



2004 Inductee

Jimmy Gresham

In 1984, I walked into an armory in Bartlesville, Oklahoma to shoot my first Southern Sectionals in the Freestyle Limited Division. Every small sound would echo over and over as there were no acoustics. Just before time to shoot, with most of the archers standing around the bow racks, I noticed Jim Gresham standing on the line at his assigned position. He pulled his bow to full drawl without loading an arrow. He appeared to be rehearsing a shot in his mind. Well, I thought, I am smarter than those guys standing by the bow racks and I shall do the same as Jim. Slowly I stalked my shooting position. I pulled back my Golden Eagle and closed my eyes imaging the dot of my scope setting on the x ring. The next thing I know WAM I am picking up my bow off of the floor. I had dry fired my bow, broke the string, and lost the peep. The echo seemed to last forever. That was the last time I tried to copy Jim Gresham.

If you talk to Jim Gresham very long, you soon realize that his family is the most important thing in his life. His is proud of his lovely wife Linda and their two grown children. His daughter Lindsay is married and is a nurse at Baylor Hospital in Dallas. His son Logan is a U.S. Marine Sniper, First Division, who just returned from seven months service in Iraq.

Jim has enough points to be inducted into the HOF for either tournament shooting or for bow hunting. Like many tournament archers, Jim began archery as a hunter. Uncle Harold took Jim bow hunting in Aransas Pass in 1972 with his Ben Pearson Colt Recurve. While hunting has been a passion for 32 years, Jim took target archery very serious from 1977-87, winning 12 State Championships in Louisiana, eight in Texas, thirteen Southern Sectionals, and two Texas State 3D, and one National Indoor. Most of us remember Jim shooting in the very competitive freestyle division but Jim did win six of his Louisiana State Championships shooting in BHFS and or FSL. In only five years of competitive archery in Texas Jim racked up an amazing 66 HOF Points. If you were to count the State and Sectional Championships he won in Louisiana prior to moving to Texas he would have had another 42 points. He truly packed a lifetime of target archery accomplishments into eleven short years.

When asked about the good and the bad memories in archery, Jim responded the good was winning National Indoor with a new record in 1984. The bad was shooting a wrong target at 20 yards losing 5 points and a second National Championship to his good friend Dennis Barnes the same year. When talking about the intense competition in the Male Freestyle Division Jim recalls shooting a 553 at National Outdoors and moving down three places. You see Terry Ragsdale shot a 557, Larry Wise and Dean Pridgen each shot 555.

By 1987 the desire to practice in order to shoot at such a high level was gone. The children were getting older and there was plenty to do keeping up with them. Jim again focused his archery skills toward hunting. Of all his great hunting memories the best is when Logan, his son, took his first deer with a bow at the age of ten. From whitetail deer in the States to Brown Bear in Alaska, Jim has taken them all. He has had successful hunting trips in Africa, Canada,

and New Zealand. He has hunting trips planned as far out as 2006. Jim has harvested twenty-eight Pope and Young animals. Jim is the first HOF member to have points for hunting and he has set the bar very high with fifty-six bow hunting points.

Jim was the Bow Hunting Editor for the magazine Hunting Texas in 2001 and 2002. He has been very active as a writer and has had thirty-three articles published in eleven different major bow hunting publications. You may remember the article he wrote about a hunting trip with Charlie Langston several years back for our T.F.A.N. Jim has remained a TFAA Member all of these years even though he has not been shooting competitively.

Jim is or has been on the following archery product staffs: PSE, Wing Archery, High Country Archery, Cajun Archery, Hoyt Archery, Hot Shot Releases, Easton Arrows, Toxonics Sights, Sleeping Indian Wool, Mossy Oak Camo, Danner Boots, Carter Releases, and Texas's own Viking Archery.

Jim influenced many archers during his carrier including me. I asked him who the most influential people in his archery carrier were. He replied "Hunting with Charlie Langston, Target archery with Terry Ragsdale, and in manufacturing Tim Whiteford at Viking Archery", who custom built the bows he shot in competition while living in Texas.

It is Jim Gresham's opinion that Terry Ragsdale was the best archer he ever competed against and Charlie Langston was the best archer he ever met. I know they both are proud to have Jim join them in the Texas Field Archery Hall of Fame. Ladies, Gentlemen, HOF Board, TFAA Board and HOF Members I am proud to introduce Jim Gresham as a member of the 2004 TFAA Hall of Fame.

(Jimmy was nominated to the Hall of Fame by Ande Rushing.)