



ATTENTION ALL SPIKES!

WIN FREE NYB MERCHANDISE AND OTHER COOL STUFF!

This is **your** newsletter and as such should have photos, stories, drawings, and news from you in it! Send in your hunting memories, drawings, recipes, stories and photos for consideration for the next newsletter.

Photos should be in "Good Taste" with little or no blood showing, tongues tucked inside mouths, no tailgate shots, etc. Photos taken in a natural outdoor setting are best, otherwise try and position game so that homes, roads, etc. are not showing in the background. All submissions will be entered in our random drawing for the "Submission of the Month" prize.

Winners will be notified by mail and announced in the next newsletter.

Sincerely,

NY Bowhunters Spikes
c/o Cindy Phillips
233 County Highway 24
Richfield Springs NY 13439
Or email: cyn_phillips@yahoo.com

SEND IN A RECIPE YOU HAVE USED WHICH INCLUDED A WILD PLANT OR WILD GAME AS AN INGREDIENT AND WE WILL PRINT IT IN OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER. IT WILL BE ENTERED IN OUR RANDOM DRAWING FOR THE "SUBMISSION OF THE MONTH" PRIZE. REMEMBER: DON'T EAT A WILD PLANT UNTIL YOU HAVE RESEARCHED IT TO MAKE SURE IT IS SAFE!



Slow Cooked Teriyaki Venison

Ingredients

- 1 (2 pound) venison roast
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- ⅓ cup unsweetened apple juice
- ⅓ cup Kikkoman teriyaki marinade
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 3 tablespoons cold water
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch



Directions

Cut venison roast in half and rub with brown sugar. Place roast into a slow cooker and add the apple juice, teriyaki, and salt. Cover and cook on Low setting for 6 hours or until meat is tender. Remove meat from slow cooker, cover, and let stand for 15 minutes.

Pour drippings through strainer into medium sized bowl, place juices in sauce pan and discard material in strainer. In a small bowl, combine water and cornstarch until smooth; stir into cooking juices until well combined. Cover and cook on High until thickened, about 15 minutes, stirring often. Slice meat and serve with gravy.

How to Shoot Accurately on a Steep Grade

The world isn't flat nor is it perfectly round — at least from the perspective of bowhunters faced with a shot at mountain game, or from elevated positions. The Earth's surface is made up of irregular topographical ups and downs, terrain peaks and troughs, hillsides and gully bottoms. What this means is eventually the average bowhunter will find themselves shooting up at a target, or down (sometimes at angles that are quite steep). As bowhunters we often like to climb into trees, lifting our presence and scent above the sharp eyes and noses of big game animals, especially the white-tailed deer. This also creates a situation where we're shooting down on our quarry from above. And that's when archers often make mistakes.

Shooting steeply uphill or down presents two major problems; proper shooting form in relation to targets off the level, and accurate range estimation and how that directly affects where we hold or which pin we choose to place our shots. The flat-ground, target-shooting hotshot can find themselves missing when faced with tilted terrain. Here is some advice on how to prepare for and deal with shooting from an angle.

Bend at the Waist when Shooting Down

We all have a solid idea of what proper shooting form looks like, but it bears repeating to illustrate how it must not change when faced with uneven terrain. On a basic level, proper shooting form includes creating a square "T" of the extended bow arm, through the arrow at full draw and into the drawing-arm elbow. The head and shoulders sit square over the hips, feet slightly spread, rear foot 90 degrees to the target, front foot splayed outward slightly. This creates the steadiest and most solid shooting base and is part of any consistent shooting program.

The key to maintaining that all-important T form is first learning to lock into solid form before the shot, and then bending only at the waist while aiming at the target. Think of the bow arm, arrow and draw arm as the compass needle inside one of those gyroscopic auto-dashboard compasses. It remains static. The waist becomes the gyro mechanism this true-north needle swivels on, the target the magnetic pull. This applies whether standing, kneeling or sitting on a stand seat. When shooting at an animal situated steeply uphill, bend over backwards to make the shot.

Getting the Right Range Measurement

The other problem in uneven terrain is getting an accurate range on sloping shots, especially while using a laser rangefinder. The main problem is straight-line ranging on tilted terrain does not give you a true measure of distance. More laser rangefinders today come equipped with compensated ranging technology, so they contain an internal inclinometer that automatically calculates slope angle and does the math for you, providing an accurate geometric range instead of the straight-line yardage. They are great tools and save time during sudden appearances of game.

Still, if you don't own a laser rangefinder with compensating technology you can get accurate distance readings with a few simple tricks. Compensated yardage is most easily determined from a tree-stand. This begins well before the appearance of game. After installing yourself on stand, or just after first light, take the time to earmark ranges around your ambush site. Here's the trick; instead of taking laser pops directly off patches of ground, sticks or stumps at ground level, take readings off of tree trunks or branches on the level and straight across from where you sit. By approaching range-finding in this manner you receive the compensated range for any animal standing at the bases of those trees.

Conclusion

White-tailed deer, in particular, are generally shot at close ranges. So why do we miss easy shots from a treestand? Up or downhill shots are likely the culprit caused by improper shooting form or range judging. Use this information to avoid common pitfalls, and score on those hard-earned shot opportunities from stands or in steep mountain terrain.



Winter Word Search

Directions: The words are hidden vertically and horizontally.

F	S	A	K	O	H	S	E	G	L	O	V	E	S
S	N	W	I	B	A	L	W	I	N	T	E	R	S
K	O	L	M	I	T	T	E	N	S	I	F	M	N
A	W	K	F	A	S	O	G	R	P	O	I	A	O
T	B	E	V	E	R	G	R	E	E	N	R	F	W
E	A	S	C	O	C	O	A	M	N	B	E	I	M
I	L	O	E	K	H	S	S	A	G	O	P	S	A
W	L	C	S	W	I	C	O	E	U	O	L	K	N
S	N	O	W	F	L	A	K	E	I	T	A	I	E
C	O	A	E	M	L	R	P	V	N	S	C	P	M
A	R	T	S	I	Y	F	S	L	E	D	E		



Word Box:

winter	cocoa	penguin
snowman	chilly	skate
snowflake	coat	sled
snowball	hat	ski
evergreen	scarf	mittens
fireplace	gloves	boots

SPIKES SHOOTING PROFICIENCY

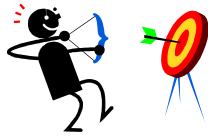
Step 1. Draw an 8" circle and from a distance of 10 yards, shoot 4 of 6 consecutive arrows within the circle. Mail in target and you will receive a Certificate.

Step 2. Draw a 6" circle and from the same 10 yards, shoot 4 of 6 consecutive arrows within the circle. Mail in this target and you will receive another Certificate.

Step 3. Draw an 8" circle and from the distance of 15 yards, shoot 4 of 6 consecutive arrows within the circle. Mail in the target and you will be mailed free NYB merchandise.

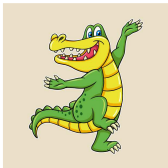
Step 4. Draw a 6" circle and from the 15 yard distance, shoot 4 of 6 consecutive arrows within the circle. Mail in the target and you will receive additional NYB merchandise in the mail.

Step 5. Draw a 3" circle and from a distance of 15 yards, shoot 2 of 3 consecutive arrows within the circle. Mail in this target and you will earn an Eagle Eye Award patch which you can proudly wear!



Good luck and may your arrow find its target!

Animal Jokes



What does a crocodile cook in?
A Crock Pot



What happens to a frog when it turns 100 years old?
It croaks



What did the elephant say when he suddenly felt chilly inside the house?
There must be a giraffe (draft) in here!



What animal on the ark was Noah most concerned about?
The woodpecker

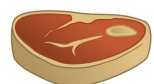
Joan: I don't think my uncle and aunt are getting along right now.

Billy: Why do you say that?

Joan: Because my uncle just went to the zoo and bought an anteater.



Why did the cow quit her job at the butcher counter?
Because her life was at "steak".



Post-Season Scouting

Did you know you can glean valuable information about next year's deer hunting by scouting after the season is over? By walking through your hunting area at the end of the season you can learn a lot about deer and how they interact with the local landscape. You can find new tree stand locations based on the information you collect, which will help you tweak your hunting approach each year to be more effective.

The real benefit of post season scouting is that you can get real-time information about the deer you hunt. You'll be following their trails and observing their habits immediately after the hunting season, which means you will know more about their patterns for next year's hunt. It's important to compare observations from pre-season and post season scouting trips so you know generally what they will do at the same time next year when they transition.

While in-season deer scouting would provide information you could use to hunt deer in the current year, there's also a high chance you could spook them out of your life forever. They could be so spooked they will not return or you can spook them into another hunter's area and they will harvest the animal.

If you hunt during the late season or in northern areas, you have an additional advantage over early season or southern hunters. Late fall or winter deer scouting works so well because the cooler temperatures will have frozen wet areas, allowing you access to some remote swamps you would never want to step foot into otherwise. That's often where mature bucks like to hide out. You also typically have snow on the ground to help with tracking deer movement. You can easily see where they have been congregating (feeding, bedding, etc.) or using specific travel corridors to get around. Additionally, the trees and underbrush are bare of leaves this time of year, which allows you to see further and find more deer sign without having to walk every square foot of forest.

The ideal conditions are after there has been a fresh snow of a couple inches. Wait 2 to 3 days to let deer move about on their daily routines, and then get out in the woods to track. The trails will be obvious to follow, and the snow depth is shallow enough to easily interpret a wide and long buck track versus a doe or fawn track.

Besides looking for deer sign (tracks, trails, beds, rubs, scrapes, evidence of feeding) you should also look for basic deer necessities, which include food, water, and shelter. Food sources are a good spot to start your search and might include food plots, agricultural fields, oak trees, apple trees, young woody growth from a clear-cut, etc. Water sources are more important if it's still a very hot time of year or if it's a drought year, and you will often find a focal point of deer traffic near creeks, rivers, or ponds. Finally, shelter gets more important as the winter rolls on and deer need to escape from winter winds. Good late season deer bedding areas can include dense conifer plantations, natural spruce or cedar swamps, tall CRP fields, or remote cattail islands. If you can find these areas, you should be able to find deer sign somewhere. Often it is these very areas bucks retreat to when hunting pressure is heavy.

Try looking around for a larger trail that's well-used by several deer (main doe trail) or a lone trail that has large tracks (buck trail). Keep an eye open for natural funnels or pinch points along the trail that would work well for an ambush site.

Lastly, don't forget your cameras! A big mistake many hunters make each and every year is pulling their trail cameras down days after the season closes. Don't! Camera pictures will let you know what bucks made it through the season and when the bucks drop their antlers. One of my favorite late winter/early spring activities is antler hunting. Your cameras will let you know when to start looking so you can get the freshest sheds.

So get out there and take notes. The information you gather this time of year may reap benefits next year and in the years to come.



New York Bowhunters
Youth Membership
"Spikes"

NYB's "Youth Membership" includes all youth ages 17 and under. Those between the ages of 12 to 17 will be considered "Senior Spikes." Those under 12 join as "Junior Spikes". All will receive our "Spikes" newsletter, which is geared towards hunting and contains items for the "Juniors" as well.

Membership Includes:
NYB Membership Sticker, Spikes sticker, Membership Card, and our Quarterly Newsletter.

Prizes:

Members who send in pictures, drawings, stories, etc. will be eligible for prizes.

As the driving force behind preserving bowhunting in New York, it's our responsibility as NYB members to get our children and all young hunters involved in preserving and protecting our hunting heritage for future generations.

Spikes membership is only \$10 per year.



Send Application to: NYB Spikes
5937 County Road 33
Canandaigua, NY 14424

SPIKES NAME: _____ PARENT/SPONSOR NAME _____

DOB: _____ COUNTY/REGION: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

SPONSOR ADDRESS (if different): _____

Spikes
c/o Cindy Phillips
233 County Highway 24
Richfield Springs, NY 13439

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Did you know?

The coldest temperature ever recorded on Earth was -128 degrees, measured on Antarctica in 1983.

It's never too cold to snow. Snow can always fall if it is cold out and there is moisture in the air.

The record for the most snowfall in a 24-hour period in the United States happened in Silver Lake, Colorado in 1921 when six feet and four inches of snow fell in one day!

According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the biggest snowflake on record occurred in Montana in 1887. It was eight inches by 15 inches. Try catching that on your tongue!