. John – but now we simply shoot bare bow, which is easier on me because I don’t have to hold the bow back as long as I did with sights. The system really and truly works, and lately we’ve been teaching it to others. A woman in NY (who had lost her sight due to a mistake by a doctor) was recently taught about our system and she’s bagged a couple of bears, deer, even an antelope.

John’s first big game animal since going blind was an Angora goat taken on a shooting preserve in Southern Ohio. It was a very emotional moment for them both and was the start of a very illustrious bowhunting career together. John has taken bears from Alberta, Manitoba, Maine, Sambar and Red Stag in Australia, and many other species from all over the US.
John has received many awards and a most memorable SCI Award was presented to him by Bo Derek and General Norman Schwarzkopf.

John has also been building selfbows since 1955 thanks to the instructions of his friend Jerry Lubbers from Michigan.

Lenny has a great sense of humor and has been known to guide John to the women’s restroom on more than one occasion. Lenny shared the following story: “One time I had a trespasser show up under my stand. I had my arm around John. I yelled “hey” and he looked up. I told John, "he's looking at us" and then John kissed my cheek. The guy shot out of there and never returned -- (laughs) we have a lot of fun together!”

Lenny and John offer some parting thoughts to Pat during his interview with them. Lenny – “for the archers, if you have a friend who is physically challenged (we don’t use the word handicapped), there is always a way to get them in the woods. It is always a bigger thrill to me to be there with John, then by myself.” John – “People ask me if I enjoy bowhunting as much now as I did before going blind. I do, but it's in a different way. Now, everything is shared. The disabled, are normal. I wish people could look past the disability and see the individual. That’s my goal, to break down the barriers. I don’t have barriers, I’ve been lucky. But others do and if I could help them, then that’s what I’ll do.”
Twin brothers Barry and Gene Wensel were born in DuBois, Pennsylvania on opening day of the 1944 bow season. They were raised in the green mountains of Vermont. Their dad started bowhunting in 1949, so the twins spent most of their childhood time in the outdoors. Bows and arrows have always been a part of their lives. Very few people know they posed for ads in *Life*, *Look* and *Saturday Evening Post* magazines during their Cub Scout years. Both men eventually grew up to graduate from college in Indiana and soon headed west to practice for many years as chiropractors. With their respective families, they lived in Montana for almost 30 years, Barry residing in the Flathead Valley and Gene living 150 miles south in the Bitterroot Valley of western Montana.

In 1999, the Wensels picked up stakes and moved to rural Iowa. Strangers frequently ask why people with most of their marbles would move from the beautiful state of Montana to a place like Iowa. The only reason? Bigger whitetails and no winter-kill. They admittedly miss their Montana roots, the mountains, bugling elk, bears, pronghorns and flyfishing for trout.

Gene and Barry have hunted with recurves and longbows for over 50 years. Many friends have commented they never put their toys away since childhood. The Wensel brothers hunted deer with bows and arrows long before there were things like non-military camo, food plots or specialty seeds. There were no compound bows, cell phones, GPS units, video cameras, ATVs, high fences or weekly deer shows on television. Muzzleloaders used round balls, loose black powder and didn’t have scopes. If you wanted a four wheel drive vehicle, you bought a Jeep. People didn’t raise deer in pens. There had never been a live Boone & Crockett class buck photographed in the wild.

The Wensels have been affiliated with multiple national hunting organizations, including the NRA, PBS, QDMA, P&Y, B&C, etc. Together they have written half a dozen books and hundreds of magazine articles. They have been involved in many video, audio and television
productions. They have done hundreds of speaking engagements and hunting seminars all over the world. Bowhunting has taken them all over America, Canada, Alaska and Africa. In 1998, they brought Wensel Woodsman broadheads to the world.

Whitetails have always been their specialty. They have taken deer in over twenty different states. From 1990 through 1996, Gene and Barry guided almost 200 bowhunters to Pope & Young class whitetail bucks. Their guiding success ratio of 96% for seven consecutive seasons is the highest known fair chase bowhunting success rate on free-ranging trophy whitetail bucks ever.

Barry became easily recognized as “the guy in the crooked hat” in some of the first hunting videos ever produced, bringing his sense of humor and shooting skills to fans across the country. Gene got his biggest exposure during the seven years of his “Classic Whitetails” road tour, annually captivating audiences by the thousands.

Barry and Gene, often called the “Ramblin’ Rednecks,” always displayed fun while hunting. Yes, its serious business at times but it should always be fun. Today, the Wensel brothers go on playing with their toys, bringing laughter and respect to our outdoor heritage and getting admiration from those who follow them.