

PENNSYLVANIA LONGBOW ASSOCIATION

25TH Anniversary Edition

1989 - 2014



OFFICERS of the newly formed Pennsylvania Longbow Association are Brian Hartford, treasurer and membership chairman, Thomas Cole, secretary, James Sherwood, vice-president, and James Billings, president.

1991 OFFICERS (L-R)

Brian Hartford – Treasurer / Membership
Thomas Cole – Secretary,
James Sherwood – Vice President,
James Billings - President

PAST OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Jim Billings 1990 - 1993
Jesse Miller 1993 – 1999
Dennis Matthews 1999 - 2003
Ed Bosley 2003 - 2009
Frank Covington 2009 - 2013
Scott Slowik 2013 - Present

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jim Sherwood 1990 – 1993
Dennis Matthews 1993 – 1999
Lou McCabe 1999 - 2003
Frank Covington 2003 - 2009
Rich Briggs 2009 - Present

TREASURER

Brian Hartford 1990 - 1995

TREASURER continued

Samuel J. Miller, Sr. 1995 – 2005
Carol Covington 2005 - 2007
Matt Fricker 2007- 2009
Dave Messner 2009 - Present

SECRETARY

Tom Cole 1990 – 1991
? 1991 - 1995
Samuel J. Miller, Sr. 1995 - 1999
Kevin Pfanders 1999 - 2000
Tim Burris 2000 - 2011
Fred Folmer 2011 - Present

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Brian Hartford 1990 - 1993
Lee Stone 1993 - 1995
Leon Stewart 2003 - 2005
Bess Ellen Criswell 2005 - Present

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Phil Magistro 1991
Wes *Muldoon* Waldron 1995 - 2000
Mike & Lisa Carter 2000 - 2001
Tim Burris 2001 - Present



Four past presidents (L-R) Ed Bosley, Dennis Matthews, Frank Covington, Jesse Miller at McSherrystown 2004.

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Chad and Erick Ward (1991)

A DREAM COME TRUE

(Editor's note: this was published in PLA's Spring 1991 newsletter.)

A couple years ago (1989), in a hunting camp in Northeastern Pennsylvania, three hunting pals were swapping tales and passing time. Jim Sherwood, a longbow enthusiast, Tome Cole, an Old Time Bowyer, and Brian Hartford, a recently converted traditionalist dreamed of having a longbow shoot in Pennsylvania. From this conversation, plans were made to have a Traditional Shoot in August 1990.

Flyers were printed announcing the shoot, to be held at Denton Hill Ski Resort in Potter County. These were handed out by Tom Cole and Jim Sherwood at the Allentown Sportsman's Show in March 1990. The Response was overwhelming, causing Jim and Tom to realize that Pennsylvania's traditional archers were ready to organize.

Eighteen Longbow enthusiasts met in March 1990, and the Pennsylvania Longbow Association was formally chartered. The purpose was to provide an association for those "who wish to restore the challenge and romance associated with

archery in its more primitive forms.".. Jim Billings was elected President, Jim Sherwood was elected Vice-president, Brian Hartford was elected Membership Secretary, and Tom Cole was elected Secretary/Chaplain. Within a couple of months, membership doubled as interest in the organization grew.

The Pennsylvania Longbow Association and its members do not wish to disassociate themselves from contemporary archery. Their intent is to gather together people who take the longbow seriously, on the range as well as in the hunting field. Those joining the Pennsylvania Longbow Association are expected to acquaint themselves with, and shoot the longbow, using traditional shooting style. While the focus of the organization is primarily on the longbow, all traditional shooters are welcomed.



Larry Ward throwing a tomahawk on the PLA course near Sylvania. (1991)
During the first year, a regional shoot was held in June at Endless Mountains Archery Club. With little notice 47 registered shooters and 4 dealers attended. Several shoots of this type are being planned for 1991.

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Rick Ward (1991)

The major event of the year was the Eastern Traditional Archery Rendezvous held at Denton Hill on August 3-5. This event encompassed all types of traditional archery including longbows, recurves, Indian bows and even the traditional English self wood longbow. The organizers were pleasantly surprised when 487 registered shooters and scores of observers showed up for this very first Traditional Rendezvous.

The shoot was originally set up for competition, but it was soon realized that this was a “FUN” shoot. There were three courses with different levels of difficulty. There was “*Suicide Hill*”, “*Cardiac Ridge*”, and “*Dinosaur Hollow*” (for the more intelligent, mature archer). There was even a children’s range with dinosaur targets.

Many dealers attended including Bob Huchinson (Taper King), Bill Shults (Renaissance Archery), Bruce Green (Green Traditional Archery Supplies) and Jim Sherwood (Sherwood Traditional Archery).

Well know bowyers were also in attendance. Jerry Brum, of Great Northern Archery, Rick Ingram, maker of Woodland Bows, Gary Munro from Canada, and The Old timer – Tom Cole displayed their products.

Several clinics were put on and the event was topped off with a Bonfire Get Together on Saturday evening. Bear Paw provided the tall tales, making it an extremely successful night. The Rendezvous concluded with Church Services on Sunday morning , preached by Tom Cole.



Longbow shooter 2014