



2008 Inductee
Andrew Rushing

In the dictionary it states the definition of **vision** as the ability to anticipate and make provisions for future events. If you look real close, you just might see a picture of Ande Rushing next to the word.

Who would have thought that when he was appointed to the board as editor, and was elected two years later as president, and again four years later as tournament director, that we would be where we are today. Truth be known, he ran for President the term before and it was a three way tie. It's hard to believe that there were three people running for the same position, but what's more impressive is that they received two votes each.

Shoot Your Way Across Texas, also known as SYWAT. This was Ande's biggest vision. The first one started in 2000 with just 8 indoor shops and 5 outdoor clubs. It has done nothing but grow in this, the eighth year of its existence. When he stepped down as a board member in 2005; there were 34 indoor and 29 outdoor tournaments on the schedule.

When SYWAT first started I traveled the state with Charlie and when it came time for him to get the third required shoot for the aggregate we had a choice of Odessa or Corpus. We chose Fred's only because after looking at the map we found out that it was 50 miles closer. Now there is a shoot every weekend and we could shoot a different shop each time line if we owned a helicopter to get us there.

Ande, Donna and Kipper traveled the state more than once during his time to promote SYWAT to the clubs and shops. In his travels he visited 47 shops and clubs in 41 different cities. When SYWAT first started, Ande had a truck and a travel trailer but he never seemed to keep the same one for very long. Once while attending a tournament in Corpus at Clyde's Archery, he plugged his 110 trailer into a 220 plug and fried everything in it. He still blames Clyde for that one! While attending a SYWAT at Fred's Archery in Odessa, he filled his diesel truck with regular gas, he blames Clyde for that, too. Needless to say both disappeared fairly quickly to be replaced with new ones so that he could carry on and promote SYWAT and TFAA. They've opened up their home on more than one occasion for meetings. They sacrificed both personal and business time to make his dream come true. So with that said, I would like to take this opportunity, to say a great big THANK YOU, to Donna Rushing.

Ande introduced the President's Award and paid for it the four years he was President. He established the Field Governor's Award, the Iron Man, now known as the Globetrotter's Award, and the Top Gun Event. He advocated changing the duties of the Field Governor and the Tournament Director to promote growth in SYWAT. It was also his idea to promote a limited edition membership belt buckle, and if you remember, one was auctioned off for \$600.00. Prior to Ande becoming President, TFAA bought and sold the targets for each indoor tournament, so he convinced the board to buy all the equipment we know own. To help with the transport of all the TFAA equipment, he suggested the purchase of the trailer we now use.

Ande has been called many things: a visionary, a person of great ambition, an innovator and a motivator and most of all a micro-manager. But, never let it be said that he didn't do his part of setting up several state indoor and sectional tournaments, and I actually saw him do manual labor when Charlie and I wore him out in 2005 to help us get the new 14 targets ready for state outdoor that was held at IBA.

Ande tried hard to recognize those who came before us in TFAA. He played a part in getting the Medal of Merit for John Nowell and L.D. Molder. He also played a large part in getting the Hall of Fame off the ground, and he was in on the conception of the Hall of Fame Banquet that we are enjoying here tonight. He even MC'd the first three banquets.

In his years as a board member he has roped, I mean encouraged other archers to serve as board members and join in on the madness with him. Some of those were Rick Espino, Troy Wesley, Paula Dangler, Bill Bowen, Fred Leggett, Carolyn Cotton, Mark Stubblefield, David Gillis, Lee Gregory, David Wenner, Vic Cutting, L.C. Durham, along with Charlie and me. I had no idea that when I told him I was working on a little spreadsheet that I was logging the shooters scores into, what I had gotten myself into.

Ande has interests other than archery. He is active in the Lone Star Bike Club. He rode over 3,000 miles last year including a trip from Missoula, Montana to Jasper in Canada. Twice he has ridden at least 100 miles in a single day. He is currently the Tour Director of the clubs pay ride which is a one day event called the Tour D'Italia, this ride will have over 1000 riders. The ride will take place out of Italy, Texas.

Ande first started shooting archery in 1983 as a bowhunter shooting leagues at Bellows Archery, located in the old Bronco Bowl, and he bought his first bow from Clint and Vel Hunter.

Ande has more than enough points to be in the HOF, part of which was winning state outdoor in 97, and winning a sectional title in 1985 at Trosper Park in Del City, Okla. While attending his first outdoor nationals in Watkins Glen, he came in second place shooting a perfect animal round on the 5th day. At the time he was only the third person to shoot a perfect round while shooting freestyle limited. He has an entry in Pope & Young for a black bear, and he has earned points for his service on the board. He was editor for 2 years, president for 4 years, and tournament director for 2 more, and he held positions on the national level as well.

We decided to nominate Ande for the HOF as an at large member for all that he has envisioned, encouraged and promoted to make TFAA the organization it is today. Ande has been given a lot of titles in his time with TFAA, visionary, ambitious, tenacious, a micro-manager, but I just call him friend.

Written and presented by Merissa Hughes.