



## 2014 Inductee **Michael Braden**

Michael Braden has been shooting a bow for 25 years and has been a professional for 18 years. The term professional archery usually means a guy shoots a bow well and wants to compete against the best shooters in the country. But in Mike's case it was more than that, as he has made a living shooting a bow. Over the past 25 years, Mike has competed, hunted, served on the NFAA board, coached, and promoted goods and services.

Mike currently represents Precision Shooting Equipment, Brunton Optics, Shrewd, Sure-Loc, Easton, B2-Bowstrings, BCY, and Trophy Taker. He wanted to extend a special thanks to all those who support him.

Mike started shooting a bow because he wanted to hunt with it. He has hunted in North America and Africa. Mike says his best shot was a Pope & Young mule deer at 72 yards. His largest deer is a whitetail with an official score of 169 7/8". Mike has also harvested a blonde phase black bear from Canada; alligators from Florida; blue sharks and sting rays on the east coast. In South Africa he took a lioness and several plains game animals.

Mike served on the NFAA board for four years as NFAA Pro Chairman. Mike was also involved with starting the World Series of Archery. I am sure both projects took a substantial time investment on Mike's part.

Mike has been coaching other archers for several years. If you get a chance to talk to him, it is obvious that he is very passionate about it. He is a talented coach, as proven by the success of his students. Being a good coach is a hard task since one would have to spend many hours thinking of ways to convey proper shot technique and feel to people have either no knowledge or feel for a proper shot, or worse, a person who has developed bad habits. Mike's willingness to help others is his greatest accomplishment. A successful competitor is a single rain drop on a hard surface, here and gone. A great coach is a rain drop on a lake, creating ripples that effect the whole body of water. Mike's student's list of accomplishments include numerous state and sectional titles, 1 World Gold Medal, 3 NFAA Indoor National Championships, 2 NFAA Outdoor championships, and five more national championships in other archery related disciplines.

Mike is a great competitive archer. He is mostly business while competing, but he will crack a smile once in a while. He is always courteous and is straight on when calling arrows. As a fellow competitor, I have great respect for Mike. While always cordial, our relationship was tense. Mike's list of shooting accomplishments are many. His first year as a professional, he was ASA Rookie of the year after 4 top 10 finishes. He has won 11 national titles on the 3D circuit which include the IBO Triple Crown, 2 IBO National Events, 4 ASA National Events, the ASA Classic, and ASA Shooter of the Year in the known 50 class. Mike also won the NFAA indoor 3D with the only perfect score on the indoor 3D round. Mike won 5 TFAA Indoor State Championships, 2 Outdoor State Championships, 1 NFAA Southern Sectional Indoor Championship with 120 Xs, and 1 NFAA Sectional Outdoor with Field Record of 558. Mike was NFAA Pro Shooter of the Year in 2003. Mike shot 900 in Las Vegas to qualify for a shoot off and placed 2<sup>nd</sup>. Mike

shot 120 Xs at Indoor Nationals and finished 2<sup>nd</sup> after the shoot off. In two other NFAA Indoor Nationals, Mike tied for first place and ended up 2<sup>nd</sup> after a shoot off.

Mike Braden is that guy, the one that can beat you even when you bring you're "A" game and will embarrass you when you don't. The guy that validates your performance on the days you outperform him, He is like all the other great shooters previously enshrined in the TFAA Hall of Fame and it's been an honor to introduce him. Ladies and gentlemen, Mike Braden.

Presented by Troy Wesley