



(812) 536-2272
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www.quga.org



2020 WINTER NEWSLETTER

IDNR DIRECTOR PROMOTING CRP OPPORTUNITY

By Jim Taylor featured in FarmWeek

Illinois Department of Natural Resources Director Colleen Callahan told the RFD Radio Network this week about new Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) opportunities involving the Quail and Upland Game Alliance.

"It's a habitat stamp project looking at acres for native grasses and for plantings on regular acres," Callahan said. "There are incentive payments up to \$60 per acre."

Opportunities include midmanagement incentive payments for strip-disking, prescribed burns, strip-spraying and interseeding. "It's \$50 an acre, and it's also available for invasive species control. We do have invasive species that we need to be concerned about," she said.

Another component available is known as Safe Acres Enroll.

"It's new and the signup is now and that's \$120 per acre," Callahan said. "Planting assistance is available, and DNR (Department of Natural Resources) has a grant funded habitat specialist that can become involved and a certified agronomist is also available to answer food plot and planting questions."

Jerry Johnson is regional director for the Quail and Upland Game Alliance and may be reached at 812-536-2272.



QUGA Logan County Illinois Chapter

GERONIMO: CODY TUCKER'S GIANT ILLINOIS CROSSBOW BUCK

By Darron McDougal featured on realtree.com

An early October cold front and an improvised ambush from the ground pay off with the deer of a lifetime.

For Cody Tucker, shooting a world-class whitetail has been his dream since his father introduced him to hunting at a young age. Now 30 years old, Tucker captured that dream on a bean field during an October cold front.

The story began on July 8. "That was the day I did my first card pull on a farm we hunt very sparingly," Tucker said. "I was beside myself when I started going through the pictures and saw an incredible buck — the largest I've ever caught on camera. I continued watching him grow all summer long."

"I experienced a little rollercoaster ride about two weeks after placing my trail cameras," Tucker continued. "I had a couple of cameras hung on oak trees, and a squirrel ate out the covers and lenses. I knew I needed to make some changes. I drove a fencepost into the ground on the edge of a cornfield and put PVC pipe over it. I hung a camera on it facing back toward the beans."

"I couldn't believe it — he was 10 yards away from the ladder stand I'd hunted the previous evening."

It worked. From July through October, Tucker and his brother captured more than 500 images of the giant animal. The buck was such a regular that he deserved a name. The brothers settled on Geronimo.



"I told my wife that I'd lose a lot of sleep if I didn't kill Geronimo," Tucker recalled. "He was the largest buck I'd ever had the opportunity to pursue. He was so patternable, and coming out in the daylight constantly."

Geronimo's home range seemed to consist of a square mile of cornfields with the exception of an 80-acre bean field.

"The beans were planted late," Tucker said. "Once October arrived, they were about halfway mature. I had some time off, but the weather was super-hot. I didn't want to risk pressuring the buck, so I waited for better hunting conditions."

"I went out October 3 with relatively low expectations," he continued. "At about 5:45 p.m., deer began filtering into the beans. Shortly after 6 p.m., Geronimo appeared with three other bucks. That first encounter was mind-blowing. I'd never before seen a buck this large from a treestand. He was 84 yards away, and eventually he walked directly away."

The onset of a cold front three days later set the stage for another encounter.

"On October 6," Tucker said, "the buck did virtually the same thing, but he came within 64 yards. Although using a fully capable Mission Sub-1 crossbow, I elected to hold off. My goal is to always take the most ethical shot possible. The buck eventually faded away."

RACK REPORT DETAILS

BUCK » **183 4/8 inches**
DATE » **October 7, 2019**
PLACE » **Logan County, Illinois**
WEAPON » **Mission Sub-1 crossbow**

Tucker's first two hunts had been from a ladder stand, and rather than risk a third encounter with no shot opportunity, he elected to move closer and hunt from the ground.

"I arrived early in the afternoon on October 7 and cut some cedar branches for concealment," he said. "A doe and two fawns appeared first, and the fawns came within 5 yards. Eventually, they went on by, and then another doe and two fawns appeared in the beans. I watched them for about half an hour. Then, I peeked down the field edge and spotted Geronimo. I couldn't believe it — he was 10 yards away from the ladder stand I'd hunted the previous evening.

"He started moving away," Tucker said. "He was about 200 yards out. Eventually, some does and fawns became antsy, and Geronimo kept watching them. About 10 minutes later, he spun and started slowly walking their way. Soon, he was 70 yards away. I stayed frozen to avoid spooking the deer, and my one leg, which was tucked underneath me, was totally numb."

Tucker said Geronimo eventually made it within about 43 yards. His opportunity finally presented itself. With the buck slightly quartering toward Tucker, he aimed at the crease behind the front leg.

"My Nockturnal lighted nock looked like a Roman candle flying through the air," Tucker said. "My arrow hit exactly where I intended, and the buck ran about 160 yards out into the beans and fell over."

Talk about emotion. The moment was like rocket fuel to Tucker's adrenal glands.

"At that point, I just lost it," he said. "I started crying as adrenaline pumped through my body. All of the blood, sweat and tears over more than 18 years of hunting had finally culminated in capturing my dream of killing a world-class buck."

The giant deer scored an incredible 183 4/8 inches.

Illinois Conservation Partners!

Quail and Upland Game Alliance (QUGA) still has Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) Habitat and Pheasant Grant incentive funds available to help with the current NEW CRP sign-up/Non-CRP and mid management practices. Visit quga.org for applications. They may be found under Illinois Seed Program or by contacting us at bobwhite@psci.net

The applications provide a list of approved grant funding projects available. Please feel free to make copies. Funds are available for approved applications.

IF THIS PROGRAM DOES NOT APPLY TO YOU, PLEASE SHARE WITH A NEIGHBOR!

Please contact QUGA with any questions you may have! Looking forward to a new conservation season!

- Habitat Stamp project acres, native grass and forb plantings on regular and **NEW** CRP areas!
- Acres Legume and Forb inter-seeding CRP and Non-CRP Bonus Incentive Payments up to **\$60 per acre**.
- Mid-Management incentive payments for strip disking, prescribed burns, strip spraying and interseeding.
- \$50 an acre available for invasive specie control.
- **SAFE acres enrolled, NEW sign-up, \$120 per acre.**
- Qualifying PLS seed mixes available or send QUGA your custom mix for a quote. Dog Friendly!
- Planting Assistance available. IDNR Grant Funded Habitat Specialist.
- Certified Agronomist available to answer your food plot and planting questions.
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Thank you for your support of conservation!

Jerry Johnson, QUGA Regional Director
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Food Plot Seed available at the QUGA Sesser, Illinois Warehouse now for your spring planting. RR Corn, RR Soybeans, and Milo at \$10.00 per bag. Call ahead for inventory and pick up. 812-536-2272

EVENTS

**South Central Illinois
QUGA Annual Meeting**

APRIL 4, 2020, 6:00 pm

General Baptist Church

1 mile south of McLeansboro on
Route 143, Illinois

Free Ticket on Henry Golden Boy
Drawing with new Membership

Treasurers Report, Minutes and
Planning for Next Year's Projects

Contact Don Sutton, 618-599-2511

UPCOMING BANQUETS

**Pike County
Chapter Banquet**

FEBRUARY 22, 2020

39637 260th Ave
Pittsfield, IL

**Patoka Hills QUGA
30th Annual Banquet**

SATURDAY, FEB 15TH, 2020

Venue 1408, US Hwy 231 North
Huntingburg, Indiana

Tickets available at the Door

**f Watch for upcoming banquets
and events on Facebook, Quail &
Upland Game Alliance - QUGA**

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QUGA ANNOUNCES NEW REGIONAL AGRONOMIST

Quail and Upland Game Alliance - QUGA is excited to announce that Nick Calvin has agreed to offer his services as Regional Agronomist. Nick received his bachelor's degree in Agriculture Sciences from Western Illinois University and has various experiences in retail agronomy and precision agriculture settings. He is a Certified Crop Advisor as well as a 4R Nutrient Management Specialist. When asked what he brings to QUGA, Calvin replied, "I hope to utilize my knowledge and skills to assist members with whatever agronomic issues they may face. Food plot fertilization and herbicide selection quickly come to mind. I'm excited to field those and many other potential questions to help members have a positive experience come hunting season." Nick is a



lifelong hunter, pursuing primarily waterfowl and upland game. He and his wife Meghan, along with their daughter, Rosaleigh, reside in rural Petersburg. Nick may be reached at qugaagronomist@gmail.com.



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CRP CONSERVATION MIXES/FORMS AVAILABLE AT

WWW.QUGA.ORG

ILLINOIS
SEED PROGRAM
FOR CRP

APPLICATION FOR ILLINOIS QUGA/IDNR

Habitat Fund Fescue and Brome Grass Conversion

This grant application is for the removal of 600 available acres of existing stands of fescue and brome throughout Illinois, and replace it with high quality habitat for all upland game and nongame species. Quail and Upland Game Alliance (QUGA) Habitat team and/or Individual Landowners/ Producers will spray these acres with one and one-half quart of glyphosate per acre twice. Planting prairie grasses in these acres and forbs. The grasses and forbs must have an approved diverse mix of all three blooming periods and at least one milkweed. QUGA has a grant approved mix available.

See page 79 for Grant Application.

Join QUGA or Renew your membership today!



www.quga.org • 812.536.2272 • bobwhite@psci.net

HABITAT ASSISTANCE

Quail and Upland Game Alliance (QUGA) offers CRP and Non-CRP Mid-Management Services. Contact bobwhite@psci.net:

- Qualifying Pure Live Seed top quality mixtures for government programs
- Planting assistance for warm or cool season grasses for new plantings or inter-seeding
- Chemical spraying for a conversion project or removal of invasive species
- Strip Disking - Strip Spraying - Mowing
- Controlled Prescribed Burns for mid-management – Trained/Safe
- Treesaw for removal of unwanted trees in grassland

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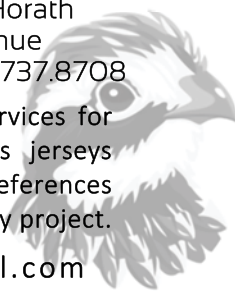


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Quail and Upland Game Alliance will donate the following to new chapters that have a QUGA fundraising and membership banquet in 2019/2020:

- Henry Golden Boy 22 Long Rifle
- \$250.00 to help pay banquet facility rent
- \$250.00 to apply to the advertising expenses
- Terry Redlin signed/ numbered framed print
- Quail Unlimited framed print (Redlin)
- 2 - \$100.00 gift certificates from Roundstone Seed for prairie grass
- Banquet fundraiser vendor list with contact information
- The Sandy Run Hunt Club – Bluff City, IL
2-person hunt, 16 quail and 2 pheasants ½ day hunt.
(Chapter cost \$100.00)
- 5 QUGA Habitat Vinyl Signs
- 20 Food Plot Seed Bags from QUGA Sesser Warehouse
- 2 Camouflage Duffle bags
- QUGA cut out metal "Welcome Sign" and 10 QUGA Hats
- Macedonia Game Preserve – Macedonia, IL (Mt. Vernon Area)
3-4 person, ½ day hunt, 16 quail and 2 pheasants.
(Chapter cost \$100)
- Doctorman's Cache Core, Hunting Preserve – So IL
3 or 4-person hunt, 16 quail and 4 pheasant
(Chapter cost \$100)
- **NEW HUNT ADDED**
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and more...





1157 600th Ave
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QUGA CHAPTERS

Starting a Chapter? Call Jerry Johnson at 812.536.2272,
Ask about the QUGA Banquet Package!

ILLINOIS

CUMBERLAND TRAIL CHAPTER #A1

Fayette and Bond Counties

Chairman: Travis Duval

Email: deerhunt73@frontier.com

410 E 1000th Ave., Vandalia, IL 62471

Phone: 618-335-976

LOGAN COUNTY CHAPTER #A3

Logan, McLean, Sangamon, DeWitt,
Tazewell and Menard Counties

Chairman: Mike Simonsen

Email: mikesimonson73@gmail.com

10 Oakwood Drive, Lincoln, IL 62656

RIVER OAKS CHAPTER #A4

Saline, Pope, Williamson, Massac,
Hardin and Johnson Counties

Chairman: Daniel Cullers

Email: dcullers47@gmail.com

1411 Delmar St, Harrisburg, IL 62946

Ron Sims - ronalsims11@hotmail.com

Phone: 618-534-1866

SKILLET FORK CHAPTER #A5

Marion, Clinton and Clay Counties

Chairman: Brad Hargis

Email: bsh51863@hotmail.com

805 N Lincoln, Salem, IL 62881

Phone: 618-292-1798

PIKE COUNTY CHAPTER #A6

Pike, Brown, Adams and Scott Counties

Chairman: Brenda Middendorf

Email: bmiddendorf@2riversrwd.org

PO Box 87, Pittsfield, IL 62363

Phone: 217-285-2464

TRI COUNTY CHAPTER #A9

Fayette, Bond, Marion Counties

Chairman: Bill Hoyle

Email: bill@timco.wv

RR 2, Box 84, Ramsey, IL 62080

Phone: 618-283-2371

Cell: 217-971-3103

ILLINOIS QUGA CHAPTER #A10

Chairman: Ron Sims

Email: ronalsims11@hotmail.com

Phone: 618-534-1866

Treasurer: Steve Kern

Email: stevekern@quga.org

Phone: 618-282-2097

RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER #A11

Peoria and Surrounding Counties

Chairman: Nick Calvin

Email: nickcalvin0512@gmail.com

21629 Hideaway Estates,

Petersburg IL 62675

SANGAMON RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER #A12

Menard and Surrounding Counties

Chairman: Marcia Mibbs

Email: marciamibbs@gmail.com

10489 Boy Scout Trail, Petersburg, IL 62675

NORTH CENTRAL ILLINI CHAPTER #A14

Henry and Surrounding Counties

Chairman: Chad Winter

Email: president@qugancic.com

470 Midland Dr, Kewanee, IL 61443

SOUTH CENTRAL ILLINOIS CHAPTER #A15

Hamilton, Wayne & Surrounding Counties

Chairman: Don Sutton

Email: dbsutton42@yahoo.com

395 US HWY45, Barn Hill, IL 62809

TWO RIVERS ILLINOIS CHAPTER #16

Greene and Surrounding Counties

Chairman: Byran McMurtrie

Email: bryan.mcmurtrie@chsinc.com

689 SE 150th St., Carrollton, IL 62016

SOUTHWEST IL CHAPTER #19

Chairman: Mel Gajewski

Email: back.40@earthlink.net

102 N Scheller Ln, Scheller, IL 62883

Phone: 812-798-6805

INDIANA

PATOKA HILLS CHAPTER #A2

Dubois, Pike, Perry, Spencer,

Crawford, Daviess Counties

Chairman: Jeff Thompson

Email: JSThompson@indnr.in.gov

906 Hickory Dr., Huntingburg, IN 47542

WABASH RIVER VALLEY INDIANA CHAPTER #17

Chairman: Kevin Puetz

Email: fowlerpest@yahoo.com

705 N. Madison Ave. Fowler, IN 47944

Phone: 765-714-8450

WEST CENTRAL QUGA INDIANA CHAPTER #18

Chairman: Casey Kennett

Email: gsponpoint15@gmail.com

14252 W 800E N, Jasonville, IN 57438

Phone: 812-798-6805

KENTUCKY

SOUTH CENTRAL KENTUCKY CHAPTER #A7

Allen, Barren, Edmonson, Hart,

Simpson, Warren Counties

Chairman: John Sawyers

Email: sawyers1@nctc.com

845 Meador Port Oliver Rd.

Scottsville, KY 42164

Phone: 270-622-7797 or

Tim Craycroft 270-793-2543

KENTUCKY TRACE CHAPTER #A8

Chairman: Dave Howell

E-mail: dhowell@psci.net

Phone: 812-455-5256

Jack Porter, Sec/Treas

Email: JPorter@allcountyrealty.com

Phone: 502-543-4600

HANCOCK COUNTY SMALL GAME KENTUCKY CHAPTER #A13

Hancock County

Chairman: Jeff Braun

Email: jeff-braun@outlook.com

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