



# 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.

NY Bowhunters Spikes  
c/o Cindy Phillips  
233 County Highway 24  
Richfield Springs NY 13439  
Or email: NYBSpikesEditor@gmail.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 THE 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!



### Venison Burger Stew

#### Ingredients

- 2 pounds ground venison
- 6 slices of bacon
- 6 potatoes, peeled and cubed
- 2 large carrots, cubed
- 6 ounces mushrooms, sliced
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 tbsp minced garlic
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Cubes of beef bouillon as needed
- 3 tablespoons cold water and 2 tablespoons cornstarch for thickener, if needed



#### Directions

Cook bacon in skillet and set aside. Brown venison in the bacon fat and drain.

Break bacon into 1 inch pieces. Put all ingredients in a Dutch Oven (or similar). Add water until ingredients covered. Add 1 beef bouillon cube per cup of water added. Mix well, bring to a boil, cover and reduce to a simmer for about 60 minutes (stir occasionally) or until the potatoes are fork tender. Thicken with water/cornstarch as needed.



# Tips on Tracking Wounded Deer

As ethical hunters our goal is to take shots that put the animal down quickly, but that doesn't always happen. Developing good tracking skills will help you when you don't see the animal drop in sight. Tracking a wounded deer is more like forensic science or an exercise in CSI than it is an art form. By understanding how an animal bleeds from different wound types, you can better recognize blood trails after each shot. But in order to successfully recover your deer, you need to utilize many tactics that result in a successful recovery. Blood trailing is one of the many important skills to master if you plan to hunt deer. Here are a few tips to help you.

- 1. Remember where the animal was when it was shot.** I mean remember EXACTLY where the animal was standing when you shot it. This is a critical part of the process as you need to find where the blood trail begins. Try to pick out a distinct rock, tree or bush. After the shot and before you change position or move, shift your focus on where the deer was standing. Then burn those landmarks into your mind, because when you get down, it will look different than it did from your treestand. Many hunters lose deer simply because they are looking for the blood trail in the wrong spot.
- 2. Go to the point of impact.** After you have waited at least 30 minutes, go to the exact place the deer was standing when you shot it. There will often be some kind of sign that you hit the deer like blood or hair, hopefully your arrow. But if you don't find any, follow the tracks or the direction you saw the deer run after you hit it. Sometimes they won't start dropping blood for 30 yards or more. But usually there are at least a few drops of blood and some hair at the point of impact.
- 3. Locate that first drop of blood and let the detective work begin.** Once you find blood or hair then calm down, move slowly, and focus. Your adrenaline will be pumping and you will be eager to find that deer, but take your time. Also, walk to the side of the blood trail, not right on top of it. Carefully check the ground before you take each step. You don't want to obliterate the blood trail by walking on it. Look up and around often as you track. If you spot the animal and it is alive in its bed you will want to stop, back out, and wait at least an hour before resuming the search. If you spook a wounded deer out of its bed recovery is harder.
- 4. Mark the last spot of blood.** If you lose the blood trail, mark the last spot of blood with ribbon or toilet paper. If you use ribbon be sure to remove it after you are done tracking. Toilet paper will decompose quickly on the ground. Next start a back and forth arc in front of you based on the last known direction of the animal. By moving the direction the deer was moving, in ever expanding arc or semi-circles, you are trying to locate that next drop of blood to get back on the trail.
- 5. Look on tall grass, trees and shrubs.** It's possible the wound has coagulated or plugged up where it is not dripping on the ground, but the hair might be coated with it so if it rubs up against brush it may leave blood.
- 6. Note changes.** Look for changes in the blood drop pattern. If it's been a steady trail, then you see a large pool, that may indicate the deer stopped or even laid down. Deer will often "stagger" just before it expires, so a staggered or zigzagging trail could indicate you're getting close.

If your deer wanders on Private Property you MUST get permission to pursue your deer. Ask BEFORE you enter.

If you did all you can and still can't find your deer you may want to consider Dog Trackers. Search for "Deer Search" online or go here to get phone contacts of trackers in your area  
<https://www.deersearchflc.com/gallery-3>.



# Bowhunting Predators

During the off-season, a great way to keep your archery skills sharp while being in the field is bowhunting predators. These crafty animals make for a great challenge and a worthwhile adversary to prepare you for big-game season.

Bowhunting predators can be quite challenging. To be successful, you must apply dedication, persistence, effective hunting technique and the use of good camouflage in order to consistently make kills. Although predators could lurk just about anywhere there are fields and foothills, it's best to hone in on where they are most concentrated. This will ensure better calling action without covering too large an area or spending too much time calling without result.

The best way to identify hotspots is by fresh sign. When hunting coyote or fox, look for fresh dung on backroads along the shoulders of the road and in nearby washes. With bobcat, you'll have to scout by foot more, as they tend to walk along more secluded areas, away from human traffic. Walk game trails, brushy areas, rocky slopes, and forested regions, looking for scat, especially on rock tops if prevalent in the area. Smallish-sized droppings similar in shape to that of a coyote with fur or seeds in it identify fox dung. Bobcat scat is usually more blunted on the ends and segmented, and often has fur and bones in it from their prey.

Coyote tracks are quite easy to see in soft sand and mud. They are about the size and shape of a medium-sized dog. Fox tracks are the same, only smaller. Bobcat tracks are much harder to see and clearly identify, unless the imprint is in snow or soft soil. The distinct trademark of a "cat" track is the "two valleys" or three bumps along the top of the main foot pad. The trail will also have no nail markings, since their nails are retractable, unlike coyote or fox. Coyote and fox have "one valley" or two bumps on the top of the main pad and leave behind nail impressions.

Once you've found a good location to hunt, you need to set up. Look for areas that offer a good place to hide while giving you a prominent view of the landscape. To bowkill a predator, you must see it in plenty of time so you can come to full draw and prepare for the shot without being seen. Do your best to keep the sun at your back, which will make it more difficult for an approaching predator to see you. Electronic callers are more effective than handheld calls since they allow you to place the speaker away from your exact location while doing all the calling for you. You just sit back and wait for the shot to appear.

As you move from one calling spot to another, it's best to head into a headwind or crosswind, keeping your scent from drifting into areas you expect the predator to come from. Keep in mind, as the animal approaches the sounds of your call, it'll likely try to swing around your position, attempting to "wind" the area before coming closer. Coyotes are notorious for this trick.

The best time to call is early in the morning or late in the afternoon. This is when predators are most active and out looking for food. However, if the weather is chilly, overcast and even drizzly, calling all day can be quite productive.

Your technique and what types of calls you should use depends largely on what you're hunting. For coyotes, rabbit in-distress calls work best. Choose jack-rabbit type sounds for open-country hunting, especially when it's breezy outside, since these have greater volume to pull in coyotes from long range. For wooded or agricultural regions, go with cottontail sounds.

When hunting fox or bobcat, cottontail in-distress, rodent and woodpecker calls all work effectively. You'll simply have to experiment to see what works best. Unlike coyotes, appropriate call volume is critical when hunting red fox and bobcat. Calling time will vary on the animal hunted as well. For coyotes, it's advisable to call up to 20 or 30 minutes, depending on terrain. Fox require about half that time to call in. And bobcat can be called for 45 minutes and even longer.

Adding predator hunting to your skillset will result in better archery skills. It is also great fun and you are helping deer by removing predators!



## SPIKES SHOOTING PROFICIENCY

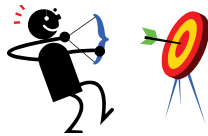
**Step 1.** Draw an 8" circle and from a distance of 10 yards, shoot 4 of 6 consecutive arrows within the circle. Mail in target and you will receive a Certificate.

**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!

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What has more letters than the post office?

The alphabet - it has all the letters



What did the light bulb say to the light switch?

You really turn me off

What do you call a kangaroo from Scotland?

Hop Scotch



Why do anteaters hardly ever get sick?

Because they are full of antibodies



What do you get when you cross an ant with a deer?

An antelope



What do you call a young ant?

An infant



Where do the coldest ants in the world live?

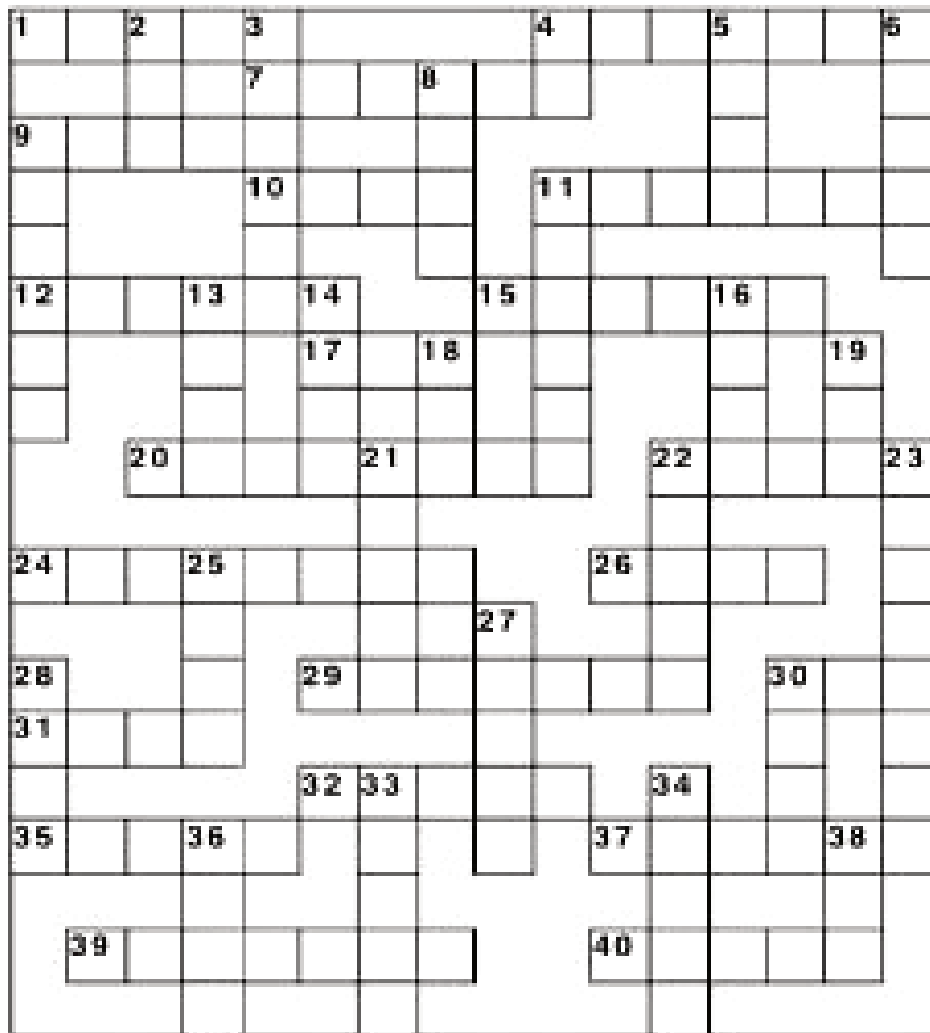
Antartica







# Winter Crossword



## Down:

2. Frozen water
3. Small
4. Myself
5. Small pie
6. Neck warmer
8. Chilly
9. Used to move snow
11. A season
13. Strong emotion
14. Ripped
16. Nil
18. Bath \_\_\_\_\_
19. Cloud of water vapour
21. Last month of winter
22. Wooden snow vehicles
23. Winter road condition
25. Be carried on
27. Locomotive
28. Carried along by wind
30. Piece of hockey equipment
33. Make this in the snow
34. Winter foot wear
36. Faucets can do this
38. You hear with this

## Across:

1. Sudden cold breeze
4. Hand warmers
7. Hanging spike of ice
9. Freezing rain
10. Show and \_\_\_\_\_
11. Conditions outside
12. Flowering plant, colour
15. Achoo
17. Not in
20. Month of winter
22. Carols, etc.
24. Valentine month
26. Thaw
29. Keeps drinks warm
30. Small dog
31. Winter Olympic sport
32. Silky material
35. Breezy
37. Ice sport
39. Foot warmer
40. Direct a vehicle's course







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?***

- ***Snowflakes are actually translucent, not white. Snow looks white because when light hits snow it is scattered back out equally into all spectral colors, and since white light is made up of all colors in the visible spectrum, our eyes see white snowflakes.***
- ***The shortest day of the year is in December. It is called the winter solstice. Solstice means "sun stands still".***
- ***A black bear's pulse changes from about 40 beats a minute (summer) to 8 beats in winter when it is hibernating.***
- ***The largest snowman was built in February 1999 in Bethel, Maine. It was 113 feet tall!***
- ***All snowflakes have 6 sides.***