



2003 Inductee
Nelle Butts

It is with great pleasure that I make this presentation to a most deserving person, Nellie Butts. Nellie lives in San Diego, California and could not be with us today, because of ill health. She cannot travel since she is on oxygen 24 hours a day – seven days a week and needs to be near her doctor. I believe she is with us in spirit. We have been communicating off and on since I informed her that I was nominating her for the TFAA Hall of Fame. She was very pleased to know that she was being considered.

I nominated Nellie because I believed that she deserved to be in the TFAA Hall of Fame. I knew that she was an archer, but I did not know all that she had achieved. What I did know, was that she had served TFAA for nearly twenty years as secretary-treasurer. That alone was a good enough reason to be considered.

I regret that I did not get to meet Nellie personally. I started communicating with her in 1979, when our club was interested in setting up a target range for the Rio Grande Valley Bowhunters. Nellie promptly sent me the range layout that NFAA provides. That was the beginning of our communication. She was always willing and patient in answering my many questions and in giving me directions. I had much to learn. For one thing, I learned that a barebow was a bow without a sight...not a bow made by Fred Bear!

Nellie began her archery years as an instinctive shooter. She gives credit to her husband Joe, for her accomplishments. Joe instructed Nellie in the proper way of shooting from the beginning and made sure her equipment was always ready to shoot. Nellie set a goal for herself. That goal was that in 12 months she would be an (A Class) Barebow archer. Joe helped her meet that goal, in 11 months. Nellie changed to freestyle shooting after losing the feel for judging the gap for distances. Nellie says that Joe was also a tremendous help in the TFAA office, helping her with errands. Serving as TFAA secretary-treasurer was a pleasure for Nellie. She and Joe always said that Texas had the best group of sportsmen in archery. Joe passed away in 1978. Nellie now has all the beautiful memories of their travels and friends they made during the tournament trips all over the state of Texas. From East to West (Longview to El Paso) and from North to South (Borger to Corpus Christi), Nellie and Joe enjoyed TFAA and TFAA benefited tremendously from these two active members.

Nellie's accomplishments include:

Earned all the yardage bars for Field, Hunter, and International Rounds
TFAA/NFAA member with consecutive years since January 1, 1960
Third woman in TFAA to be in the Top Class for Instinctive Shooter
TFAA Women's Freestyle Champion in 1962
Secretary-Treasurer to TFAA for 19 years and three months
TFAA Archer of the year
Medal of Merit recipient 1970
Received a Life Membership in 1970 from TFAA and NFAA

May 26, 1996 – Presented a crystal trophy by TFAA President Jim May for her years of dedicated service
Life Membership in Irving Bowhunters Assoc., Longview Archery Club and Cowtown Bowmen
Charter member of Cowtown Bowmen

When Nellie decided to move to California, technically she could no longer be a TFAA member. She wrote a letter to Secretary/Treasurer Betty Johnson wishing all the Texas archers well and turning in her life membership. Betty made a motion and the TFAA board unanimously voted to make her a Life Honorary Member. You can see that many years have passed since Nellie's service to TFAA but her 19 years were so loyal that everyone that knew her still honors her service. What a lady!

I am happy to have had a small part in having Nellie Butts inducted into the TFAA Hall of Fame.

Mary Frances Garza