

# FULLDRAW

**THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NEW YORK BOWHUNTERS, INC.**

**New York State's Largest Bowhunting Organization Since 1991**  
[www.newyorkbowhunters.org](http://www.newyorkbowhunters.org)

**SUMMER  
2021**



**KAREN  
MARVIN**

**of East Islip  
and her  
drop-tine  
buck**



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# 3D SHOOTS

## REGION #5

### TUPPER LAKE ARCHERS

119 Lake Simond Rd.,  
Tupper Lake, NY 12986  
(518) 359-9715

*We suggest you call ahead to make sure the shoots are happening.*

**June 6, 2021**..... Colton 315.244.8409

**July 3, 2021**..... Norfolk (fun shoot) butlers@twcny.rr.com

**July 11, 2021**..... Colton 315.244.8409

**July 17, 2021**..... Tupper Lake Traditional Only Day\*  
518.359.9715

**July 18, 2021**..... Tupper Lake Open Classes\*  
518.359.9715

**July 24 & 25, 2021**..... Mad River 315.387.3350

**July 31, 2021**..... Norfolk (fun shoot) butlers@twcny.rr.com

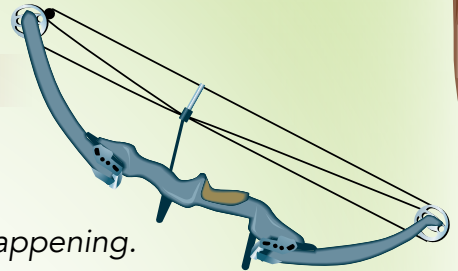
**August 28 & 29, 2021**..... Mad River 315.387.3350

**August 28 & 29, 2021**..... Tupper Lake Mt Challenge 518.359.9715

**September 4, 2021**..... Norfolk Traditional Only Day butlers@twcny.rr.com

**September 5, 2021**..... Norfolk Annual Trophy Shoot butlers@twcny.rr.com

*\*Proceeds go to Camo to Camo Program*



## REGION #3

### TI YOGI BOWMEN IN HYDE PARK

57 Mill Rd.,  
Hyde Park, NY 12538  
(845) 229-9864

*All shoots open at 7:00 a.m.*

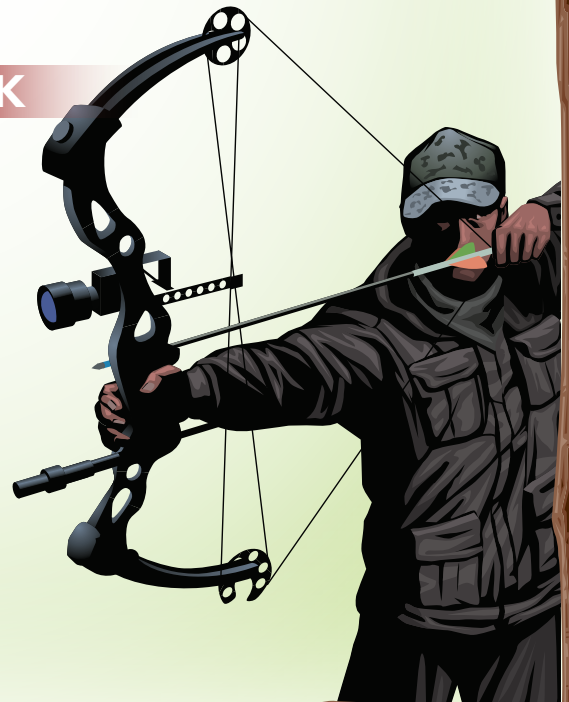
**June 13, 2021**

**July 4, 2021**

**August 8, 2021**

**September 19, 2021**

**October 10, 2021** (traditional only)



## New York Bowhunters

*New York State's largest bowhunting organization since 1991*

5937 County Rd. 33, Canandaigua, NY 14424

(585) 229-7468

e-mail: nyboffice@newyorkbowhunters.com

web: www.newyorkbowhunters.org

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*FullDraw*: 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 *FullDraw* 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

To my fellow NYB Members,

For those who don't know me, my name is Andrew Cotraccia. I'm 35 years old and I live in the greater Rochester area. I have a wife, Heather, whom I've been with since I was 16 years old, a daughter Layla who is turning 5 and a son Johnathan who is turning 2 this year. For the past 21 years, I've worked for a medical device company that specializes in manufacturing sterility assurance products and PPE like face masks and face shields. I attended NYB youth camp when I was 14 years old and received my bowhunter certification. I attended NYB's youth hunt shortly after that and have been serving NYB in an official capacity for the past 17 years, starting out as an Ontario County Representative in Region 8, as Advertising Editor and Editor of *FullDraw* Magazine, Secretary, 2nd VP and most recently, VP under Al Bottari. I also come from a NYB family. My Dad, Gary, served as Past NYB President, among many other positions. NYB has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember and I'm honored to be President of New York Bowhunters. I assure you that we will remain focused on promoting and protecting bowhunting. I also hope to inspire and motivate more younger people to join and serve NYB. We've taken so much enjoyment while hunting, it's only right to give back and NYB is the perfect outlet for that.



I also want to thank NYB's leadership team headed by Al Bottari over the past 4 years. I can assure you all there isn't a group of hunters more dedicated to promoting and protecting bowhunting in NYS than NYB's Board of Directors. No one serves NYB because they have extra time and energy to spare. Having to balance a demanding full-time job, a wife and 2 children, and leading a nonprofit organization isn't only amazing, it's exceptional and I want to thank Al and his family for the last 4 years. Leading NYB isn't easy and the time commitment and sacrifices you've made are greatly appreciated.

This past year has been challenging for a lot of reasons; most notably from the devastating impacts of the Covid-19 virus. Our fellow members, their extended families and our organization have not been immune. We obviously were not able to have our 2020 Banquet, our youth camps had to be cancelled, and our normal business and fundraising activities had to be scaled back significantly. I wish all of our members a healthy and safe 2021.

With all the changes and impacts of Covid on our NYB family and to the NYB coffers, nothing seemed to change in Albany. Once again, the NYS Budget Bill for 2021 had language in it which would have expanded the use of crossbows throughout the entirety of the early archery season. Mark Twain famously wrote that: "politicians and diapers need to be changed often and for the same reason." This year, above all previous years, was most challenging with Boss Cuomo and his Caporegime looking for any opportunity to take more money from the people who live and work here. Along with the political pressures, we've seen several major state and national gun and hunting organizations supporting expanded crossbow use because it's politically correct to do so. But once again, NYB's members rose to the occasion with waves of emails, phone calls, and letters to our Legislators and we stopped the crossbow push dead in its tracks. Make no mistake about it, the fight to expand crossbow hunting in NYS has never been and will never be about expanding opportunities for hunters. It's all about making money and selling crossbows. How can anyone look at the modern crossbow and think it should be in any bowhunting season? For example, the Ravin R500E can be cocked and uncocked using a battery powered system, shoots a bolt at 500 fps, and is 3.6" axle to axle when cocked. The Excalibur Twin Strike has 2 sets of limbs, and two triggers which allows it to be pre-cocked and pre-loaded with 2 bolts. The PSE TAC-15 is built upon the lower receiver of an AR-15 rifle, and boasts of 1" groups at 100 yards. And the Ten Point Vapor Garmin XERO crossbow comes equipped with a Garmin Xero range finding scope. This scope range finds game out to 250 yards and sets an aiming point out to 175 yards to name just a few. NYS's bowhunters will always be in the minority when it comes to the gun hunters who want to use a crossbow to become a 2-season hunter. The work that has been done by our organization over

**Continues on next page**

**FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK - cont. from previous page**

the past 30 years has been recognized throughout the country and proves that quality trumps quantity every time.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone who attended our Annual Banquet and Rendezvous over the weekend of May 1st at Sunny Hill Resort and to the NYB Banquet Committee for all their hard work in preparation and execution. I sincerely hope that everyone was able to enjoy a relaxing weekend. The 2021 banquet also marked NYB's 30th Anniversary. A huge milestone for any volunteer organization! NYB was formed in the Spring of 1991 when several bowhunters from around the state gathered together to discuss forming a statewide organization. That discussion led to New York Bowhunters becoming the premier bowhunting organization in NYS 30 years later. A complete list of our accomplishments can be found on our website: <https://newyorkbowhunters.com/accomplishments/>. If you know someone who bow hunts that's not a member, sign them up or share this link with them. They need to become a member. Tell them about the amazing things we do, about the thousands of kids we've put through our youth camps that became certified to bow hunt for free, our support of the North American Bowhunting Coalition, our support of the men and women serving overseas through our Camo to Camo program, our work on adaptive equipment for elderly and physically disabled bowhunters, or our support of the National Archery in Schools Program. Or Legislatively, how we successfully lobbied to lower the legal bowhunting age in NYS to 12 years old, how we help expand DMP use for bowhunters to include the entire season, how we prevented the DEC from placing a muzzleloader season into or before Southern Zone archery-only season, how we successfully pushed to open the Southern Zone Archery season on October 1st, and how we helped extend the Northern Zone Archery season by 1 week, or how we helped reduce the discharge distance of a bow from 500 to 150 to name just a few. If you hunt with a bow, you need to become a member to promote and protect your rights in the woods.

Thank you.

*Sincerely,*

*Andrew Cotraccia*

**The Phil "Winegard" Bow**

Every year at NYB's annual Rendezvous/Banquet we auction a one year "borrow" of a custom-built long bow which used to belong to Philip Winegard. Phil was one of NYB's earliest and most active members. He unfortunately passed away suddenly in 1996 due to cancer at the age of 44. The winning bidder gets to use the bow for one year at which time it is returned for another member to have the honor of keeping Phil's memory alive. Along with the bow, the winner receives a folder which contains a summary of Phil's accomplishments as well as a history of the bow (members who have used it, game taken with it, etc.). This year's winner was a young lady from Shelter Island, NY, Regina Weisenberg. Although the 59# longbow is beyond her ability to use it at this point, it was quite impressive that this young archer was touched by the story of the bow and simply wanted to possess it, carry it with her to shoots, etc.

Although I do know a few of the members that have had possession of the bow over the past several years, I am missing many more. If you have ever been the recipient (or know a recipient) of the "Winegard" bow, please send me an email or give me a call with the year (if you remember, or approximate year) and anything you could tell me about the bow for the year you had it (ie: if you hunted with it, game taken, game missed, shot 3D or other target archery, etc.) I would like to document and include a list of all past recipients and the bow history to stay with the Winegard bow as we go forward.

*Thanks for your help,*  
**Richard Kirschner**  
*bowrichny@aol.com*  
 Cell#: 914-330-1419

**MAIL APPLICATION TO:****NYB SPIKES**

5937 County Road 33  
 Canandaigua, NY 14424

SPIKE'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PARENT/SPONSOR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DOB: \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY/REGION: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

SPONSOR ADDRESS (if different): \_\_\_\_\_

## Dear NDA,

My name is Al Bottari, and I am the President of New York Bowhunters, Inc. I am writing to your organization today in regards to your involvement in New York State hunting related endeavors.

I can see that within this past year the NDA has sent letters to the NYS Executive, NYS Senate Majority Leader, and NYS Assembly Speaker, as well as a nationwide alert regarding the NYS Budget Bill. Article X within the NYS Budget Bill had several provisions, including lowering the big game hunting age from 14 to 12 years of age, and full inclusion crossbow expansion.

NYB has always supported getting the age lowered, and we were influential in getting the archery age lowered over a decade ago, without all of the restrictions that encompass the "pilot program." NYB, for several reasons, as described below, does not endorse full inclusion crossbow expansion.

The modern crossbow offers a multitude of distinct advantages over a true, handdrawn, handheld bow. This superior implement becomes more advanced with each passing year, as is evident by the recent crop, which includes the Ravin R500E, Ten Point Garmin XERO, Lancehead F1 limbless, and Excalibur Twin Strike.

NYS has around 700,000 licensed hunters. Our bowhunters alone number more than some states' entire hunting populations. At one time, 1 out of 17 NYS residents hunted. So, naturally, the crossbow manufacturers want full inclusion to take advantage and entice firearms hunters to hunt with a crossbow. For over 2 decades I have heard their mantras: "Become a 2-season hunter," "Use a platform that you are accustomed to."

That is where the problem lies. The archery season was long fought for, and it was established that it does take longer to get into close range and to kill a deer with archery tackle (the national average is 15 yards), than with

a firearm. The ability to be pre-cocked and pre-loaded, just as a long gun, should nullify it from consideration in the archery season alone. Also, every crossbow comes equipped with a scope, and is touted by the manufacturers for its long range shooting capability.

The crossbow is already legal to use during the last 2 weeks of Archery Season, and then continually through the Regular (Firearms) Season; the opportunity to hunt with a crossbow is already in effect.

What is most troubling to me is that a national organization is getting involved with a state issue. Why didn't the NDA reach out to NYB, the state's bowhunting organization? It would've been a nice gesture to ask for our input, to open a dialogue and discuss the issues.

We WERE contacted by several former QDMA, now NDA members, who voiced their displeasure with the NDA's actions. Some were so disturbed, that they vowed to not renew their NDA dues because of those actions, and they sent letters of non-support to disavow the NDA involvement to legislators in Albany.

While not every member can agree on all positions that an organization takes, transparency to the membership is vital and critical to its longevity.

NYB has always remained neutral and deferred to the NYS organization that would be affected by any legal amendment to NYS Environmental Conservation Law. Just as we would never seek Pope and Young or the Professional Bowhunters Society, both national archery organizations, to get involved, no national organization should trespass into NYS matters.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss this matter.



# Banquet Report

Another milestone has come and gone as NYB celebrated its 30th Anniversary at the beautiful and most accommodating Sunny Hill Resort.

NYB began 30 years ago with just seventeen founding members who gathered in a little Tavern in Lafayette, NY. Thousands of bowhunters throughout the years have supported NYB and enabled us to promote and protect bowhunting. It is always an honor to have some of the original charter members in attendance at the Banquet and once again, Tom Weaver and Dale Walburger and their families, were on-hand and continue in their lifetime support of NYB.

This was President Al Bottari's last banquet after serving NYB for four years as President. Al was acknowledged for leading us through the most trying year in NYB history, both with the Covid effects on our financial stability as well as the unprecedented attack on preserving bow season as we know it. Longtime Treasurer, Jim Beltrami hung up his abacus! Jim's recommendations, advice and perspective has been critical in keeping NYB afloat, not only this past year but several times throughout his tenure as NYB balanced our finances. Also stepping down was Board of Directors, Mike Savage. When a vacancy appeared on the BOD, we were most fortunate to have Mike fill the spot. Mike is not only an accomplished hunter and archer but had served NYB as a BOD in the past and his perspective and experience was always welcomed and sought after. Both men will be sorely missed at the leadership table.



Can Raffles

Samantha DiVietro was recognized for all her work in developing NYB's Instagram platform. 'Sam' has been a huge asset to steering NYB into the future. Sean and Karen Walp, always on NYB's frontlines in protecting the traditions of bowhunting, were also recognized. They are always a most significant presence in fulfilling our mission and their work is deeply appreciated.



Tears were seen in the eyes of Master of Ceremonies, Greg Masaitis as his son, Anthony received NYB's Youth of the Year Award. NYB presented Sunny Hill with a plaque of gratitude for all they do for us. This event has become such a big part of NYB and we owe Sunny Hill a huge debt of gratitude. Thank you to Gary, Gail, and Wayne, as well as Bill and his kitchen/dining staff.

Ed Gorch was the recipient of the prestigious Osage Award, reserved for those members whose NYB work goes above and beyond after many years of outstanding service. Ed was only the tenth member to ever receive this award! Tim Foster, Director of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, was also on-hand to receive our appreciation for all the support he and RMEF have given NYB. Local Assemblyman Chris Tague stopped by to chat with members and offer his support to NYB.



Rich Kirschner presenting Harry Walker with a Benefactor Certificate.

Congratulations to NYB Life member Kevin Smith from Erin, NY. Kevin was the grand prize winner the 2021 Spring Raffle (\$500). Thank you to all participants and good luck in our fall raffle, coming shortly!

Annually we receive donations from so many generous individuals and companies, and this year was no exception. We'd like to acknowledge Black Rifle Coffee for joining our list of supporters. Their huge contribution was a big hit and we welcome them to our NYB family.



*Rich Kirschner & Al Bottari*

It is impossible to thank everyone who adds to this event, and we apologize that you all cannot be named, but the following people must be mentioned. Annie Jacobs, NYB's resident "Angel" and her dedicated staff, Kathie Brewer, Mary Ann Compton, Maria Kerns & Leta Arena.



The "Tupper Lake Archers" are a huge part of all aspects of NYB and the Banquet is no exception. Kathy, Mike, Dave, Patty & Ray, thank you so much for all you do not only here but all year for NYB. And congratulations to Mike Savage who reclaimed his title of "Elk Champion" in what has become a favorite annual tradition full of laughs and competitiveness amongst members.



And the Friday night BBQ would not have been the success it always is without Michele Brown's pastries! A standing ovation to her as well as Debra Ledrich, Roger and Kathy Brewer, and the Ryders for all you did, do and will do again!!!!

Some have expressed disappointment in either the date (May 1) or the location. In order to hold outdoor events (BBQ, 3D shooting, novelty shoots, campfire when possible) it cannot be held any earlier due to unpredictable weather. Sunny Hill (SH) actually opens their facility that weekend just to accommodate NYB. The following weekend is Mother's Day and beyond that, SH is booked solid into September and we would not be able to have the same use of the grounds. The fall is out due to conflict with deer hunting seasons. As it is now, we have several members that Turkey hunt Saturday morning and then make it to the banquet. We have been able to accommodate several members with local hunting spots and others simply feel they have an entire month to hunt turkeys. Obviously no single location will make it easy for everyone to attend and there will always be travel involved for a statewide organization. Just ask NYB member, Julia Weisenberg, and her daughter, Regina, who made the 5 hour trip from Shelter Island, LI. The smiles on their faces as they hiked and shot the mile long 3D course spoke volumes of how worthwhile the trip was! Although the Banquet has been held in a few different locations, prior to the current one, it was usually in a hotel where no outdoor events (archery, BBQ, etc.) could take place. In addition, members can golf (for free) or fish on SH property if they like. It would be quite hard, if not impossible, to replace all these amenities either in time of year or geographic location.

Did you know NYB encourages NYB members from any part of the state to organize their own local rendezvous/gathering as an NYB function? Our By Laws call for the organization to hold one annual meeting per year, and until a better venue is presented by a member, the current location has everything we need.

If you are a member of NYB, and have never been to our Banquet, we guarantee you will have a most enjoyable weekend, and it helps support NYB. Join us next year! We've are tentatively scheduled for the first weekend in May 2022. Details will appear in future issues of *FullDraw*.

# New York Bowhunter's BOOSTERS

*Tell 'em NYB Inc. sent you!*

The Bowhunter Booster Program was started in 1993. We are proud to list the clubs, businesses and individuals who have become NYB Boosters to date. You can become listed as a Booster for a minimum of \$30 per year by marking the membership application as "Booster" or by calling 585-229-7468.



**Jim McSwigin**  
78 Sunset Trail  
Bronx, NY 10465  
718-792-8132

**Michael Ventre**  
8345 Creekend Rd.  
Colden, NY 14033  
716-941-6339

**Kristie Leigh Farm**  
182 Maple Avenue  
Goshen, NY 10924  
845-294-8041

**John LaVelle**  
235 County Route 1A  
Warwick, NY 10990  
845-324-8923

**Joel M. Riotto**  
Demarest, NJ 07627  
Andes, NY 13731  
201-768-4447

**Tupper Lake Archers**  
PO Box 752  
Tupper Lake, NY 12986  
Kathy Tessier  
518-359-9715  
www.tupperlakearchers.  
bravehost.com

**West Falls Conservation Society, Inc.**  
Mike Ventre  
PO Box 490  
West Falls, NY 14170  
716-652-4650  
www.westfallscsny.org

**Hawkeye Bowman, Inc.**  
13300 Clinton St.  
Alden, NY 14004  
stickbowreed@earthlink.net  
hawkeyebowmen.com  
FaceBook:  
hawkeye bowmen inc.



## Region 1:

**Suffolk Archers, Inc.**  
86 Pigeon Hill Rd.  
Huntington Station, NY 11746

## Region 2:

**John Jasilli, Esq.**  
708 3rd Avenue, 6th Floor  
New York, NY 10017  
john@jajasilliesq.com

**Pro Line Archery**  
95-11 101st Avenue  
Ozone Park, NY 11416  
718-845-9280  
Neil Kucich  
info@prolinearchery.com

## Region 3:

**Backwoods Bass Guide Service**  
532 Peekskill Hollow Road  
Putnam Valley, NY 10579  
Paul Romanych  
914-714-0838  
fishnfinaddict@hotmail.com

**Bob DiGiacomio**  
23 State Route 299 West  
New Paltz, NY 12561  
shorefisher07@gmail.com

**Fox Studios Taxidermy & Booking Agents**  
3 Old Post Road  
Cold Spring, NY 10516  
845-265-2300  
Info@foxstudiotaxidermy.com

**High Woods Sportsmen's Club**  
PO Box 93  
Saugerties, NY 12477  
845-246-4711

**North Dutchess Rod & Gun**  
PO Box 728  
Rhinebeck, NY 12572  
845-846-3711  
nrdgc-pres@peoplepc.com

**Ti Yogi Bowmen**  
57 Mill Rd.  
Hyde Park, NY 12538  
Deborah Houston  
845-229-7570  
tiyogi.bowmen.com

**Wildlife Creations Taxidermy Studio**  
3515 Route 82  
Millbrook, NY 12545  
845-677-6887  
Brian Primeaux  
brian@wildlifecreates.com

## Region 4:

**Burnt Knob Mountain Escape**  
303 Bogardus Rd.  
Acra, NY 12405  
Les Armstrong  
Theresa Reinwald  
518-929-2443  
Airbnb.com

**Green Island Rod & Gun Club**  
PO Box 25  
Melrose, NY 12121  
girodandgunclub@wildblue.net

**Musacchia Broadheads, LLC**  
PO Box 63  
Lexington, NY 12453  
305-481-2873  
john@musnbs.com

**Norton Hill Wildlife Club**  
PO Box 652  
Greenville, NY 12083

**Tri Village Bowhunter's Club**  
PO Box 22  
Nassau, NY 12123  
518-477-4886  
chrisgarritty911@gmail.com

## Region 5:

**Denis Ryder, Sr.**  
122 Scotchbush Rd.  
Burnt Hills, NY 12027  
518-982-0894  
ryderdenis21@gmail.com

### Region 6:

**Ed Collins**  
420 Williams Street  
Oneida, NY 13421  
315-363-1241

### Region 7:

#### Legends of Fall Outfitter

7205 US Route 11  
Tully, NY 13159  
Jeff Bordwell  
315-696-6766  
jeff@legendsoffall.com

#### Flashing Feathers Bowhunters

258 Jersey Hill Rd.  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
Steve Barber  
607-277-1543

### Region 8:

**Buckskin Bowmen**  
2613 Durling Road  
Seneca Falls, NY 13148-9713  
315-568-5422

#### Bill Fox & Son Construction & Remodeling

9346 South Street Road  
LeRoy, NY 14482  
585-356-4992  
bfsonllc@gmail.com  
Dave Peck  
6469 Stone Hill Rd.  
Livonia, NY 14487  
585-519-2360

#### Ronald Scardetta, DDS

632 Ridge Road  
Webster, NY 14580  
585-671-4420

#### Sportsman's Archery Club of St. Mary's, Inc.

PO Box 319  
Albion, NY 14411

### Region 9:

#### Little Ridge Archery

8862 Ridge Road  
Gasport, NY 14067  
716-772-7753

#### Hawkeye Bowmen, Inc.

13300 Clinton Street  
Alden, NY 14004  
716-542-4136  
hawkeyebowmen.com  
phil.fleck@yahoo.com

#### Daryl VerHague

234 Chestnut Street  
Fredonia, NY 14063-1604  
716-672-6757

### Out of State:

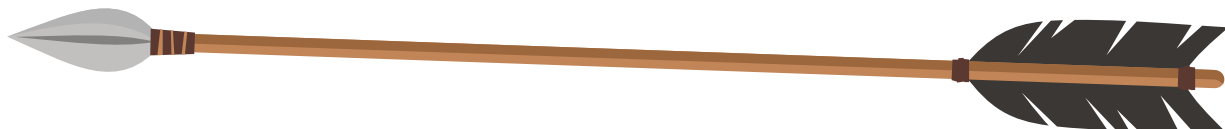
**Ed Conolly**  
17 Wintergreen Rd.  
Mashpee, MA 02649

#### Cos Cob Archers

PO Box 351  
Cos Cob, Ct. 06807  
203-625-9421  
edsmith@execsystems.com

#### Rick Jones

26595 Lucky Lane  
Millsboro, DE 19966  
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# FULLDRAW

## REGION REPORTS

### REGION 1 REPORT

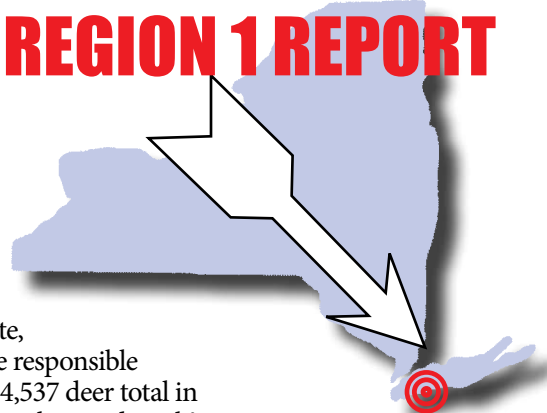
The weather is getting warmer, which means we are one step closer to October! I hope everyone had a safe and healthy winter. As I write this, we are days away from our 30th annual Banquet. As I will be there with my family, I look forward to meeting and socializing with our other members.

Statistics can be considered boring to most, unless you are talking about hunting. After browsing through some information released by the DEC from this past 2020 season, there were numerous topics I found intriguing. As some of you may know, here on Long Island we are bow only with the exception of a short special firearm season (permit required). That being said, in 2020 we had between 2-3 bucks taken per square mile. Antlerless deer were in the range of 2-4 per square mile. Here in Suffolk county we had an estimated take of

approximately 1,861 bucks and 1,909 does, which is not much compared to other counties. All in all, as a state, bowhunters were responsible for a harvest of 64,537 deer total in 2020. Let's keep up the good work!

Wishing you all a happy, healthy Spring and Summer.

*Mike Farrugia*  
MFarrugia47@gmail.com



### REGION 2 REPORT

Hello everyone, I am back as the Region 2 Rep for NYB. As you know, we recently held our Annual Banquet where we celebrated NYB's 30th Anniversary.

Although windy and bit chillier than expected, a great time was had by all. Old friends and new friends chatted and had tons of laughs. Thanks to Sunny Hill for once again making us feel right at home.

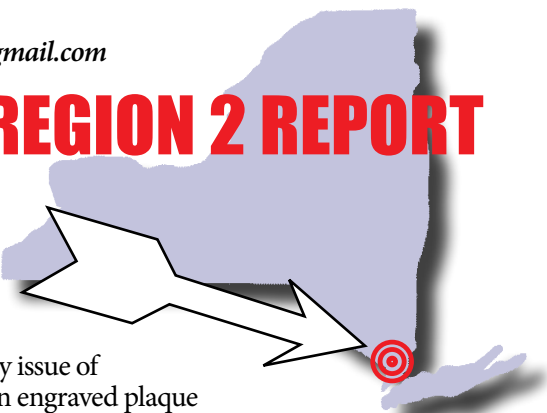
On a sad note, a long time member from Region 1, Harry Lang passed away. I met Harry one day leaving my jobsite, and he stopped me and said, "Hey, I know you, you're from NYB!" We chatted for a while, and for last several years, he and his friends would come to Sunny Hill. This year, I was taken aback when I found out he passed away. I was truly saddened to hear this news. Harry was such a great person with a heart of gold.

His family, which included his sister and nephew, and his friends, came to the Banquet. They decided to continue his legacy of supporting the youth through archery by

memorializing him on NYB's "In Memoriam Page." His name will forever be included in every issue of *FullDraw*, and an engraved plaque will be attached to a Mathews Genesis Bow that will be used for the next generation of bowhunters. My deepest condolences to his family and friends, and many thanks for continuing his legacy.

In closing, if you are interested in becoming a Region 2 Rep, please contact me.

*All the best, Al*  
646-294-4062  
bluehillhunta@optonline.net



### REGION 3 REPORT

I am writing this report the day after returning from our successful NYB 30th Anniversary Rendezvous/Banquet held at Sunny Hill Resort in Greenville, NY. It was great to finally reunite with our NYB friends from across the state after last year's cancellation. I was happy to see so many fellow Region 3 members in attendance. Congratulations to Samantha DiVietro (Orange County) who, after killing her turkey on Saturday morning, headed up to the banquet to receive recognition for her dedication in building and maintaining NYB's Instagram program (with her proud parents in attendance). Congratulations to Sullivan County member, Harry Walker as a new Benefactor member and Bob DiGiacomo, Ulster Rep, who took the leap into Life Member status. Rockland Rep, Anthony Picariello procured a huge donation of coffee

and other goods from Black Rifle coffee for our event. Thank you so much to our friends (and Booster Club) Ti Yogi Bowmen (of Hyde Park, NY) who donated several 3D targets. And special thanks to TY members, Scott and Tammy Chenevert for the beautiful, handcrafted wooden table (with NYB logo engraved) which caused a huge buzz at our silent auction, one happy winner (Joel!)...and several disappointed losing bidders! Another R3 submission that caused the bid sheet to fill up was



an original Mike Ledrich deer print. Mike has contributed artwork before to NYB and it is always so appreciated.

The Friday night Lakeside BBQ was a huge hit again with almost 100 people in attendance! Thank you to Debra Ledrich for your homemade cookies & cole slaw. We were all once again treated to the live musical talent of Ed Gorch Jr, which has become an annual tradition and member favorite. I am only mentioning those members from Region 3 whose contributions I am aware of. There are so many more from across the state that made this banquet successful, so a big thanks to all of you.

I have an interesting tidbit to share. In April, I attended a virtual DEC Bow Hunting Safety Instructor refresher class. During this class it was revealed that during the past hunting season, on 12/8, an experienced hunter shot himself in the chest with a crossbow bolt, unfortunately resulting in his death. What was interesting and rather suspicious is that hunting injury/fatality data is normally published in late January. This year that info was not released until almost three months later... coincidentally, right after the full inclusion crossbow legislation was removed from the Executive budget! It is no secret that the DEC has been actively trying to expand crossbows into archery season. Coupled with the fact that the DEC lied to us last year in our Deer Plan (FOIL) inquiry, it is my opinion they purposely held off releasing the news of this crossbow death in order to not jeopardize the full inclusion of crossbow language in the Budget Bill.

Congratulations to Rafael Bueno whose 2020 Rockland buck gross scored 153! Even after deductions, it easily scored over the P&Y minimum. There are plenty of 3D opportunities going on every week throughout the Region 3 area, many at the following NYB booster clubs: High Woods, North Dutchess & Ti Yogi. And also, Cos Cob, although in CT, quite convenient to many of us here in R3. Check their websites for dates, etc.

Lastly, on behalf of the entire Region 3 membership, we would like to thank Al Bottari for his leadership over the past four years and we welcome our new president, Andrew Cotraccia. His experience and success in all phases of NYB, spanning almost 20 years, more than prepares him for the job ahead.

Thank all of you for your membership support. Please make sure those in your entire bowhunting circle do the same. Till next time, have a safe, healthy summer.

**Richard Kirschner-Region 3 Rep-Board of Director**  
*bowrichny@aol.com*  
 914-330-1419

## SULLIVAN COUNTY REPORT

The NYB 30th anniversary banquet is now history, and the banquet committee outdid themselves again and put on a great weekend of events. It was great to get together with our NYB brothers and sisters again after having to cancel last year's program due to Covid-19. Again the weather was a factor in the turkey hunting and the novelty shoots, but a good time was had by all and the competition shoot at the elk was lively. I will try to up my game to your standards next year Mike! Many thanks to Al Bottari for a great job as president as he passes the torch on to Andrew Cotraccia, who will lead us for his term of office and strive to keep NYB the powerful bowhunting organization it is.

There are quite a number of 3D shoots on the schedule of Tri County Archery this summer. I hope to see you at some of the events.

The word is out that Russell at Silver Birch Archery in Milford, Pa. has expanded the pro shop there. You might want to check it out and at least use the range on those summer rain days. He has a great selection of traditional bows you can shoot to see which fits your style and method of shooting as well as compound bows. They have also just started up an indoor league on Thursday nights at 6:30 if you are interested in some indoor shooting.

Sullivan County led the state in its bear take last season. Congratulations to those hunters that made this happen. Let's see if this affects the harvest this year. It will be interesting to see if I run across any while turkey hunting out of my bow blind as I always see two or three-some sows with two or more little cubs in tow.

Sullivan County Archers is planning to hold its Archery Youth Camp this summer on July 10th and 11th. We will be having two full days of camp and not having the usual sleepover with the struggles of Covid restrictions. The state DEC archery test will still be given so the kids can secure the certificate to get their archery deer and bear tags. If you have kids interested and between the ages of 11 and 16 you can contact me for an application through e-mail. My address and phone number are at the end of this column.

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

## ULSTER COUNTY REPORT

Well Folks the Banquet has come and gone! It was a good time and it was great to see everyone again. All the local clubs are up and running on 3D shoots and some Black Powder events. Check your local clubs. Turkey season has started, but I haven't heard any guns going off yet! It could just be all the rain. Does anybody know if you can hunt using domestic turkeys as decoys? My son-in-law has domestic turkeys. Wild ones come in every day and cluck to the domestic hens! Is that baiting? Let me know what you think and I'll give you the answer in the next issue from the DEC.

**Bob DiGiacomio-Ulster Rep**  
*shorefisher07@gmail.com*

## ROCKLAND COUNTY REPORT

Hello members. I really do hope all of you have found ways to stay busy in this lockdown and mask era. The outdoors always seems to be the best place to get your head clear and a place for enjoyment. Not much to report here in Rockland except the fact the deer were very happy about all the storms and blowdowns that occurred which placed many tree tops and smaller trees on the ground where the deer made short work of consuming all the browse tops. With snow on the ground for so long, deer finding natural browse was nature doing its part in the eco system helping them along.

**Continues on next page**

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

I spent the month of April in the Texas Hill Country prepping my land and preparing my NY exit. I did manage to start my trek for the Turkey Grand Slam. I hunted successfully for my first Rio Grande Turkey. Having taken many Eastern birds, taking my first Rio was quite the experience. The incredible iridescence on their feathers, the light beige tail perimeter and the monster spurs they produce (mine was a jake, nubs for spurs with 3" beard) makes the Rio Turkey highly sought after. There are several turkey subspecies in the Americas; the Merriams, Goulds and Osceola in addition to the Rio and Eastern. The MOST sought after turkey is the Ocellated found only in the Yucatan Peninsula, Mexico. They are on my list as well. I also got to do a bunch of hog hunting/killing in Texas. I hunted them at night and also trapped them in large 30' steel traps for land owners who are recipients of the destruction that these invasive hogs cause. Trap doors can be closed via cell phone, once targeted game is seen in pic on cell phone. A neat set up.

Nature has a way of setting the balance in Texas, too. Texas had a deep freeze for a few weeks in Feb and thousands of free ranging Axis (also known as Chital) and other exotics froze to death. The Native Texas whitetail took the freeze in stride and got through it. Axis and Blackbuck are from India and are not made for the cold. The die off was incredible. Axis can have 3 births in 2 years, so they repopulate faster than the native whitetail, are larger body/antler wise and become dominant at food sources, hurting the native whitetail populations. Nature took care of that and many competing non-native species died off giving the whitetail a better chance at reclaiming the land lost to escaped free range non-native competing species. Ain't nature great or what?

The Banquet...If you missed it, you missed a really good time. Put it on your list for next year. The Friday night BBQ was perfect. The wind had something to say but Sunny Hill (incredible hosts BTW) had the pavilion protected and the meet and greet went well. There were some new faces and many old faces and we missed the ones who could not attend. Good to see all of you. Bob Brown's wife Michele made some of THE most delicious desserts I have ever tasted or seen! Thank you again Michele. The Saturday events again were challenging because of the wind. The novelty shoots and the 3D shoots took place and the NYB gang toughed it out and made it all happen. The bucket/can raffles were loaded with all kinds of great stuff. This part of the banquet never disappoints. Amazing variety of stuff we all need and want. Congrats to all the winners.

Saturday eve, the silent auction was underway and some well-deserved awards were given out. A few I will mention;

- Harry Walker. This man is a saint. I mean it. The way this man gives back to the outdoor community is immeasurable. Thank you Harry and bless you.
- Eddie Gorch. Wow. This is who the energizer bunny was modeled after. This man does not ever stop. He is always on the go and always helping someone. The job Ed does with the Camo To Camo program and his other tireless efforts to keep NYB running are great appreciated. Eddie, you the man. Congratulations.

• Another award was given to Samantha DiVietro for her NYB's Instagram guru/mod/admin prowess. Sammy has taken NYB big time by handling the day-to-day Instagram for NYB

and is doing a fantastic job. Thank you Sammy. Your efforts are much appreciated. If YOU are not on NY Bowhunters Instagram page then you need to get there. You do want to be one of the cool kids...right?

Thanks to Kathy Tessier and Mike Savage for their hard work in making sure the banquet wheels turned and, to our Angel from above, Annie Jacobs. She has the Midas touch. Thanks Annie for your dedication and loyalty to NYB all these years. We truly would not have functioned without you.

Thanks also to Merritt Compton who scored the Bueno Buck (see the Full Draw cover Winter 2020). This buck was taken in Rockland County and measured out at 153 & 5/8. Congrats to Rafael on a local giant.

I would like to give a shout out to one of the sponsors who helped make our event a success;

Black Rifle Coffee Co. I reached out to them and told them about NYB and what we do. They asked for some more info and WHAMMO! BRCC sent a monster load of coffee and other merchandise for our banquet. The items were a big hit and very much appreciated. Black Rifle Coffee Co is a 100% veteran owned company and there are no people on this planet who get what Freedom and being American is all about more than these guys and gals. Evan Hafer, Mat Best and JT Taylor are at the forefront of this company and are running a great, successful business. They are bowhunters themselves and in this day and age we HAVE to support what supports us. Black Rifle Coffee co supports NY Bowhunters. Support them. Check them out at [www.blackriflecoffee.com](http://www.blackriflecoffee.com). Look them up on youtube also. We are a 501(c)(3) charity now so companies like BRCC can consider their donations tax deductible.

To the Vets that attended, thank you for your service. America is forever grateful.

In closing, I would like to thank our outgoing President Al Bottari for all his hard work and dedication to NYB. Al has been on the front lines for archers and has been fighting the good fight. Thank you for your service to NYB Al. We will miss you.

One would normally wish an incoming President luck with his taking office. I will do no such thing. NYB's new President is more than capable and does not need luck. Andrew Cotraccia has the know-how and skill to steer this ship and we are in good hands. Andrew will continue to fight the good fight and the rest of NYB will be behind him. We got your back! Arggh!

I cannot say this enough. Support what supports you. Your purchases matter and who your purchases are funding matters. To quote the great Uncle Warmth. 'Nuff said.

*God Bless America, our military, and our first responders.*

*Be well, be safe,*

*Anthony Picariello*

## PUTNAM COUNTY REPORT

Greetings from Putnam County,

This is usually the issue that I write how great it was to see everyone at the booths at the sportsman show. As we all know due to the Corona Virus all shows needed to be cancelled. These shows are where a lot of our members come to renew their memberships. Most of the memberships expire this month. Please take a few minutes and go to the website and renew. Our voices are heard a lot louder in Albany when there

are greater numbers.

The DEC released its 2020 deer harvest numbers and Putnam County was down 28% from 2019. The harvest numbers also showed the buck harvest was down 47% as well. I am still baffled that the DEC did not act on this information and continued to distribute DMPs while knowing that Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease (EHD) was annihilating the local herd. The warnings and what to look for were on their website well before the season even started. It is going to take years for the herd to recover from this virus. I would like to assume that the DMPs for this area will be drastically cut for the 2021 season. We'll see.

I hope everyone and their families are in good health. I am looking forward to next year to actually see everyone in person at the shows.

*Be safe and shoot straight,  
Richard Chizzik-Putnam County rep  
Richietix@aol.com*

## DUTCHESS COUNTY REPORT

Greetings All,

Our 30th Anniversary Banquet was held this past weekend at Sunny Hill Resort and a fantastic time was had by all. Even wind gusts exceeding 45mph at times could not stop us from enjoying the wonderful venue and our NYB family. It is always a pleasure to see our friends from around the state and catch up on the previous year's happenings. Friday night's barbeque went off without a hitch thanks to the staff lowering the sides of the pavilion that allowed us to enjoy the delicious food and music provided by Ed Gorch Jr. Many thanks to all those who brought those items. I would encourage any member who has not attended a banquet to give it a try. You won't be disappointed.

Our annual business meeting also went very well with our mission spelled out for the coming year. Once again, we showed our perseverance and beliefs in staving off Full Inclusion crossbow for at least another year! This year we pulled off the impossible by actually getting it removed from the budget. Congratulations to all who let their feelings be known.

Turkey season is in full swing as I write this report and I'm looking forward to chasing a few in the coming weeks. Again, I thank all of you for the fantastic Banquet. And thanks to all members for your continued support. I'm hopeful even better times are ahead.

*Keep 'em Sharp  
Bob Ledrich-Dutchess County Rep-NYB Treasurer  
845-266-0615/914-475-4190  
ledrich@optonline.net*

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY REPORT

As we enjoy the long stretch between seasons, I hope everyone enjoyed a successful Spring Turkey hunt, and I would like congratulate all the Bowhunters who hunted in Westchester County for a successful 2020 big game season! The annual Deer harvest in Westchester was higher than in 2019. With the record number of hunter safety course registrants in 2020, we anticipated a lot more hunters in the fall season and the increase in the harvest supports that some new hunters may have filled their first big game tags in 2020. Westchester saw an

increase across the board with 677 bucks harvested compared to 647 last year, and a total harvest of 1,282 deer compared to 1,193 deer in 2019. Also, two black bears were harvested in North Salem and in Pound Ridge, compared to one in 2019.

I will be readily checking in with the local bow shops to inquire if any 3D tournaments will be hosted in the county this summer, so feel free to contact me for more information. The Blue Mountain sportsman center also has a permanent 3D course as part of its archery center.

Best wishes and quick recovery to Doug Erickson, President, Westchester Bowhunters Association, as he continues in his rehab from his accident last winter. I hear you've got an elk out west giving you motivation!

Anyone who wants to share their hunting stories feel free to contact me, and continue to be successful in all your adventures!

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

## ORANGE COUNTY REPORT

Interesting 2020 harvest data has been reported from Orange County. As we all know, due to the DEC shutting down the live safety courses and allowing an online course, a record number of hunters hit the woods last year. This is probably the biggest reason for such a drastic increase in the bear harvest. In 2020, there were a total 176 bears taken in Orange County compared to only 89 the previous year! Surprisingly the total Orange County deer take in 2020 was 5,784 compared to 6,046 in 2019. Although this drop contradicts the "additional hunter theory" one must consider that the EHD outbreak might have been much larger than originally reported. What is disturbing is that although the DEC knew about the outbreak, they did not slow down their DMP sale. Why would they? They are still bragging about the additional revenue all the new hunters brought in. Keep this in mind; when so many new hunters hit the woods without a knowledgeable, passionate, ethical instructor guiding them, there is another stat of concern that might be a bi-product of "online only" training. In Orange County, although 2,529 bucks aged a year-and-a-half or more were killed there were also another 337 male fawns killed (also 2,540 adult females and 378 female fawns). With all the effort the DEC is putting into trying to influence hunters to let young deer pass and the surplus of DMPs, coupled with new hunters and poor training, this might be working against the "Let em go, let em grow" dictum we've been hearing so much of. Conservation only goes so far when revenue is at stake.

If you would be interested in helping NYB by assisting with the Orange County report, please contact me. Have a safe summer.

*Rich Kirschner-R3 Rep  
bowrichny@aol.com  
Cell #: 914-330-1419*

Hi Guys

Well if you couldn't make this year's Banquet, you missed another good one. The wind at Friday night's barbecue kept many hugging the portable heaters, but the fried chicken and delicious food made it worth it. I would like to thank everyone who helped to make our 30th year Banquet a huge success. If I was to list everyone it would fill the whole report and I might forget someone. Now that the Corona virus is hopefully on its way out according to media reports, our Banquet numbers will surely increase after seeing what a great time we all had. It was nice to see the standing ovation given to the Wounded Veterans that attended Saturday night's dinner. The twelve young men were here taking part in the Northern Wild Turkey Federation managed by NYB member Russ Burton. They were the guests of the owners of Sunny Hill Resort, Gail, Gary and Wayne Nichol森 and NYB.

Our Camo To Camo is well on its way with donations to send two Wounded Veterans off on an all-expense paid hunt next year. I don't have the details set yet, but when I asked the two young Vets at the banquet if they would go they were smiling ear to ear. I wish I could take them all. The Veteran Gift

Good morning from Region 5

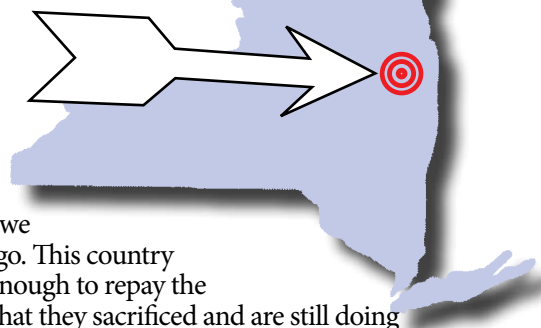
As 3D season finally starts we see fewer and fewer clubs holding shoots. Is it the Covid that is scaring people away or is lack of participants? Either way we as sportsmen and archers need to support the clubs.

With turkey season under way I haven't heard of anyone who has been successful as of yet. This area doesn't have a large population of birds due to the habitat we have in the Adirondacks. Hopefully some of the lower farm lands will start to produce some birds.

A special thank you goes out to the organizers of this year's banquet. It was great after a year off to be able to get together with friends and have a great time. Also a BIG thanks to the Sunny Hill staff. You people are some of the best. Your hospitality and friendliness is amazing. Even with the wind and cooler temps everyone had a great time.

## REGION 4 REPORT

Box numbers are heading higher and higher and will soon hit a thousand boxes sent overseas since we started years ago. This country can never do enough to repay the Veterans for what they sacrificed and are still doing for us daily across the world.



I don't have much to say about bowhunting at this time other than keep your hunter's orange on when heading to and traveling from your treestand. With the new influx of untrained hands on hunters in the woods this year, who knows what they understand after taking the online hunters safety class.

*Take Care Ed Gorch, Region 4 Rep. Green County Rep.  
Oldbowman48@gmail.com,  
518-634-7139*

## REGION 5 REPORT

On another note our Camo to Camo benefit shoot was rescheduled to the 17th (for traditional shooters) and the 18th (for everyone) of July. The entire proceeds as always will go to NYB's Camo to Camo program. Anyone who is unable to make it and would like to make a donation can send it to Tupper Lake Archers, Box 752, Tupper Lake, NY 12986.

*Dave McMahon  
Region 5*



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# REGION 6 REPORT

Region 6 members will again struggle to find any group activities involving Bowhunting this year. Gone are the Sports Shows, NYB Regional Youth Camps, most live 3D shoots.

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, getting 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.

With any luck, we will return to "normal" by the end of the year. Maybe even by hunting season. 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 being 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.**  
**3012 Pine Ridge Road, Canastota, NY 13032**  
**Cell #: 315-415-0966**



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# THE RUT ZONE

"Oh My Gosh" uttered from my mouth as I glanced across an alfalfa field. Regaining my composure, I eased my truck back on to the road. Even without my spotting scope he stood 'head and antlers' above the two other subordinate bucks he was with.

It was August 23, and I was on my way to meet a hunting buddy, Cy Weichert, and scout a new area just down the road. That's when I saw "him."

I was excited to finally be able to use my spotting scope, truck window mount, mini tripod set up. It's the gadget I told my wife I couldn't live without. After wiping off three years of dust, I set it up.

There he was again, only this time he was four times closer, thanks to my 4X scope. His velvet was wrapped so tight it looked like it was shrink wrapped. He had a beautiful seven point rack, wide and tall. Fortunately for me the story gets even better. This buck was munching on alfalfa a mere 150 yards from property I have permission to hunt on.

The strategy to take this buck came to me fairly quick. Of course, my strategies for taking a particular buck usually sound good and look good on paper, but the one element I can't control, the buck, doesn't cooperate! Would this time be different?

The following Saturday I was in the woods carrying my saw, tree pegs and a 'game plan.' I knew where I had to go. It was a spot that I had told myself over the years to hang a stand, but failed to do so. The area was the shape

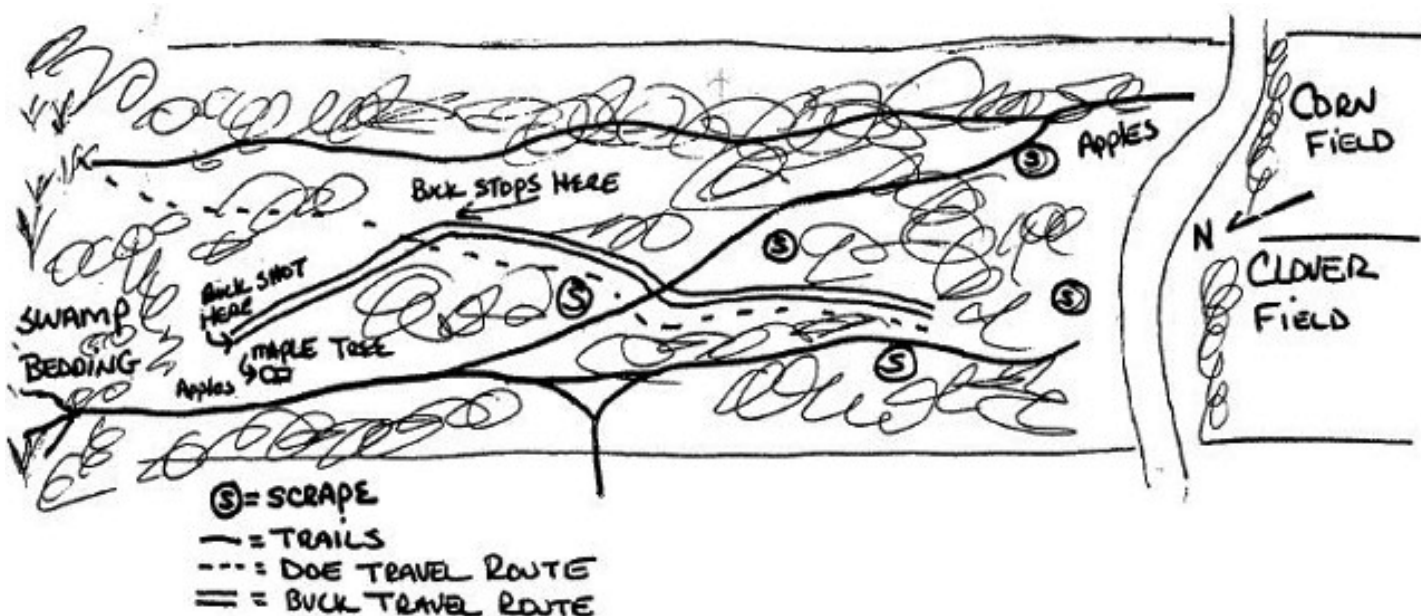


and size of a football field. I appropriately named it the "rut zone." The majority of the area was scrub apples, with one exception, a lone maple tree situated at one end.

The scrubby area was ideal for rutting bucks. Every year, two or more doe family units would make it their home. I figured that they would be the ultimate 'buck lure.'

As I left the area, I made a vow not to return until the rut was in full swing. Knowing the potential of this stand site made it extremely difficult to stay away. I did manage to stay out of that old maple for quite a while. One day, while I was checking the perimeter of the "rut zone," I noticed the usual doe tracks going in and out. That didn't excite me too much, but the huge tracks mulching the soil and covering the doe tracks did! The "rut zone" was kicking into high gear.

It was a Monday afternoon and I was hunting just down the road from the "rut zone," about one mile, "as the crow flies." As I eased myself into my stand, I could feel it: the rut was on. In a matter of a few minutes I was about to



experience one of my best hunts ever. It happened so fast, two does exploded from the brush behind me, ears pinned back, tails tucked and eyes that screamed rape. In the next half hour, I saw five bucks grunting and chasing does around my stand. I had to laugh as I watched those poor boys striking out with the ladies. A good shot never presented itself, but the hunt still ranked as one of my best ever. I had seen and heard enough that evening and knew it was time to hunt the "rut zone."

The next morning I awoke before my alarm went off. I had been waiting for this day for almost three months. As I was approaching the old maple, it reminded me of when I was a kid going down the stairs on Christmas morning. Just like back then I wondered what would end up under the tree. The anticipation was great.

I checked my watch, it was 7:25 a.m. Looking up, I caught movement straight ahead 60 yards out. It was a mature doe heading down a trail that would parallel me at 40 yards. I wasn't too concerned until I saw what was following her. It was him, the buck that I was after. Excitement turned to utter disappointment as I watched him follow the doe as

she would take him out of bow range. As I was letting out a sigh, the buck stopped, turned towards me and started heading my way. It must have been divine intervention! He stopped broadside ten yards away...with a tree covering his vitals! My heart was working overtime as I waited for him to take another step. The wait wasn't long as he stepped around the tree and moved towards me. At six paces, I let the arrow fly. It found its mark and the buck exploded out of sight.

I finally was able to finish that sigh I started when I first saw the buck. As I sat down, I thought about what just happened. "My plan worked as I designed it to," I thought. Then I remembered when the buck was at the crossroads. If I was a betting man, I would have put my cash on him following the doe, but instead he turned and came by me. "I can't take all the credit," I said to myself. I realized right then and there that Someone higher than me should get the credit for me taking a beautiful buck in the "rut zone."

By Craig Giancola

Follow on Instagram @Bowdacious\_Bros

# In Memoriam

*A tribute to those we have lost...*

*In Memory of  
Ed Featherby*

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# Legislative Report - Summer 2021

By David Kosowski

This was quite a year legislatively for New York Bowhunters, Inc. (NYB). We faced a political crisis like never before. When the 2021 New York State (NYS) Budget Bill was released it included the full inclusion of the crossbow into the archery-only seasons and the lowering of the big game firearms hunting age from 14 to 12. Through all of our membership's unprecedented efforts, which included telephone calls, emails, faxes, and delivered mail, we were able to have the crossbow language removed. NYB cannot thank our membership enough for the monumental effort you achieved as well as a big "thank you" to our outgoing President, Al Bottari, for his outstanding leadership in this as well as many past efforts.

Supporters of the crossbow full inclusion portion of the budget bill included the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) and the National Deer Association (NDA), a national organization that is a merger between the Quality Deer Management Association and the National Deer Alliance. The NDA chose to get involved with NYS management matters by sending support letters to key NYS legislative leaders as well as issuing a nationwide alert to all of their members. NYB took great offense to this trespass as the NDA failed to open a dialog with NYB on this issue. Please view NYB's response letter to NDA in this issue of Fulldraw for more details.

Something very disturbing occurred after full inclusion of the crossbow portion of the Budget Bill was defeated. The DEC published that there was a crossbow death in NYS last year. The timing of reporting this incident fits in with the DEC's continuing efforts to assist the crossbow lobby in obtaining full inclusion of the crossbow. NYB has been receiving reports from the NYS Environmental Conservation Officers regarding criminal activity and hunting accidents for many

years with many crossbow violations reported annually. Over the last two years, there have been ZERO crossbow incidents reported. No accidents, no poaching, no hunting over bait, no nothing! One can only speculate that this oversight was an effort by the DEC to hide illegal crossbow incidents from the public in their continuing effort for full inclusion. On December 8, 2020 a forty year old Onondaga County hunter with ten years of hunting experience was killed by a self-inflicted crossbow bolt being shot into his chest when attempting to haul his pre-cocked and pre-loaded crossbow up to his tree stand. No bowhunter has ever killed themselves with a self-inflicted arrow being shot into their chest. This is what happens when you can get away with just reading a half page blurb in the hunting guide on crossbow safety, sign it, cut it out, and carry it in your pocket.

The section of the budget bill that would lower the big game firearms hunting age passed with restrictions. This is a two year "Pilot Program" that will be terminated in 2024 if not reapproved. The eight counties of Westchester, Nassau, Suffolk and the five boroughs of New York City are NOT eligible to participate in this program. The remaining upstate NYS counties must each pass a local law in order to participate. Those counties that do NOT pass an approval law will NOT be allowed to participate in this "Pilot Program." Licensed junior firearms hunters (ages 12 & 13) can hunt deer (not bear) with a muzzleloader, crossbow, rifle or shotgun. They must be accompanied by an adult hunter, aged 21 years or older, with at least three years of hunting experience, and that person must be a parent, legal guardian, or a mentor with written parent consent. Both junior hunter and adult hunter must be together at all times, wear fluorescent orange or pink and hunt from the ground (no elevated stands). NYB has ALWAYS supported lowering the age for all junior hunters. NYB was instrumental in getting the junior bowhunting age lowered from age 14 to 12 in 2011 with the removal of restrictions from the original legislative bill that would have required youth archers to wear fluorescent colors, hunt only on the ground and not be able to hunt bear. Once again the NYB leadership was actively involved with the NYS legislature in delivering the goods.

We are still waiting on the final outcome of the DEC's 2021-2030 Deer Management Proposal. About the only good news for bowhunters in this DEC plan is that it proposes to allow bowhunting in Nassau County. Similar to past attempts the DEC is proposing to implement a mid-September antlerless, FIREARMS (muzzleloader) hunt prior to the opening of the archery-only seasons. In this plan the DEC officially states that they want full inclusion of the crossbow during the archery-only seasons. Another bad idea from a safety standpoint, especially during firearms and crossbow seasons, is the proposal to expand legal hunting hours from 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour before sunset.



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# Osage Award

PRESENTATION



May  
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As we all know, so many people donate so much of their time, energy and various means of support to make NYB the organization it is. Although impossible to thank everyone, NYB does try and acknowledge some of those who have stood out with various forms of recognition and service awards. There is one award that is saved for only those members that have distinguished themselves beyond what even the most active members have accomplished. It is not given out on a regular basis, nor does serving as a BOD, Officer or even President in and of itself qualify a candidate. In NYB's 30 year history, there have only been 9 previous recipients of the Osage Award.

Through the ages, "Osage" has become synonymous with the bow and arrow. The French named it "bois'd arc" or "wood of the bow." Some of its outstanding qualities are:

- **Toughness**—the ability to resist damage under stress
- **Durability**—the ability to withstand the test of time
- **Stability**—the ability to be unaffected by outside influence like scorching heat or bitter cold

These same qualities when applied to an NYB member would result in someone who has given their heart and soul to protect bowhunting and serve the NYB membership. The selection is made by past Osage Award winners and must be agreed upon unanimously.

#### Previous Osage Award winners;

Doug Korn (1995)

Ben Dodge (1996)

David Kosowski (1998)

Walt Dixon (2000)

Tom Weaver (2002)

Dale Walburger (2005)

Kevin Armstrong (2007)

Gary Socola (2011)

Rich Kirschner (2017)

Ed Gorch was honored as the 10th Osage Award winner at the Banquet. He joined NYB the first year of its organization. Shortly thereafter he became the Greene County Rep. He eventually moved into the Region 4 Rep's position. Throughout his NYB tenure, he regularly attends his county federation meetings and was usually the lone voice in defending NYB's positions in a, more often than not, hostile environment. He has served as a Board of Director in NYB for the last thirteen years. He chairs the Camo to Camo program and is a member of the Legislative, Membership and Banquet Committees.

NYB owes our legislative accomplishments to many dedicated BOD members, past and present, but over the past decade, no NYB member has spent more time in Albany's halls and offices than Ed Gorch.

Ed is the current Region 4 Youth Camp director where he has been an active staff member since it began. When NYB was promoting NASP, Ed held meetings in several local school districts in order to educate and promote that program with school staff. Annually, Ed is a regular fixture at the Greene County Youth Fair, exposing kids to archery and promoting NYB.

Ed travels from his home here in Greenville, NY to outdoor shows throughout the northeast. Shows in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Suffern, NY and Springfield, Massachusetts will find Ed "shaking down" all who he can. Ed is not only getting hunts and items donated for NYB but convincing Outfitters to give NYB free hunts for our "Camo to Camo" program so that a deserving wounded soldier can enjoy the outdoor hunting experience.

Ed was the founder and driving force behind NYB's "Camo to Camo" program. Over more than the last decade, Ed has organized many hunts for wounded soldiers. Ed has been on every one of those hunts, often assembling sometimes as many as a dozen or more other NYB members to accompany America's hero servicemen.

In addition to the "Camo to Camo" hunts,



for over a decade, NYB has sent approximately 15,000 pounds of various small gifts in hundreds of boxes, to hundreds of US military troops serving in the Middle East. This program exists because of the generosity of all of the generous donors, but Ed makes it all happen. And every box contains a letter saying "...thank you for your service and sacrifice..." from the members of NYB.

Ed was the key player in the Albany Outdoor Sports Show until it closed many years ago. Since then he has continued to be an instrumental member at the Rockland Show. This show regularly brings in well over a hundred NYB applications each year. That show is almost 100 miles away from his home, yet Ed is there all four days and is such a large part of that success. A few years ago, Ed heard about a new show starting up in Dutchess County in Region 3. Even though Ed lives in Region 4, which is 40 miles away, he set up and ran the NYB booth. That first year over 40 new members were signed up there. Once shows start opening up again Ed will be back at all of them. If we had one member in every region that did a fraction of what Ed has done, our membership would have tripled in the last ten years.

Since moving the annual banquet to Sunny Hill six years ago, Ed has served as the main logistics person. This move allowed us to recapture the "Rendezvous" feeling that NYB's early banquets started out as. A large part of that

is due to the outdoor events, and of course the 3D range, all of which have Ed's fingerprints all over them. And in the middle of the craziness that accompanies the running of an event like this, if a member needed to chase a Turkey this weekend, it was of course Ed that found them a piece of woods.

Two years ago, Ed almost singlehandedly helped NYB fulfill a goal which remained elusive for many Board of Directors and Officers. Changing NYB's status to a 501(c)(3) would open additional opportunities for fundraising, but we were never able to overcome two obstacles. One; of finding an attorney willing to do it. And two; the prohibitive cost associated with this venture. Ed reached out to Albany University School of Law in an attempt to convince them this would be a great project for their students. Ed's presentation made such a great impression on the supervising professor that gentleman offered to work on this project personally and NYB achieved yet another huge milestone.

Ed has gone way beyond what he is asked to do for NYB. Any one of Ed's accomplishments stands out on its own. But when you look at the overall impact Ed Gorch has had on NYB, his efforts are unparalleled. He works tirelessly for NYB year-round and is most deserving of this most prestigious Osage award.

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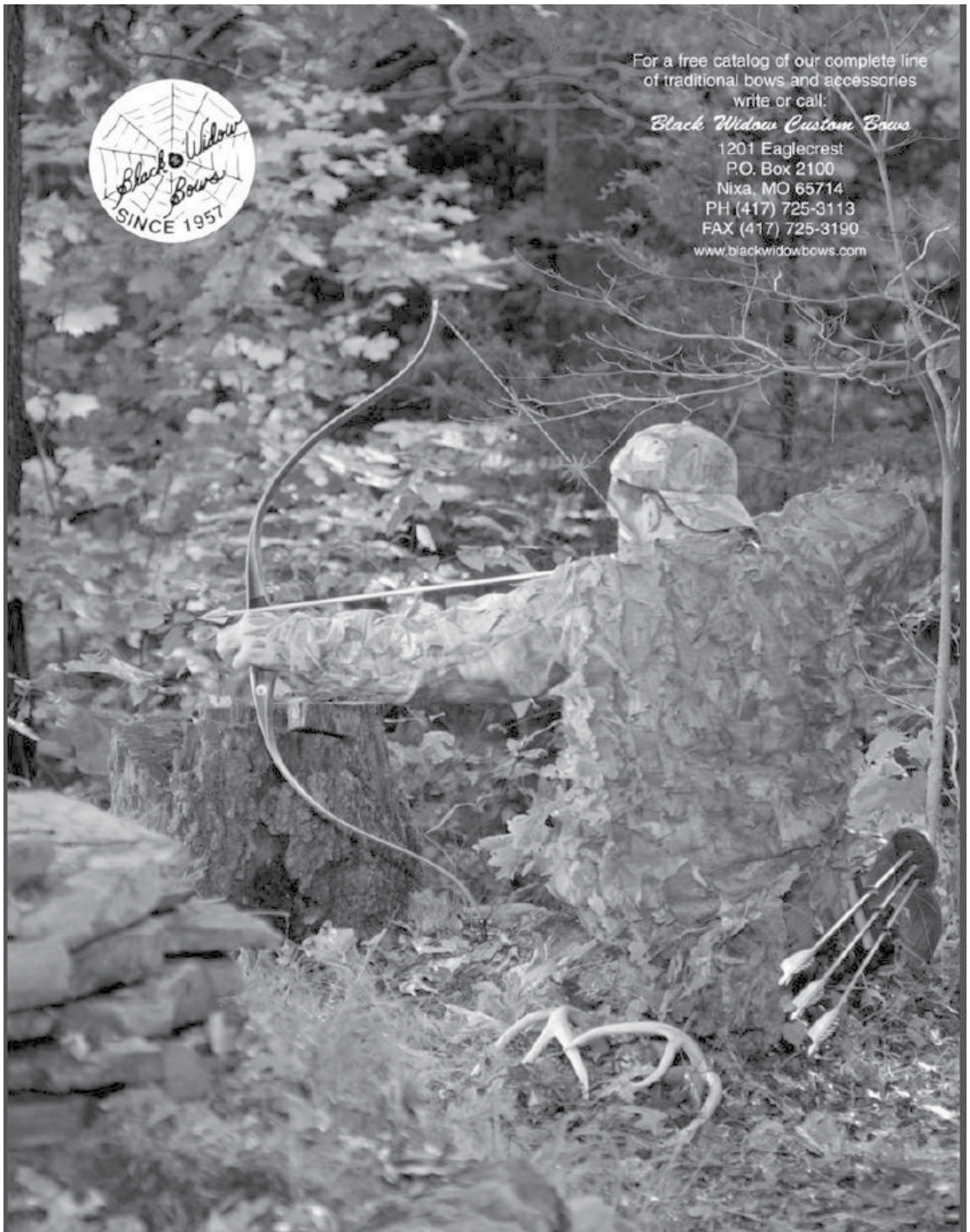
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**Hunting season has started.** Our hunting season has commenced—at long last! A couple of Air Force officers came in and took 9 wildebeest, 2 impala, two kudu bulls and an eland in two-and-a-half days. Hope the rest of the season goes as well. They left with well over a ton of meat.

**Buffalo hunting—Africa's Black Death.** We are able to offer cheap Cape buffalo hunting: females only at US \$3,500. The trophy bulls go for \$10,000 minimum, so this is quite cheap. It is the same hunt, the same thrill and the same experience, but the animal is not a trophy bull. Nothing prevents you, however, from making a trophy mount of an old female. Weapon to be used: rifle or compound bow. Bowhunters should, however, be able to draw at least 80 pounds. This offer is for this season only. Let us know if you are interested.

**Covid-19.** We noticed with much concern that the Biden administration is advising against visiting South Africa. The main issue is that the variant found in South Africa is considered a variant of concern.

However, the experience in South Africa argues against it being a variant of much concern, considering how easily we managed to end the second wave here without vaccines or strict lockdown measures. Gyms, restaurants, hairdressers, and shops were all open. Borders were open, no travel bans, taxis and malls were full. In fact, indoor venues were busier than normal because some outdoor areas like parks and beaches were closed. Simply by wearing masks and limiting large crowds South Africa was able to contain this variant effectively, which should give us hope that a new variant should not necessarily be of major concern.

At the time of writing this the official Covid statistics for South Africa are as follows:

- Total population in the RSA: just over 60 million
- Total number of cases since the outbreak: 1,590,370
- Number of people recovered: 1.52 million
- Deaths: 54,735 (i.e. 3.4 % of the number of alleged cases)
- The average number of positive tests over the last seven days is 5.3% of those tested. This figure peaked on January 13 at 27.9%. It thus seems that the number of cases is slowing down considerably.

Worldwide, the total number of cases are 158 million and the total number of deaths is 3.29 million.

So, we do not believe that there is any reason to panic over South Africa—at least not at this stage.

In any event, we take the official figures with a pinch of salt. There seems to be a global effort to overstate the Covid-19 deaths. One no longer hear of deaths as a result of heart attacks, aids, pneumonia, etc.—it's all just Covid-19. The CDC has apparently also admitted that only 6% of their Covid death figures are really due to Covid; the rest are all from other causes. The purpose of these overstatements is unclear but probably has to do with a sinister attempt to control people through fear.

As far as we are concerned the Spanish flu of 1918 was a pandemic, and the Black Death (i.e. bubonic plague) of 1346 to 1353 was a pandemic; this Covid thing is not a pandemic although it is obviously a serious strain of flu that goes around each and every year.

We understand that United Airlines will launch a daily Newark-Johannesburg service on June 3, provided government does not block it.

**Outlook for 2021.** We look forward to rest of the season, to making new friends, to sharing some good laughs around the campfire, and to taking some fine trophies. We just wish to remind those coming to hunt with us, to clear the use of their credit cards with their banks beforehand as we have found that banks often refuse overseas transactions if they have not been forewarned about the use of the card in another country.

We are already taking bookings for 2022 and 2023. So, please let us know if you are interested in hunting the “dark continent” within the next two years.

With best wishes to all our hunting friends. Stay down wind and shoot straight!

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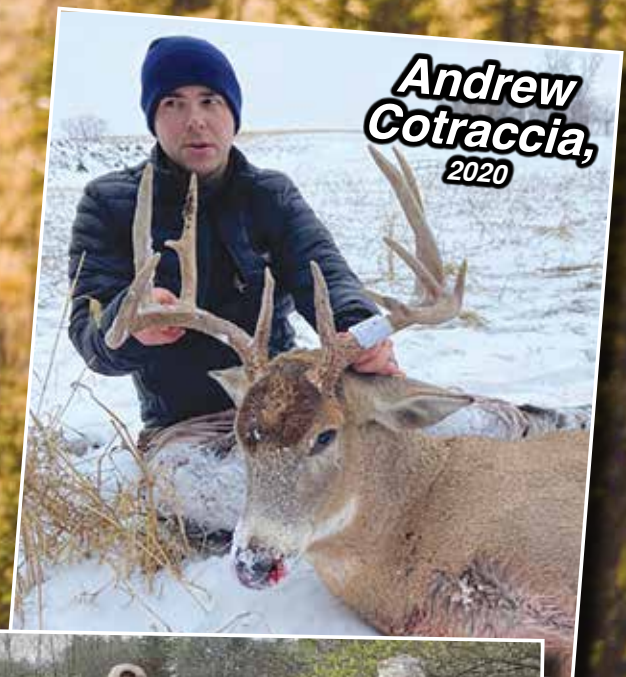
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