



NEW GEAR MUST HAVES

COMPOUND BOW: MATHEWS CREED X9

Stats:

- Brace Height: 7-1/2"
- Weight 3.8 lbs.
- Draw Lengths: 26-30" in .5" increments
- Draw Weight: 50,60 & 70 lbs.
- Let-off: 80%
- BO: Up to 321 fps

What all this equates to in my opinion is the most technological advanced bow on the market for 2014. The 7-1/2" brace height makes this bow very forgiving, allowing the shooter to concentrate on the shot placement and not the shot itself. This bow is lighter than it's predecessor as well as quieter utilizing the harmonic damper & Harmonic Stabilizer Lite systems that Mathews is known for. The new Simplex Single Cam combined with the super strong & lite Gridlock riser allows this package to be only 28" axle to axle keeping the parallel limbs tight & compact. The 80% let off allows you to quickly & quietly draw this bow back and hold it indefinitely while guarantying upon release of the arrow, an unmatched precision finish only Mathews can offer. Even though during the season I shoot my Mathews Z9 due to my extremely long draw length (32") I've shot this bow at the range many times and it ceases to amaze me at how accurate, lite & quiet it is even when equipped with a sight, rest, stabilizer & quiver. Price: \$999.00 www.mathewsinc.com

Other great bows this season include:

- Elite Archery- Energy E2
- PRIME – Alloy
- HOYT – Carbon Spyder 30

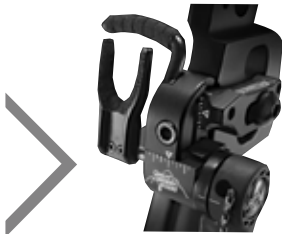
ARCHERY

2014

BY SEAN WULLER

THE MONTHS of January to September are like early Christmas to some folks, myself included. This is when the new archery hunting items are typically announced and start to hit the shelves immediately following that ATA & SHOT industry shows. It's an exciting time, but can be overwhelming to most, trying to keep up with the latest trends, newest hardware, etc. I've taken it upon myself to go over some of the newest items that the 2014 archery season has to offer us in terms of equipment we use in the field and what my top picks would be for each of the following categories. The season is fast approaching but it is never too late to upgrade your arsenal!

ARROW REST: QAD ULTRA REST



This may not come as a surprise to most of you, but the dependability of the Ultra Rest is just plain hard to beat. The patented thumb wheel that locks your arrow into the launching position has to be one of the greatest options in rests to date. The ease of use that QAD developed has made it pretty darn hard for other rest manufacturers to catch up. Upon turning the thumb wheel into the locked position, your arrow is now fully contained within the housing of the rest. This subtle advancement has saved many a hunter from losing arrows over the edge of their tree stands once that giant whitetail started approaching and their hands began to shake uncontrollably. The timing cord once adjusted to your draw length, engages the launching arm so that when fired, the launching arm disengages the arrow at just the right moment, allowing clear arrow & fletching flight. If you happen to draw back and not fire, yet gently cycle your bow back to the rest position, your arrow will stay in the cocked/launch position awaiting the next opportunity. I continue to switch between my QAD Ultra Rest HD & the Trophy Ridge Revolution 2, both are exceptional rests. Price: \$59.00 - \$155.00 www.qadinc.com

Other great rests this season include:

- G5 Outdoors – Cmax
- Trophy Ridge – Revolution 2
- Trophy Taker – Smack Down FC Pro



SIGHT: SPOT HOGG HOGG FATHER 5 PIN

There is one thing that I will spend more money on than anything when it comes to my bow accessories, and that would have to be my sight. I want to make sure that my sight is rock solid, dependable and down right tougher than nails. Spot Hoggs solid 6061 aluminum construction is the platform for sight perfection. The HRD technology eliminates bushings, thus eliminating unwanted movement & vibrations. The large easy to use yardage knob allows you to sight in with pin point accuracy while the no tool micro adjust windage & elevation features allow you to go from calm flat land hunting to the rocky mountains. The quick release knob & the removable dovetail make it easy to pack up your bow and sight, while keeping everything dialed in, it even comes with it's own carrying case. The Hogg Father 5 pin easily allows you to shoot well past 100 yards with confidence & accuracy when combined with a bow of its caliber. Price: \$446.00 www.spot-hogg.com

Other great sights this season include:

- Custom Bow Equipment: TEK Hybrid
- Black Gold Sights – Ascent Ambush
- Trophy Ridge – React ONE



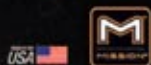
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YOU CAN'T
SHOOT AT THE
SAME SPOT
TWICE.”**

*Gregg Ritz
Professional Adventure Hunter,
on shooting the MXB® Crossbows*



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#mxbcrossbows



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■ New Archery Gear Must Haves 2014



ARROWS: EASTON ARCHERY

Easton Archery, the innovators of the arrow world have come out with a couple new line extensions this year. The first is the Bowfire offered in three spines (330/9.6 gpi, 400/8.5 gpi & 480/7.5gpi) with a +/- 0.003" straightness as well as a \$70.00/dozen price tag, this is a great arrow for the beginner to novice archer. The next is the Nemesis offered in 4 spines (300/10.7 gpi, 340/10.1 gpi, 400/9.3 gpi & 500/8.1 gpi.) also sporting +/- 0.003" straightness with a price tag of \$150/dozen. The Nemesis features the patented tried & true H nocks & HP inserts. While I don't shoot either of these shafts, I have for years shot the Easton AXIS & Full Metal Jacket lines. I continue to circle back to Easton after trying many different brands during the off-season & hunting season and have found that the knock down power, accuracy & strength of the Easton lines are second to none. In keeping with the times, it's only suiting that these new lines have features of their forefathers that have given Easton their name. Price: \$70.00-\$150.00 www.eastonhunting.com

Other great arrows this season:

- Beman ICS Hunter Patriot
- Carbon Express Maxima RED



BROADHEAD: WASP ARCHERY DRONE

From the same Connecticut factory for the last 40 years, comes the all American made 100 gr. DRONE, more accurate than your field points you might say. WASP has been the backbone of the broadhead industry for over 40 years, many have tried to repeat their success, accuracy, patented tip designs etc. but WASP continues to develop and produce amazingly strong and accurate broadhead's. The drone is the newest 3 blade fixed broadhead to hit the market. With the SST (stainless smart tip) pressed onto the unit, ensuring accurate alignment with the blades, combined with the solid steel ferrule which reduces surface area, this broadhead is 100 gr. of flying hide punching, bone crushing accuracy. The super sharp surgical blades cut through flesh and bone with ease and the 1-1/8" diameter-cutting path will leave a blood trail anyone could track. Price: \$29.99 for a 3 pack of heads. www.wasparchery.com

Other great broadheads this season:

- Flying Arrow Archery – Cyclone
- Slip Trick – D6 Magnum

**TARGETS: RINEHART
WOODLANDS HUNTER**



Rinehart targets, makers of the easy to use self-healing foam based targets, continue to come out with some of the best targets money can buy. This year the tote & go style Woodlands Hunter is no exception. With 6 shooting faces, a reinforced carrying handle and enough shot stopping foam that even Ted Nugent would have problems getting through in a year, the Woodlands Hunter makes practice, perfect. The 2 detailed shoulder sections of the whitetail deer as well as the numerous dot games make practicing fun for all. The lightweight construction of self healing foam and the reinforced carrying handle make this target perfect for taking with you, whether in the back yard, deer camp or even the office parking lot, the Woodlands Hunter goes where you go. If you are more into the life size replicas, Rinehart has those covered as well. Anything from whitetail deer to velociraptors, yes velociraptors, Rinehart has you covered. Price: \$129.99 www.rinehart3d.com

Other great targets this year:

- Big Green targets – Magnum Pro
- Yo Buddy – Camp Series





RANGE FINDER: OPTI-LOGIC M1K-TAC

A name that most of you may not be familiar with, yet. Opti-Logic has been in the range finding instrument industry, well you could say from the start, with the first laser range finder patent as well as the industry leader in angle compensation management software/hardware. A company based in Tennessee, with products that span the globe, Opti-Logic is a company with products to back its namesake. I was drawn to this unit after reading about it on some of the long range shooting forums. The new M1K-TAC offer 6x magnification with archery yardages out to 120+ yards while giving you spot on angle compensation thanks to patented VAC (vertical angle compensation) technology, as well as 1500 yard accuracy while on the rifle range with ballistic compensation built in. The unit is completely waterproof, and can even take a drop in the creek on the way to your stand. Having one range finder that will allow me to either scout where my targets are entering or leaving certain areas, and or make a precise shot while on the range or in the field with either a bow or a rifle is priceless. So many range finders today are either or, the M1K-TAC seems to have a great package for all. Price: \$360.00 www.opti-logic.com (www.lancasterarchery.com)

Other great range finders this year:

- Bushnell – Truth with Clear Shot
- Leupold RX-600i



TRAIL CAMERA: RECONYX ULTRAFIRE

I've been a believer since the first day I purchased one of these units. While I have to admit, I don't own that many of these, I will say that they are at my top locations where I want to keep track of certain animals, and they have NEVER failed me yet. My cameras literally stay out all year long, telling me when to shed hunt in the spring, when & where to turkey hunt, when my does are fawning, the best locations to sneak up on predators, as well as keep track of those Booner whitetails we chase here in the mid-west come fall & winter. They see rain, hail, high winds, blistering heat and sub-arctic temperatures, and I have yet to come to a camera that has not performed. The newest line of RECONYX camera boasts 2 independent lenses, allowing you to have accurate & pixel perfect daytime images, as well as stealthy infrared images in the evenings. The Gen 2 No-Glow COVERT IR flash can illuminate prey up to 80' away without spooking them. The unit also has a 2.4" TFT viewer built in allowing you to see images and hear audio directly from the unit. With 12 AA lithium batteries, you can get up to 20,000 photos on your SD/SDHC memory card. Price: \$599.99 www.reconyx.com

Other great trail cameras this year:

- Bushnell – Trophy Cam HD Wireless
- Stealth Cam – G Series



BINOCULARS: BUSHNELL LEGEND ULTRA HD 10 X 42

Some may say that you are only as good as your optics, and I will have to agree with them. When it comes to Whitetail deer hunting, here is my take on optics. Most Whitetail deer hunters either have their own land, family land, friends land, public land, lease, etc. Most that hunt whitetail deer with archery equipment, know where they are hunting and what the deer patterns typically are, these hunters are in tune with their hunting locations. That being said, I go with optics based on price range and dependability, and the Bushnell brand has yet to let me down. The Legend Ultra HD series in 10 x 42, winners of the 2014 binocular of the year award, continue to prove that they are quality binoculars with a hard to beat price point, making them hunter friendly. The magnesium body & ED prime glass are just a few of the options bring unmatched clarity in a lightweight option. The lenses & unit are also waterproof & fog proof making them all season friendly. Bushnell also offers a bullet proof money back guarantee which is hard to argue with. Price: \$415.00 www.bushnell.com

Other great binoculars this season:

- Zeiss - 10 x 42 Victory HT
- Vortex – 10 x 42 Viper HD



TREE-STAND: MILLENIUM-M100U

Take me back 6 years ago, to a little town in Kansas, with a well known camera man, and I will show you where my relationship with the Millenium tree-stand started. Hands down, the most comfortable, light weight, easy to use, large 20" x 38" platform, season extending tree-stand on the market. If they ever quit making them, I may become a golfer. With a 300lb weight rating in a package that only weighs 11.5 lbs (2.5 lbs lighter than the original M100), and a 17" tall seat back, this packable lay-z-boy of the woods is the only way to go. Whether going out for a morning hunt or pulling an all day sit during the rut, this tree-stand is top notch. The exclusive, patented comfortMAX contoured, tight slig/mesh seat allows your back side to breath and keeps you comfortable at the same time. It also allows moisture to pass thru it if left out in the elements, unlike its foam padded competitors, making for quiet sits during those frigid months. Price: \$219.99 www.milleniumstands.com

Other great tree-stands this season:

- Muddy Outdoors – Vantage
- Hawk Hunting – Kickback





HERE ARE SOME PRODUCTS THAT ARE WORTH YOUR TIME CHECKING OUT AS WELL:

- Huntforce: Trail camera management “on-line” software. If you live and breathe deer, you need to test the air over at Huntforce.com.
- Hunter Safety Systems: Ultra-Lite Flex system. Knowing that your life depends on your harness is why they go to work everyday, Huntersafesystems.com
- Ozonics: HR-200: When smelling like nothing means harvesting a trophy, killing your scent means the world to them, Ozonicshunting.com
- HECS: Stealth Screen System. These suits will make you invisible, period. Hecslc.com
- Barronett Blinds: Big Mike XT. When you feel like taking Tim Duncan of the defending NBA Champion San Antonio Spurs hunting, or you just need to stand up once in a while, Barronettblinds.com
- Just For Does/Just For Bucks: Scent elimination system. You can stay sassy and scent free, and so can your girlfriend, cause this stuff works, Justfordoes.com
- Arrow Seed: Full Potential Food Plot Seed. Arrow seed, more knowledgeable about growing what deer want than should be allowed. They literally allow you to pour out success one plot at a time. Arrowseed.com
- YETI Coolers: anything YETI. Yup, they work, sometimes too good. YETIcoolers.com

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"I'm big into hunting, fishing and hiking. If you like to be outside and are looking for enjoyable college classes with students just like you, check out Ellsworth Community College in Iowa Falls. It's all hands-on here, and we literally go fishing during class time! We've also gone shed hunting, seining, bird watching, and more ... it's so fun!"

ECC prepared me for a summer job with the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, where I traveled all over the state restoring habitats for county parks. This fall I transferred to South Dakota State University to become a naturalist, and the transfer of my credits was easy."

- Tasha Larsen
ECC Class of 2014

Interested in conservation careers like park ranger, forestry, wildlife/fisheries biology, naturalist, or resource management?

ECC Spring classes start Jan. 12; scholarships and financial aid are available.