

# 3D Archery Tournament In Hartington Brings Together Archers Of All Ages

BY LINDA WUEBBEN  
P&D Correspondent

HARTINGTON, Neb. — For the fourth year, the Shannon Trail and Northeast Nebraska Archers hosted a weekend family fun event at Hartington.

The Adult/Youth Team 3D Archery Tournament was held last Sunday, Aug. 21, at the Hartington Outdoor Archery Range. The course covers approximately 60-80 acres and was designed back in 1995.

In years past as many as 45 entrants traveled the archery course during the tournament weekend which offers 50 targets in a figure-eight signature through wooded hills. The first division was for a youth age eight to 12 years of age with an adult. The second division had youth ages 13-15 with an adult. Medals and prizes were awarded.

"We started talking about this about six years ago," Kevin Millikan said. Millikan is president of the Northeast Nebraska Archers and a resident of Bloomfield. "We wanted to get kids involved in the Shannon Trail tourism activity and talked about ways to attract them."

The first year Millikan offered archery as a competitive option at county fair time he had 13 youth sign up. This past year there were 70 Knox County youth registered for the archery program. After the initial archery course was offered to the area youth for certification, Millikan had 54 archers signed up to compete at the county fair. By fair time two of the archers had conflicts with the horse competition but the other 52 showed up. Millikan's son Aaron finished third in the county competition.

"It is great outdoor therapy; I tried golf and I didn't care for it," Millikan said. He has been shooting arrows for eight years and has involved his children in the archery sport.

When they were small and their arrows didn't fly very far, he set up targets in the basement of their home so they could shoot in the winter months. The family had great fun and it took the youngsters away from in front of the television. He pointed out when he comes home from work at the day's end there is nothing like taking some frustrations out with a bow, arrow and target.

"Once the sport bites you, you are hooked," Millikan said. "It's something my son and I can do together in the outdoors; enjoying the wildlife in the woods." Millikan's daughter Kaci spent Saturday as a youth archery mentor at a Verdigre sport activity.

There were grandfathers, sons, grandsons, son-in-laws and even uncles and nephews shooting as teams in the archery shoot. Some of the team members weren't even related but still shared the love of the sport.

Jason Stewart of Wakefield brought one of his young employees from his construction company along to enjoy the day. Stewart is a 15-year veteran having started in high school who said many days at lunch time, there are archers from his crew shooting at a target. Young crew member Drew Lunz of Laurel was pulled into the sport and agreed it was challenging. Getting close to a target like a turkey makes the sport exciting, too. Both men agreed the silence makes it even more attractive.

Brenton Lammers of Hartington brought a neighboring youth, Austin Creamer, along for the event. Lammers golfed in a tournament on Saturday but actually looked forward to Sunday's bow hunting event which he finds more challenging. Thirteen-year-old Creamer was shooting with a bow which was given to him for his birthday.

As the archers covered the course they compared arrows and examined the strings on the bows of their competitors. Andy Boeckman of South Sioux City participated in a Saturday 3D event last weekend at Hartington and told the club members he loved the sport because of all the nice people he met everywhere he participated in a tournament.

Nineteen teams and seven individual shooters enjoyed the 40 target course. Teams from Sioux City, Wausa, Hinton Iowa, Wayne, Norfolk and St. Helena competed.

Placing in the Age 13-15 Division were: 1st, Brent Lammers, Lincoln, and Austin Creamer, Hartington; 2nd, Jason Stewart, Wakefield, and Drew Lunz, Laurel; and 3rd, Kelly Smith and Aaron Millikan, both of Bloomfield.

Placing in the Age 8-12 Division were: 1st, Kent Hochstein and Jacob Keiser, both of Hartington; 2nd, Randy Noecker and Wes Noecker, both of Hartington; and 3rd, Randy Ohlfest and Reese McFarland, both of Bloomfield.

The tournament is a win-win situation for the Shannon group as a fundraiser for tourism in the northeast Nebraska area and also helps the Northeast Nebraska Archers put some money aside for the purchase of ten new targets every year. Check out [www.nearchers.com](http://www.nearchers.com) for more information.

## OF THE OUTDOORS | GARY HOWEY

# Pre-Season Scouting: The Key To All Hunting Success

BY GARY HOWEY  
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Where to start? That's one question many hunters ask themselves when they're planning a hunting trip!

The answer to this is quite simple all you need to do to put yourself one up on the game is to spend time in the field prior to the season opener scouting.

Some may think that figuring out an animals patterns is hard, when it's really not all that complicated when it comes to figuring out what game is doing.

One excellent example of this is the scouting is locating an area to set up for geese in the morning. Geese and all waterfowl have a tendency to feed early morning and later in the afternoon unless the weather is extremely warm. The key

here is to figure out what field they're feeding in the day prior to your hunt and then setting up in that field early, well before they arrive. If you see geese feeding in a field just before dark, you can bet they'll be back to that field the following morning.

Of course there's always an exception to the rule, one is if they've cleaned the field up the night before, leaving nothing left to eat or if they were forced out by heavy hunting pressure.

When you're scouting, you'll want to pay close attention to the area in the field geese are feeding in. It won't do you a bit of good to set up too far away from where they want to feed because geese have excellent memories when it comes to returning to the spot they finished up the night before.

You don't want to set up on the north edge of the field when the geese are feeding on the south edge. If you aren't sure where the geese are feeding when you arrive, spend some time looking around for waste grain lying on the ground. On evening hunts, we've found where the geese were feeding by looking for their dropping, feathers and even their tracks.

Generally, scouting for deer is done once the weather straightens out in the spring into the summer months, as fall approaches, you should have things figured out and may want to vacate your hunting area so not to spook the deer out of the area before opening day.

Scouting also works for pheasant hunters as the birds have a tenancy to move shortly after sunup and again at dusk. I've located a lot of pheasants by parking on a road near nesting cover prior to sundown, watching for

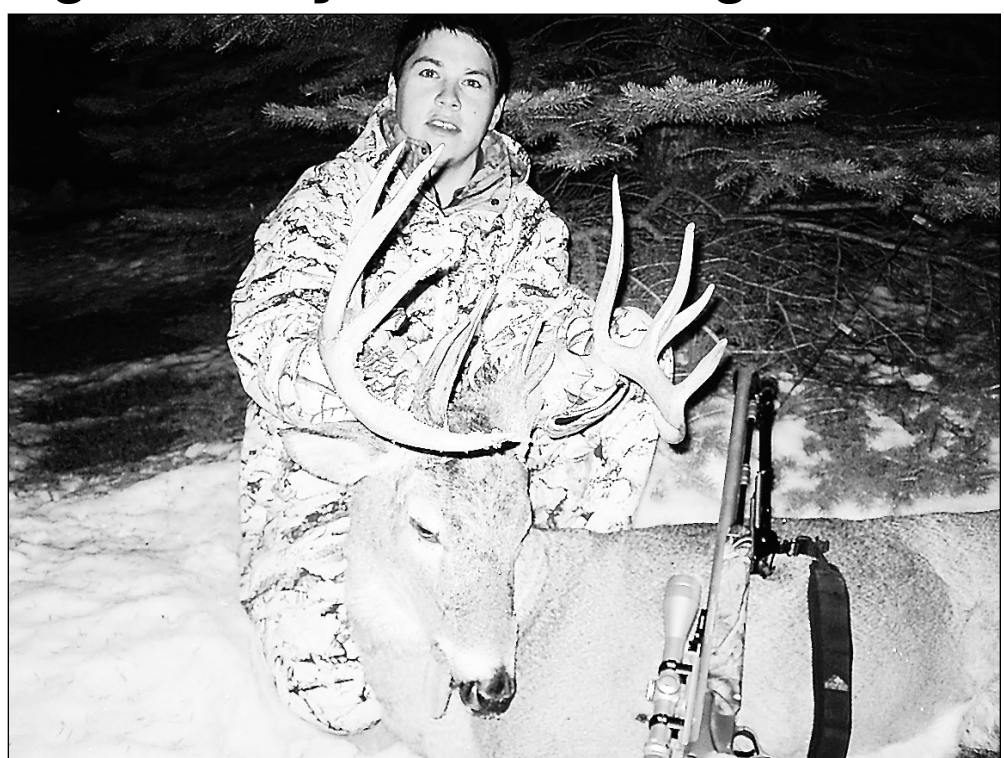


PHOTO: TEAM OUTDOORSMEN ADVENTURES

Team Outdoorsmen Adventures member Ben Bearshield, Gregory, with a buck he was able to take during the muzzleloading season because of the pre-season scouting he did prior to the season.

birds flying into cover to roost. This movement also happens in the early morning hours when the birds come out from the roost to feed.

Scouting for turkey isn't much different except the terrain the turkeys live in is a lot rougher. The best scenario is to go out prior to the spring or fall season. Spring is a perfect time to scout for turkeys as they, like all wildlife will bunch up into large flocks in the winter. A flock of turkey can leave a lot of sign, so locating areas the birds are using is pretty simple! Turkeys are scratchers, so they turn over leaves, manure and sticks looking for a tender shoot, small insect or waste grain to eat. They also deposit a lot of droppings as they work their way through the woods.

Feathers are another good indicator the birds have been in the area because they lose a lot of feathers as they cross under fences through brush, rubbing against all those nasty thorny bushes out there.

When I first go into the woods to look for turkeys, I carry along a call. "NO" not turkey calls as some do, I don't want the turkey coming to me, I just want to know if there's a gobbler or two in the area.

I'll use a crow call, predator call or even a hawk call as toms shock gobbler pretty readily when startled and if I can get them to gobble

with out them looking for me, I know where they're at and that's all I need! Using these calls really works well as the sun goes down when the birds are going into the roost as you can locate their exact location for the following morning hunt.

Remember, no matter what call you using; always remember that a Tom could be just below you or on the other side of the tree, so try to conceal yourself!

Their eyes are phenomenal and if a Tom happens to be in the area, he'll spot you in a mila-second if you aren't hunkered down and hidden behind something when you call. When you're pre-season scouting and get a response, get out of the area because you know everything your going to know and will now have a starting point come opening day.

No matter what you're going to be hunting for, scouting pays off, allowing you to spend opening day, hunting, not wandering around spooking all the game in the area, trying to figure out their patterns.

Gary Howey, Hartington, Neb., is the President of Outdoorsmen Productions LLC and the producer/host of the Outdoorsmen Adventures television series. If you're looking for more outdoor information check out [www.outdoorsmenadventures.com](http://www.outdoorsmenadventures.com)



Gary HOWEY

## TROPHY SPOTLIGHT



LEFT: Paul Callinger caught this Northern pike and walleye during a recent endeavor. right: Julie Sudbeck, a Captain Norm's guide, caught this 24-inch walleye on Aug. 19 on the Missouri River. She used jig minnow to nab this fish. (PHOTOS: Captain Norm's)



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# YANKTON: THE WAY IT WAS

By Bob Karolevitz

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# THANK YOU

A big thank you goes out to the Riverboat Days Committee, the countless volunteers that gave of their time & talent, all the law enforcement officials that kept things under control, the National Guard Unit, the vendors, dancers, entertainers and any others who played a role in making this Riverboat Days weekend such a huge success.

To all of you... Your hardwork and dedication to this annual event is amazing and very much appreciated.

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