

Notes to Consider...

Woodcraft: *Archery (Compounds)*

By G.S. Morris — 19 February 2018



If there's anything which becomes supposedly "dated" quicker than computer hardware, it may very well be compound bows. One is left wondering how much of the annual compound bow technology is really significant? As an example, the XI (long since out of business) Impact model hanging in my garage was ordered by my Dad some thirty-five years ago and is sufficiently accurate you must pay particular attention to shot placement on practice targets, lest you shoot the nocks off your arrows. How does one improve on such performance?

A quick reading of recent compound bow reviews reveals repeated references as to how "hard" (fast) the latest models shoot. Of course, in order to achieve these velocities an arms race escalates between manufacturers resulting in shooters being required to tug back more than seventy pounds initial pull weight prior to the bow's cams greatly reducing hold weight, or "let-off." Big game hunters far more experienced than I are of the opinion bows with initial pull weights in the forty-five pound range are plenty strong enough to put meat in the larder. I suspect what's really behind the velocity race is marketing gimmicks.

What is significant with new compound bow technology is sound and sights. That old XI mentioned above is plenty accurate, but sounds like a train wreck as the arrow is released. With game shot at distance, a loud bow can "spook" game sufficiently to cause a miss (it's known to bowhunters as "Jumping the string"). Modern compound bows shoot so quietly your next door neighbor will hardly notice your practice sessions.

Finally, I believe the biggest advantage compound bows have over recurves or other traditional bow types is the ability to use peep sights capable of consistent accuracy to fifty yards. Do you "need" to upgrade your compound bow every year? If it makes you happy, go right ahead but be aware manufacturers are more concerned with sales than genuine innovation; it's the nature of the marketing beast.

Next Week: Crossbows

Shane Morris is a retired soldier and teacher. You may contact him at sigm11@yahoo.com

Inspirational Thoughts Into God's Word

By Lynetta Hunter

(Is. 64:8 Yet, O LORD, You are our Father; we are the clay, and You our Potter, and we all are the work of Your hand. Ro. 9:20 Will the thing which is formed say to Him who formed it, "Why have you made me like this?")

When God is breaking, changing, and forming someone for a specific use, two things are predictable; confusion and perfection. It's impossible to humanly understand all the shifting details, but God will finish the good and perfect work He began. That is, as long as the person stays on the Potter's wheel, so to speak.

Moses' life, even from birth, was confusing to him and the others, and sure didn't seem to be falling into place to do anything divinely spectacular. How could he help his family if he wasn't allowed around them? The heavenly answer came through a burning bush as God told and reassured him that His perfect purpose of rescue was ready to complete.

Persecuting Christians was common in the days of Saul of Tarsus, but his obsessive interest in the law and passionate zeal in persecuting and martyring Christian Jews was a little puzzling. That is until his blinding experience with God while on his way to Damascus. God's perfect work through him began that day and ended many years later, with numerous recorded accounts of God's word and ways, which are still a teaching tool today.

The life of Jesus was perhaps the most overall humanly confusing work of God. The different opinions, beliefs, and misunderstood scripture brought division to the people, as the total blindness of some caused conflict to the point of crucifying the Savior of the enlightened ones. What seemed to be the end of a spiritual civil war was actually the beginning of a unified church body that now exists universally. Jesus finished His dispensational work on a rugged, unpleasant cross, to become the most perfect and fulfilling work of all time.

TO THE CITIZENS OF JACKSON COUNTY

In July of 2000, Jackson County enacted a Mandatory Ordinance for Trash Pickup. The ordinance applies to every household in Jackson County. Anyone not on trash service can be cited for being out of compliance with this ordinance, which can result in a result in a court appearance a fine or both. It is also illegal to Burn Trash in Jackson County and can result in a fine.

Citizens who wish to haul their own trash may do so by registering at the transfer station as a self disposer. Once registered, they are required to pay on their first visit each month and can come in as many times as they choose for that month. Their name and weight totals are kept on file and updated on each visit.

The cost as a self disposer is \$12.00 per month or they have an option of paying \$132.00 for a year in advance. If this option is chosen, they receive a free month of service in their service year. The trash weight limit is 300lbs per month. If this weight limit is exceeded, there is an additional charge of .04 cents per pound.

We also have (3) permitted haulers serving Jackson County residents and businesses in specific assigned areas. These haulers are permitted to haul trash in their permitted areas only. The cost for this service is \$14.00 per month for each residence and customers are allowed to dispose up to (5)-33 gallon trash bags per week. It is the customers responsibility to keep trash secure at all times.

For more information on your assigned hauler, or to file a complaint against a hauler or a non-compliant resident, please call the transfer station at (606) 287-7688.

Yards to Paradise Landscaping

BLUEBERRIES: Attractive Bushes, Nutritious Berries

By Max Phelps

A few blueberry plants in the landscape can look good as many other landscape plantings. A few ripe homegrown blueberries fresh from the bush in your own yard will maximize the good taste, the vitamins and other healthful properties of these native fruiting plants. Let's look at the benefits of blueberries, and also how we can incorporate these plants successfully into our landscapes and gardens.

Blueberry fruits are nutritious, high in Vitamin C, antioxidants (anti-cancer, eye health, better blood sugar scores), and are also very tasty.

The blueberry is one of the native fruits that are delicious, nutritious, versatile, and can be eaten fresh, frozen, made into pies, jams, muffins, wine, and dried like raisins. The wild blueberries are usually quite small, but often more flavorful, and can be found in many areas of the eastern and northern United States. Improved cultivars, especially developed for large berries and ease of harvest, are typically sold at garden centers in containers, or are sold by mailorder or online as bare root plants only available in late winter and early spring.

Blueberries vary in size with a few berries the size of quarters, but many bearing fruits the size of large garden peas, and wild ones out in the mountains often being no bigger than a Q-tip. The berries vary in color, from sky blue to a deep navy or marine blue. And the taste from sweet and very mild, to a bit sour and more flavorful.

The bushes vary from short to around 12 feet tall. There is lowbush, northern and southern highbush, and rabbiteye blueberries. The rabbiteye do wonderful where winters stay above zero in winter, but not south of where it gets into the lower 20's in winter. Southern highbush varieties are being continually experimented with, so let's just say, some can be grown into most parts of Florida except the Keys. Northern highbush are preferred for zones 5 and 6 in the Eastern U.S. There are more than 50 commercially available cultivars of northern highbush blueberries. Then, for the more northern reaches of the country, there are the lowbush blueberries and also huckleberries. These can often tolerate 30 or 40 below zero. Quite a few hybrids have been developed in Minnesota and Michigan and Maine where the highbush and lowbush are crossed for a hardy plant with good size and nice berries. Those make suitable plants for containers and small spaces even in Kentucky and nearby states.

What is needed for successful growing of blueberries at your place?

1) Sunshine—plants grow fine in part shade but for largest crops plant in full sun. 2) Water—blueberries need good drainage, but not drought conditions. This often means some watering to get plants established, and in future years for best crops. 3) Acidic soil—blueberries prefer 4.5 to 5.5 pH, which is very acidic soils (the opposite of limestone soils or high sodium soils of desert areas). Improving the soil with peat moss and sulfur or aluminum sulphate and bloodmeal are suggestions...along with deep tillage before planting. (No lime or wood ashes.)

Also; 4) Pruning—light pruning early, but all limbs over 6 years old removed. Blueberries make clumps with many limbs; some thinning of old limbs is very useful to large crops and long bush life. And, 5) Mulch and Fertilizer—About three inches of wood chips or straw or other mulch, and some very light applications of fertilizer will be needed for best results. (Do keep mulch from being piled up against the trunks of the bushes, but the cooling of the soil and moisture retention of mulch out in the drip zone will be very helpful.

Some blueberries are self fruitful, but most varieties need cross pollination from another variety that blooms at a similar time. So figure on planting two or more different varieties. When landscaping, keep in mind shorter plants in front, larger plants in back, or use repetition such as 5 plants that turn yellow in the fall, one that turns red, five more that turn yellow, or whatever scheme you decide on. You'll need to research the characteristics of the various cultivars to come up with the best of all worlds when it comes to selecting and properly planting your blueberry bushes for the nicest look.

Fall color of leaves, winter color of limbs, and spring color of blooms are quite different among various blueberry varieties. Tolerance for bad soil, weather and the like also varies. Earliblue and Duke are two of the earliest to ripen starting in early June. Elliott and Aurora are two of the very latest to ripen, with some ripe berries lasting all through September. Bluegold has yellow fall color, a uniform 4 foot height, and all the berries get ripe in June and all at the same time. Sunshine Blue is a variety with smaller leaves, is semi-evergreen, and the berries ripen over 3 or 4 week period—it also tolerates higher pH than most, doing well with 6.5 pH. Misty, Reka and Legacy (also semi-evergreen/orange) are also more tolerant of higher pH. Patriot, which turns fire orange in fall, is a lowbush/highbush hybrid that tolerates clay waterlogged soils. Reka, Hardyblue and Legacy also handle poorly draining soils better than most. Earliblue and Bluecrop, two popular commercial varieties, are not the best choices for ease of growing in the home garden, neither are particularly attractive, and Earliblue requires a sandy soil with high organic matter. Cold tolerant Spartan will not tolerate wet feet. Duke is a late blooming but early ripening variety that also is of high quality and has stood the test of time. (Yet for some reason I can never find the plants of this one.) And Toro is one of the prettiest in the landscape.

Late blooming means higher odds of escaping spring frosts. The southern highbush varieties will do OK farther north, but with the caveat that they may bloom out too early and get frostbitten.. I have found the Sunshine Blue to work in Kentucky same as in North Florida—a dependable variety, tolerant of multiple conditions, but with below average quantity of berries.

Mature blueberry bushes can produce from around 6 pints of fruit to upwards of 20 per year. Reka, Briggita and Elliott are among the heaviest bearers...but sometimes the heavy set of fruit means smaller berries even though the total harvest will be large. Chandler bears the largest berries, some over the size of quarters. Spartan, Dixie, Blueray and Darrow are additional varieties with exceptional sized berries.

Blueberry plantings should bear the second or third year and begin to have a full crop by year six.

Recent study of the blueberry suggests additional benefits of reducing cholesterol, reducing urinary tract infections, and even slowing aging. While I can't vouch for all the studies and claims, I do know blueberry plants can look nice in the landscape and are a real sweet treat fresh off the bush in your own yard. I suggest you plant a couple of these at the first opportunity, and if you are a big blueberry fan, then I recommend starting with a dozen or so. Plant anytime, but especially in fall, from containers. Plant in late winter or in the springtime if the plants are shipped bare-root to you. Don't be afraid to try growing blueberries, they aren't as difficult as some people will tell you they are. If you can grow azaleas, you probably can grow blueberries. Try some soon.

The author, Max Phelps, is a landscaper. Contact: (606) 416-3911 www.rockcastles.net