

# CTAS STICKS & STRINGS NEWS

[www.colotradarchers.com](http://www.colotradarchers.com)

December 2023



# A Note From the Editor

## Hello CTAS Family!

I hope this newsletter finds you well, enjoying the start to what appears to be a good winter! I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing the successes pour in from everyone's fall hunts and hearing the stories from the summer's High Country Shoot.



I'll start out with an introduction to the events you'll find highlighted in the remainder of the newsletter, starting with the annual 2024 Rabbit Hunt in Rangely, CO. Bobbie and Dan Fiscus have quite the tradition going at this point, gathering the willingly hearty individuals each January to chase hares around the sage brush. The 2024 edition will take place on January 20 and 21. Each year a group of hearty individuals take to the sage brush to chase the cunning and fast rabbits of the high rocky mountain valley, finishing the day off with a warm cup of chili. Contact Bobbie in the info listed further on in the newsletter for more information.

Next on our schedule is the Annual Banquet, Friday February 9th and Saturday February 10th at the Wine Country Inn in Palisade, CO. Friday evening will consist of an evening social. Saturday morning will kick-off in the morning with a 8AM Board meeting. Breaking for lunch, we will then have seminars in the afternoon and the main event, dinner and speakers, that evening. We will be joined by Brian Koelzer, successful Montana Traditional Bowhunter and Chad Slagle, singer songwriter for entertainment throughout the night followed by live auction, raffle, and silent auction. For those that came to the event the past two years, I won't need to spend much time highlighting the new venue. It is a great fit for the night, plenty of room, great food and hospitality. For those traveling, rooms are available at a discounted rate. Registration will be available via [colotradarchers.com](http://colotradarchers.com). Look for an email blast with final information. Contact Brad Parkhill 720-989-3389 or Scott Hargrove 970-209-2281 to field any questions. And don't forget to bring your trophies to display, call Barry Smith to arrange, 303-919-2755.

Last note before I let you read on, next year's High Country Shoot is locked in for the weekend following Father's Day, June 21-23, in the White River National forest, just up the road from New Castle, CO off the New Castle to Buford Rd in the same location as previous years. Hope all have a great Holiday and I look forward to seeing you at the coming Banquet!

David Hoff, Stick and Strings Editor  
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# Rally Call to all Hunters and Anglers

## CO Ballot Initiative 91 and 101 - Prohibit Trophy Hunting

In recent years, Colorado has become the battleground for a movement threatening not just the hunting tradition, but the very essence of wildlife management. This is not merely a local issue; it's a ripple that could stir waves across all states. The assault on Colorado's hunting community and wildlife managers is a precursor to what sportsmen across America might face.

Over the last 5 years, relentless attempts have been made to undermine the regulated harvest of Colorado Mountain Lions and Bobcats. The onslaught has now escalated with the Proposed Initiative 91, which aims to strip away the very foundation of Science-Based Wildlife Management. By doing so, it seeks to deprive Colorado's Wildlife Managers and the sporting community of their rights to manage, pursue, and harvest these well-regulated species.

The proponents of this initiative are wielding misinformation as their weapon. They've coined the term "Trophy Hunting" to mislead the public and potential voters, veiling their true intentions behind a facade of concern over fair chase, cruelty, and mismanagement. We, the Coloradans for Responsible Wildlife Management, a 501(C-4) organization, have embarked on a painstaking journey of legal, educational, and logistical endeavors to quash this unfounded initiative.

Our mission is clear – to halt the advance of this anti-hunting agenda before it morphs into a nationwide ban on ALL HUNTING. The stakes are high, transcending beyond the borders of Colorado, beyond the fate of Mountain Lions and Bobcats. This is a clarion call to all hunters, anglers, and true conservationists across the United States. Your support is indispensable in this battle against misinformation and for the preservation of our rich wildlife heritage.

### **Make a Stand Today for Tomorrow's Wildlife:**

Mail your support to: CRWM, PO Box 387, Canon City, CO 81215  
For further details, reach out to us at [info@colo4responsiblewm.com](mailto:info@colo4responsiblewm.com).

**Coloradans For  
Responsible Wildlife  
Management**



# CTAS Youth Hunt

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Not only is autumn hunting season and the best time of the year, it's time for the CTAS Youth Hunt. It's been our pleasure to help with the Youth Hunt for many years, and each year brings amazing kids to camp. The 2023 CTAS Youth hunt was held, once again, at Mike Lawson's ranch on Glade Park. Our kids are so fortunate to be able to hunt on a World Class Hunting Ranch. Thanks Mike!

There were five archers this year; Elijah Yielding, Lillian Huyvaert, Jolene Flaherty, Mia Russell and Sam White Eagle. Sam's sister, Rainey, was on the hunt a few years ago. Sam has been waiting to turn 12 so he could be an archer, too. I don't know what his parents have been feeding him, but I think he's grown two feet since the family was at camp with Rainey! It was so good to see Rainey and the White Eagle Family again.

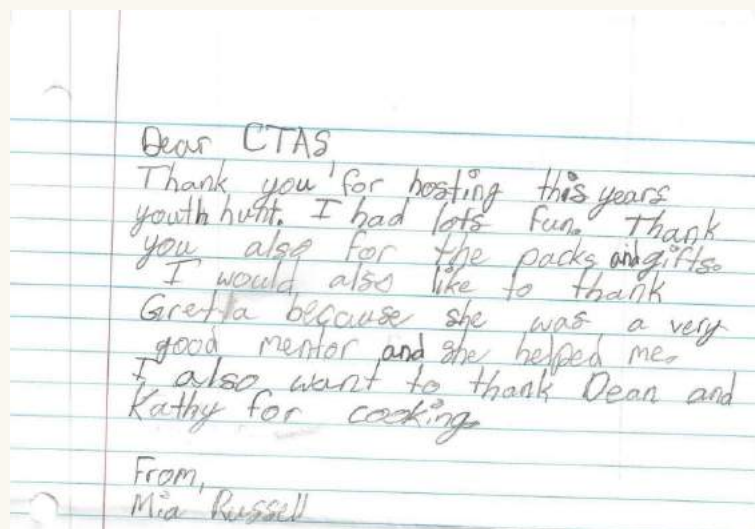
We had a couple of new mentors this year. Big thanks to Karl VanCalcar who did a lot of the "heavy lifting" and MANY trips up and down the mountain to get everything to camp. His daughter Greta joined us as well. The kids loved her! Her knowledge and energy made the whole time so fun. I don't know what we would have done without Chad Slagle. I do know that camp wouldn't have come together without him. He has amazing stories and a lifetime of experiences that he shared generously with us all. With the help from all of the families, the cooking, tear down, and other camp chores, a wonderful time was had by all.

Steve Shuey and Mark Kadnuck weren't able to attend the hunt this year but as usual did all the prep and paperwork. This event couldn't happen without them!

This year, in addition to sitting in blinds, the kids did some spot and stalk hunting. There were a lot of deer and everyone had many encounters although no one killed anything. Elijah did get a hit but when they found the arrow the next day, it was evident it didn't bring down the doe. This provided good lessons about tracking and following blood trails.

The CTAS Youth Hunt is an important event for our club and the future of archery. We're always looking for help from the membership and kids to hunt. Keep an eye on the website for more information. Can't wait until next year!

Dean and Karen Derby



A Thank You from Mia Russell—Participant in this year's youth hunt

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# Announcements

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## 2024 Rabbit Hunt

<b>When:</b>	January 20th and 21st, 2024
<b>Where:</b>	Main Street Coffee House—124 W. Main St, Rangeley, CO
<b>What:</b>	Join in on this years Rabbit Hunt outside of Rangeley, CO! Bobbie and Daniel Fiscus have been gracious enough to once again host this years Rabbit Hunt get together. Break up the winter slump and come out to enjoy some good laughs. The group will meet Saturday morning and hit the field for a full day of hunting the sage country.
<b>Contact:</b>	Bobbie Fiscus—970-629-0039; Daniel Fiscus—970-629-3946

## 2024 Banquet

<b>When:</b>	February 9th and 10th, 2024
<b>Where:</b>	Wine Country Inn, Palisade, CO Mention CTAS o take advantage of the group, discounted rate
<b>What:</b>	Friday night social starting at 5 PM Saturday board meeting starting at 8 AM Happy hour and dinner starting at 5 PM Saturday Music by is Chad Slagle, and guest speaker will be bowhunter Brian Koelzer of Montana

**For more information and registration, visit [COLOTRADARCHERS.com](http://COLOTRADARCHERS.com)**

## 2024 High Country Shoot

<b>When:</b>	June 21—23, 2024
<b>Where:</b>	North of New Castle, Colorado, White River National Forest
<b>What:</b>	Mark your calendars, the annual High Country Shoot on the Flattops in Colorado is coming! The shoot consists of 6 3-D target ranges, a kid's range, novelty shoots, vendors, and evening gatherings in the shoot's commons center. More information on the schedule, registration, and events will be forth coming this spring.
<b>Contact:</b>	Brad Parkhill—720-989-3389 or Karl Van Calcar—970-314-4588

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# A Note From Your President

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Greetings to All,

I hope that everyone has been out in the field shooting their bows, enjoying the amazing Fall weather. It's tough to beat the Colorado Rocky Mountains this time of year. I would expect that some of you have already been hunting and some meat has made it to the freezer. I know my wife, Jessica, and I depend on that meat and fish throughout the year, as many of you do.

I continue to prepare for our 2024 CTAS banquet in a few months. Make sure you have the dates saved on your calendars for February 9 th and 10 th .

The event will be held again at the Wine Country Inn, in Palisade, CO. This venue has been very popular. It is clean, the people are friendly and want us to be there. The breakfasts are chef-prepared, and the evening cocktail hour includes free wine, if you are staying at the hotel.

This year we have two talented guests. First is CTAS member, traditional bowhunter, musician, songwriter Chad Slagle. Chad has volunteered to treat us to the sounds of his guitar and knowing Chad, we will get a story or two out of him.

Next is Montana resident, Brian Koelzer. Some of you may know the Koelzer family name. You may have heard Brian on "The Stickbow Chronicles" traditional bowhunting podcast. Brian is a Board Member of the Montana Bowhunters Association. He is a fellow traditional bowhunter who has participated in many related events and has previously paired up with other fellow speakers including bowhunter/bowyer, South Cox of Stalker Bows.

You're invited to come join us on the Western Slope for our 2024 Colorado Traditional Archers Society banquet. In fact, you might want to make a mental note, which of course leaves me out.....I have to write it down!

In 2025, we will be back on the Eastern Slope. I know it seems early, but we already have begun working on the 2025 banquet event. We have the speaker lined up (TBA) and soon, a venue will be chosen for the joint Compton Traditional Bowhunters/Colorado Traditional Archers Society Banquet.

I want to wish everyone good health, happiness and peace this holiday season. I look forward to seeing you all.

With kind regards,  
Brad Parkhill

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## Banquet Speaker Bio - Brian Koelzer

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Since the age of 5 Brian has had a stickbow in his hand while out searching for adventure. At the beginning it was carp and gophers within bicycle distance of home. In the 40 years following his stickbows have taken him all over North America chasing a variety of critters. Brian is blessed to have grown up and still live in southwest Montana with an abundance of bowhunting opportunity right out the front door. Brian and his wife Kara have two young sons Bowen (5) and Schafer(2). Archery and bowhunting is a way of life for their whole family.



# Member Success

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# Member Success

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Send your photos to [hoff.davidb@gmail.com](mailto:hoff.davidb@gmail.com) for feature in the next newsletter as well as our social media!