

FULLDRAW

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NEW YORK BOWHUNTERS, INC.

New York State's Largest Bowhunting Organization Since 1991
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SPRING 2020

IN THIS ISSUE:

29th Annual Banquet	2
We Need Your Vote	10
2020 Archery Youth Camp	25
Winter Calm...	26
Banquet Event Schedule.....	26



Charles Giandana

August 27, 1983 - December 31, 2019

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Full Draw: Published quarterly by New York Bowhunters, Inc. Contributions are very welcome and are requested to be submitted to the editor strictly via email or on disk. Please include telephone number with all submissions. Photos may be mailed for scanning or digital. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if photos are to be returned.

THE EDITORS of *Full Draw* reserve the right to edit or reject any and all materials which may be deemed undesirable to New York Bowhunters, Inc. or to the sport of bowhunting.

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Deadlines for future issues:
Spring: February 1st • Summer: May 1st
Fall: August 1st • Winter: November 1st

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From the President's Desk

I hope that everyone has had enough of Winter and is ready to take advantage of warmer weather and Spring turkey hunting.

I have to begin this column on a somber note due to the untimely passing of one of our own.

Charles (Chuck or Charlie) Giandana's life ended tragically on New Year's Eve. Charlie was just 35 years old, never married, nor had children, but he was a son, a brother, an Uncle, a cousin, and a friend. Charlie, as I had known him, was a fellow Local 3 Brother Electrician. We worked in the same shop and even on the same jobs at times.

In fact, for the last two years we both worked at Hudson Yards on the West side of Manhattan, sharing coffee and lunch breaks, and countless hours of conversation. Charlie was a consummate professional, and he even mentored down at the Union's Boot Camp, helping younger, less experienced apprentices with their skills, passing on knowledge that he had acquired over many years. Charlie was also NYB's Region 2 Representative. He would attend the Rockland Show, man the booth, and sign up many members who passed by. He attended his first Reps/BOD Meeting two years ago, and wanted to get more involved with NYB's workings. He was more than my co-worker of seven years, he was my friend.

Rather than mourn Charlie, I would like to celebrate his life, as he always had a smile on his face.

C Character. Not only did he have character, he was a character. In an instant, he would switch into "Arnold" mode and start talking like Arnold Schwarzenegger, speaking quotes from his movies, such as "To da choppa", and "Come with me if you want to live."

H Hair. That HAIR. Charlie was blessed with some head of hair. He was called "Local 3's Most Handsome" in the shop.

A Archery. Charlie loved bowhunting. He was so excited when he finally killed a deer with his bow. He wrote about it in *Full Draw*. He practiced diligently and loved the mental focus that it took to wait for hours on the stand to be ready in an instant. He would make his own jerky and bring it in to work.

R Rod and Reel. Besides bowhunting and trap shooting, Charlie loved to fish. This past Spring he sold his boat, "The Kid", and purchased another boat, which he spent countless hours working on so that he could take his Dad out and go fishing. Charlie did not just catch fish, he caught BIG fish. Doormat sized Fluke were common, just ask Jim McSwigin, who happened to have his boat at the same Marina as Charlie, The Locust Point Yacht Club. When they would pull into the marina, everyone would ask him where he went to land those fish. His response: "local waters." That is why his Dad wanted to name the new boat, "Local Waters".

L Lean. Charlie was lean, and was always concerned about his body and diet. He went to the gym regularly, and to yoga three times a week. He would say to me, "Al, you're eating a hamburger again? Why don't you have some salmon and some kale?"

I Integrity. Charlie would never do a job without caring. 99% was not good enough and was not 100%. He was, as I mentioned, a consummate professional. He would never just walk away and be satisfied with an "okay" job, it had to be the best that it could be. He led by example to all around him, especially our young apprentices.

E Eternally. I am eternally grateful for our friendship and for him being a such a kind hearted soul.

A little side story about the cover photo of him and his deer: you can see a spray bottle in the foreground of it. Charlie arrowed the deer, but could not find it, and it was getting late in the day. He sent me a text and was upset about the



non-recovery, and what should he do, as darkness was descending quickly. I told him to abandon the search for the night, go into town and purchase a bottle of hydrogen peroxide and a spray bottle. Fill the spray bottle with hydrogen peroxide, have a stiff drink and go to bed. Do not pursue the deer or you can push him into the next county and then he WILL be lost forever. Relax and go to bed, you will find him where he bedded down, using the H2O2 in the morning. As is in an open wound, when you put hydrogen peroxide on a blood trail, it will bubble up. He took my advice, found the deer, and the result is the cover photo. I was so glad to help him recover a dandy of a buck.

Please send an arrow downrange for Charlie next time you draw back. Let his memory sail through the air on the flight of the wooden shaft. Keep him and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

*I miss you, my friend.
May God rest your soul.
Fair winds and prevailing seas.*

As is usual, this is Banquet Issue, and once again it is going to be an epic event. It will be held at the Sunny Hill Resort in Greene County, on the weekend of May 2nd. Our Guest Speaker is the President of the Pope and Young Club, Jim Willems. There will be fun shoots, can raffles, a walk through the woods 3D course, our Elk shoot out, and a Live Auction following the dinner. Please plan on attending and bringing a friend or two or three. It is a great family-oriented event and our biggest fundraiser of the year. Don't forget to drop off a gift box for the troops at the Camo to Camo table.

I would like to remind everyone that this YOUR organization. I was once just like you, a member getting a magazine, maybe attending a show or the Banquet. But one day I decided that I wanted to do more, to give back to the organization that fights to protect and preserve the sanctity of the archery season, and to promote the great sport of bowhunting. We are a grassroots organization, and we are all volunteers. Through the years, I worked my way up the ranks, from County Rep to the position that I hold today as President. You can start off by helping at a show, manning the booth with other NYB members for a few hours, or at an NYB event, such as the Banquet helping set up the fun shoots. The future President of NYB is reading this right now. Is it you? Contact your Region Rep or any BOD Member for further information.

We had our Annual Region Reps/BOD meeting at the LaFayette Inn. This is a very special meeting for several reasons. First, the LaFayette Inn is where the first official NYB meeting was held nearly 30 years ago. Second, it is a chance for the BOD to meet with all of the Reps from across the state. Lastly, but certainly not least, Founding Member Dale Walburger and Founding Member and Past President Walt Dixon attended and addressed the room, dispensing thoughts and ideas. It is fantastic that even though they have passed the torch, they still accept the invitation and participate. Thank you for attending and joining in the conversations.

A big thanks to the Tupper Lake crew for once again allowing us to enter the lottery for spot at their Northern Challenge Ice Fishing Derby. It is a great event that draws participants from 8 states. The opportunity is greatly appreciated.

On May 16th, Founding Member and Past President Walt Dixon will be having a day of archery knowledge for youths ages 8-15 at the Pompey Rod and Gun Club in Fabius, Region 7. There will be target shooting, big game discussions, and various personnel from the NYS-DEC, including a Forest Ranger. Walt has a ton of knowledge to dispense, and it is limited to 36 youngsters, so get in on it fast while you can.

May God Bless America and ALL who defend her both home and abroad.

May God Bless the United States Fleet Forces Command.

All the best, Al.



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A few seconds ...

By Bob Brown

November 10th 2019 was the type of day bowhunters dream about all year. It was a crisp clear morning, the thermometer read in the high 20's and the frozen ground was covered in an inch or two of fresh powder as I climbed into my tree stand in the predawn light and secured my safety harness. I had set this stand up with the help of a friend just a month earlier, much later than I would have liked but time just seemed to fly this summer. I had picked this spot on a small bench with a slight slope above and below at the end of the deer season last year, the change in topography was barely noticeable to the human eye but the deer had always used this bench to travel the hill side and this year I decided to spend some time there during the rut. Daylight came and revealed a winter wonderland with many deer tracks both large and small crisscrossing the bench. At 8:29 I heard the unmistakable crunching of a deer walking towards me. As the deer came into view around a hemlock tree at forty yards and quickly closing I instantly knew this was a buck I would try to harvest. My goal every fall is to take a 3.5 year old or older buck regardless of antler size and this buck met this criteria. The buck came in as if I had written the script. I drew my longbow and felt the leather shooting glove come to rest in the corner of my mouth at the same time the string touched the side of my nose as I have practiced thousands of times. The buck was on a deer trail and was crossing broadside at 12 yards. I quickly picked the spot I wanted the arrow to go and let the string slip from my fingers before he got to the scent trail from my approach in a couple of hours ago.

I sat back down and thought about everything that had lead up to this moment. My father/best friend and hunting partner wasn't with me at camp this year. On October 28th he was hanging storm windows and fell from the ladder at the second story of his house, breaking his femur and restricting him to a wheel chair for the next three months. In a matter of a few seconds his hunting season was over. We think, plan and work towards the first few weeks of November at our camp all year round. There are trails to mow, trees to be cut, lawn that needs to be mowed. Trail cams are placed to see what deer and other animals are around. Camp always has a list of things to be done, equipment is tinkered with and thousands of arrows are shot. Tree stands are checked, moved and branches trimmed. Firewood is cut, split and stacked at least a year ahead of time to make sure camp is always warm. I spend untold time building arrows with turkey feathers from birds I have harvested, making bow strings, sharpening and resharpening broad heads, checking and rechecking gear. As the season approaches the excitement can be felt as hunters gather at the 3D archery shoots and talk about bucks seen and this year's strategy. All of this leads up to the whitetail rut when deer hunters' dreams can come true or be dashed in an instant and is always on our minds. I have always tried to wear my safety harness and 99% percent of the time I would but I could remember times when I forgot it or the "tree was too large" or "it's a ladder stand so I will be ok." As a result of Dad's fall I swore to use a harness or stay on the ground!

I had been struggling with pain in my right shoulder for some time and the MRI confirmed I needed surgery to repair a torn rotator and remove a bone spur as well as a calcium build up in my shoulder. I scheduled surgery for after deer season and

continued to shoot my 57lb longbow. By late October I couldn't comfortably hit my anchor any longer but with the rut coming I needed a plan B! I had a takedown bow with limbs that weren't being made any longer and put a wanted ad on Stickbow.com. A fellow archer in South Dakota soon contacted me and a couple of emails later I had a set of 43 lb, carbon back, foam core limbs headed to New York. As soon as they arrived I made a string and began shooting. It felt good to be able to hit my anchor with little pain in my shoulder, and I was pleasantly surprised that in no time my arrows were hitting the 3D target exactly where I was looking.

The turkey fletched arrow with a hand-sharpened broad head from my 43 lb longbow slipped through the buck right where I was looking. With both lungs gone he only went forty yards and it was over in matter of seconds. As I wrapped my hands around his horns I realized I had several trail cam pictures of him over the last two months and started planning for next year...



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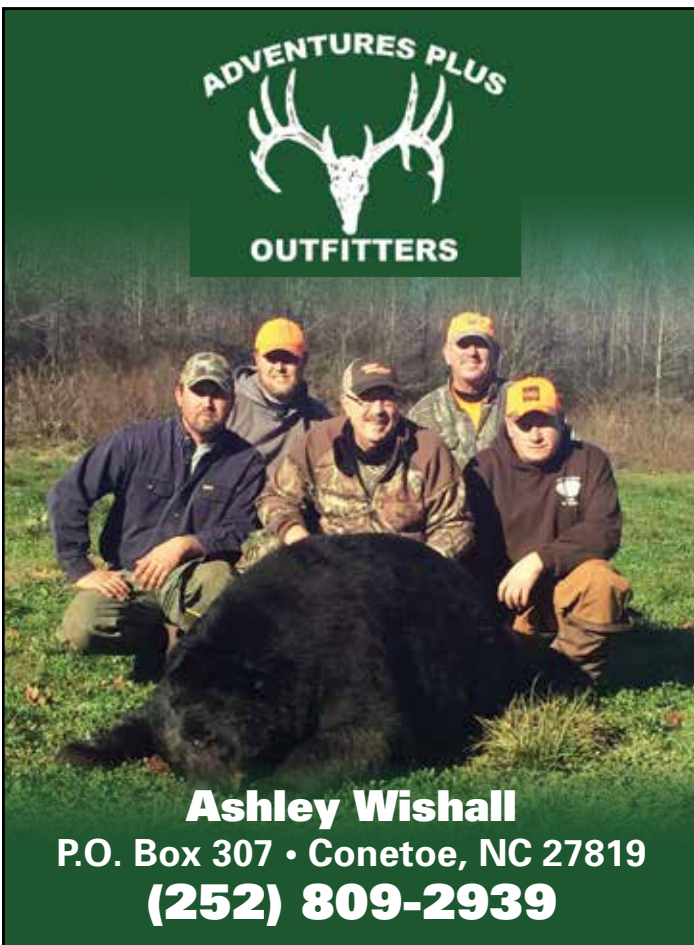
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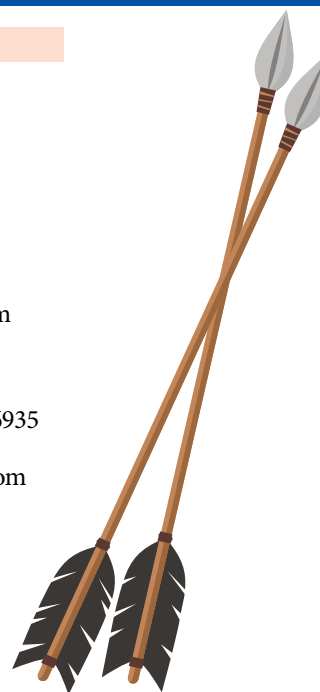
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WE NEED YOUR VOTE!!

The nominations for the 2020 positions are shown below. Please vote to fill the positions with the candidates you think would be an asset to our organization. You may use this form;

Officers' Positions ★ Vote for 1 candidate for each position

Secretary - Aaron Barton (2 year term)

Board of Director Positions ★ Vote for 3 candidates

Bob Brown (3 year term)

Kathy Tessier (3 year term)

Bill Snyder (3 year term)

**Return ballot no later than April 24, 2020, to:
NYB, 5937 County Rd. 33, Canandaigua, NY 14424**

----- Cut Here -----



NAME: Aaron Barton

RUNNING FOR: Secretary

YEARS BOWHUNTING: 6

Please provide a brief description of your bowhunting career to date: I began shooting archery with homemade bows that my friends and I made out of tree branches and twine, shooting our parents' driveway markers (arrows) at hay bales and cardboard boxes.

I never had the opportunity or resources to bow hunt until my early twenties. Gary Socola purchased me my first compound bow (Mathews Drenalin) at the age of 22 and taught me about bow hunting alongside Andrew Cotraccia and Larry Hilderbrant. I learned a lot from the three of them, not only about shooting and bowhunting but also about true sportsmanship and tradition.

After 3 unsuccessful years, I finally managed to harvest a 6pt buck on October 9th, 2016 (Gary sitting in a stand a mere 50 yards away, watching me and praying that the buck would come within range). The shot was subpar due to the immense amount of adrenaline surging through me but it managed to do the job. That very next morning my grandmother lost her fight to pancreatic cancer. The remainder of that hunting season I only found solace in my life when I was in the woods.

Ever since my first harvest and the passing of my grandma I haven't missed an opportunity to be in the woods with my bow.

Are you currently a member in good standing of NYB? Yes

In fifty words or less, why do you feel you would be an asset as an officer or director of NYB? I'm extremely dedicated to promoting and preserving bowhunting for generations to come. I enjoy working hard and can easily adapt to changes. I know that I can help the continual growth of the organization and help stand up for our God given right to bow hunt.



NAME: Bob Brown

RUNNING FOR: Board of Directors

YEARS BOWHUNTING: 40

Brief description of my bowhunting career to date: I have bow hunted in New York, Pennsylvania and Quebec. I began hunting with a compound and switched to recurves and longbows about 15 years ago. I enjoy the simplicity of traditional archery as well as making arrows and other equipment. I have taken many deer, squirrels, rabbits and raccoon with bows. I attend many 3D events in New York and Pennsylvania each year.

Are you currently a member in good standing of NYB? Yes

In fifty words or less, why do you feel you would be an asset as an officer or director of NYB? Bow hunting is my number one passion outside of my family. Almost every day I'm involved with bow hunting whether it is a conversation, internet interaction, reading/thinking of bow hunting or shooting a few arrows. I will stand up to promote and protect bow hunting for all.



NAME: Bill Snyder

RUNNING FOR: Board of Directors

YEARS BOWHUNTING: 35+

Please provide a brief description of your bowhunting career to date:

- 1996- Joined NYB at a Hunting/Fishing Outdoor Expo
- 2010- Signed on as Region 6 Representative
- 2011 – Joined Banquet Committee and managed vendors
- 2012 – Recruited to join the Board of Directors in June and became the chair of the Communications Committee

Are you currently a member in good standing of NYB? Yes

In fifty words or less, why do you feel you would be an asset as an officer or director of NYB? Improved communications to our members via our webpage, Facebook, and other various forms of social media.



NAME: Kathy Tessier

RUNNING FOR: Board of Directors

YEARS BOWHUNTING: 13

Brief description of my bowhunting career to date: I started bowhunting 13 years ago with a compound and went on a bow only Mule Deer hunt in North Dakota. I switched to traditional equipment a couple of years later. I won an African bow hunt with Sportsmen's Safaris at an NYB Banquet in 2005 and harvested 4 animals with my recurve on that trip in 2006! That same fall hunting season, I finally took my first Adirondack Whitetail buck with a recurve.

Are you currently a member in good standing of NYB? Yes

In fifty words or less, why do you feel you would be an asset as an officer or director of NYB? I believe that being a member isn't just about paying your dues. That's why I took it one step further by offering to help out in the war room, creating a design for the NYB Shirts, cataloging profiles, and maintaining the live auction list for the annual Banquet. It's my way of giving back to an organization that I strongly believe in. Being on the BOD has allowed me to learn more about what NYB is all about. For that reason, I seek re-election to the BOD so as to continue to do all I possibly can for an organization that has done so much for bowhunters in NY.

FULL DRAW

REGION REPORTS

REGION 1 REPORT

Greetings New York Bowhunters! It is with great pleasure to introduce myself, Mike Farrugia, as the new representative for Region 1. I would like to thank our previous region rep, Don Tasch, for his dedication and contributions to such a great organization. As a passionate bowhunter, I am honored for this opportunity to be a part of this community, and would like to share a bit more about myself. I have been in the woods since diapers, hunting, fishing, and camping throughout my childhood with my father and brother, which made for some great memories. With a great love and respect for the outdoors and all creatures that call it home, I have found bowhunting and archery in general to be a peaceful and greatly rewarding sport. I have had the fortunate opportunity to bowhunt elk, black bear, turkey, and of course, whitetail deer. Furthermore, I am a husband, a father of two (with NUMBER THREE on the way!), as well as a local business owner of a home improvement company. This past November I had the chance to bowhunt whitetail in Oklahoma with Greg Masaitis along with a few other of our members. What a trip! I was lucky enough to tag out the first afternoon out with my biggest buck to date. As many of you know, I couldn't sleep that night with the

adrenaline still pumping through my veins!

The season here on Long Island has been an eventful one, as I have seen some fellow hunters take some gigantic bucks. All in all, with our region having an annual average of more than 3,000 deer harvested in recent years, I am sure we all had an enjoyable season. As antlers start to shed, and our season comes to an end, I hope we can all find some great memories from this past archery season, as well as be thankful for another year spent in the outdoors. I look forward to serving this great organization, engaging with our members, and being a part of this great sport we call bowhunting.

Mike Farrugia
MFarrugia47@gmail.com



In Memorium

Charles Giandana

August 27, 1983 - December 31, 2019

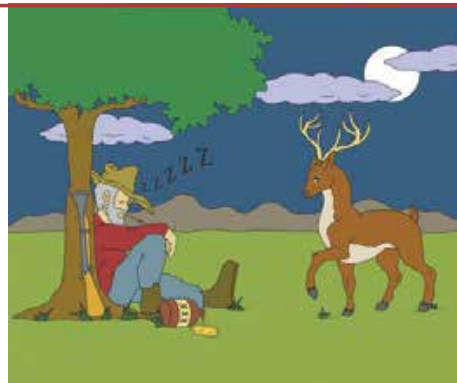
Missed by all who knew him.

REGION 2 REPORT



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REGION 3 REPORT

This year's Region 3 report is dedicated to the memory of Region 2 Representative, Charles "Chuck" Giandana, who passed away this past New Year's Eve. Charles came on board NYB only a few years ago. In addition to writing the Region 2 column for *Full Draw*, he also contributed a couple of articles. Charles was a fun loving outdoorsman who loved his fishing and hunting. I had the pleasure of working with him at a couple of Suffern Outdoor Sport Shows. He was a knowledgeable member, had a friendly personality and was very good at signing up new members. Charles also attended our Region Reps' meetings where he offered insightful contributions to our discussions. More importantly, we all enjoyed his company and great sense of humor on those long trips and overnight stays. I considered him a friend, yet one more I made through NYB. Please keep Charles' parents, sisters, family and friends in your thoughts and prayers. All of us at NYB who knew him, miss him.

You've often heard me mention the gift I've gotten through my involvement in NYB has been the many friends from across the state, whom I otherwise would never have met. NYB also caused me to re-unite with someone from my past. Back in the eighties, I had a part-time coaching job at Lehman College in the Bronx. Although a firefighter, I did have a degree in Sports Management and was qualified as a collegiate Archery Coach. A few years ago I was doing an NYB seminar at one of our active Boosters, Metropolitan Rod & Gun Club, in Brooklyn, NY. While there, I ran into one of my past (from approximately 30 years ago!) students, Richard Batt. Richard had remained an active archery participant, and although not a hunter, he became a member of NYB due to all the programs he saw that we support. We've stayed in touch with each other since reuniting and we're hoping to get together to shoot once my shoulder heals from the surgery.

One of the points above is that an NYB membership can be from non-hunters as well as hunters. I urge you all to be ambassadors to our great organization, especially to your outdoor sporting friends and family. Remind them to keep their dues current.

Thank you to our friends up in Tupper Lake (Dave, Patty, Mike, Kathy, Scott, Ray and all others) for once again having NYB present at their annual ice fishing derby. Over 1,400 people were in attendance, many of whom also bowhunt! This allows not only NYB exposure to a large group of outdoor sport enthusiasts, but provides us with a very successful fundraising opportunity.

Once again the annual NYB Banquet - Rendezvous is approaching. Although NYB is statewide, we are lucky to have this year's event not in Buffalo, not in the Adirondacks, not in the Finger Lakes but in Greene County, which is about as far south as logistically possible for our banquet. Your Banquet - Rendezvous is being held on May 2 at Sunny Hill Resort. The downstate regions of

1, 2 and 3 contain a huge amount of members and the banquet was moved this far south to accommodate us. Many of us "oldtimers" remember "schlepping" five hours or more each way to attend the banquets when they were being held in Northern or Western NY. The banquet is now in YOUR backyard! A tremendous amount of time and work is spent by many members to make this annual event a great weekend for all of you with 3D shooting, novelty shoots, prizes, hunt and gear auction, free golf, guest speaker, annual meeting, etc. Consider gathering a group of friends and family and put it on your calendar. See the banquet flyer in this issue for more information.

Hope to see you on May 1st at the Friday night, Lakeside BBQ.
Richard Kirschner
bowrichny@aol.com
914-330-1419

SULLIVAN COUNTY REPORT

Spring should be right around the corner. Thankfully January's weather has been mild and the deer have been ripping up the woods scavenging up the leftover acorns, able to travel to browse. Hopefully February and March have followed suit as the DEC has prohibited the feeding of deer. This county has very poor habitat to support deer in the winter with almost no agriculture and a lot of mountain laurel. We are one of the few counties in the state in this situation, so there is little opposition to this law from other areas. There were gun clubs in the upper reaches of the county that didn't kill one buck all season, habitat being the main culprit. They have mainly maples in that area, good for maple syrup but no oaks to produce acorns.

Our annual NYB banquet is coming up soon. This issue should have all the information in it. The venue for this event is great and leads to a most enjoyable weekend, including 3D shoots, a barbeque, annual meeting, can raffles, novelty shoots, and the banquet with the president of the Pope and Young Club as our speaker.

If you attended the "Suffern Show" in RCC I hope you stopped by to say "hi" and had a chat with us. Look for our booth at the Dutchess County Show also.

Sullivan County Archers are holding their Archery Youth Camp on July 10, 11, and 12 this summer. We would like to have a full camp of 20 kids this year so if you know any kids interested in archery and hunting contact me and

REGION 3 REPORT - continued from previous page

I'll send out an application. My phone number and email are below.

Spring leagues should be following the winter leagues and soon the 3D circuit will be starting up. Get your shooting up to par and above for hunting season. If you want some inspiration, watch the Lancaster Archery Classic on YouTube to see some great archery!

Harry Walker, Region 3 and Sullivan County Representative
149 South Shore Drive - Wolf Lake
Wurtsboro, NY 12790
bowbender@hvc.rr.com
845-794-6752

ORANGE COUNTY REPORT

I'd like to add my condolences and prayers along with all my fellow Representatives, to the family and friends of Region 2 Representative, Charles Giandana. Charlie wanted to do a little more giving back to the sport, so he took on the role of representing the large Region 2 membership base as their Rep. Although the five boroughs of NYC does not strike one as being the "mecca" of hunting, a large number of dedicated bowhunters who own or have access to land outside the city, do reside within the city. Chuck, a passionate hunter and fisherman, was proud of his "Bronx" roots.

The NYB Banquet is rapidly approaching. If you've never attended one, this is your chance to make it while it's being held so close to us. Loads to do, bring your bows and enjoy the 3D course. Bring your clubs and enjoy included golf. All info elsewhere in this issue; take a look, get some friends and family together and call in your reservations.

If you are a member of one of the following clubs; Bethlehem Rod & Gun Club, Otisville Sportsmans Club, Shawangunk Fish and Game, Walden Sportsman Club, Black Rock Fish and Game Club and Monroe Chester Sportsmen Club, please email me a 3D schedule so we could post it on our website (the one there is outdated).

Thank you Orange County members for supporting NYB,
Chris Smith
Orange County Rep
hosehead54@optonline.net

ROCKLAND COUNTY REPORT

Hello members. Winter is in full swing as I type away and hopefully, you are enjoying some hard hunted fresh venison from the freezer. If the deer gods did not include you in their plans this past season, that is all the more reason to get back out there and make it happen in the next season.

One of the items I would like to touch on in this article is the loss of NYB's Region 2 Rep, Charlie Giandana. Charlie was way too young to leave earth and he will be sorely missed. In the years I got to know Charlie, I knew him to be passionate about all he got into. He did those

things well and his smile was contagious. While no one here on earth can rewrite the past, what we can do is learn, make the most out of our family and our lives with the time we DO have. Because life is just too dang short. "Gonna Miss ya Chuck."

Ok, while we have been getting a break on the snow here in Rockland, it has stayed cold. Some of the things we can do as hunters to help deer out in the "no food" months is to hinge cut saplings so the tops hit the ground and the browsers get a chance to browse. That is about all we can do in NYS to help deer along in the cold, no food winter months. Deer are set up for that kind of food, twig tips and bark (browse). You can really help deer by doing that and really hurt deer by putting out feed, such as corn and other type of deer food, which is illegal in NYS, to supplement their diet. Tree tops are the best thing for deer at this point in winter. Keep in mind you are NOT allowed to cut trees, flora or fauna on public land.

Well, the hopeful extended deer season until New Year's Eve in Rockland County is picking up some traction. I have been talking about this for years and you have been reading about it for years. How many of you actually called DEC or wrote a letter or email about this subject? I hope many. Don't sit and wait for someone else to do it. The guys that DO IT are becoming less and less available to. NYB needs some fresh blood! Anyway, The Federation of Sportsmen in Rockland President has the ball and is helping to push this wish along. I will keep y'all updated on this topic.

I would like to congratulate NYB member Samantha DiVietro for passing up so many smaller bucks all season (can't say the same for the does). She took it down to the wire to the second to last day of late archery and it all came together for her. She shot a very nice and wide four and a half year-old 7pt in Rockland county. My son, Joe, killed a mature 8pt here in Rockland that made him quite happy. Congratulations are also in order for one of Joe's friends and fellow NYB member Jeremy. Jeremy came to Rockland and was wowed with the deer activity he witnessed and the spots he was taken to. He too laid down a really good 8pt with nice mass in Rockland.

Hope I got to see you at the RCC show held in early March. Our annual banquet is coming up and I hope to see you there. The committee is putting together some great prizes and that weekend is always a hoot.

In closing, God Bless our brave men and women of the armed forces and God Bless our first responders. Remember, the best thing you can spend on a kid is time. Anthony Picariello
ADjam5@verizon.net

DUTCHESS COUNTY REPORT

Greetings All,

Our banquet is right around the corner, and will be held at Sunny Hill Resort in Greenville, NY again this year. (www.sunnyhill.com 518-634-7642) As most of you know, this event is our major fundraiser for the year. The banquet and rendezvous will be held on Saturday May 2nd with a BBQ on Friday night, May 1st. This year's speaker will be Jim Willems, president of the Pope and Young Club. Let's get out and support our great organization. I look forward to seeing you there. Rooms are \$139/double and \$119/Single. Dinner reservations are \$40 each or \$75 a couple. Please call Annie at 585-229-7468 for Dinner Reservations and Raffle tickets.

Scott and Tammy Chenevert of Ti Yogi Bowmen in Hyde Park informed me of the many activities slated for the Spring and Summer months. There will be 3D shoots on April 5th, May 3rd, June 7th and August 2nd. On September 20th they will host a 3D shoot and Pig Roast, Octobowfest on October 11th, ending the season with a Zombie shoot on October 24th. Please visit their website at tiyogibowmen.com for further info. Another valued booster, Northern Dutchess Rod and Gun Club of Rhinebeck, NY will also hold many 3D competitions and activities to be included in our next issue. Please visit their website at ndrgc.com for a schedule of events.

I would also like to mention two prominent Archery Shops in Dutchess County: Flying Arrow Sports in Carmel, and Northern Dutchess Archery in Red Hook. I have done business with both and have been extremely pleased.

That's about it for now. Hope to see you at the Banquet.
"Keep em sharp"
Bob Ledrich
Dutchess County Representative NYB
ledrich@optonline.net, 845-266-0615

PUTNAM COUNTY REPORT

Greetings from Putnam County,

It is coming up to my favorite time of the year. The trees are blooming, the strippers are swarming the beaches and the turkeys are gobbling. I've been seeing LOTS of turkeys locally including a flock at over 60. The lack of snow this winter left the turkeys and deer in good shape. Can't wait for the spring season to open.

The DEC has taken some drastic measures to keep Chronic Wasting disease out of NY. You can no longer bring any whole deer, elk or moose from another state into NY. Only deboned meat and a clean skull cap can be brought into the state. Fail to follow this law and the DEC will confiscate the animal, leaving you not only empty-handed but with a hefty fine as well. As of now NY has not outlawed the use urine-based lures but many states have, so be aware.

I am thinking about going back to Africa for another safari in 2021. There are a few animals on my African wish list that I would like to check off. If anyone has any interest or questions, reach out to me.

Be safe and shoot straight.
Richard Chizzik, Putnam County Rep
richietix@aol.com
845-633-2173

ULSTER COUNTY REPORT

Hi folks! First off I'd like to tell you about the 29th Annual Banquet & Rendezvous in Greenville, NY. The weekend is full of great things to do starting Friday night with a Barbeque by the lake. Saturday the 3D course opens with can raffles and general meeting at 1PM. Outdoor shoots for prizes in the afternoon. 5pm cocktail hour, 6pm dinner & live auction with lots of hunts and equipment going for great prices. Guest speaker Saturday evening is Jim Willems, President of the Pope & Young Club. It's going to be a great time and it's right here in the Valley. Anyone in Ulster County can get there in less than an hour. Look in this issue for more info. Call Annie at the NYB Office to order Dinner Tickets for the Banquet, \$40.00 each or two for \$75.00 Kids under 12 Free. Call Sunny Hill directly for room reservations. See all info on flyer elsewhere in this issue of *Full Draw*.

Moving on, how about some great 3D shoots? Highwoods Sportsmans Club in Woodstock, NY is having shoots April 25, June 20, August 16th, September 13th & December 6. First four are 30 Targets. December shoot is 15. No crossbows allowed. Those under sixteen shoot free. Well, that's about it for this issue. Good shooting and be safe out there.

Bob DiGiacomio, Ulster Co Rep
shorefisher07@gmail.com

WESTCHESTER COUNTY REPORT

See Banquet information elsewhere in this issue. Get some friends together and bring your families. Novelty shoots, 3D course, golf, win prizes, bid on hunts and equipment, dinner with guest speaker. Enjoy a great time with like-minded bowhunting enthusiasts from across the state. Only a short ride from Westchester.

A reminder: minutes away from many of you (less than 30 for most) is one of the hidden gems of archery. Cos Cob Archery, a membership club, is open to the general public the last Sunday of each month. Located on 23 rustic acres, compounds or traditional are welcome. No crossbows permitted. There are forty 3D targets of varying life sizes. With the variety of terrain, they are able to create an unlimited combination of shot types and degree of difficulty, which allows you to make a day at the range a "walk in the park" or an "extreme archery" challenge. Also within the property is a regulation 28 target field course. The course and clubhouse are available to members year-round for practice, scheduled competitions, open shoots and general relaxation. If you have never shot there, make it your business to check it out on one of the "open" shoot Sundays. I promise you won't be disappointed. (Sunday April 26, Traditional only 3D shoot. See CCA website for info.)

Another reminder; a vacancy still exists for an NYB Westchester Rep. Be proud of what you do and take the opportunity to have a little say into the course bowhunting takes in your county and state. Give me a call to discuss.

Hope to see you all on May 1 & 2 at NYB Banquet / Rendezvous / BBQ

Rich Kirschner
bowrichny@aol.com
914-330-1419

REGION 4 REPORT

Greetings ,

Well, once again the NYB family was hit with devastating news. It is with great sorrow that I inform you of the loss of Region 2 Representative, Charlie Giandana, who at the beginning of this year lost his battle with depression. Chuck was such a wonderful young man with what seemed to be not a care in the world. We never know what pain or mental suffering others are going through; sometimes they hide it well. It's been a few months and it saddens me to think of his loss.

With the New Year upon us, the work once again begins for volunteers to work the sports shows, youth camps, Banquet and all the events going on throughout the year. As a member, this is your organization supporting the sport of bowhunting that you love. After paying and joining NYB you might want to get a bit more involved, meeting fellow bowhunters in your area by volunteering at one of the events. With all organizations, it always seems to be a handful of members do all the work and it doesn't take long before they start to get stressed out. NYB would like to do more for bowhunters throughout the state, but it takes not only money, but a commitment from members. NOW is the time to step up and drop me a line. If you can show a young child the correct way to hold and shoot a bow at the youth fair or flip a hamburger at our youth camp, you'll be welcomed. For some of you who have been with NYB for a while, I'm asking you to look around at fellow bowhunters you know or even hunt with and pass on a membership application. If every member signed up just one person we could double our membership and expand our events. This past weekend fellow member Rich Kirschner and I were invited by the Tupper Lake Archers to attend the

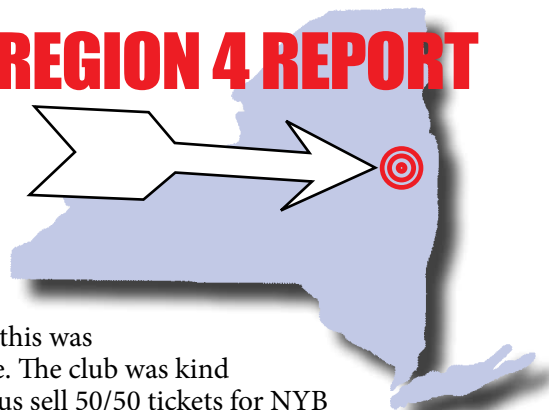
Tupper Lake
Ice Fishing
Derby in the
Adirondacks.

If you ice fish this was the place to be. The club was kind enough to let us sell 50/50 tickets for NYB and a few chances for our upcoming raffle. We could have sold memberships to NYB but were shorthanded selling tickets. Of the hundreds of people passing and talking with us, it still surprises me how many bowhunters never heard of us.

Our Banquet date is coming up fast and if you need a ticket give Annie in the office a call. Also, rooms at Sunny Hill Resort are going fast, so don't wait until the last minute. We could also use donations for our can raffle, auction, etc. If you have a good relationship with an outfitter and you've been hunting with him a few times, give him a call and ask if he can help us out with a donated hunt. Don't be afraid, he can only say no. So, after reading this report about YOUR organization, you're going to sign up a new member, volunteer at an event and show up at the Banquet with a donation.... Wouldn't that be nice, I'll even use the word please!

Take Care,

Ed Gorch, Region 4, Greene County Rep
518-634-7139
Oldbowman48@gmail.com



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REGION 6 REPORT

Hope everyone had a successful deer hunt season. If you didn't, you probably still had some quality time in the woods. The majority of Bow Hunters enjoy the hunt more than the success.

Region 6 will not be raffling a compound bow this year. It has gotten tougher every year to sell tickets. So to subsidize our Annual Youth Camp in July, we are asking you to sign up some sponsors for our Youth Camp. NYB is now an official, non-profit organization (501c3), so all contributions may be tax deductible. If you know a club or business that may benefit by supporting our kids training, sign them up! Contact me for details.

Here is what is happening this summer in our Region #6:

March 20, 21, & 22, 2020 ~ The Big East Camping & Outdoor Sports Show at the Turning Stone Casino in Verona is a good show to attend. We will not be exhibiting there this year, but the Archery shoot might be a good activity to participate in. Check it out.

Saturday, May 2nd, 2020 ~ The New York Bowhunters 29th Annual Banquet will be held in Greenville, NY, at the **Sunny Hill Resort**. Friday night Bar-B-Que and campfire, followed by a full day of Rendezvous-like activities: turkey hunting, archery shooting contests, outdoor 3D shoot course, and much more! Our special guest speaker will be the current President of Pope & Young, Jim Willems. The Saturday night auction is a great place to purchase discounted hunting packages. Order your tickets today.

July 24,

25, & 26, 2020 ~ Our Region #6 23rd Annual Youth Bowhunting Camp is scheduled. Contact me if you have a friend or family member (11-15 yrs old) who would like to complete the NYS Bowhunting course. And yes, volunteer help is always welcome.

August 14, 15, & 16, 2020 ~ NYS Woodsmen's Field Days.

This is truly a great outdoor themed activities show. Lumberjack and Lumberjill Championships: log rolling, chainsawing, speed chopping, and lots more. It gets better every year! We will not be exhibiting there this year, but it is well worth your time to attend. Put it in your schedule right now.

There are currently no Region 6 boosters registered in our area. Whether they simply forgot to re-subscribe, or closed up shop, we need to get some more shops to join NYB. Sign up your favorite Archery supply shop now. Or contact me to recommend someone I can talk to. It may help the Archery supply shop more than NYB, but we need them to subscribe.

Bill Snyder • bill4nyb@gmail.com
Region #6 Rep. • 3012 Pine Ridge Road
Cell #315.415.0966 • Canastota, NY 13032



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A tribute to those we have lost...

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*In Memory of
Philip Guarnuccio
Donated by David Klein*

*In Memory of
Ty Moore
Donated by His NYB Friends*

*In Memory of
Ed Featherby
Donated by the
Flashing Feathers Bowhunters*

*In Memory of
Karl Lockwood
1950 – 2014*

*In Memory of the
Terry McSwigin
Family
Donated by Big Brother Jim*

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Step Behind the NYB Curtain

– Richard Kirschner

“Pay no attention to that man behind the curtain.” I assume you all know that line from one of the great movie classics, *The Wizard of Oz*. In an attempt to provide information to our membership with what goes on behind the scenes of NYB, I’d like to change that famous line a little to, “Let’s take a look at what’s behind the curtain.” As a member of NYB you should all be aware of how your organization operates. First and foremost, you should know that none of the Officers, Board of Directors (BODs), Region or County Reps receive any compensation in money, benefits, hunts, merchandise or any type of pay. Our only paid employee is a part-time Administrative Secretary who handles membership applications, renewals, computer database, phone calls, bookkeeping, correspondence and a variety of other functions too numerous to mention. If you ever call NYB’s phone number, it’s our very own energizer bunny, Annie, you’ll be speaking with. If she can’t help you, she’ll direct you to one of the officers who can. NYB, Inc. operates under IRS rules as a 501c3 “Not for profit”. We have a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and nine Board of Directors, all elected by the membership.

NYB has adopted the format of following the NYS Dept. of Conservation (DEC) breakdown into various regions. In each of these nine regions, NYB has one or more regional representatives as well as county representatives within each region. These representative positions are filled with bowhunters who have been selected on their ability to take part in the decision making process of NYB. They are appointed by the President after discussion with the BOD. Over the past twenty-nine years, every benefit that bowhunters in NY gained began as an idea born at a table where interested, passionate bowhunters from NYB gathered.

This flow of information creates a bottom up platform which allows direct input from the general membership and a top down platform for communication from the Officers and Board members to the general membership. Any member is free to contact their county or regional representative, board members or officers with their concerns about NYB, conservation, or bowhunting in NYS.

Most communication takes place via phone and the internet. Once per year the BODs and Officers meet with the Representatives at an annual meeting whereby reps are encouraged to attend and share their concerns and assist the BOD in direction. This meeting usually takes place in the approximate geographic center of the state.

To assist the reps with their communication to the membership, they may utilize *Full Draw* to appraise their local membership with information which may be of interest. If the representative would like to use social media or email contact, they are certainly encouraged to do so.

Moving on to the BODs and Officers; they are usually, but not always, members who may have served as a representative or as a member of a committee. Their common attribute is their shared concern that bowhunting remain the wonderful sport we all feel so passionate about. The Officers and BODs gather three times per year to conduct business guided by our Bylaws and Policy-Procedure manual. At these meetings, legislation which may positively or negatively affect bowhunting in NY is discussed, and appropriate action voted upon. Concerns of the future of bowhunting are brought to our attention, and again, plans to mitigate are formulated if necessary. In addition, each of the programs and events that NYB supports has a committee consisting of individuals with particular interest or expertise in their various fields. (Legislative, Membership, Spikes (Juniors), Camo to Camo, Physically Challenged, Youth Camps, Banquet, Raffle). Committee members report activity to the BOD, and if necessary plans are formulated with input from concerned representatives.

At each BOD meeting as well as our general membership meeting (held annually at the NYB Banquet) a financial report is given. In addition to NYB’s Treasurer (elected by membership) our administrative secretary serves as a bookkeeper. An independent CPA oversees NYB’s recordkeeping and files required tax forms.

Fred Bear once said, "If you are not working to protect hunting, you are working to destroy it!" All NYB members have made the decision to preserve hunting simply by continuing to pay their dues. Many of you also support our organization and programs through donations, raffle purchase, banquet attendance or volunteering time at a local event. All of you should be proud to be part of the largest single organization of the most passionate, concerned, and informed bowhunters in NY. You are the backbone of NYB. However without all the representatives, committee members, board of directors and officers as described above, NYB cannot function. The direction that NYB and ultimately the direction that bowhunting in NY takes is a result of the suggestions, opinions and input the Officers and BOD receive from you, the members. As mentioned earlier NYB was the driving force behind benefits that all bowhunters enjoy today (minimum age reduction, increased season length, expanded tag use, reduction in minimum discharge range for archery from 500 to 150 ft!). NYB is often contacted by legislators (both locally and statewide) in order to gain knowledge on hunting and bowhunter opinion in order to make decisions when related Encon legislation is being presented to them. NYB has often been asked to attend meetings with the DEC as our reputation of having informed, knowledgeable sportsmen and women is well-known. NYB has also developed a working relationship with Cornell University Wildlife Health Program and is proud that we have been able to assist biologists in their CWD prevention research, keeping NY's deer herd as healthy as possible.

Personally, I am proud and honored to have been asked to be a part of the team which represents bowhunters in NY. Although impossible to reflect the various opinions of all two hundred thousand plus bowhunters in NY, by maintaining a cross section of knowledgeable bowhunter representatives from across the state with such a wide variety of outdoor experience, NYB will continue to have an impact on the direction of bowhunting. Our underlying goal is protecting and preserving hunting with a bow and arrow.

Through the years, openings for representatives (both county & regional) occasionally arise as do seats on the Board of Directors. NYB strives to attract a variety of interested bowhunters to fill these positions, assuring we continue to represent NY's diverse geography as well as reflect the overall attitude of the bowhunting community. We value opinions from those who share the ethics and passion of keeping bowhunting the respected sport it has become.

Are you ready to give back a little more to bowhunting? Are you ready to join us in shouldering the shared responsibility that NYB leadership carries? If you feel you have what it takes to "step behind the curtain" give me (or any BOD's you may already know) a call for more information. I look forward to hearing from you. Rich Kirschner, Board of Director, Region 3 Representative, bowrichny@aol.com Cell# 914-330-1419.

New York Bowhunters, Inc. Membership Application

- ☐ YEARLY MEMBERSHIP - \$25.00
- ☐ 2 YEAR MEMBERSHIP - \$40.00
- ☐ 3 YEAR MEMBERSHIP - \$55.00
- ☐ BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP - \$30.00
- ☐ LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$500.00
- ☐ BENEFACTOR MEMBERSHIP - \$250.00 (MUST BE A LIFE MEMBER)
- ☐ YOUTH MEMBERSHIP - \$10.00 (BIRTH DATE REQUIRED)
- ☐ YOUTH LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$300.00 (CONVERTS TO ADULT AT 14)

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Thoughts from a Newbie!

Christopher Murray

Hello, my name is Chris Murray and I have been bowhunting for two years. I guess that qualifies me as an expert! I am joking of course, I am very new to this and learn something every time I go out. I met Rich Kirschner about eleven years ago when I transferred into FDNY Engine Company 88, where he was the Captain. Rich introduced me to the world of bowhunting. I took the NYS Hunter Safety courses and bought a bow.

I hunt on properties in Westchester and Putnam and had never really ventured out of those areas. I remember sitting in Captain Rich's office and listening to stories of the quantity of bucks he hunted out west along with the comradery and laughter that comes with deer camp. I was intrigued by his stories of hunting land that held some truly big bucks. As I got more interested in bowhunting, Rich asked me if I'd be interested in being part of their Oklahoma bowhunt. Rich and fellow NYB members, Jim Beltrami and Bob Zach would give me, a newbie, a chance to accompany them on their annual trip out west. I was told the trip would take place in the middle of the rut and I would be seeing the biggest deer of my life, which was going to be easy because all I had seen after hunting for ONE whole year were does and a button buck!

As the start of the 2019 season approached, I set a goal to shoot a deer in NY before I went to Oklahoma. I thought that would be good to have as a minimum of experience first. I also knew I needed to practice as much as possible in order to be successful should the opportunity for a shot present itself. I shot in my yard often, as well as a few trips to Cos Cob Archers, a forty target 3D course where Rich is a member. Opening day finally arrived and I soon found myself watching a big doe approach. I stood up in the stand and waited for my shot which didn't come as she spotted me and ran away! The next time I went out I was accompanied by two buddies, Pat and Vinnie. This was Pat's first hunt and he shot his first deer that day. I saw nothing! The plan of shooting a deer before I went to Oklahoma wasn't looking good. A week before our western trip, my buddy invited me to hunt in Westchester. I had a doe come in towards my stand and I thought to myself, "Here is my chance!" Instead of taking my time, I rushed the shot and missed the doe entirely, completely destroying my arrow, which I've left in my quiver as a reminder not to take stupid shots!

My plan for a NY first kill did not pan out and on Friday, November 1st, I packed all my stuff in preparation for the 1500 mile trip out to Oklahoma. To try and put my emotions into words is impossible. I was scared, nervous and

excited. Jim, Bob and I decided to meet at a central location which turned out to be NYB member Jim McSwigin's house where we could also leave our vehicles. We loaded up a truck and began the drive to the mother land of giant white tail deer. It took us around 24 hours to do this although two of the hours was spent sitting on the Cross Bronx Expressway! Driving half way across the country you really get to enjoy the sights of this great country; the rolling hills of PA and Ohio where great. We had to take an interesting detour through some side roads in St Louis at 2 am. If you ever need to hide a body in St Louis we found the place. After completing a turn of driving and catching some winks in the front seat, it reminded me of working the overnight in an ambulance in the Bronx, just waking up with better views! We stopped to get some food and coffee to complete the last part of the drive. I was giddy like a young school kid thinking that in a few short hours I would be sitting in a tree stand and getting ready to see giant whitetails. We got to the deer camp around noon and met our outfitters, Nate and Luke of Trophy Tines Outfitters. We unpacked and shot our bows, assuring the equipment



made it safely and were still dialed in. Now up until this point Rich had been telling me not to take any shots over 20 yards. After shooting with Nate, he said don't listen to that old man and he gave me the green light to shoot up to 30 yards! I was happy and had the confidence that all my practice paid off. We decided not to hunt that afternoon because it was already 1:30 PM and we didn't want to spook anything going into the stands. After going to the local town for lunch, we returned to the deer camp and met up with four other bowhunters who were also hunting out of the same camp. After dinner, we were shown various bucks that had been captured on the trail cams throughout the property and discussed the next day's wind and stand selections. I went off to bed, still excited and thinking to myself that no matter what happens, at least I had a new hat for all the time and money I had spent so far!

...He suggested I absorb the beauty of the land, and bask in the privilege and opportunity to bowhunt. He reiterated that bowhunting is about the journey...

The early morning was spent glassing some ground. Sitting on top of a hill far away from our target areas and looking for deer was a great experience. The landscape was unreal and although we only spotted a couple of deer, they were big ones. After having a breakfast of bacon, biscuit, sausage, eggs and white gravy, it was time to shower up, get dressed and head into the stands for the remainder of the day. The stand that I would be in, I was told would be covered with deer. After being dropped off I walked a half a mile into my spot for the rest of the day. The stand required monkey climbing skills! Definitely not a stand for a more "mature" hunter! As I settled into my first western hunt, I was taken in and amazed by the beautiful scenery, and nervous with anticipation. As the hours passed and I didn't see or hear any sign of deer I began to question myself. Was it my fault? Had I put enough scent cover on? Did I spook all the deer walking in? Was I moving too much? Or is this normal and just dumb luck and tonight wasn't going to be my night? As I pondered these thoughts in my young hunter's brain, I heard the unmistakable sound of wild hogs all over the place. The hogs provided me with a possible answer to the lack of deer. The sun set, and as the last light faded, I could see up the hill to the approaching headlights of my ride. I got down out of the tree as quietly as I could and made the long walk up the hill to meet Luke. My mind was still racing thinking that I had somehow screwed up and ruined the spot. Luke was surprised when I told him that I didn't see a thing. The look of confusion left my face and was now on his. After picking up Bob and Jim, I learned they had both seen loads of deer. We got back to camp and found out one of the other hunters had shot a wide eight point and they all had seen deer too. To say I was disappointed would be an understatement but everyone felt it was the hogs that ruined my hunt, not me.

After getting a good night sleep, we headed out early on Monday for what would be an all-day sit, around twelve hours, something I had not yet done. With ninja-like skills I made my way back up into my stand and waited for the sun to rise and the deer to show up. The day started off great with

a basket 8 pointer passing by. I grabbed my bow, controlled my breathing and drew back, but something in my head said, "Hold off, it's only day two!" It dawned on me that I had a good chance at a big mature buck, something that may not happen to me back in NY for a long time. I consoled myself by saying if he showed up again in a few days and I still had my tag, I'd take the shot then. Looking back I was glad I held off as it gave me the opportunity to observe more deer, learning about their behavior and increasing my knowledge. The buck hung around for about a half hour before he got spooked by something, and it wasn't me! I picked up my bow again thinking here comes a massive buck. Wrong! Those darned hogs came back through and blew up my spot for the second day in a row. The hogs remained nearby on and off throughout the next ten hours and I never saw another

deer. As the sun set and I began my long walk up the hill, I was messaged that I'd have to wait till around 8PM as Luke was assisting Bob looking for a deer he had hit. I stood in a dark field staring at the moon and stars, disappointed that my entire day was ruined. I was in some of the best deer country in the country and losing a battle to hogs. Two long days on the stand and I'd only seen one deer. I was miserable and talking myself into a real depression but wisely decided to call my mentor, advisor and friend, Captain Richard Kirschner! He was sidelined this season due to a recent shoulder surgery. Rich, as he had done many times in the past, told me to pull my head out of my butt. He suggested I absorb the beauty of the land, and bask in the privilege and opportunity to bowhunt. He reiterated that bowhunting is about the journey. He suggested focusing on the fact that I was walking the same ground that Native Americans had walked on hundreds and thousands of years ago, with bows in their hands, hunting the same prey I was. I should try and think about the link I had with those distant ancestors. If bowhunting was easy, we wouldn't be challenged by it. And if I put in enough time in the woods, and concentrate on absorbing and enjoying nature rather than giving off the bad karma of disappointment and feeling sorry for myself, I will sooner or later be guaranteed to get a chance. Rich got me back on track, which I needed for I soon learned although Bob did not get his deer, all the hunters once again saw lots of deer.

Tuesday started off shortly after getting in the stand. A mature massive whitetail deer was following two does. They passed behind me with no shot opportunity, but I thought, "What a great start, today is going to be a good day!" Well, that went down the tubes as the next thing to show up were four hogs. And then a bobcat decided to keep me company. Hogs came and went throughout the day, making a ruckus and keeping the deer away. At 4PM, having been "deerless" since 6:30 AM, a beef cow walked by. I thought of all that meat on it that could last me for the whole year! Around 5 PM the hogs were back! As I again made the long walk up the hill I once again received a message it would be a while until my pick up as another member of camp had shot a deer and the guides were tied up tracking. While I stood alone in

Thoughts from a Newbie! - continued from previous page

the moonlight with just my thoughts, my mind wandered dangerously; "I wonder how much money I could get for my bow and all my hunting equipment?" And more importantly, "Why in Sam Hill do we torture ourselves in this sport by spending countless hours scouting and sitting in trees or blinds hoping to catch a glimpse of a majestic animal, which the zoos are full of just waiting to be seen?"

As I made my way into the stand on Wednesday I said to myself, "I'm going to try and relax, stay positive, and be ready to shoot any six pointer or better that walks by me." My plan for the day was just to do a morning sit due to bad weather that was coming in. As the morning went on and the weather got worse, I was completely mentally spent. After not seeing a single deer by noon, I messaged the outfitter to pick me up before the rain started. He messaged me that it might be a while because they were tracking another deer someone had shot. Around one o'clock as the rain started, a spike came feeding by. Little did I know this would be the start of the best day of hunting I ever had! About an hour later with the spike still hanging around, two does arrived, then a six pointer and two more spikes. The spike that had started it all began sparring with the other two spikes as the six pointer was off chasing the does! As the six pointer started heading my way, I stood, grabbed my bow, drew back and my sudden, inexperienced movement spooked the six pointer! He ran off, but before I sat down, another buck showed up to investigate all the activity: the eight pointer from Monday! My eyes widened at this new arrival as he chased the does around. I was ready this time

and the buck presented a 20 yard broadside for me. Without hesitation I let the arrow fly and saw it hit right behind the shoulder. A feeling of excitement engulfed me as I watched the deer run hard and drop within view. He got up and ran another short distance. I waited till almost dark and snuck out of the stand to meet Luke. We made the decision to let the deer be all night and come back in the morning. I slept like a baby that night, excited with confidence the deer would be where we last saw him. The next morning we waited for first light before going out and butterflies arrived in my stomach to fly around. My heart sank when we returned to the spot where the deer was last seen and there was no blood due to an overnight rain. Luke and I split up and after only a few steps I spotted the downed deer in a gully! Another wave of excitement! I had finally achieved my first bow kill!

Looking back, I thought of all the practice sessions and all the sits back in NY. All the hours spent with so few deer seen; all the aggravating hogs seemingly purposely destined to ruin my Oklahoma hunt! I learned that just because a hunt seemed to not be going your way, at any moment it could all change! I also learned that my original goal of attaining good shooting form proved to be much easier than mastering positive thinking and fending off my negative 'self-speak'. To quote the great, Yogi Berra, "90% of the game is half mental!"

Thank you to Luke and Nate of Trophy Tine Outfitters for all your work, knowledge and patience with me, and for your support to NYB. Thanks to Jim Beltrami and Bob Zach for putting up with me for a week. And to Rich Kirschner for his coaching, both as a NYC Firefighter and as a bowhunter!

Edward E. Fetherbay

Edward E. Fetherbay, age 75, passed away November 19 after a brief illness at Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, PA.

Born on July 14, 1944 in Ithaca, New York, Ed was the son of Glenn L. and Mary Reinbold Fetherbay. A graduate of Ithaca High School's class of 1962, at the age of 18 Ed began his career as a printer at Arnold Printing. He then started his own business, A New Beginning Press, from which he retired in 2014 at 70. Ed served in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1965 to 1971.

In the 1980's Ed co-owned Four Seasons Archery Shop on Elmira Road where his passion as an outdoorsman earned him a lifetime membership in the Flashing Feathers Bowhunters Club. As a dedicated member of Trout Unlimited, Ed's love of fishing led him and his friends to found the Cayuga Lake Landlocked Salmon Invitational, better known as The Wall Guys.

Ed shared his bowhunting and fly-fishing expertise with family and friends, imparting his wit and wisdom to young and old alike. He also loved to travel out west to fly fish, and to hunt elk and antelope with his bow. In particular, Ed enjoyed hunting antelope at the Hornbuckle Ranch in Wyoming, and hunted that ranch for more than 30 years, forging a lasting friendship with the Hornbuckle family.

He will always be remembered for his good-natured sense of humor, his kind and generous heart, and as a mentor to many friends.

He is survived by Linda, his wife of 49 years; their two daughters, Brenda Walker and Stephanie (Joseph) Parente; four grandchildren, Gavin Quick, Devon Parente, John and Jackson Walker; four sisters, Lana O'Brien, Suzette (John) Noti, Brenda Coolbaugh, and Cheryl (Bill) Drake; and many nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his parents, Glenn and Mary Fetherbay.

A celebration of his life will be held in the spring of 2020. Memorial donations in lieu of flowers can be directed to Flashing Feathers Bowhunters Club (258 Jersey Hill Road, Ithaca, NY 14850) and Trout Unlimited-Leon Chandler Chapter (29 Renwick Heights Road, Ithaca, NY 14850).





FREE

2020 Archery Youth Camp

by Cindy Phillips, Youth Camp Coordinator

NYB will hold free Youth Archery Camps/Events again this summer in the following Regions (see below for dates, locations and contact information).

*** Region 7 Youth Day is for ages 8 – 15 with no NYS Bowhunter Education Course**

Region	Dates	Location	Contact
3	July 10,11,12	Sullivan County Conservation Club 140 Kortright Rd Ferndale, NY	Harry Walker 845.794.6752
4	TBD	Earlton Fish & Game Club 56 Potic Creek Rd Earlton, NY	Ed Gorch 518.755.6263
6	July 24 - 26	Oswegatchie FFA Camp Long Pond Road Croghan, NY	Bill Snyder 315.415.0966
7	May 16	Youth Archery/Outdoor Experience* Pompey Rod and Gun Club 2035 Swift Rd Fabius, NY	Walt Dixon 315.696.8723

NYB's youth camp program is put on by the most dedicated archers in New York who want to see our great sport passed on to future generations where it will continue to grow and prosper for all to enjoy. In addition to a complete New York State Bowhunter Education Course, the attendees are also schooled on the safe use of tree stands, the difficult art of blood trailing, using scents and lures, the effective use of maps and compasses and the importance of ethical behavior when afield.

Since camp is for both girls and boys, we sometimes experience some friendly competition between the sexes. We typically have several girls who attend each camp and they often turn out to be the best shots and game trackers in the group. We have also had campers who were not interested in bowhunting at all but just wanted to learn about archery. Whatever a camper's interest may be, we'll find a place for them at camp.

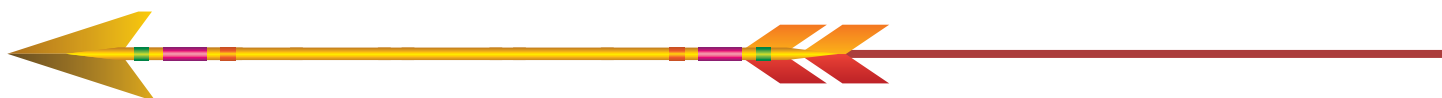
Thanks to the outstanding job of the Youth Camp Leaders in coordinating their events, volunteers, and the monies donated to NYB, our Youth Camps are running at no expense to our membership. Several of the camps are self-funding. We are grateful for the financial support of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (\$500), New York Conservation Officers Association (\$200), and Tupper Lake Archers (\$100).

NEW THIS YEAR

Region 7 will hold a Youth Archery/Outdoor Experience event May 16th from 9 am to 4 pm for youths ages 8 – 15. This event will not include the NYS Bowhunter Education Course. Parents are welcome to stay! Archery activities will include indoor targets and outdoor "running deer" and "water filled swinging jugs". In addition to other archery related activities there will be interesting speakers, such as;

- NYSDEC Inter-Regional Environmental Educator Betsy Ukeritis who will present various pelts and casts of tracks to discuss mammals and track ID.
- Retired police officer and licensed tracker Paulene Eggers to discuss tracking wounded big game and domestic pets with her trained dog Braylee.
- NYSDEC Forest Ranger Joan Oldroyd who will discuss outdoor job opportunities along with stories of some harrying rescue and recoveries in NY.
- Big Game Biologist Courtney Lamere who specializes in Black Bear management.

If you have a youngster who is interested in attending any of our events, or simply want more information, please contact the Representative in the Region nearest you.



Winter Calm

by Mike Pouloupoulos

I headed out at 8:00 a.m. with my bow and a folding stool. A calm, cold, winter-like breeze cut across my face and froze my beard, but mostly I faced it head-on. I walked over to where I saw a couple of scrapes earlier in the week, and with fresh overnight snow on the ground, I was curious to know if the bucks had kicked them up. I was hunting does, but I was still curious. The scrapes were covered in snow.

I followed some tracks along an old logging road. Fresh, light snow filled a quarter of the tracks. Deer walked the path sometime during the night. When I came to within 20 yards of my neighbor's field edge, I stopped, leaned up against a tree and looked around.

Some time passed and I saw movement 30 yards to my right through thick pine saplings. It was a doe. She was walking with the wind to her back. There was no shot opportunity through that thick tangle of twigs and young limbs. I decided to learn where she was headed, and stood still. As I watched her through the binos, I saw a few more doe ahead of her. They'd get downwind of me in a couple hundred yards, but I wasn't concerned. I figured they were well on their way, and, being downwind, they weren't viable hunts for me anyway. Had to let them go.

After I could no longer see them moving through the trees, I cut their tracks, got the wind in my favor and walked on. Maybe they were feeding on a specific oak. Maybe there was some other browse they were interested in. As I traced their tracks, I came to a pinch point, looked up, and saw a doe broadside at 20 yards. I froze in a half-kneel, my bow in one hand, the stool in the other, and some hemlock saplings between us. Guess I'm gonna do the mannequin.

She came towards me to 15 yards, walking a worn track a little above me and to my left. I could now see she was the lead doe in a group of three.

She stepped. She saw. She locked on. The two doe behind her stopped and watched her for a cue. She stalled, stomped, head-bobbed, stomped some more, but never blew out.

After a while the two does behind her got bored, flicked their tails and pushed her on. I held my stance for as long as my knees allowed, and when I looked behind me, they were long gone. I have no idea how long I held that pose. I checked my phone. It was 9:20, and I decided to set up.

I found a good "hole" in the saplings, backed by a fallen hemlock with two, maybe three shooting lanes. It was going to be tight, but that meant it was also going to be a challenge and an exciting encounter.

I sat for all of 5 minutes when I caught movement to my right, 30 yards away. The deer walked closer, putting a few trees between us. I drew back and held my sight on the middle trunk hoping that the deer was a doe, and that I'd see it bank to the right. I won half the bet.

She popped out from behind the trees at 15 yards, coming just to my left, almost straight at me, below the well-worn track. There were several hemlock saplings between us, but when she reached my first lane, she spotted me and stopped. I had my

pin on the back half of her left shoulder, and I steadied my focus there. She was slightly quartered-to, and so close that I could see her individual muscle strands tighten.

I let the arrow fly before she could figure out what to do, or what I was.

Thop! I watched her bound once, trot, stop, flick her tail, walk some, and fall over. Dead doe.

* * *

Time meant nothing and held no power. A Golden-crowned Kinglet landed on a branch over my right shoulder and sang, and then another doe came through on the well-worn path. She wandered off, maybe oblivious, maybe just moving on in a most natural way. I never heard a step.

The woods went quiet with just a whisper of wind slipping through the hemlocks. I sat there and thought some on death as an offering of life, waiting to walk up to my kill, a kill that would sustain friends and family through the long winter calm.



New York Bowhunters, Inc. 2020 Annual Banquet and Event Schedule

FRIDAY, MAY 1

All Day: Free Golf for NYB Guests who have checked in. Register at Lake Club House.

All Day: Free 3D Course open all day.

6:00 pm: Lakeside BBQ and Meet & Greet followed by campfire.

SATURDAY, MAY 2

Free 3D Course open from 8am to 11 am

8:00 am Breakfast for checked in guests

9:30 am Registration & Can Raffles Open

10:00 am Novelty shooting events start

11:45 am End novelty shooting events for AM period

Noon Lunch at Lakeside Pavilion

1:00 pm Annual Membership Meeting (Armae Hall)

2:00 pm Can Raffle and novelty shooting events reopen

2:30 pm Final rounds in the "Elk Target" shoot off

3:00 pm Last chance at Can Raffles

3:00 pm End PM novelty shooting events

3:15 pm Can Raffle Drawing (must be present to win)

5:00 pm Social hour (Cash Bar)

6:00 pm Dinner (including guest speaker, followed by live auction)

SUNDAY, MAY 3

8:00 am Breakfast

8:30 am Golf open to NYB guests.

9:00 am 3D Course will be open to guests all day.

Kirk Munn & Shelley Carson

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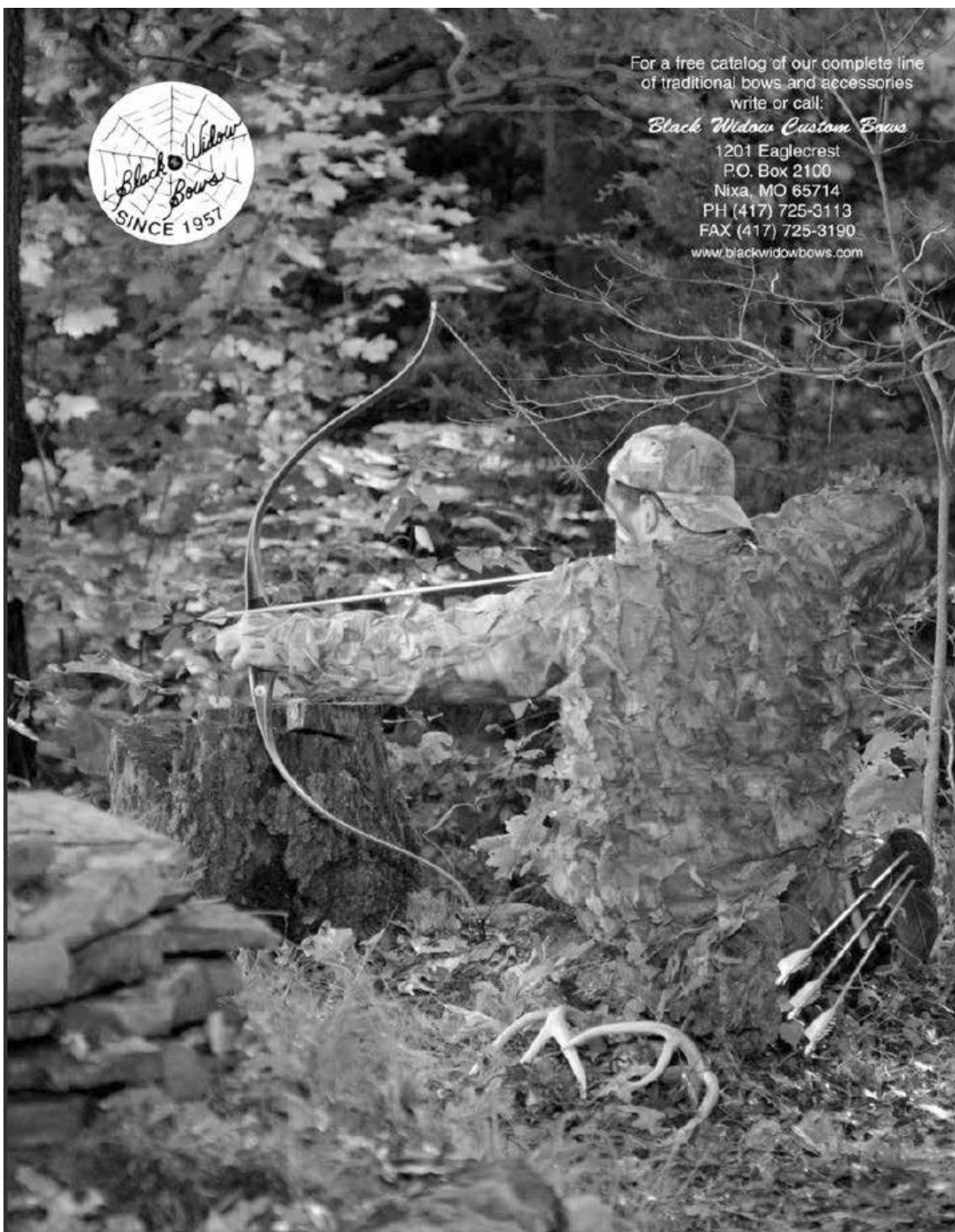
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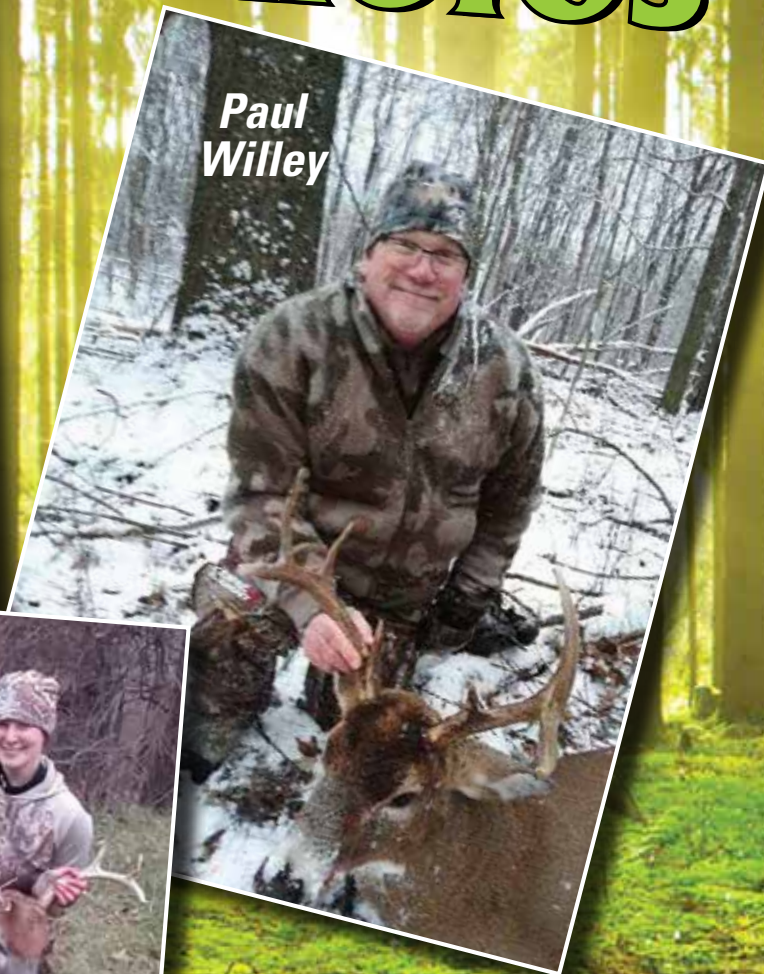
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