



2007 Inductee **Troy Wesley**

February 21st, 1998 at the Maude Cobb Convention Center in Longview, Texas, John Wood asked if I would take over as the TFAN Editor. Howard Landry was the District 1 Field Governor. May 23rd, 1998 at the State Outdoor Board Meeting held in Waco, Texas, Howard Landry was very complimentary of the decision I had made to publish only positive things in the TFAN. I thought to myself, I like that old guy. May 29th, 1999 I became President and six months later I got a call from Howard telling me he quit! Then he proceeded to tell me who to appoint to take his place. I didn't know Troy Wesley very well. I knew he was a great shooter and that he was very big. Having attended a few of the board meetings in 1998, I thought it might be a good thing to have a big guy on the board. I called Rick Espino and he assured me Troy would be an excellent board member. So I gave Troy a call and was very pleased when he said he would finish Howard's term as District 1 Field Governor.

There were a lot of changes being considered Troy's first year on the board. I don't remember the subject but I remember like it was yesterday when I proposed something that Troy thought was not in our best interest. He sent me an email and as only Troy can do, he stated his position. The following day I got a call from him asking if I had read the email and if I thought he was mad at me. I said no, why? Melissa had read his email and she said he sounded like a bitter little upset board member. Bottom line was Troy wanted me to understand that while he supported me in most of the changes we were making, he would always say what was on his mind. I don't know if he knew it or not, but he was quickly becoming one of my best friends. When you are in a position of responsibility there is no substitute for a friend, who while supporting you will always tell you the truth. It was not long before I started running all of my ideas by Troy. I knew he would make me think through every option. I also knew he was going to be a strong supporter, always doing what he thought was best for TFAA.

In 2001 SYWAT was in its 2nd year, I got a call from Troy telling me he wanted to host the Troy Wesley Invitational. I said sure where are you going to shoot, in your back yard? Troy had located a canyon in Slaton, Texas and he set up one target. TFAA shot its first field round on one target. The Slaton range now has 14 targets protected from the wind. If you have never attended a tournament in Slaton, you have missed a treat.

Troy's interest in archery was pretty much limited to Indoor Dots and Field Tournaments. I am not sure he could even spell 3D. Yet he was willing to be a team player and support programs such as Top Gun, State 3D, American Round and any other project if it promoted TFAA. Few if any have traveled more miles promoting TFAA.

Troy became my real hero in June 2003. He had called me earlier in the year to tell me he would be willing to serve as President when my 2nd term was over. The truth was he did not have the time to take on such a demanding position. He had two young girls and had just started a new company. Many times we had discussed the importance of keeping the momentum we had worked so hard to develop. At a very

high cost to himself, Troy served for two years as President and TFAA continued to have great days. Unless you have served you can only imagine all that is involved in leading this great organization.

Troy Wesley – He can shoot a bow. Troy Wesley – He is a very big guy. Troy Wesley – His service to the Texas Field Archery Association as Field Governor for four years and as President for two years is one of the main reasons TFAA is a success today. Please join me in showing your appreciation for his years of service.

Written and Presented by Ande Rushing