

*Celebrating*

**50**

**1961-2011**



# 50 YEARS FOR THE GOOD OF BOWHUNTING



**By Kevin Hisey**

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Professional Member, Boone and Crockett Club

*"A stick and a string!"*

*"Just a kid's toy!"*

*"You can't hunt real big game animals with that!"*

*"You shouldn't hunt big game animals with that!"*

*"The Indians gave up on that a long time ago, in favor of progress and something better."*

No respect. No acceptance by the hunting community and game agencies. No special hunting seasons or areas.

Absurd, right?

Well, that's the reality that was faced by pioneering bowhunters not all that long ago.

Enthralled and buoyed by turn-of-the-century writings of Maurice Thompson and Dr. Saxton Pope and the adventures of Arthur Young, a new generation of would-be hunting archers grabbed hold of the once-abandoned pursuit of game with the bow. With wide-eyed enthusiasm and a tinkering, experimental, do-it-yourself spirit, a fledgling handful of bowmen set their sights on a walk in the woods. The encouraging hands of Young and Pope touched such entrepreneurial spirits as Fred Bear and Doug Easton, respectively, and a small industry began feeding the growing interest and need for crafted, quality archery equipment.

It should not go unobserved that this "new" concept of "hunting the hard way," of "challenge," and of "low impact on the resource," began taking hold at the same time, and on a parallel plane, as the wildlife conservation ethic and the principles of limited take and protection/recovery of the resource collectively known as wildlife, was gaining momentum and taking root. It was a perfectly natural fit.

The first major breakthroughs in acceptance came in Wisconsin, where the state game commission changed its hunting regulations to recognize the bow as a legal weapon in 1930. The following year, Wisconsin archer Roy Case was the first person to harvest a

**TOP TO BOTTOM:** Dr. Saxton Pope  
■ Arthur Young ■ Maurice Thompson  
■ The first Pope and Young board meeting in 1961.

**TOP BACKGROUND IMAGE:**

Wisconsin archer Roy Case was the first person to harvest a deer in the legalized season, 1931.

# POPE & YOUNG FOUNDER GLENN ST. CHARLES PASSES

deer in the legalized season. Then, thanks to the efforts of Case, Aldo Leopold, Carl Hulbert and others, a bowhunting-only area was opened in 1934. A few other states gradually followed.

All in all, though, a stiff resistance stood in the way.

Efforts to gain acceptance for bowhunting were underway in a number of states. By the early 1940s, Washington state had experienced three brief bowhunting-only seasons in a small, separate area. Future seasons seemed inevitable. However, in the spring of 1941, the state game commission suddenly—and seemingly without reason—eliminated legal bowhunting. Kore Duryee, an early leader of the bowhunting cause, and a Seattle bowyer named Glenn St. Charles, were present. In a scramble of hard work, they managed to get the decision reversed, but the setback and humiliation motivated them toward a larger effort.

By this time, the National Field Archery Association (NFAA, splintered from the National Archery Association in 1939) was sensing the need to address the matter of bettering the credibility of bow-and-arrow hunting. In 1956, the NFAA formed a Hunting Activities Committee and appointed Seattle-based Glenn St. Charles to head the committee's assignment. Through thoughtful processes the St. Charles committee settled on the need to provide a tangible program that bowhunters could relate to and that would provide clear evidence of the effectiveness of the bow and arrow as a hunting weapon. St. Charles had been following and admiring the work of the Boone and Crockett Club, and the appeal and recognition its records system had been garnering through the 1950s. St. Charles approached the Boone and Crockett Club and gained permission to utilize B&C's scoring system and went to work developing a records program of bow-harvested big game animals.

Through the committee's efforts, the Pope and Young Club came into existence, officially founded in January of 1961. Its fundamental purposes were to prove the effectiveness of the bow and arrow as a hunting weapon and to better the image of the bowhunter. Immediately, requests flooded in from game agencies around the country that were contemplating bow seasons and were after the scientific-based evidence being collected through the organization's Records Program. The data was invaluable in lending credibility to growing numbers of bowhunters and their efforts to gain acceptance.

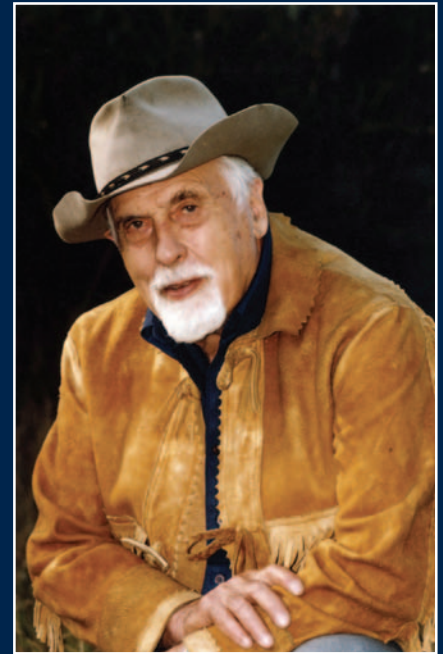
For 50 years that have followed, the Pope and Young Club has nurtured bowhunting and led by example. Today, hunting with

CHATFIELD, MN — It is with sadness that the Pope and Young Club shares the news that our founder, Glenn St. Charles, has passed away.

Glenn St. Charles, passed away September 19th at his home in Seattle, Washington, after a short illness. He was 98.

"The Pope and Young Club wishes to extend our deepest sympathy to the St. Charles family. This is also a tremendous loss for the entire bowhunting community. The Pope and Young Club lost a father figure. The bowhunting community, shaped by more than five decades of Glenn's influence, lost a guiding force," said Pope and Young Club President Roger Atwood.

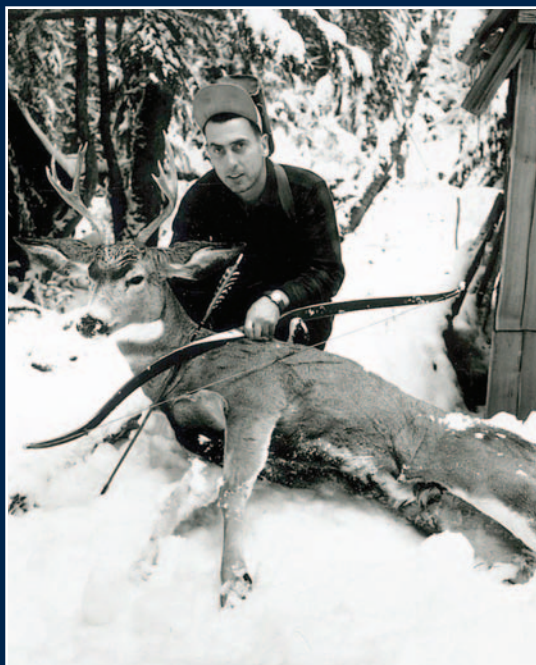
A bowyer from the 1940s when modern-day hunting with the bow and arrow was still in its infancy, St. Charles became a staunch and driven advocate for the sport. His vision for bettering the image of bowhunting and proving the effectiveness of the bow and arrow...the very creation of the Pope and Young Club...was integral in the establishment of bowhunting seasons and the acceptance and popularity that bowhunting has since garnered. His work as Hunting Activities Chairman of the National Field Archery Association in the 1950s led to the development of the bowhunting records program, the



subsequent founding of the Pope and Young Club in 1961, and the creation of a bowhunting ethical code and Rules of Fair Chase. His efforts and devotion to the cause of bowhunting spanned over eight decades. An iconic figure, St. Charles was one of the last true bowhunting pioneers.

M. R. James, President of the Archery Hall of Fame, and Past President of the Pope and Young Club, added, "Glenn St. Charles will be

remembered by many as a talented bowyer and founder of the Pope and Young Club. Rightfully so. But for his close friends and family, he will be fondly recalled a man who accomplished much more during a long and active lifetime. Father and father figure; fierce advocate and tireless defender of the sport he loved; pioneer bowhunter and visionary leader; outspoken conservationist; promoter of fair chase hunting; loyal friend and wise mentor; without question, Glenn St. Charles left his indelible mark on archery and bowhunting. He will be missed, but his place in our sport's rich history is secure." ■



the bow and arrow is widely accepted and universally recognized as a legitimate method of hunting. Lengthy seasons—earned decades ago—are the norm, perhaps even taken for granted. Popularity is at all-time highs and participation is soaring, at a time when total hunting numbers are considered in decline.

Steadfast, consistent and focused on its mission to protect and promote bowhunting so it exists for future generations, the Pope and Young Club has endeavored to lead with high standards of conduct and principles.

### Membership

Like Boone and Crockett, the Pope and Young Club is a membership-based organization: a fraternity of like-minded, dedicated bowhunters—men, women and youth—committed to the principles of Pope and Young. The unique membership structure created by its founding fathers rewards longevity as both a bowhunter and as a club supporter. Any bowhunter, who has pursued the challenge of bowhunting long enough to have taken at least one North American big game animal with a bow (not necessarily a “record book” animal) may join the Pope and Young Club as an Associate Member. Over time, and with active involvement as a dedicated bowhunter-conservationist, a member can advance to Regular Member and then, Senior Member levels.

### Records Program

The Pope and Young Club encourages quality bowhunting by awakening interest in and honoring outstanding examples of this continent's big game animals. Scientific data collected from the scoring of these animals goes into the club's archives as part of the organization's ever-growing file on North American big game species and bowhunting. Records books and statistical summaries are published periodically to update and distribute compiled information. The club is recognized worldwide as the official repository for bowhunting records relating to native North American species. The Records Program provides great insight into the past and present management and health of wildlife populations, is a testimonial to traditional game management and is the effective means to perpetuate the fair chase ethic. Just as it was valuable in the late 50s and 60s to provide tangible evidence of the effectiveness of the bow and arrow (and the archer), it remains critical today to continue to set standards and limitations and provide proof positive of the effectiveness of conventional bowhunting equipment.

With great loyalty to the B&C scoring system, its history, integrity, enduring acceptance and credibility, the Pope and Young Club strives to maintain and perpetuate the scoring system's fundamentals of science-based, mass and symmetry comparison, in concert and partnership with B&C.

### Fair Chase Standard

The core values of the Pope and Young Club's membership revolve around the principles of high standards of conduct and ethics in our hunting lifestyle. The club believes that an ethical code is necessary for all responsible hunters and is the key to protecting hunting's future in our society. The concept of fair chase is a component of an ethical code. Simply defined, fair chase is the ethical, sportsmanlike and lawful pursuit of free-ranging wild game animals in a manner which does not give the hunter an improper or unfair advantage over the animal. In addition to following all hunting laws and regulations, adherence to the rules of fair chase is required by anyone submitting an entry into the club's Records Program. Though such rules focus on the pursuit itself, the spirit of fair chase is an attitude and a way of life based in a deep-seated respect for wildlife, for the environment and for other individuals who share the bounty of our natural resources.

### Conservation and Bowhunting Promotion

Bowhunters are some of the most active and dedicated conservationists anywhere. We are committed to the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and the scientific-based management of our natural resources—including the key role that hunters play.

Our program strives to lead by example. We support, with financial assistance and moral support, a wide array of projects and programs around North America in efforts to enhance and protect wildlife conservation and our bowhunting heritage. We do this by providing monetary grants annually to projects and programs in areas of wildlife research, education, pro-hunting and wildlife management. The club is also active in a number of valuable partnership and collaborative efforts representing bowhunting and promoting bowhunting, including partnership efforts with B&C like the “Boone and Crockett Country” television program, the American Wildlife Conservation Partners, the CWD Alliance and more. In recent years, annual conservation budgets have exceeded \$110,000 per year.

### Museum Program

*To increase the awareness and appreciation of North America's bowhunting heritage and history.*

In 2004, the doors to the Pope and Young Club / St. Charles Museum of Bowhunting, at the club's national offices in Chatfield, Minnesota, were opened, free to the public. The foundation of the museum is the largest collection of bowhunting-related artifacts and memorabilia anywhere in the world. Artifacts in glassed cases, descriptive storyboards and dramatic dioramas—featuring Ishi, Dr. Saxton Pope, Arthur Young, Fred Bear and Glenn St. Charles—chart the events that shaped bowhunting's rediscovery and evolution. Special exhibits include, among other things, the largest and most complete publicly-displayed broadhead collection, a display titled “Journey to Africa—1926,” the evolution of the compound bow, and representative examples of all 29 species of native North American big game animals.

Several new outreach programs are underway to help spread the awareness and appreciation of our bowhunting heritage and history.

### The Future

The future holds many challenges for the larger hunting community and many challenges for the specialized discipline known as bowhunting. The Pope and Young Club is positioned to support the at-large hunting community while also protecting bowhunting's best interests. The foundational principles of bowhunting have great cultural value and the general public needs to be made aware of its importance—simple, patience, perseverance, practice, mastery of a skill, woodsmanship, challenge and the plying/application of a personal ethical code. As important as anything in our modern, high-tech, instant-access, instant-gratification world, the lifestyle and activity of bowhunting is an atavistic one—a reprieve to a simpler, naturally-grounded existence. ■



### Pope and Young Club St. Charles Museum of Bowhunting

(Located at the Club's National Headquarters in Chatfield, Minnesota)  
Hours: M-F, 8-4:30; Sat., 10-5