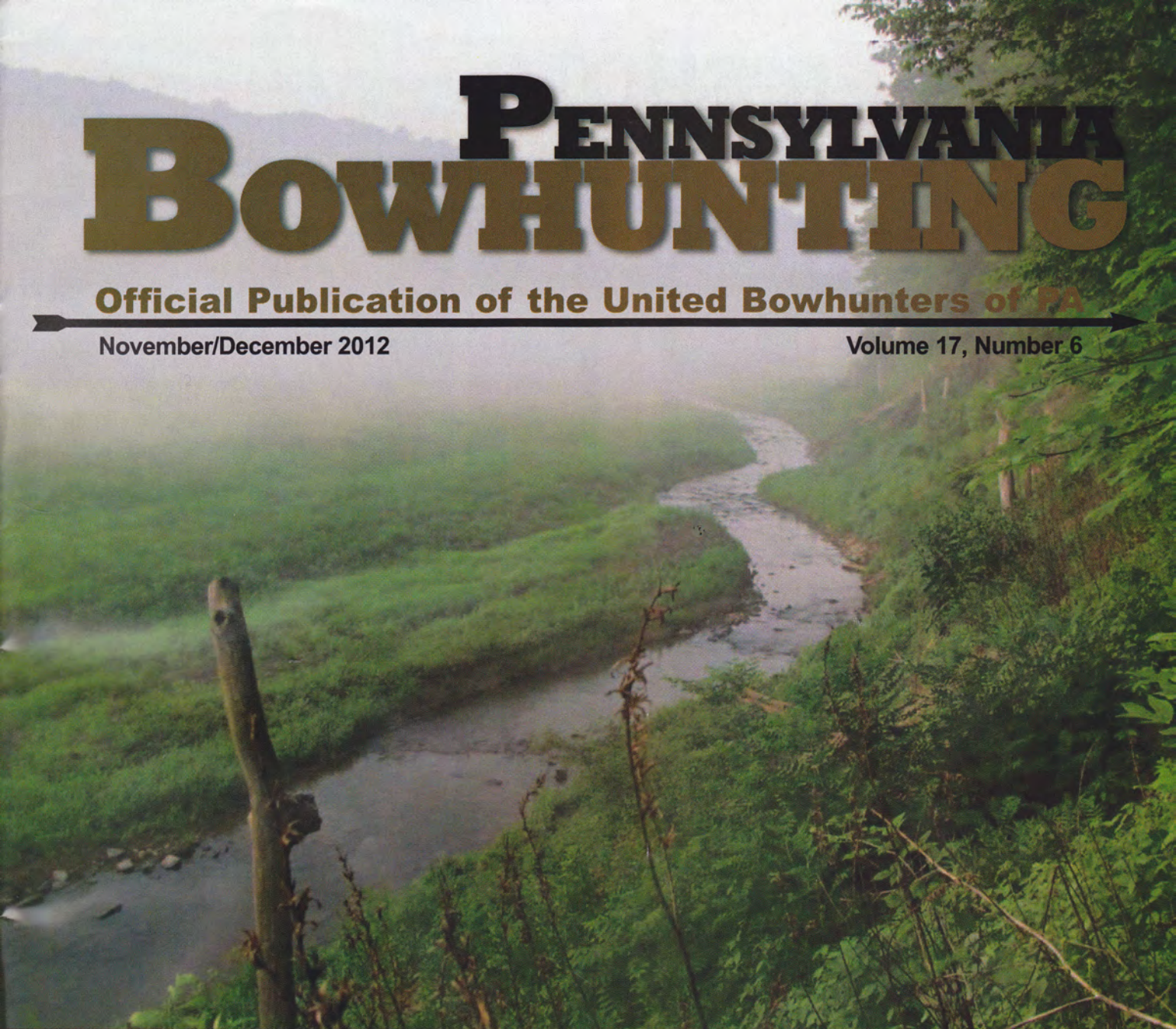


# PENNSYLVANIA BOWHUNTING

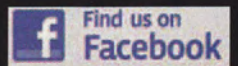
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Preserving, Promoting,  
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Bowhunting in Pennsylvania

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# UBP Youth Connections

Do you have a fun youth story or photo to share with the membership?  
If so please send it to the UBP office, [www.ubofpa@yahoo.com](mailto:www.ubofpa@yahoo.com).

By Youth Member Lane A. Hartley

Last summer, I was able to expand my knowledge of Pennsylvania wildlife by studying our state bird, the Ruffed Grouse. I had so much fun and learned so many things, that I couldn't wait to submit my application to study the State mammal, the white-tail deer, which was held this past June at the Stone Valley Recreation Area in Huntingdon County. These opportunities were made possible by attending the Pennsylvania Wildlife Leadership Academy, sponsored by the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education (PICE). These experiences were more than I ever imagined possible.

Both the "Drummers" program, as well as the "Buck Tails" program covered vast topics, including wildlife biology, habitat and management, research and monitoring techniques, and the role of hunting in wildlife management. We also learned how to photograph nature in its glory, how to journal our thoughts, and community service training. One of the many team building exercises we participated in was to take what we learned in nature photography and take outdoor photos. Each person received a camera one morning to take pictures of whatever they saw that would make an interesting photograph. Then, each person returned with those photos for their team to view and decide which one would be submitted to compete against the other three teams. The judges would then decide out of the four pictures submitted which one would be deemed the 2012 Buck Tails winning photograph. My team, The Buck Builders, won the contest, with the photograph taken by me.

One of my favorite segments of the class was travelling to the firing range to skeet shoot with a 12 gauge shotgun and targets with a .22 long rifle. Another segment I enjoyed was learning how to age a deer by studying the jaw, body and antlers of the deer. I actually received the "Golden Jaw" award, by obtaining the highest score in aging the deer.

Only a total of 20 students from within the Commonwealth between the ages of 14-17 are selected to attend each program. Each student must exhibit excellent leadership and academic skills.

Academy students return to their community shar-

ing what they have learned with their school, conservation organizations, local parks and more. We are required to keep a record of our conservation outreach efforts. Top outreach achievements qualify students for educational field trips, opportunities to return to field school tuition-free as mentors, and for college scholarships. In March, 2012, I earned the privilege to attend a guided tour of the Penn State Deer pens; I was also one of two students selected by Michele Kittell, director of WLA, to attend the first Pennsylvania Game Commission's Wildlife Diversity Forum, held in State College. It was exciting to meet so many people who share the same passion as I do for Pennsylvania Wildlife.

The Wildlife Leadership Academy is a cooperative initiative involving state agencies and conservation organizations and is administered by the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education. Expert instructors at the field school include representatives from Kutztown University, Pennsylvania Game Commission, Pennsylvania State University, Quality Deer Management Association, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and many more.

The Wildlife Leadership Academy will announce 2013 field school offerings and locations in early September on their website at [www.PICEweb.org](http://www.PICEweb.org). Applications will also be available in early September; the submission deadline is April 1, 2013. Interested students may download the 2013 application also at [www.PICEweb.org](http://www.PICEweb.org). For more information, contact Wildlife Leadership Academy Director Michele Kittell at [atmkittell@piceweb.org](mailto:atmkittell@piceweb.org) or (570) 245-8518.

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