

FULLDRAW

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NEW YORK BOWHUNTERS, INC.

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SUMMER



***Jeremy
Kraus***

IN THIS ISSUE:

Suffern NY Outdoor Sport Show	21
New York State Hunting Safety Statistics	20
Open Letter To The Anti-Hunters	10
Letter to NYB	4

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From the President's Desk

Hello everyone. I hope that everyone is well and that your loved ones are well also. This is the first ever digital edition of *Full Draw*. Due to the world wide pandemic caused by COVID-19, we, NYB, Inc, has had to make some pretty drastic decisions. I hope that you have received the letter detailing these, and the reasoning behind them.



We also posted the letter on our website, our Instagram page, our FaceBook page, and I also put a message up on the NY Forum of Bowsite and on the PowWow on the TradGang Forum. Please check our website and the other above mentioned forms of social media for updates.

This period in our lives is unprecedented and is something we will never forget. Our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will read about this and ask us questions because we were there, and we lived through it. This has touched us all in many different ways. Some have suffered from the virus itself, others have lost someone from the virus, some have had to deal with the multiple hardships of quarantine, but we will get through it.

Our members are the best around, their kindness and generosity goes beyond anything imaginable. Several have sent in donations to NYB and to NYB programs such as Camo to Camo. Others have called the office and told Annie not to refund their Banquet tickets, but to keep it as a donation to the organization during these hard times. These acts are so very much appreciated and it means so much to me. Thank you all who have done so.

As bowhunters, and hunters in general know, we eat what we kill. Having a freezer that has nature's bounty in it is a little boost of confidence during uncertain times. Wild game that has been processed correctly from field to freezer gives organic nourishment that not only fuels your body but your soul as well. While I did not kill a deer this year, my cousin did, and as always we shared in the meat. Boneless and vacuum sealed, ready for the freezer, it will last 2-3 years if needed.

This is the advantage that we have over the average citizen. We have the ability to provide healthy sustenance for our families. Some, most, or all of our food does not come in a Styrofoam tray. We know where it was killed or fished from, because we killed it or hooked it!

Normally, most of this column would be describing the Banquet. I would talk about the Friday night BBQ either by the lake or up at the Pavillion. I would talk about the rekindling and making of friendships. I would talk about how Ed Gorch once again made sure that everything was in place and just right for us. I would talk about those that we have lost, honored, and celebrated during the evening ceremonies. I would talk about our Guest Speaker and how Jim's bowhunting adventures took us right there along with him. I would talk about how wonderful Gail and Gary were, and all of the staff at Sunny Hill. I would thank all of the volunteers and all who donated items. I would talk about how selfless everyone was that attended. I would talk about how this was my last Banquet as President and I could not be more proud of you, our membership. But sadly, I cannot talk about any of that because none of it happened. The memories could not be made. The joy could not be had.

Continues on next page

This is why next year's Banquet in 2021, which, by the way will be NYB's 30th Anniversary, is going to be that much more special. Please make every effort to attend. And yes, I am hyping it early!

On Instagram and FaceBook there is a page called Urban Archery NYC. It is run by Cliff, who also has podcasts linked to the account. He recently interviewed our very own Samantha DiVietro. I will be doing one with him in the near future. Cliff just got into bowhunting last year. During this year's Spring Turkey Season, he harvested a bird. Congratulations Cliff!

Look for a mailing during August for your Fall Raffle tickets.

Stay safe and stay vigilant.

May God bless us all, especially those who protect us from all threats, foreign and domestic, those who are deployed and their families for their sacrifice, and for those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms.

May God bless USN Fleet Forces Command.

All the best, Al.

A Letter to NYB

From Richard Batt

Hello NYB,

I have to write to thank NYB for everything you do. I am a proud member of NY Bowhunters and a member of Metropolitan Rod and Gun Club (NYB Booster). Your great organization has been a meeting place for archers of every type both for our great archery community and for me personally, now more than ever as we are not able to be together.

I have been involved in archery for over forty years in almost every form. Over thirty years ago I was enrolled in CUNY at Lehman when I first met Rich Kirschner. Rich was part of a great team which was introducing archery to this Bronx College. In addition to coaching, Rich was an FDNY Firefighter in the Bronx. I had been shooting bows from an early age, so taking the archery class and then joining the varsity archery team soon became the best part of my time at the college. Taking the bus from my home to the college with my bow, I somehow always got a seat!

The archery team looked very much like the cast from the old TV show, Welcome Back Kotter. Rich was so upbeat and so devoted to this team that the Lehman Archery Team quickly became a force to be reckoned with. Our team, most of whom had grown up in the city had never even seen a bow before, advanced so rapidly under Rich's coaching we became the New York State Collegiate Champions before the team was a year old!! I still remember how much Rich and his wonderful wife, Debra, would encourage us to become the best we could be.

Rich encouraged and enabled me to go to The World Archery Center (TWAC) which was an Olympic training center where I first archived my archery instructor license. I urge every archer to take this course as it is a great way to reach a higher archery knowledge and to give back to our community.

After my time at Lehman I went on to the University of Buffalo where I was a founding member of the UB Archery club which is still offering archery to the students of that college. I went on the work overseas in China and the Holy land. The years passed, I got married, had children and became a part-time Rabbi. My archery was still there but sadly not as much as I would wish. My older son was working with refugees from the former Soviet Union when they were gifted a grant for archery equipment. They needed someone with my set of archery skills to bring them up to speed and everyone had a great time. After that I was happily surprised by the opening of an archery class next to my office in downtown Brooklyn. Hidden Gems Archery is a great organization whose goal is to introduce archery to communities underserved by our great sport. I was taken on as an instructor almost at once. Hidden Gems Archery has a long-term relationship with Metropolitan Rod and Gun Club and has graduated many of Metro's leadership the Archery teaching classes. I was blessed with becoming a member of Metro Rod and Gun Club and became a range officer for the archery range under the leadership of NYB's own John Jasilli.

A few years ago, Rich Kirschner gave a seminar at Metro Rod and Gun club and it was the first time we were brought together in thirty years! I asked Rich two questions, how little weight had he gained in that much time and what does he think of compound bows mechanical releases. He was a big fan of a shooting glove back in the day, and he admitted he had gained less than 10 lbs in all that time! Rich is still I am happy to say, a Rock, and yes he does now occasionally use a mechanical release.

So now we in NYC are all locked up and working from home due to this sad time. Our archery ranges are all dark and we are all waiting for our nation to heal. I have to write you of a happy time and a reunion of two old archery friends. I hope we can all shoot together soon.

Thank you for everything

Richard Batt

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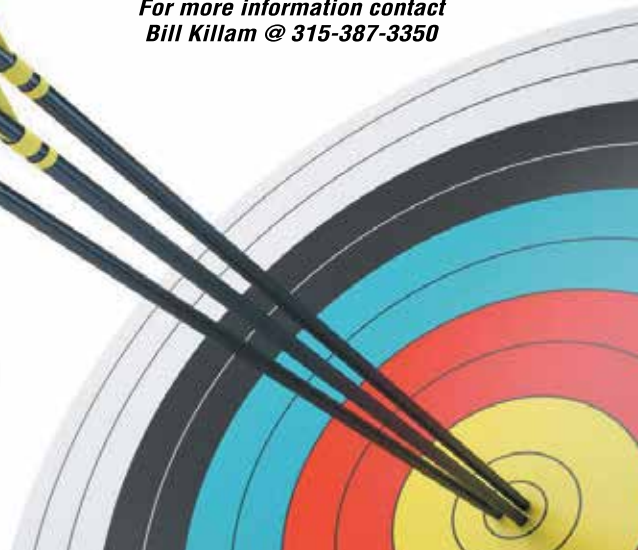
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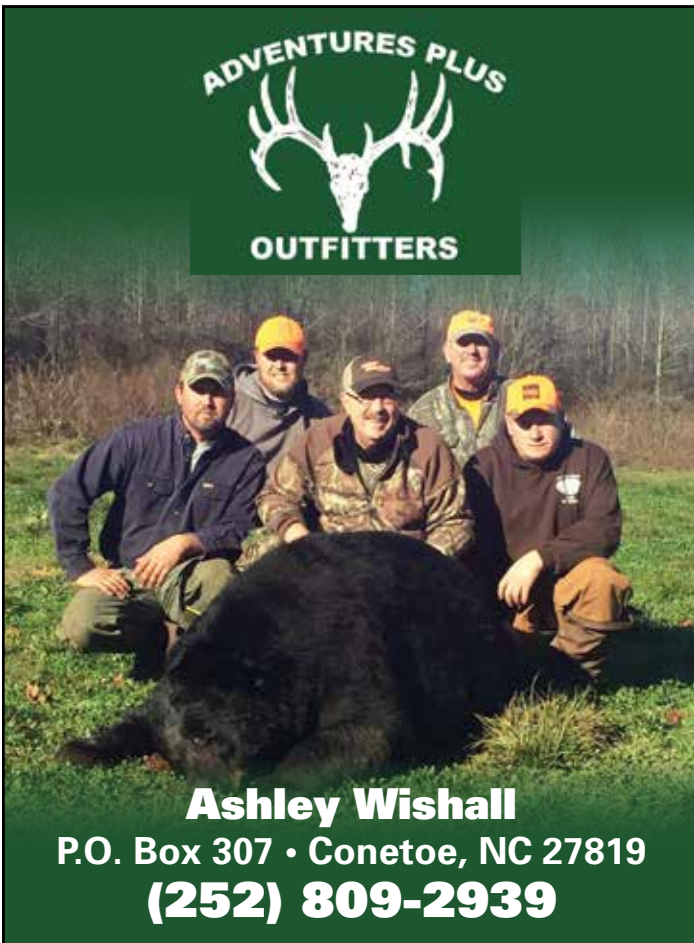
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Open Letter To The Anti-Hunters

Dear Anti-hunter,

I write to you from Africa where I live on the Matlabas River in South Africa and where I run quite a successful hunting outfit. I own the land which is teeming with wildlife: an incredible diversity of herbivores, predators, birds, reptiles, grasses, trees and shrubs. I am happy to say that we are able to conserve this ecosystem because of hunting income.

I specifically want to talk to the anti-hunting fraternity, especially those who give themselves out as “animal lovers” and who regard the likes of me as blood thirsty killers, mass murderers, psychopaths, the scum of the earth, and whatever other insult you can think up. I want to talk to the anti-hunting fanatics who live somewhere in north America or Europe but who think they know best how the people in Africa should manage their wildlife and wildernesses.

Since I hunt on private land in South Africa, I will restrict my comments to this land. Perhaps we can talk on another occasion about state owned land or tribal land.

Some of you may have a genuine interest in wildlife and wild places and you may really care, and I respect you for that. I just hope that you will be able to adjust your misguided sentiments to the realities of 21st century conservation.

Most of you have never been to Africa. Some of you may have visited a game reserve somewhere in Africa and now that you have been to one of the tourist traps you think you know it all. But you don't. You know nothing about the human-wildlife conflict that we have to face on an ongoing basis, you know nothing about the poaching and the serious risks it poses to African wildlife, you know nothing about the poverty, corruption, incompetent government, poor governance, droughts, diseases or any of the other difficulties that we have to deal with out here in the African bush. Nor do you know anything of the different methods of land ownership in Africa and what it means for wildlife and conservation. You understand nothing about ecosystems, biomes, veld types or the carrying capacity of the land for grazers, browsers and mixed feeders. You have not studied wildlife management

nor do you have any practical experience, yet you think you are qualified to prescribe to us how manage our wildlife resources.

Some of you are not only against hunting, but also against conservation and wildlife management.... despite all the conservation successes achieved over the years. We do not understand your bizarre view of the world, but perhaps you think that Africa is one big zoo where animals and people naturally live in perfect harmony and where no intervention is necessary. Since hunting outfitters like me are primarily conservationists, we find it difficult to see how there can be any common ground between us and you as long as you are opposed to conservation. We can only hope and pray that you will wake up to the real world that we live in.

Then there are the vegans amongst you who believe that we should not eat meat! I have one fundamental question for you: “How much more habitat do you wish to take away from wildlife so that we can grow your carrots and salads for you?”

I have often been at the receiving end of your hatred and have been subjected to curses, insults and foul language that I have not encountered from any other quarters, and have received lots of hate-mail and wishes for my death, but this only makes my resolve stronger to continue with the good cause of “conservation through sustainable utilisation.” It is unfortunate that the anti-hunting cabaal is unable to see that their heathen-like behaviour will only drive hunters and conservationists further away from the so-called “animal lovers.”

You call me a killer and a murderer because I shoot animals on a sustainable basis. Yet most of you appear to be in favour of unrestricted abortion of human babies. So, you think it is



Nyala bull. The hunting industry has enabled the nyala to expand its distribution range in South Africa significantly.

perfectly in order to kill an unborn human baby, for whatever reason, but if I shoot an impala I am the bad guy! Bizarre indeed and hypocrisy in the extreme!

You often tell me that I hunt simply to satisfy my insatiable blood lust. So, let me explain why I am in the hunting business. I do this first and foremost because I see myself as a conservationist and because I believe in “conservation through sustainable utilisation.” If you are also opposed to conservation, then I suppose we have nothing to say to one another. This is not a “get-rich-quick” business. If money was a major driver in my life, I could have followed any of a number of other far more profitable careers. But I choose to run a business where our carbon footprint is very limited. The question is: “What business are you in and how does your carbon footprint look?” You live in a world characterised by materialism, consumerism and pollution. So, how much do you contribute to the polluted world that you choose to live in? I have committed all my resources to my land and my wildlife and the conservation thereof. The next question is: “What is your commitment to the natural environment, other than spitting venom all over the social media? How much of your money have you committed to your beloved animals?” The bottom line is that I am not wealthy, but I am proud of what I am doing.

Unlike most countries in Africa, the South African wildlife management model permits private ownership of land and wildlife. Consequently, many landowners have turned away from agriculture and have made their land available for wildlife. There are about 10,000 of us across the country. These private conservationists have been phenomenally successful in their conservation efforts and have played a major role in bringing a number of species back from the brink of extinction. These include black wildebeest, blesbok and bontebok. Species such as kudu, red hartebeest, gemsbok, sable and nyala have also been able to expand their distribution ranges and are now found in areas where they previously never occurred. Fact is that South Africa now has more wildlife than at any time during the last 150 years with the exception of a few species such as springbok.

The government's conservation agencies have done a splendid job in running the national parks and reserves, but the private sector have done even better. Private land under wildlife now exceeds the government's parks and reserves by about seven times in hectares. The same goes for the number of wildlife animals. All of this due to the hunter's dollars. Yet you think it is appropriate to hate us for this just because we have to shoot a few animals each year in order to make this conservation model work.

Perhaps the anti-hunting movement will succeed in having more bans and restrictions imposed on hunting, and you may rejoice with misplaced glee. But know this: you will have succeeded in the most heinous crime against wildlife. If outfitters like me are no longer allowed to hunt on our land, the wild animals will have to be removed and the land turned

over to the ‘plough and the cow’ or to housing development, or some other development. In South Africa millions of wild animals will have to be destroyed to facilitate alternative land uses. The loss of biodiversity will not be confined to the flagship species which you usually rant and rave about (like lions and elephants) but will include species of mammals, birds, reptiles and plants that you have not even heard of. Wildlife will be restricted to a few national parks and reserves, exposing many species to significant increased risk. And you anti-hunters will be responsible, just like you are responsible for the demise of wildlife in countries like Kenya. This ought to be regarded as a crime against humanity.

Sincerely

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FULL DRAW

REGION REPORTS

REGION 1 REPORT

Hello members! For many of us March and April have not been to pleasant with all that has happened with COVID-19. My heart goes out to those infected, as well as anyone whom has lost a loved one. One thing is for sure, social distancing would be a lot more enjoyable if it were November, but unfortunately it is not. This does not mean we cannot get out and still enjoy the outdoors.

For those of you looking for something to keep busy, consider scouting out some new potential hunting spots, plant food plots, do some fishing, build your dream tree stand, and shoot some arrows! In addition, NYS is now offering the Bowhunter education course online. For those interested they can visit bowhuntered.com.

To those of you whom stopped by the Suffern Show in RCC, thank you, and welcome to any new members who joined during the show. As I know most were notified, this year's banquet will not be taking place due to the current pandemic. However, an online auction is likely to take place for hunts and items meant for the banquet's raffle. Check into the New York

Bowhunters website for updates. In addition, I'd like to remind our members, if you shop on Amazon, sign up on Smile.

Amazon.com and select New York Bowhunters as a charity to support. With each purchase NYB receives up to 1% of all sales without any expense to you. This is a fantastic way to support this organization, especially during a time like this.

In conclusion, I'd like to say thank you, and God bless our essential workers, they are much appreciated at a time like this. Please stay safe, and stay healthy.

Mike Farrugia
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REGION 3 REPORT

If I ever again hear the phrase, “flatten the curve” the only thing it better be referring to is arrow trajectory, not a virus!! I sincerely hope my NYB family made it through the last few crazy months, medically and mentally as well as could be expected. I know many of you had the additional risk and stress as “essential workers” as well. Thank you all. Among the many cancelled events, for many of us the Banquet was a big loss. As a statewide organization, this is the one day a year and only opportunity for so many of us to renew friendships, shoot a few arrows and break bread together. Unfortunately with the cancellation of the Banquet and loss of revenue from that event, the difficult decision to limit this and the next issue of *Full Draw* to an online version only had to be made. I know many of you do not rely on technology for reading, myself included. I love and still crave something physical in my hand to read: a book, magazine, newspaper etc. I hope the membership thinks *Full Draw* is important enough to read it online. Not doing so would be a shame, as the contributors put in a lot of time and effort and it is our main vehicle with which to stay connected to the membership. We are hopeful that we will be returning to the hard copy as we begin 2021.

There were several members who had already put down a deposit for the banquet and graciously turned down the refund in order to make a donation! Several other members, realizing the financial burden the loss of the banquet caused, sent in cash donations!! I have always thought bowhunters, and archers are the most considerate and kind people of all the outdoor sports groups. I guess I shouldn't be surprised by the generosity, and thank you all so much. As you have always heard me say, to those of you that simply continue to support NYB through your annual memberships and raffle purchases, you are NYB's backbone, and this year more than ever. PLEASE renew your membership when you get your notice (or before, you can always extend at anytime).

Welcome aboard to the newest member of the Region 3 Team, Randy Kyrk. Randy has begun serving NYB as the new Westchester County Representative. Randy is a passionate, longtime hunter/outdoorsman and I look forward to having him join us. His contact info appears at the end of his report.

For those of you new members who signed up at the Suffern Show, welcome and please feel free to make contact with your county and region reps if for no other reason than to just say hello and introduce yourselves. We love hearing from our local membership.

For those of you that are in the podcast world, here's one for you. “When-the-Hunt-Calls.” Its host, Cliff Cadet, is an aspiring new bowhunter from NYC who invites all to follow his early journey as he learns and develops. He invites guests who can share with him and his audience their passion and knowledge of bow hunting. He has already had two of our Region 3 members as guests. Chris Murray, whose air date was April 17

and NYB's very own “Instagram Queen,” Samantha

DiVietro, aired on April 28. Both were great interviews and gave NYB nice plugs. Make sure you check out these and the many other enjoyable and interesting guests and interviews.

As of now we still do not know if National Hunting and Fishing Day will be held on September 26 at Congers Lake. If it does go on, we'll be looking for volunteers to help run the archery event. If you can help us out for a few hours and spread the joy of archery to a few hundred youngsters, shoot me an email and let me put you on the “helper list” in case it goes off as planned.

Till next time, have a great summer. Stay safe and healthy, drop me an email or call with your concerns or opinions,

Richard Kirschner
bowrichny@aol.com
914 330 1419

SULLIVAN COUNTY REPORT

Not much new in the archery world from Sullivan County. This virus situation has pretty much shut everything down. Leagues and 3D shoots are all cancelled, as is the annual Archery Youth Camp we usually hold in July. I will miss the annual banquet at Sunny Hill as I enjoy every part of those few days.

The DEC reported a record take of black bears last season, and Sullivan County played a big part in that. The southern part of the county and a small portion of Orange County that makes up WMU 3K harvested 2.9 bears for a 10 square mile area, with the Town of Tusten having the largest take of 4 bears for that same area. Also taken right in my hometown of Thompson was a bear of 643 pounds, dressed weight, so that bear was well over 700 pounds!

With this pandemic hitting us and a lot of guys and girls out of work, this turkey season should show an increase of hunters in the woods. Our turkey population is still down in my area but at least we can get out into the woods for fresh air and exercise. Hope you had some success or at least some fun chasing those thunder chickens!

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

REGION 3 REPORT - continued from previous page**ROCKLAND COUNTY REPORT**

Hello members. I hope winter was a good one for you and your family. This spring has brought some times upon us we have never seen and hope to never see again. Perhaps this issue of *Full Draw* will help fill a portion of your day while you are home waiting out this virus. NYB is suffering like so many other entities that require human interaction in order to prosper. Our annual banquet as well as other dinners (Friends of the NRA) were cancelled. Those events provided a major source of funds to keep the NYB's wheels turning and looking after archery in NYS.

I hope you were able to buy the raffles that were sent out in the last mass mailings. The hard mailing costs NYB a few dollars and it would really be great if we get that dough back in the form of members buying the raffles. Not only is it a good chance at winning gears and hunts, but you are supporting your club as well. Thank you. While you are home reading this, check your membership expiration date also, simply give Annie at the NYB office a call. Hard mailings to remind that your membership is up cost the club money. Help us out. Check and renew online. Another way you can help the club is if you make any purchases on Amazon. You can elect to have NYBowhunters get a piece of that sale up to 1% sometimes. It does not cost the buyer any more. Just the purchase needs to be made from the Amazon Smile page. If you search Amazon charities it will direct you how to register so NYB can flourish as a 501 C3 corp and get the donations made by Amazon. It is free money for NYB.

I also would like to give a shout out to our Instagram Director Sammy DiVietro. She has been doing an incredible job with Instagram keeping NYB current, and in the loop while NYB stays relevant in the NY hunting world. Social media is how the word gets out now and NYB is part of it. Help spread the word. Thank you, Samantha, for all you do for NYB. With the next generation of young adults like you being involved, I know NYB has many more years of longevity.

Now how about some deer talk? I have taken a few walks in the woods for sheds and had no luck. My son Joe is a shed magnet. He always finds 'em. We bumped a few deer on our walks and the surviving herd looks to be in great shape with the mild winter we had. Ticks...The ticks are out in force! I pulled a few off of me, and my son Joe pays a heavy price each year. He is not only a shed magnet, but he is also a tick magnet. He got to them before they became an issue.

NYS hunters took just about 225,000 deer this past season. Down about 1.5% from last year. Maybe some of those deer made it to your freezer.

In closing, I hope you and your family stay healthy as we go through 2020. Try to get someone new involved in the outdoors. Remember the best thing you can spend on kids is time. May God Bless our Brave First responders and our Military.

Anthony Picariello
ADjam5@verizon.net

DUTCHESS COUNTY REPORT

Greetings All,

It is with the utmost regret that we had to cancel our Annual Banquet this year. Thank you to those who already had worked tirelessly to bring this event to fruition. Let's make our 30th Anniversary Banquet next year an event to remember! Due to this unmerciful COVID-19 virus, many of our members have been subjected to overwhelming grief and sorrow. Our thought and prayers are with them. Many thanks to our first responders. You are superheroes in my book.

As of this writing, turkey season is upon us. I managed to get out for a couple hours on opening day with negative results. Hope some of you had luck. For those of you who have been attending the Northeast Outdoor Show in Rhinebeck, obviously it too was canceled. As of this writing there was no mention (yet?) of an alternate date. Either way hope to see you next year.

I would also like to mention two prominent Archery Shops in Dutchess County: Flying Arrow Sports of Carmel, and Northern Dutchess Archery of Red Hook. Both have windows open if you have any archery needs. Please give them a call for their open hours.

That's about it for now—catch you in the fall. Stay Safe, Stay Healthy and have a great summer!

Keep 'em sharp,
Bob Ledrich
Dutchess County Representative NYB
ledrich@optonline.net, 845 266 0615

PUTNAM COUNTY REPORT

Greetings from Putnam County,

Hopefully this finds everyone healthy and safe in these challenging times. I found this year's Turkey season as a big step towards things becoming normal again. With all the birds I've seen this year I am sure that the success rate will be high.

As everyone knows, we had to cancel this year's Banquet - Rendezvous due to the Coronavirus. Although there was a law against public gatherings it was the right thing to do to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our members. The Rendezvous is the single largest fundraiser for our organization and will hurt us financially. Whatever anyone can do to help would be greatly appreciated. Renewing your memberships ASAP and purchasing raffle tickets as they become available will help NYB stay afloat.

As soon as we are able, let's all solicit our boosters and advertisers. These businesses believed in us when we need them and we need to now help them when we can. Visit your local archery pro shop, taxidermist, etc..

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

ULSTER COUNTY REPORT

Well folks as you all know, not much been happening! I did venture out to my camp during the great 2020 lockdown and it was like a ghost town. Fished but no bites. Will be doing a little turkey hunting as the month of May just began as of this writing, I'll get back to you on how that went. As far as how the 2019 Deer harvest in Ulster went, 2,277 bucks were taken which was 46 more than the year before. And the total deer take in Ulster was 3,681 which was remarkably just 21 (.05%) more deer than the year before. So the 2019 Ulster deer kill was virtually the same as it was in 2018. I'm not sure what that means but it is interesting how many of us will claim we saw a lot more or a lot less deer from year to year, but overall it is probably usually pretty close when a large data sampling is collected (other than those year's we experience extreme harsh winters.)

I really missed seeing everyone at the banquet, which of course was cancelled. So much work had already gone into the planning. I'm sure next year, NYB's 30th Anniversary, will be bigger and better than ever.

Till next time, stay healthy and safe,
Bob DiGiacomio, Ulster Co Rep
shorefisher07@gmail.com

ORANGE COUNTY REPORT

Hello fellow members and friends. I report with sadness the passing of fellow NYB member and best friend Dan Foley. Dan was an avid outdoorsman with a passion for bow hunting. I had the honor of working alongside him in the FDNY Rescue Company 3 for the past 14 years. He was the best of the best in everything he did. He was recognized on multiple occasions for meritorious acts and was awarded several department medals for acts of bravery. At his last fire he crawled through a burning apartment in the Bronx and saved 2 children and was awarded the FDNY Emerald Society Medal. Toughest guy I ever knew with a heart of gold. Dan lost his battle with 9/11 related pancreatic cancer back in February. He also lost his brother Tommy (FDNY Rescue 3) on 9/11 and is survived by his wife Carrie, 5 children and sister, Joanne. Rest easy brother... You will be greatly missed and never forgotten.

I would also like to send good wishes and health to all of our NYB family who are sick and struggling from this COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you to our healthcare workers, first responders, military and retailers who are keeping us safe and healthy during these most difficult times. May you all find peace and comfort going forward in the upcoming weeks and months and help us all get through this together.

I had the pleasure of taking fellow NYB member Carlo Longobardo and two youngsters Joey and Ethan out for youth turkey weekend. What a great morning we had—both connected with two longbeards both over 20 lbs with 9 inch beards! Making memories! I followed that up with an opening day success story of my own with a gobbler tipping the scales at 23 lbs with a 10 1/2 inch beard. The warm weather is upon

us and that means one thing...TICKS!!! Please take all the necessary precautions and check yourself thoroughly every time you come inside. Be safe, enjoy the great outdoors which our military works and fights to protect for us each and every day.

God Bless the USA
Chris Smith
Orange County Rep
hosehead54@optonline.net

WESTCHESTER COUNTY REPORT

Congratulations to everyone who had a successful spring turkey season, and to those who simply grabbed their bows and headed into the woods to bring some regularity back to their lives with some good old-fashioned self-isolation in their favorite camouflage. 2020 has brought us trials unlike any other in recent history, and together we will endure and overcome. I would like to thank those of you who serve our communities as first responders, nurses, doctors and medical care givers. You are appreciated and your hard work has given and done more good than you will ever know! As for me, my name is Randy Kyrk, and I am honored to bring you the Westchester County report for Region 3. I currently live in Yonkers and work for the City of New York. I grew up in rural Sullivan County where I was blessed to spend the majority of my childhood learning hunting, trapping, taxidermy, and conservation from my Grandfather, George Pierro. He was a great man who proved hard work and dedication was the prescription for a good life. He was a member of the White Sulphur Spring's Sportsman's club as the delegate/chairman for the small game committee, and served as President of the Sullivan County Wild Turkey Association. It was the time spent under his wing as a child that would shape my adult life. I later spent a large amount of my time with my mother Nancy Pierro participating in 4H and eventually helping my mother while she worked at Mandrake Mountain Archery in Monticello, NY. Through many archery events I would eventually meet Harry Walker and became a traditional enthusiast. As most of us do, I grew away from those early teachings in pursuit of a career, it wasn't until 2015 and the birth of my first child that the call of those simpler days would awaken my love of the outdoors and the importance of teaching him everything I learned as a child.

Enough about me, let's talk about hunting! The Westchester Department of Parks is going to open a 2020 Deer Management Season, I spoke to a representative from the Parks Department who will inform me when they have set the season dates and properties to be opened for Bowhunting, along with application deadlines and marksmanship testing dates. I will post the information on Instagram and Facebook when I receive it. Also feel free to reach out to me on my cell phone or by email, listed below. If last year's season is any indication it will conform with regular season dates along with assigned days and hours depending on what property is being hunted, and a marksmanship test will be required along with an issued parks department permit. In 2019 special hunting access was granted for sections of Muscoot Farm, Lasdon Park, Arboretum in Somers, Ward Pound Ridge Reservation in Cross River, Mountain Lakes Park in North Salem, Hilltop Hanover in Yorktown Heights, and John E. Hand Bald Mountain Park in Yorktown.

In 2019 Westchester saw an increased harvest of adult bucks from 599 in 2018 to 650. Great job Bowhunters! Also, Westchester recorded 2 bear harvests by Bowhunters compared to 0 in 2018. Westchester has been considered by NY DEC to be inhabitable for bears, we all know better and congratulations to those bowhunters on a filling their bear tag in Westchester.

The common bond that connects us as hunters and bowhunters is almost always due to a father or grandfather who loved hunting and cared enough for the conservation of species in New York to not only dedicate vast amounts of their personal time but also cared enough to pass what they learned down to the next generation. They knew the same as we know now that the continued success of conservation of the many game animals that we enjoy is dependent solely on the efforts of every man and woman hunter to introduce new hunters to the sport. It is a shared history for the majority of us to have fond memories of being a child in the woods with that one family member who taught you everything you know, from learning to walk without snapping every twig on the forest floor to containing your entire body from shaking when that first deer stepped into your sights. NY Bowhunter members Thomas Warkethien and his father Thomas Warkethien Sr. share that same origin. In 2019 they were able to have a successful hunt together in Westchester nearly 30 years from the first time Thomas Warkethien Sr. took young Thomas into the woods for the very first time. Thomas Sr. harvested a mature doe in Westchester, but the filled

tag was secondary to the quality time spent with his son, the culmination of years of parenting and instilling the tradition of ethical sportsmanship, simply put, "The Hunt." In 2020 as you prepare for your upcoming hunts, take the time to honor those who came before you, those who shared and gave you the love for this way of life, cherish those hours in the woods as you fill your tags, and look forward to the future as you teach your son or daughter as you were taught, or inspire a new hunter who is interested in hunting that may have not had a chance to get in the woods or never had anyone to show them how.

Continue to be great, and successful in all your adventures.

Randy Kyrk
Westchester County Rep
Rjkyrk@gmail.com, @kyrks.hunt (Instagram, Facebook)
646 295 0890



Hi guys,

Well, I'm finding it a bit difficult writing this report about hunting when hundreds of people are dying daily across the state and country. The world as we know it is changing big time, with the health department only guessing what's right or wrong. Stay home, go to work, stores closed, wear masks—it goes on and on with no end in sight.

This virus is a game changer for everyone, with all hunting shows and events being cancelled and many outfitters going out of business. With our yearly Banquet being cancelled, NYB is going to be tightening its belt a bit with an online *Full Draw* only until things improve. As many of you might know NYB is a 501(c)3 non-profit tax

deductible organization. If you would like to help out with a donation please give Annie a call in the office or drop a check in the mail... We're all in this together, take care.

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

REGION 4 REPORT



REGION 5 REPORT

Hello from Region 5!

Well now that things have slowed down just a tad here, we are getting ready to start off the 3D archery season. On March 15th we held our annual Camo to Camo benefit indoor shoot. The entire proceeds go to NYB's Camo To Camo program. This has been a special shoot not only for the club but my family personally. My youngest brother, who passed away from Agent Orange two years ago was one of the recipients of a couple of these boxes and relayed how important it was to get them not only for the goodies inside but for moral of the men and women serving our country. Over the past several years we have donated money and the kids in our youth archery program have brought in all kinds of things to send. Speaking of our youth group this year we have 50, yes 50, kids coming after school to learn how to shoot and have a good time. Volunteers Ray MacIntosh, Scott Lalonde, Mike Savage, John Hoyt, Bill Cramer, Kathy Tessier and myself have stepped up and are promoting our sport as well as

supporting our troops! As many of you know Ed and Rich attended our Northern Challenge Ice fishing derby selling 50-50 tickets.

There were 5 civic organizations that each had 10,000 tickets and ran out at 5 am. That's a total of 50,000 tickets. I bet they don't run out next year! The derby was a huge success with 1,450 participants competing for \$40,000 in cash and prizes was a sight to see. If you like to ice fish check out Tupper Lake Northern Challenge on YouTube. Lots of drone footage!!!

Dave McMahon



REGION 6 REPORT

Region 6 members will struggle to find any group activities involving Bowhunting this year. Gone are the Sports Shows, the NYB Banquet, and even our Region 6 Youth Camp at Oswagatchie. The virus is changing our life this year.

But there is still plenty to do. As most of us have lots of time off, we finally have time to read that book you bought years ago. You can Google other hunting areas to review their aerial photos. Get out there and do some scouting and get some much needed exercise. There is nothing better for your psyche than a great walk in the woods. Do it every day!

Practicing with your bow is a given for you to do with all this extra time. Tune your bow, make adjustments, or finally give traditional bowhunting a try. You are more apt to receive quality one-on-one time with your favorite archery shop during this time. Review new style compounds or some of the many accessories.

We don't expect things to change much before Bow season, so do your part to help yourself, your family, your community,

and all those on the front lines of this "war." Don't be overwhelmed with the long list of things

we cannot do due to this virus, focus on the things you can do. Such as, be so ready for Bow season that you will be extra confident of harvesting a deer this fall. Better yet, mentor a youth for hunting season this year.

Just be sure to keep yourself healthy. Without your own good health, nothing else matters.

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



In Memoriam

A tribute to those we have lost...

*In Memory of
Philip Guarnuccio*
Donated by David Klein

*In Memory of
Karl Lockwood*
1950 — 2014

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

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

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

*In Memory of
Charles Giandana*
From your NYB family.

DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER WHO HAS PASSED ON?

The New York Bowhunters' "In Memoriam" program offers a unique and meaningful way to honor and remember a friend or family member with a \$400 gift to NYB.

DONATION INCLUDES:

Custom plaque applied to an NYB Youth Camp Genesis bow with the name of the individual who passed, the deceased's name is registered in the "In Memoriam" section of *FullDraw*, and the person purchasing the memorial will receive an appreciation plaque.

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DEC Releases New York State Hunting Safety Statistics for 2019

Incident Rate Lowest Annual Total in History, Past Seven Years are Safest on Record

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos announced today that the 2019 hunting seasons in New York were the safest on record. DEC documented seven tree stand incidents and one fatality in 2019.

“Nearly 550,000 New Yorkers and visitors enjoy the sport of hunting each year and the declining number of hunting incidents confirms that today’s generation of hunters are the most safety conscious yet,” **Commissioner Seggos said.** “Thanks to the efforts of DEC staff and volunteer hunter education program instructors that teach close to 40,000 students each year, hunting has continued to be a safe and enjoyable activity in New York State.”

Of the 12 Hunting Related Shooting Incidents (HRSIs) that occurred last year, seven were two-party firearm incidents, five were self-inflicted, and one resulted in a fatality. All of these incidents could have been prevented if hunting safety rules had been followed. The one fatal incident was caused by a failure to positively identify the target.

Further examination of the seven two-party firearm incidents reveals that four of the victims involved were not wearing hunter orange, reinforcing the importance of identifying the target and beyond, and wearing hunter orange or pink when afield, two of the major principles of DEC’s hunter safety courses. For more information on hunter safety basics, visit DEC’s website.

New York State has recorded HRSI rates since the 1960s. In 1966, 166 incidents were recorded, 13 of which were fatal. In 2019, 12 incidents were recorded, one of which was fatal. While the number of hunters is declining overall, the hunting incident rate (incidents per 100,000 hunters) is falling even faster. Since the 1960s, the number of hunters in New York has declined about 20 percent, while the incident rate has declined almost 80 percent. The current five-year average is 1.8 incidents per 100,000 hunters, compared to 19 per 100,000 hunters in the 1960s.

DEC-trained and certified volunteer instructors teach safe, responsible, and ethical hunting and trapping practices and the important role of hunters and trappers in wildlife

conservation. Through more than 60 years of dedicated efforts from Volunteer Hunter Education Program Instructors, an extremely safety-conscious generation of hunters and trappers has been developed. All first-time hunters, bowhunters, and trappers must successfully complete a hunter or trapper safety course and pass the final exam before being eligible to purchase a hunting or trapping license. All courses are offered free of charge.

In 2017, DEC Commissioner Seggos directed the agency’s Environmental Conservation Police Officers (ECOs) to begin tracking and investigating tree stand injuries for the first time. Tree stand injuries are under-reported and DEC is not always notified when tree stand falls occur. In 2019, seven tree-stand incidents were reported and investigated; none were fatal. All seven incidents involved a hunter who was not wearing a body harness or the harness was not attached to the tree.

*...all of these incidents
could have been prevented
if hunting safety rules had
been followed...*

Tree stand safety has been integrated as a part of the hunter education course required of first-time hunters in New York. Tree stand incidents are becoming a major cause of hunting-related injuries. The proper use of tree-stands and tree stand safety equipment will help to prevent these injuries and fatalities. Used correctly, a harness keeps the hunter connected from the time they leave the ground to the moment they get back down.

Many, if not all tree stand incidents could be prevented if hunters follow the “ABCs” of tree stand safety:

- Always remove and inspect the tree stand before use;
- Buckle on the full body harness securely every time;
- Connect to the tree before your feet leave the ground.

While hunting is safer than ever, DEC encourages hunters to remember that every hunting-related shooting incident is preventable. Many, if not all of these incidents, could have been prevented if the people involved had followed the primary rules of hunter safety:

- Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
- Control the muzzle, keep it pointed in a safe direction.
- Identify your target and what lies beyond.
- Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to fire.
- Wear hunter orange or pink.

Suffern NY Outdoor Sport Show

Submitted by Richard Kirschner

Welcome all new members who signed up at last winter's Suffern Outdoor Show. Seventy-six of you joined for either one, two or three year memberships! A total of 15 different counties representing five different NY regions (from Long Island to the Adirondacks and everywhere in between) as well as several hunters from NJ and CT. Also stopping by were several current members to say hello to old friends, buy a raffle ticket or renew.

I'd like to thank the following members who donated their time throughout the four days to keep it going: Jim Beltrami, Rich Chizzik, Bob DiGiacomo, Mike Feruggia & Nino Borreson, Jim Gallagher, Ed Gorch, Andrew Kirschner, Greg and Anthony Masaitis, and Harry Walker. And finally Anthony Picariello who limped his way through all four days. Those of you who worked the booth on Saturday were treated to a celebrity appearance by "Uncle Warmth" himself, Jim McSwigin! Jim originally presented the NYB Board of Directors of NYB that this show would be worth the expensive cost of registration way back in 2004. And in the seventeen years we have had a presence at the Suffern Show, with this year's total over 3,000 NYB members have joined through our booth at this show!

Once again thank you and welcome to all our new members. Feel free to contact your Region and, or County representatives, if for no other reason just to introduce yourself. All our contact information is found in the Region Report section of *Full Draw*.



NYB Members signing up new members at 2020 Suffern Outdoor Show.



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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CARD EXPIRES: _____

**LET'S GET COOKIN'**

Baked Rabbit

3 rabbits, cut in quarters
 1 can cream of mushroom soup
 1 cup sliced mushrooms
 1 cup chicken broth
 1 cup sliced carrots
 4 potatoes peeled/cut in bite-sized chunks

1/4 cup flour
 1 tsp salt
 1 tsp Italian Seasoning
 1/2 tsp black pepper
 1 tsp garlic powder

PREHEAT oven to 325 degrees. Spray a large roasting pan or oven-proof Dutch oven with vegetable oil and set aside.

Combine the flour, salt, pepper, garlic and onion powder. Coat rabbit in the mixture. Fry 4 to 5 minutes in hot oil in a shallow pan until golden brown. Remove rabbit and drain well on paper towels.

Mix together the mushroom soup, mushrooms, Italian seasoning, and chicken broth in a saucepan; bring to a boil over medium heat.

Place the browned rabbit pieces in the prepared pan and cover the rabbit with the carrots and potatoes. Pour the mushroom sauce over the rabbit, carrots, and potatoes, cover, and bake in the preheated oven for 1-1/2 hours, or until the rabbit and vegetables are tender and the sauce is bubbling.



MAIL APPLICATION TO:

NYB SPIKES

5937 County Road 33
 Canandaigua, NY 14424

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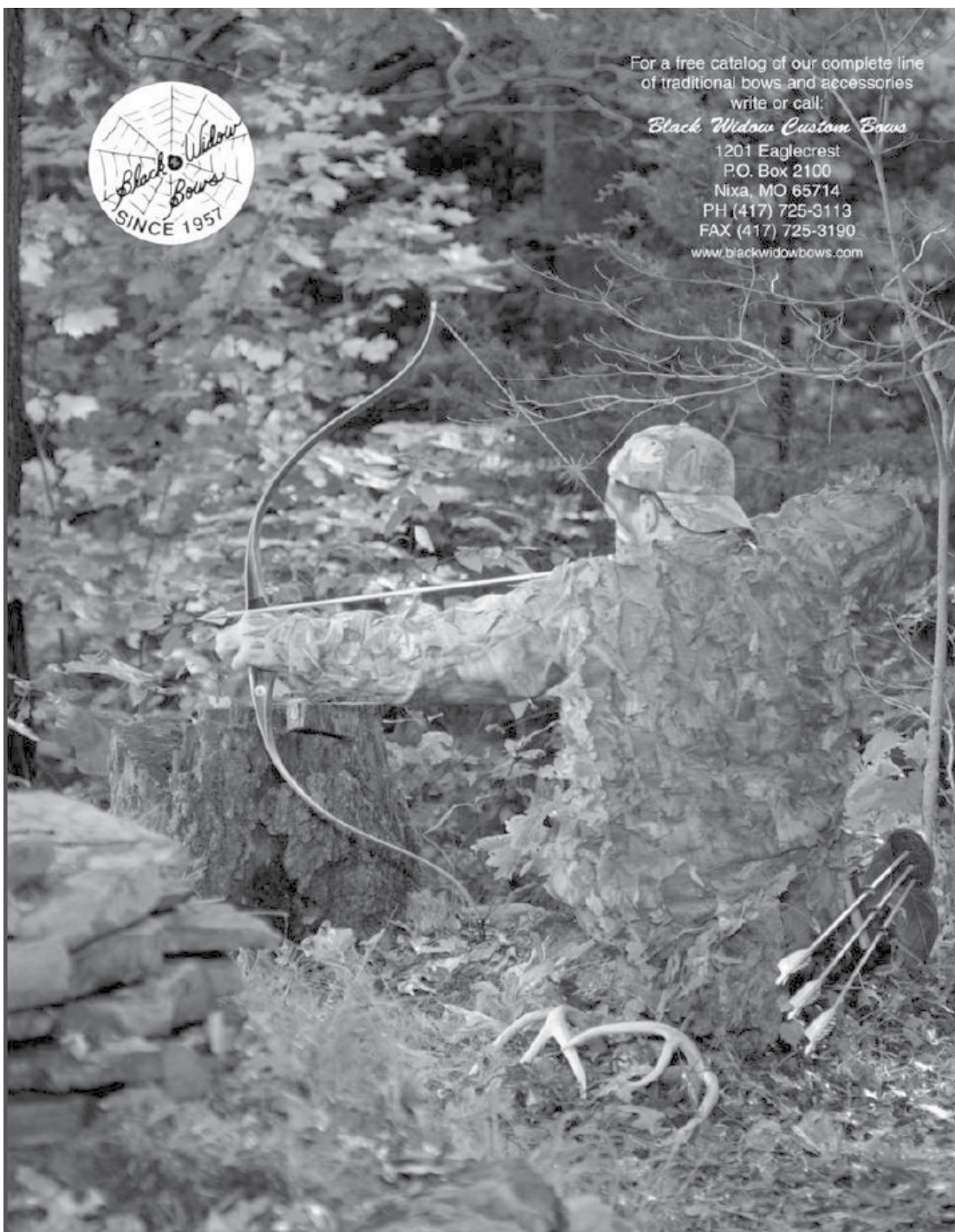
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