

FULLDRAW

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NEW YORK BOWHUNTERS, INC.

New York State's Largest Bowhunting Organization Since 1991
www.newyorkbowhunters.org

WINTER 2021/2022

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EHD Disease24

In Memory of
James "Uncle Warmth" McSwigin

Aug 3, 1939 – Sept 20, 2021

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Board of Directors 1999-2018
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From the President's Desk

President's Report by Andrew Cotraccia

I sincerely hope that you are having an exciting and fulfilling hunting season and that you are able to spend time in camp with your family and friends! I had the privilege of going on my first Montana elk hunt in September with my dad. Hunting was tough and we didn't end up getting anything, but it was an amazing experience and we saw hundreds of elk. Any time I can be out in Montana and not in NY is a great day for me!



If you haven't heard from other NYB members, I am extremely saddened to report on the passing of former NYB Region Rep and Board of Director Jim McSwigin. Jim passed away peacefully at home on September 20th, surrounded by his family. There has never been, and will never be, anyone like Jim McSwigin. I'm sure if you spent any time with him, you have a story to tell! I got to know Jim through my involvement with New York Bowhunters and spent many days at his camp in Hancock, NY. I can't think of another member who cared more about NYB than Jim. Jim was responsible for coordinating NYB's participation at the yearly World Fishing and Outdoor Expo at Rockland Community College where he, and others, signed up thousands of new NYB members. Jim was directly responsible for increasing NYB's presence and representation in downstate New York. In addition to that, Jim was an NYB Life member, the very first NYB Benefactor member, an NYB Lifetime Booster member, and was responsible for recruiting several Board of Directors and one former NYB President. Needless to say, Jim was a pillar of support to New York Bowhunters. My fondest memories of Jim were the times spent together at his hunting camp in Hancock. Jim didn't have any televisions at camp and the reception there was terrible so smart phones and other electronic devices didn't work well there. I will miss listening to him tell stories of his time as a NYC Fireman and on countless hunting trips throughout the US and Africa, most of which couldn't be repeated in good company! Jim will be missed by his NYB family and I'm so grateful for having known him.

It's been a relatively quiet summer but, on September 1st the DEC adopted new rules for deer hunting, which included establishing a 9-day firearms season for antlerless deer beginning the 2nd Saturday in September in select wildlife management units. NYB was extremely vocal in our opposition to this proposal. Although we didn't win this battle, I greatly appreciate all the members who took their time to submit their opinions to the DEC during the public comment period. I've also requested a breakdown of those public comments, for and against, and will share those with the membership if/when received. It is imperative to constantly remind our government agencies that they work for us and that they only exist because we foot the bill for everything they do and have!

Please stay connected to NYB for more news and alerts via FullDraw, our website, Instagram and Facebook.

Thank you and good luck in the woods!

Sincerely,

Andrew Cotraccia

President | New York Bowhunters

NYB 1991 – 2021 IN THE BEGINNING

As told by **Walt Dixon (Charter Member)**

NYB celebrated its 30 year anniversary this year. Did you ever wonder how NYB got started? Did you become a member early in NYB's history? How does an organization like NYB begin? How did we get our first members when you're dealing with all of NY State? How do you grow membership and decide what programs to create, how to deal with State government and the DEC?

I was there in the beginning. I was at the very first meeting of 17 bowhunters from all over NY. We did not all know each other. This is the story on how this meeting came about when attendees were from all across the state.

In central NY near Syracuse, there were a small group of bowhunters, 10 or so, that started a small archery club named Bois D'Arc. We met once a month to shoot, make arrows and teach ourselves and others more about traditional equipment. A few of us happened to notice an article in Bowhunter Magazine that was an interview with Greg Haskell, owner of Skyline Camo. In that interview, Greg mentioned he'd like to start a bowhunting organization in NY. Tom Weaver, a member of our club, took the time to call Greg. Tom reported that Greg had said there were several other people around the state who had called him and he'd like to arrange a meeting to discuss starting a NY State Bowhunting organization. The members of Bois D'Arc decided to offer Greg a place we could all meet near the center of the state. Dale Walburger made the arrangements for a meeting to be held at the Lafayette Inn in Lafayette NY, 15 miles south of Syracuse, on March 17 in 1991.

On that morning in March, 17 bowhunters from around the state met. Some were only at that first meeting, never to be seen again. Most continued to work on the project of creating and building a state bowhunting organization. Those present at that first meeting included Greg Haskell, Ben Dodge, Tom Weaver, Dale Walburger, John Engelken, Bob Gardner, Doug Korn, Gordy Ferris, Doug Kerr, Jeff Vinson, Fadi Bahouth, Bill Webster, Michael Paul, Russell Scott, Dick Mertz, Bill Saroka and myself. After introductions, we discussed this ambitious venture and were all in agreement that a single interest group which focused only on bowhunting was needed in NY and we wanted to form one.

Up to that point the venerable New York Field Archers and Bowhunters (NYFAB) had done a tremendous job representing both bowhunting and field archery in NY. We felt their focus had changed more towards field archery and tournaments, although they still represented NY's bowhunters, and that a single interest organization representing only bowhunting was in order.

During the meeting, Ben & Greg disclosed they had worked on a set of by-laws. Greg's daughter had artistic skills and made a tentative logo, a six point buck head in a broadhead on top of the state of NY. The meeting went on most of the day and we agreed to adopt the by-laws and logo. Most of us got out our checkbooks and wrote a check to Ben Dodge as seed money to pay our first expenses. We also decided to split the state into 3 regions: East,

West and North. (Later this would become the 9 regions matching the DEC boundaries that we now have.) Ben Dodge volunteered to lead us as the first president. I followed as vice president, Greg Haskell as treasurer and Doug Korn offered to be secretary. Bob Gardner, Gordy Ferris, Fadi Bahouth, Michael Paul, Bill Webster, Bill Saroka, Dale Walburger and Tom Weaver became directors in our 3 regions.

In April of 1991 we had our second meeting in Coudersport, PA at Denton Hill at the Professional Bowhunters Society second year gathering. Many of the founding members also belonged to PBS. We spent some time shooting arrows at the 3-D targets during the day, while late afternoons and evenings were spent doing NYB work.

June 2nd & 3rd, 1991 we held our third Board meeting. It was at this meeting that Harry Rhulen was added as a charter member and made 2nd Vice President to represent us as our attorney. These meetings were laborious, starting Friday evening and going all day Saturday and all day Sunday. My wife, Brenda (who went on to serve many years as NYB's Administrative Secretary) and I hosted these meetings at our home. At night the guys would be in sleeping bags on our couches, floors, and basement. Ben and I would begin working on the day's agenda beginning at about 5 AM while the others got a little more sleep. By 8 AM we would all be up and work until 10 or 11 at night! It was a true labor of love.

August 24th, 1991 we held our 4th BODs meeting (remember all the officers and directors are traveling from the far reaches of the state with no reimbursement) followed by our first general membership meeting at the Lafayette Inn on August 25th. We decided to have an annual rendezvous and planned it for April 25th and 26th 1992. There were 26 members at this first general meeting in 1991. We had issued our first newsletter prior to that meeting. The newsletter had no name and was photocopied at 6 pages including a map on how to get there. At this August meeting, Ralph Stuart volunteered to help out with the newsletter. When asked if he had any background, we found out he was the Senior Editor at Outdoor Life Magazine! We couldn't believe our luck in landing Ralph to take over our publication. The first issue was named *FullDraw* and was the pride of the organization. Unfortunately for us, Ralph eventually received a great job offer at another magazine which took him out of state and he could no longer do our magazine. Very fortunately for us, Ben and Diane Dodge along with Doug and Michelle Korn took over as our editors (during my presidency they saved my life!) and continued delivering to our members a first class magazine.

January 18th, 1992 was our next board meeting followed by our first Rendezvous, April 25th and 26th 1992 at Creekside Gun Shop in Holcomb, NY. We actually had two board meetings and a General Membership meeting that weekend. If you're getting the idea we were doing a lot of work, you're right!

All during the first 4 years, the officers, board members and other member volunteers were busy trying to spread the word. We traveled all over the state trying to reach every club, county federation and bow shop to ask, "Who is the best known bowhunter in your area?" After obtaining a name we would call that person and say, "You may not have heard of us, but

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Jim McSwigin (far right) surrounded by NYB members on a DIY to Kansas & Oklahoma Hunt in 2008. L-R Myron Wiechman, Jim Beltrami, John Lavelle, Rich Kirschner and Jim McSwigin. The "Ole Buff" McSwigin's right shoulder went out on him 2 days into this trip and he taught himself to shoot his right handed bow left handed. After 2 days of practicing this new style, he returned to the woods and his smile tells the story of how it ended!!

"In Memory of My Friend, Jim McSwigin"

by Richard Kirschner

"Hey McSwigin, give me \$10 bucks!"

"Why, what's it for?"

"I'm signing you up to New York Bowhunters."

"What do they do?"

The year was 1992 and I had only joined the newly formed New York Bowhunters less than a year before, and didn't know much myself, so I merely offered, "They've got something to do with protecting bowhunting against anti hunters, and I think they try and improve bowhunting regulations." Although at that time I had no idea I would someday be an officer myself, more importantly, little did I realize how that simple exchange would have such an impact on the organization. Not only did Jim join, but initially saw a lot more in NYB than I did and quickly became involved. After writing a few articles for *FullDraw*, and gaining the attention of the Officers & Board of Directors (BODs) he soon found himself representing Regions 1 and 2. The "downstate" regions of 1, 2 & 3 were still relatively unrepresented in NYB's membership's ranks. That was soon to change because of Jim McSwigin.

Jim became the first member from NYC to serve on the NYB Board. One of his early proposals was to change the existing 2-year service that BODs's filled into a 3-year term. This would not only increase and improve the BODs's experience level, but assure continuity on the Board as only three of the nine members could potentially be changed each year.

Jim would eventually talk me into getting more involved, first as a county rep, then as a region rep. I soon joined Jim on the BODs, which ultimately led to my serving NYB as President for 5 years. Representing NY's bowhunters is something that I consider to be one of my life's proudest and most rewarding experiences. I have Jim McSwigin to thank for initially "gently" persuading me and encouraging me that it was my time to give back to the sport I so loved. He was right. "Thanks Jim."

Another one of Jim's NYB proposals that came to fruition was the creation of the Benefactor program, open only to current Life members as a way to further support NYB. Jim also created the Lifetime Booster program. Jim proved himself as a most effective member of NYB's Legislative team as he spent each legislative session throughout his tenure influencing members in the New York City area as well as in Albany.

But as important as all of the above accomplishments were, perhaps Jim's greatest contribution and talent lie in his ability to sign up members to NYB. The early formative years saw NYB grow rapidly. Although made up of members across the entire state, in the early years of NYB, the majority were from the center state regions of 7 and 8. Jim knew that the downstate regions of 1, 2 & 3 contained plenty of bowhunters but were not adequately represented in NYB. He realized that

Continues on next page

FROM IN MEMORY OF MY FRIEND, JIM MCSWIGIN- cont. from previous page

NYB had to find a way to be exposed “downstate” and began running an NYB Booth at an outdoor show in Long Island. It was here that Jim met and developed a relationship with Al Bottari. As Jim gradually pushed Al further into NYB involvement, it would eventually lead to Al’s Presidency. Just as it had with my own NYB path, Jim’s persuasion, support, assurance, confidence and trust were now responsible for two members answering the call to NYB Presidency. As NYB became a regular fixture at the Nassau Coliseum Outdoor Sport Show, Jim and a small handful of local members would grow the NYB membership in Region 1 & 2 by several hundred. In 2004, Jim requested permission and expenses from the BODs to try his talents for recruitment at the very popular Suffern Show in Rockland County. The entrance fees for this coveted 4-day show were very expensive. Most outdoor shows where NYB was represented up until now had only resulted in a few dozen sign-ups at best. But at Jim’s insistent urging, and his guarantee that if he could not at least recoup the approximate \$1,000 entrance fee, he would personally reimburse NYB the money himself, the reluctant BODs granted Jim permission. The first year, he, along with a rag tag crew of local members that he trained in his “unique” manner of persuasion, signed up an unprecedented, unbelievable 325 new members over a 4-day period!!! Nothing like this had ever been accomplished or even imagined. The feat was repeated the following year with a record that still stands today at 340 members! Between 2004 (the first year of NYB presence in Rockland under Jim’s guidance) and 2020, over 3,012 members joined or renewed their membership in NYB at this annual event!!! For 29 years Jim had not only been a member of NYB, but for most of those years was an active Region Rep, Membership Committee Chair, and BODs. In 2018 Jim was given an NYB Lifetime Achievement Award.

I had the pleasure of meeting Jim in 1981 on a DIY Colorado bow hunt. A mutual friend told me about him and that he’d be a great addition to our hunt. We were all members of the FDNY and although I had only recently started my career, Jim would be winding his down in the next few years. From the moment I met him, he became a mentor in not only my hunting life, but as I progressed through the years as a professional Firefighter, Lieutenant and Captain in the FDNY. I never met anyone with such amazing people skills. He had the ability to quickly size up a person’s character. If he liked what he saw, he gave you a key to his cabin and 200 acres in the Catskill Mountains. On the rare occasion he was wrong, he took it right back. He no sooner met me than he shared his Westchester “secret honey hole” bowhunting spot, a fairly large piece of woods that he had hunted his whole life. A few years later when my dad suddenly passed away, Jim showed up at my house with \$10,000 cash and an offer to lend it to us in the event my

family needed money for arrangements!

Most of you who knew Jim knew him through NYB. You may know he was an avid hunter of all game big and small, as well as quite the accomplished salt water fisherman. You may not have known about what he accomplished professionally in his “younger” years. He joined the FDNY in the early 1960s, just in time to be a warrior in the beginning of an era that has come to be referred to as the “War Years” of the FDNY. As the 1970s began, the South Bronx and Harlem were burning. Jim was cited several times for bravery and lifesaving at great personal risk. With all the experience he gained as a firefighter during that era, Jim eventually moved into a Fire Marshall’s position in order to help curb the rampant arson which was so prevalent throughout NYC during the 1980s. As an investigator, he proved himself an expert in determining cause and origin of fire for those deemed “suspicious” as well as making numerous arrests as a result. But in true “McSwigin fashion” he took that role “above and beyond.” Jim noticed that the arsonists of that era were not usually the brightest people. When they “torched” a building they did not always take into account the reaction combustible fumes have and often received burns themselves. Having made several arrests in nearby hospitals and clinics as a perpetrator requested medical care, Jim had an idea. He took on the laborious task of getting legislation passed which would require hospitals and other medical facilities to notify fire and police officials in the event a patient sought treatment for certain classifications of burn injuries (the existing “gunshot” reporting bill, served as his model for this project). Jim often told me that by locking up arsonists and those who hired them, his role as a Marshal was his way of protecting not only the citizens of NY, but his brother firefighters who often got seriously injured or killed at arson fires. And he was so good at it; I believe this was a true calling for him.

Jim made another interesting observation as he worked as a Fire Marshal in the FDNY. Some of the “suspicious” fires he responded to were lacking all the usual motivation (insurance, fraud and revenge), however in some instances he noted a child resided there. He took it upon himself to consult a Child Psychologist at NY’s Bellevue Hospital. Jim learned that sometimes abused children start fires as a way of expressing their anger and frustration. This led him to help establish a Juvenile Fire Starters program which trained a group of Fire Marshals who would be the ones selected to respond to suspicious fires where children were in residence. Through this program, many children were referred to proper authorities for assistance. Not only would their cries for help otherwise have gone unheard, but an immeasurable amount of damage to lives and property were saved due to Jim’s insight and follow through.

There are a million “McSwigin” stories. Did you ever hear the one about the time we were in Kansas and his right shoulder hurt so bad it preventing him from drawing his bow? He began to practice shooting his right-handed bow,

left-handed and we all watched as his first arrow sailed over the target and into the lake behind it! After two days of practice and a new found skill set, Jim returned to the woods and killed an 8-point buck, left-handed with a right-hand bow! I could spend hours telling Jim McSwigin stories, and those of us who loved him will be doing just that for the rest of our lives. The "Uncle Warmth" nickname started out sarcastically. It was assigned to him for his apparently gruff, at times harsh, no filter approach to people. Ironically, underneath the seemingly hardened exterior was a man who touched more people with kindness, generosity, advice and friendship than any other most have ever known. So, the "Uncle Warmth" nickname, although given to him initially jokingly because at times he came off so "un warm," was indeed the perfect moniker for him.

I know I speak for many reading this who will miss the hundreds of hours spent sitting at the "Table of Knowledge North" looking out through a wall of windows at the beautiful Catskill Mountain panorama. Or sitting at his "Table ... South" looking out over the head waters of Long Island Sound. For the last 40 years, I joined Jim on countless trips year-round to his Hancock, NY, cabin and property. We shared numerous DIY bow hunts to Colorado, North Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma, Ontario and more. And on each one, Jim's charm led us to friendships across the country that remain today. I spent 40 years laughing together with Jim. And when we lost family members, friends and brother FDNY members, we cried together. He, like others, went through life suffering injuries, illness and multiple surgeries as well losing loved ones, some tragically. Shortly after each set back, Jim would lead the way as he'd exclaim figuratively, "Time to tighten up the helmet chinstrap!" (his often-heard words) and gear up for what life had to throw our way next. And now, all the helmets he wore in his life are off for good. Jim, so strong mentally and physically, a man so often described as "larger than life" can finally rest his worn self. When we eventually join him at "The Big Table," he'll have the room laughing and a Black Russian drink in his hand (whether or not its allowed!). I know the next time I see Jim, he'll be impatiently tapping his foot on the floor, glaring down at his 'Rolex' watch, (the one he almost lost in the river where he claims I once tried to drown him) and he'll blast into a, "What took you so long to get here?" diatribe at me!

After forty years of friendship, in September of 2021, the time had come to say my final goodbye to Jim as he proudly wore his medal adorned, FDNY dress uniform. His sons, Sean & Christopher, had fulfilled their dad's wish of wearing it when his days on earth ended. And I wearing mine, saluted Jim McSwigin as a fellow firefighter, then leaned over, put my hands on his and gave him a kiss ... as my best friend ...

Your friend, your brother, your "other son," Richie
"Nuff Said."

Jim's heart and soul

Another one of Jim's passionate projects through the years, along with several other BODs, was to change NYB's tax status to that of a 501c3 so that the organization could expand our reach to businesses and individuals for donations. Jim's heart and soul belonged to NYB for almost three decades. If you would like to honor Jim, please consider making a donation to NYB in his name. You can call the office, 585 229 7468 or follow donation links online at www.newyorkbowhunters.com



NYB 1991-2021- cont. from page 4

can we come and talk with you about a new state bowhunting organization?" I met with the President and another officer of NYFAB to help them understand what we were trying to do, and also reassure them we had no interest in target archery and hoped for their support to work together on bowhunting issues in the state. As all of you began to join and chipped in with the work, the load became easier. Many of us were putting in 20 to 30 hours per week, nights and weekends for the first four years just to get NYB up and running. The grassroots efforts on the county level really had a strong impact. In 1993 we topped 3,500 members and even reached 4,000 at one point!

We continued to have an Annual Rendezvous and Ben Dodge put together our first spring Banquet in April 1995. As all of you continued to volunteer and work I began to realize what real quality bowhunters and human beings made up NYB. I can't begin to mention all the names of the men and women who have given their blood, sweat and tears to grow NYB with members and programs. Those of us who founded the organization are greatly humbled and in awe of what you all are accomplishing. Take a look at the NYB Accomplishments link elsewhere on our website. Print out that list and if someone asks you why they should join NYB, show them what you've accomplished.

I could go on and on, but I simply wanted to give you insight into the history of NYB. I hope you found it interesting. Please continue to support NYB with your membership, sign up a fellow bowhunter, teach a youngster, and continue to work hard for the organization you have helped build. Those of us who founded NYB never imagined the levels you would take your state bowhunting organization to. You've made us the best single interest sportsmens group in New York and one of the best state bowhunting organizations in the United States. Many of you are so accomplished in many areas and have so much to contribute. I, along with all the founding members, are proud of NYB and so very proud of all of you.

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.



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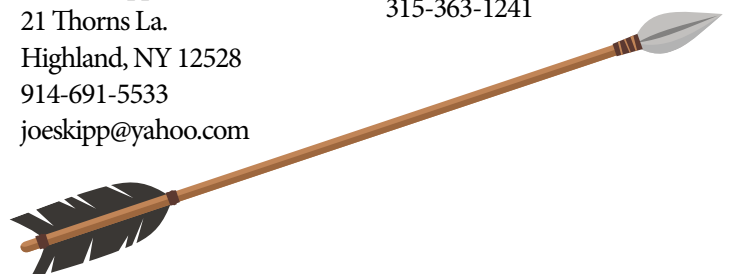
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FULLDRAW

REGION REPORTS

REGION 1 REPORT

It's that time of the year again! Leaves are hitting the ground as well as some bruiser bucks here in region 1.

This past spring/summer, my wife had become determined to continue to shoot, perfect her skills and acquire her license. Showing this woman how to use a climber almost got me killed! Safe to say she will be sticking to ground blinds. As some are not aware, this is being done mostly online since COVID. To my surprise, the course was not as I had anticipated. With many topics and questions irrelevant and useless to educating a novice hunter, it is concerning that this course is definitely going to have much less of an impact on new hunters. The in person education will surely be missed. Not to mention, are these people actually absorbing the amount of information at home, in front of a screen, as they would in a classroom? I think not.

As I write this, the November rut is right around the corner, every hunter's favorite time of the season. This year in Region 1, the DEC is continuing its DMP due to the abundance of deer out in Suffolk county. Although, deer sightings have become more and more likely moving west into Nassau county, we are still on tight restrictions to remain out East. As I see a lot of hunters do not continue to shoot on a regular basis

once the season gets kicked off, I feel this is extremely important if you do not maintain your accuracy and consistency all the way through the season. For the sake of the animal as well as saving you on some serious tracking!

I wish all of us luck as the rut approaches, hopefully we all get to fill our freezers along with a trophy for the wall!

Stay safe,

Mike Farrugia • Mfarrugia47@gmail.com

REGION 2 REPORT

It is with a heavy heart that I begin this Report. Not only Region 2 and NYB, but the world has lost a great man. Not just any man, but my friend and mentor in NYB, Jim McSwigin. Jim passed away at his home in the Silver Beach section of Throggs Neck, in the Bronx, surrounding by his loving family.

You can read my tribute to him in this edition of *FullDraw*, but there aren't nearly enough pages to totally tell his tale. He was a larger than life character, who, under the rough exterior, was a kind and generous soul. May you rest in peace my friend; I love you, and you will forever be missed.

I know that many members from Region 1 and Region 2 own property to hunt, or hunt property in Region 3 and Region 4. Those two Regions, 3 and 4, are being ravaged by EHD (Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease). EHD is caused by a parasite that is transmitted through bites from black fly midges (no-see-ums). Last year, Region 3 was hit very hard from July through the Fall. This year, the outbreak started in June, which means that either the parasite, or midge eggs over-wintered and survived. Typically, they are killed off after the first hard frost and the midges return in the Summer carried by winds up from the South.

Once infected, the deer will usually die within 3-10 days, and close to a body of water. The disease causes hemorrhaging and fever, so the deer seek water to cool off.

Where I own property in Region 4, WMU 4Y, Columbia County, dozens of dead deer have been found within a 2 square mile area. This area only encompasses 10 private properties and 4 working farms. My cousin found 11 in one day; 8 in the morning and 3 in the afternoon. This is quite alarming. As this issue goes to print, the DEC has yet to amend the distribution of DMP's for areas that are getting hit hard by EHD. Only one statement was issued about it, and it seems that no one at the DEC has any knowledge about it. Forget about getting an answer to your questions. Six different DEC listings were called and all 6 persons who answered were in the dark about it.

So, this means that either the DEC is only concerned with selling as many licenses as possible to fill their coffers (last year, \$45 million

worth of sporting licenses were sold), or they are seeking to end the hunting culture by allowing the herd

to be decimated. Between the EHD outbreak and the ridiculous hunting seasons this year, I tend to think the latter. An early two week, mid-September, antlerless hunt in selected WMUs, extended hunting hours (in near darkness, BTW), and a "Holiday Hunt" after late Archery/Muzzleloader Season. So continue to pressure an already depleted herd for almost 4 months. What will be left going into Winter? What will survive into the Spring?

NYS has to have the worst managed wildlife departments in the entire country. NYS could be a destination for whitetail hunting, but as long as suits are making the decisions, we are doomed.

Conservation: The wise use of natural resources. Not in NYS!

Another scary fact is that last year alone, according to the DEC's boasting, over 67,000 people took the online safety course. That means that nearly 10% of all hunters had ZERO in-person training. No hands-on for safe firearms handling, tree stand safety, crossing a fence, crossing a creek or stream, game recognition, shoot or don't shoot scenarios, blood trailing, asking permission, being sure of your target and beyond, etc. Yet now, Flo-Orange or Flo-Pink is mandatory during firearms season. So as long as it's not orange or pink, it's okay to shoot, right? You have to scratch your head and wonder just what is going on in Albany.

Mentor a child, adult, friend, co-worker, and take them into the woods, to the range, or to a shoot and expose them to the outdoors. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

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

All the best, Al.

REGION 3 REPORT

The Region 3 Report, as well as this entire issue of *FullDraw*, is dedicated to the memory of James D McSwigin. Because of Jim's foresight, diligence, energy, passion and larger than life presence and personality, the NYB membership in Region 3 swelled to become the largest represented Region within NYB. Please take the time to read about Jim in articles found elsewhere in this issue. Rest in Peace dear friend, hunting partner and FDNY brother.

As I write this a few weeks into bow season, the biggest news locally has been the all too obvious, severe lack of deer sightings apparently attributed to yet the second year in a row of an EHD (Epizootic Hemorrhagic) outbreak. The tiny midge (no see-um) that causes this devastating and deadly disease to white tails are smaller than a mosquito and previously thought to appear after drought conditions, usually late in the summer. Interestingly and alarmingly, this year that was not the case as early reports of stricken deer began early in the summer. As July and August wore on we were all concerned as the fall approached and more and more reports in various social media platforms, sports clubs and other hunting circles were confirming dozens of dead deer being discovered throughout the counties within Region 3 (as well as in many other counties as well). I was quite surprised when the DEC did not adjust their DMP allotments in effected areas. The DEC put out a message just four days after the DMP deadline ended, claiming there was no need to reduce deer take objectives as they only confirmed 1,150 dead deer from 20 counties, with the greatest number of reports coming from eastern Ulster County and to a lesser degree western Dutchess, Columbia, and Greene counties. There was no way this could be possible. Now get this: on October 16, Ed Gorch (Region 4 Rep) had two DEC Biologists respond to a deer he found dead which fit the EHD profile. They told him that in Region 3 alone, there were 5,000 cases!!!! FIVE THOUSAND less than 2 weeks after we were assured this was not an outbreak! Perhaps these two biologists are mistaken? Even if they are off somewhat, pardon me for once again cynically accusing the DEC of purposely misleading the very people they are suppose to work for (us). Can the DEC be so out of touch with the herd they are tasked with managing, or were they downplaying what was obvious to everyone else in order to maximize DMP sales (at \$10 per DMP to a few hundred thousand hunters)?

Need I remind you that the DEC outright lied to the public last year when they were FOI'ed (Freedom of Information Law) regarding the existence of an updated Deer Plan which included several items of concern to bowhunters. Just 5 days after their legal department denied, in writing, such a plan existed, a SEVENTY-NINE page Ten Year Deer Management Plan magically appeared, with no public meetings held for discussion and hardly any time to send in a comment. They outright lied, "not misspoke," but lied.

A big "shout out" to the Tupper Lake Archers, our friends from up in the Adirondacks and NYB "Super Supporters." Once again some of us trekked up to their awesome two day, "Mountain Challenge" 3D shoot, held annually on the last weekend of August. Myself, along with Bob Ledrich and his son, Robert, had a great time there and we included a third day devoted to canoeing and fishing in this beautiful region. The gang at Tupper Archers have always been huge supporters of NYB, holding benefit shoots for our programs. Let's support them. I'll mention next year's event in future *FullDraw* for

those who might want to join us and make some new NYB friends in 2022.

Congrats to Doug Erickson who teamed up with his childhood buddy and headed out to Idaho where they successfully put down a beautiful bull elk on a DIY bowhunt. The 50 plus miles they hiked in the mountains is truly miraculous in that Doug spent months rehabbing last winter after falling from a roof and among several serious injuries, also broke his pelvis! A truly inspirational story!

I'd like to welcome Kristofer Caccavale and his family on their relocation from the Big Apple to Orange County. Kris celebrated by arrowing his first Orange County deer as his wife, Deanna, was still unpacking the moving boxes!

As I continue my new found love affair with traditional archery, I had the thrill of stalking a small 8pt in his bed. After two hours of watching and painstakingly crawling, I found myself on my belly at just 20 yards when he arose broadside, completely unaware of my presence! Unfortunately, this was beyond my 12-yard self-imposed limit on my hopefully still-to-improve instinctive shooting skills. So, I merely basked in the accomplishment of a great stalk as I watched him slowly disappear into the briar patch of his bedding grounds and I remained with clean hands and nothing to drag!!!

Have a great holiday season, good health to all, from the Kirschner & Lake families to yours,

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

SULLIVAN COUNTY REPORT

I hope everyone has had a safe and successful hunting season. Due to the printing time lag I can tell you that archery season started hot and muggy and went right on to 6 or 7 inches of rain and wind. November is now here so it remains to be seen how the rest of the season pans out. EHD has shown up again in northern New Jersey as well as throughout R3. Locally, in the northern reaches of R3 it did not seem to have been as big a problem.

It seems we might be getting back into having Winter leagues this season. Travis Archery is considering it and I believe Silver Birch Archery is also.

Reports from club members in the Sullivan County Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs at the most recent meeting had no bears taken in the early season, but someone said there were a few that ended up at local taxidermy shops. None have been taken in this area that I know of, but there are some bruisers showing up on trail cameras locally. Unfortunately, the one I can report on was a small bear, maybe 80 pounds, killed on Rt. 17 near the construction at Exit 112.

Finally, as most of you know, we lost an NYB icon in the passing of Jim McSwigin, known endearingly to most of his friends as

Continues on next page

REGION 3 REPORT - continued from previous page

"Uncle Warmth." Among his many accomplishments, Jim can be credited with putting Region 3 on the NYB map with his insistence that we have a booth at the annual Suffern Show held at RCCC. Under his leadership, for sixteen years that event has accounted for unprecedented membership additions to NYB, mostly in R3 but in counties and even states beyond as well. More importantly, his friendship and generosity will be missed by all of us. Rest in Peace my friend. "Nuff Said."

*Harry Walker, Region 3 and Sullivan County Rep.
149 South Shore Drive, Wolf Lake
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PUTNAM COUNTY REPORT

Greetings from Putnam County,

Not a whole lot of good deer related news for this area. Last year's EHD outbreak, and apparently another one this year has absolutely collapsed the local deer herd. With a few exceptions, I heard from a bunch of locals stating that their tags went unfilled and their trail cameras were void of deer. With all the nuts on the ground going uneaten by the deer I believe it brought in a lot of bears and held them. I had bears on trail cameras as well as a bear encounter that was within 10 yards of my stand while I was in it for over an hour eating hickory nuts. I recorded him for a large percentage of that time and I actually needed to scare him off while I was climbing down the tree. It was truly an experience that I probably will never forget.

In worse news, we lost a legend in the NYB's family, Jim McSwigin. Anyone who knew Jim for more than a few minutes would attest to the character of this man. He had a monstrous heart that he tried to cover with a tough exterior that everyone saw through. He brought smiles and laughter wherever he was. At the Outdoor Sport shows he was a celebrity. In recent years as health occasionally caused him to miss some days, people looking for him would always ask how is the "Old Buffalo" doing? It was Jim who not only encouraged me to go to Africa the first time but also had me reach out to him numerous times with my questions or concerns. His advice was immeasurable and it helped me before, during and after the trips. Upon returning and sitting down with him to look over my pictures he would look at every one and rub his fingers down the backs of the animals in the pictures, like he was connected to them. He loved his family, friends and the great outdoors. Rest in Peace you "Old Buffalo." You are missed by all who had the pleasure to know you. As Jim signed off every correspondence, "nuff said!"

"Stay safe and shoot straight"

Richard Chizzik - Putnam County, Richietix@aol.com

DUTCHESS COUNTY REPORT

Greetings All,

To begin my report, I would like to offer my sincere condolences to the McSwigin family for the loss of their patriarch, Jim, and our "Uncle Warmth." He was truly one of a kind and we will all miss him dearly. Although he may have had a gruff exterior at times, he had a heart of gold and an unmatched wit. Rest in Peace my friend.

The Archery season is in full swing as I write this report and

hopefully, all of us are spending time in the woods. Many of the hunters in my area have been discovering dead deer in their areas infected with EHD. One hunter called me and said when the wind was right, he could smell the carcasses from his stand. My son, Bob, found four dead near his home in Pawling, NY. Apparently, this situation is much worse than we were originally led to believe. Personally, my sightings are down considerably from the same time last year.

On August 28th and 29th, Rich Kirschner, my son Bob, and I attended Mountain Challenge XXVII at the Tupper Lake Sportsman/Archers Club in Tupper Lake, NY. This event is very appropriately named as it was a definite challenge and a fantastic time. We tackled the Challenge in two days, shooting one side Saturday and the other Sunday morning. Both are equally set up with many tricky shots as well as some on the easier side. I suspect Mike had something to do with the shots that included shooting through trees and blowdowns. There was also plenty of food available and a delicious chicken dinner on Saturday night. All were served with friendly faces and just an overall enjoyable experience. A special thanks to Dave & Patty McMahon, Kathy Tessier and Mike Savage and the rest of the "Tupper Crew" for providing such a great event. Also, another big thank you to Mike and Kathy for the guided tour of Tupper Lake on Mike's boat. While at Tupper, we stayed at the Red Top Inn on Route 30 which is just across the street from the lake. On Friday, Rich Kirschner, the "Surfer Dude," enjoyed some paddle boarding while Bob and I did some fishing from his canoe. There are many activities to enjoy. Without a doubt, we will make this an annual event for the future. Over the summer, I have had the opportunity to attend several 3D shoots with my sons, Rich and his son, Andrew, and our TiYogi bowmen brothers & sisters. We just completed a traditional only shoot at TiYogi and it was a nice success. Many thanks to Scott and Tammy Chenevert, Brian Chapman and all who participated in making this event happen. NYB was well represented!! TiYogi is a loyal supporter of NYB; if you live in the area, look for their upcoming winter league and join us!

I hope you all had a very successful and safe hunting season and are enjoying some fine bounty. That's about it from Dutchess County for now. Stay safe and healthy!

Keep "em" Sharp

*Bob Ledrich - Dutchess County Rep - Treasurer
845-266-0615 / ledrich@optonline.net*

ROCKLAND COUNTY REPORT

Hello members. Our long-awaited time of the year is here. Fall. The harvest season. The trees change colors, we get different moons and we change the clocks. Oh Yeah...The rut gets going too. I hope you had time to practice and get your bow shooting where you want to be. We owe it to the game hunted to be proficient with our weapons. As good as we all think we are. Even the best do miss. No one bats 1.000, so practice. Muscle memory is paramount.

As I write this article, we are in the fourth week of October and buck activity is picking up. I have had a few good sits with no shooters coming into range. But I have been watching young bucks be bucks, and does are concentrating on food sources. The action should get going soon with the chase phase. I am shooting a new bow this year. A new Bear Kodiak Takedown 50/28 "B" riser. I was gifted this special piece of archery equipment by a dear friend who was instrumental in getting me to pick up the recurve bow and

put down the Mathews. I am forever grateful for his generosity and friendship. The bow draws so smooth and feels very comfortable shooting it at my 20yd max. So, I was doing my best to christen it the last few weeks, but nothing came within range. I am headed back to my property in the Texas Hill Country for a few weeks to continue with my home build process and hopefully stick a few hogs and or whitetail. I would also like to congratulate my oldest son Joseph and his killer of a wife, Samantha (NYB's Instagram Admin) on their marriage this past September. Joe and Sammy are there EVERY year for NYB at National Hunting and Fishing Day, and help with the shoots we hold at Helen Hayes Hospital. I am very proud of these two and how they give back and how they stack up deer too. They are always exposing new folks to the outdoors and are mentors to a few "yutes" (Youths) in Orange county. Congrats once again guys, I wish y'all a lifetime of happiness. Remember this... a couple that slays together...stays together.

While these guys are young and looking forward, NYB lost a dear friend and "downstate" icon. Jim McSwigin entered Valhalla as the warrior he has always been. The Old Buffalo ultimately succumbed after fighting a valiant battle with all kinds of ailments, The Grim Reaper was getting tired of coming up empty. Jimmy was one tough 'mofo' with an incredible history. This is one man who should have written a book. Jimmy...I am glad to have known you. Rest in peace and thank you for all you have done for New York Bowhunters.

****Rockland County remains one of the largest in terms of NYB membership. As my long tenure soon comes to a close, it would be a shame to not have us represented. If anyone is interested in taking over as the Rockland Representative, please drop me or anyone at NYB a line and we can talk about it. Bowhunting has given so much to you. Ask yourselves, shouldn't you be giving back just a little in order to protect that which we all love? You'll have a great support team around you.

Shoot straight and hunt safe. God Bless our brave Military and Law enforcement. Have a great Thanksgiving and enjoy the holidays.

Anthony Picariello, Rockland Representative, Board of Director
ADjam5@verizon.net

WESTCHESTER COUNTY REPORT

As we enter the post rut and holiday seasons I hope everyone is well and safe but now is not the time to sit back and relax. We still have almost this entire month to hunt and then January for those of us hunting Long Island. I hope everyone enjoyed success in the beginning of the season, learned something new and challenged themselves in a way that added to your hunting knowledge this season.

As Westchester residents, many of us travel to public lands to hunt. One alternative that is readily available locally, and that can produce some large bucks, are the largely wooded suburban areas not readily hunted. I encourage everyone who does not have access to private land, make yourself a little uncomfortable, do some research, put your best foot forward, and ask people you may know or even a complete stranger if you can hunt their land.

1. Identify property, the easiest score may be speaking to a coworker or a friend who states "I see tons of deer every day in my backyard!" You can also use Escouting techniques with an app like On X Hunt, or even just google maps.

2. Here is the uncomfortable part. Talk! Now let's take the pressure

off. I like to think about it in these terms. Never forget what you are asking this stranger for. I like to think of it in the coldest unemotional way possible. You are asking a complete stranger to go on their property and kill something-intimidating, right! So here is where knowledge and education about wildlife conservation comes in real handy, and most importantly a combination of humility, respect, and confidence. You already know how hunting animal populations helps the health of the herd and helps that natural habitat sustain the population (be prepared to explain it!). Have confidence in yourself, look respectable, stand tall, chin up, eye contact, and God forbid in these times, shake hands! Introduce yourself and respectfully ask "May I hunt your land?" Be prepared to explain why, how, and where you intend to hunt. Explain why bowhunting is safe in this environment and what measures you will take to keep them and their neighbors safe. Also prepare yourself for a solid no answer, say thank you and move on. Offer something in return, perhaps a quarter of some of the best most nutrient dense organic meat on the planet (definitely use that for people on the fence). I have even offered to help clear trees, mow lawns, and take away garbage.

3. Due diligence, learn local laws and guidelines, know and respect property lines and property owners. Know your shooting lanes, distances from structures and utmost safety for everyone. One property I hunt borders a horse farm so I constantly have to be aware of where the horses are.

4. Learn how to hunt confined spaces. Just as you are restricted, so are the animals. Trails are heavily traveled, corridors between properties are narrow and frequently used. Don't assume deer won't use a driveway. Just the other day I was set up in a location thinking the buck would come out and break away from the house to the back wooded area...No. He turned, walked towards the house, past the pool, straight to the sidewalk directly in front of the front door (I'm sure he even stopped and smelled my truck!) and down the driveway. I'M STILL UPSET ABOUT IT!

I hope some of you give it a try. The worst thing that can happen is they say no. Best case scenario is you have a new chance at success. I have taken 2 deer off of this 6-acre property and plan on many more.

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.
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646 295 0890

ULSTER COUNTY REPORT

Down in Ulster we have had good weather the first few weeks of archery, minus the heavy rain last Tuesday. Our mass crop of apples and acorns is better than I recall in the last 30 years. Lots of archers in Ulster were able to have success, including some good bucks. Our antler restrictions are working. I'm writing this on Halloween morning and hearing reports of good rutting action the last couple of days. Hopefully our fellow members have additional success over the next few weeks. I'm still out trying to get my 14 year-old daughter her first deer. Please wear a safety harness if you are climbing trees. We repeat this often, yet every year falls and serious injuries occur.

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REGION 3 REPORT - continued from previous page

On a personal note, I was very taken back when I heard that Jimmy McSwigin had passed on. "Uncle Warmth" for those that knew him. I have tons of fond memories of Jim and his colorful antics. For the members of NYB who never had the great fortune of meeting Jim, please stop, read all the tributes in this edition and take a second to thank Uncle Warmth for growing the organization, his tireless leadership and countless hours of dedication to the NYB family. I met Jimmy in February 2005, the first year NYB had a booth at the World Hunting and Fishing Expo held at Rockland Community College. Since then he recruited me as the Ulster County Rep and "MADE" me work the NYB booth at the show ever since. We shot 3D together, we sat together at the NYB Banquets, we always had great meaningful conversations about life, family, hunting, politics, unions and the directions we were headed. I will greatly miss Jimmy, not only for all he gave to NYB but as my friend. "Nuff Said."

John Polk, Ulster County, jpolk@cwa101.org

ORANGE COUNTY REPORT

Hello Orange County archers. First off, I would like to dedicate this column to longtime friend, "Uncle Warmth," Jim McSwigin. I will always treasure the memories made throughout the many years; trips to North Dakota chasing antelope, mule

Hi Guys & Gals

Well, it's with deep sadness that I report the passing of a lifelong staunch supporter of NYB, James McSwigin. He was known to us by many names: Big Jim, The Herd Bull, Uncle Warmth. The list goes on and on. When you first met Jim, he came across as a big, loud, hardass Marine that would take no bull from anyone, but once you knew him, you could see the intelligent, kind hearted softy he was inside. He always sat with me at the Camo To Camo table during our Banquets raising money for our troops overseas. I knew Jim for about twenty years and I can't ever remember him meeting me without some kind of funny remark or wise-guy statement. I miss and think of him often. I remember him telling me a few different times when I was busting on him, "Remember G-MAN, someday you'll be where I'm at now." What he meant by that was he was in his senior years, in pain at the twilight of his life, the Herd Bull fighting to hold on to one more season. He was my good friend and brought joy to my life. He always ended his writings with two words, "Nuff Said."

I hope everyone had a safe and enjoyable season this year. I know the farther south you go in the state, the more problems were experienced with EHD. I only came across one doe with it and had a biologist in Region 4 come down and remove the spleen for sampling. It came back positive. I found the four year doe when it was still alive. It was a poor sight to witness. Greene County has had a lot of EHD

deer, whitetails, turkeys, pheasants, sharp-tail grouse, etc. or just a weekend up at the cabin in Hancock enjoying a "hot toddy" or two! Jim was a true gentleman with a heart of gold and one of the best ball breakers I've ever known!! Rest easy my friend, a big pair of hunting boots to fill for sure. You will be missed.

'Tis the season treestands are in place, food plots are planted and bows are finely tuned! There is a bumper acorn crop this year as well which will hopefully help our deer make it through the winter. A bit of concern regarding EHD in our area. DEC is monitoring an outbreak of EHD affecting deer in multiple counties. After last year's outbreak, another started again in the lower Hudson Valley in late July 2021, and has since been confirmed in multiple counties. Please help the DEC keep track of potential EHD cases found anywhere in New York by using the Online EHD Reporting system on DEC website. Submit reports and photos of sick or dead deer suspected of having EHD as well.

I hope everyone has a safe and successful hunting season. Please feel free to share any thoughts or concerns you may have. Wishing everyone happy holidays and a happy and healthy new year!

*Chris Smith - Orange County Rep
Bigblue9654@gmail.com*

REGION 4 REPORT

deer showing up along with surrounding counties.

We can only guess how things will go for next year, but I think the DEC should wake up and start looking into the future before giving out more and more permits and creating new and longer seasons.

I'd like to congratulate my hunting buddy Doug Preisner on arrowing a nice 9 pointer and his older brother and new NYB member Walt on taking his first black bear with his bow in NY. Doug called me to help in the bear tracking. It's a little odd. Both brothers told me they were color blind and they would be right behind me. I'm starting to wonder about these guys.

It won't be long before the sports shows start. If you get a chance to attend, stop by the NYB booth to renew your membership, sign up a friend and take a few chances on a hunt.

Take Care,

*Ed Gorch, Region 4, Greene County Rep.
oldbowman48@gmail.com 518-634-7139*



REGION 5 REPORT

Well, summer is over and the fall hunting season is upon us. The summer here has been busy. Back in August we had our two day Mt Challenge 3D shoot. Even though we were down by 11 shooters we managed to make a little money to pay our bills and have lots of fun with some new and old friends.



Getting kids involved is the secret to the future. Lilly Chase and Taylor helping Taylor's mom Heather Hall in the kitchen opening rolls and running food.

From the Mt Challenge in August we moved right on into Octupper Fest at the local golf range. Our members set up a 3D range for the kids and adults to try out their archery skills.



Club treasurer and NYB Board member Kathy Tessier helping a youngster develop his skills.



Member Mike Savage helping one of our youngest shooters.

All in all it was a great day for everyone.

Now on to hunting season. We have already had several deer entered into our archery big deer contest. Wild Bill Cramer entered the first but I have a feeling it won't be the last.

And now to the last and undoubtedly the biggest event: the infamous Northern Challenge Ice Fishing Derby. Each year the club holds this huge derby, drawing people from several states and 2 countries (when the borders are open) to compete for huge prizes and money (\$6,800 in cash prizes, \$6,500 in door prizes and 2 new ATVs). It is one of the largest derbies in the north east.



The smile says it all.

This is a great family event and we are seeing more and more kids joining dad out on the ice. There are a few changes this year:

- For people's convenience we have added online registration: <http://www.tupperlake.com/northern-challenge>.
- No fishing will be allowed on Friday before the derby.

We hope that everyone has a safe and prosperous year.

Dave McMahon • Region 5

FALL RAFFLE WINNER!

(a two day fishing trip for 4 on Lake Ontario with Gone Coastal Fishing Charters)

Congratulations!
James Fowles



REGION 6 REPORT

Most of October was unusual T-shirt hunting weather. But then the November cool really got the deer back into rutting activity. Hope you were one of those fortunate enough to get venison in your freezer. Whether you did or not, your preparation for next year's hunt starts now.

We are anticipating our Annual Region 6 Youth Bowhunter Education Camp will return next summer as normally scheduled, but that is a long way off. The Covid dilemma is still with us, although in reduced form. We still have to make it through this virus winter. Do your part to stay safe and make every effort to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus. Then maybe we can return to our "normal" activities.

As you visit local sports shops and outdoor sporting events, spread the good word of NYB. Sign up your favorite sports shop as a Booster. Tell them of our Region 6 Youth Education Camp and the Physically Challenged hunts we support. Then tell them how we have been helping American troops serving in the Middle East with our Camo to Camo program. Not only do we send gift boxes regularly, we send wounded veterans on free hunts. If you would like to help with gift box donations, or if you know someone who might qualify for the hunt, contact the NYB office.

The New York Bowhunters Facebook Page still posts up to the minute updates on what is happening around the state.

Follow us on Instagram. Facebook also streams on our NYB home web page. Go to: www.newyorkbowhunters.com.

Have you signed up a new Spikes member this year? Youth hunters are our future! Start encouraging every child in your extended family over 10 years old and take one hunting this Fall.

I wish all you bowhunters not only a successful hunting season, but a most enjoyable and SAFE Holidays!

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

REGION 7 REPORT

Greetings from Region 7!

Hope everyone is having better luck than me as I'm not hunting this season due to injuries. But, reports are good from those out there who have boots on the ground.

I'd expect buck action to pick up in the next week with these colder mornings on the way.

Spent last weekend filming for my friend Jimmy @ Deerslayertv (Cervicide) in PA and we were able to get a spot and stalk filmed, ending with a public land buck down. The buck was flying solo but had been tending a large area of rubs and scrapes. The weather has been fantastic to get out and practice! I've been off social media, so I don't know what the status of many shops or clubs is as far as open shooting goes, but start looking into places you can shoot to help hone skills and muscle memory for this season opener!

That said, where you see signs, don't look too far, the deer are probably closer than you think!

Good luck and shoot straight!

Jeremy from Region 7
krausanator@gmail.com



REGION 8 REPORT

Hopefully everyone had some quality time in the woods this fall. Although it's only Halloween as I type this, many people have taken deer in Region 8. The weather so far has been very wet with lots of flooding and above average temperatures, however it looks to be turning colder this week and the rut is picking up every day.

NYB has lost a very special person with the passing of Jim McSwigin this summer. If you ever spent any time with Jim, who was also known as Uncle Warmth or Old Buff, you will never forget him. He had a way with people that very few people have. He really cared about people and would remember every detail. Every time we talked he would ask about my father, wife and other things that we talked about last time which could be a year before. The woods seem to be missing something this fall with Jim gone.

With hunting seasons winding down now is the time to take care of your gear and change/repair anything that you may have thought of trying during the season while it's fresh in your mind. Maybe that rest that squeaked, the release that wouldn't function in freezing temps or maybe the broad heads that got dull. If you wait until next summer you may not remember and the archery shops will be backed up. This time of year you will probably be the only one in the shop and get personal attention. This also helps out the shops that support us during this slow time for them. Winter leagues at the archery shops are a great time way to keep your shooting sharp. Support the shops and meet some likeminded people.

Another great way to keep active is small game hunting with your bow. I can't even describe how much fun I have had rabbit hunting with recurves and longbows behind beagles. With a couple of people jumping brush piles or organized pushes you don't even need dogs. You may shoot

a lot of arrows and take very few rabbits but trust me, the first one that

you get on the run

you will never forget. Many places you can also bird (pheasant) hunt with bows, although I haven't tried this yet. It sounds like a lot of fun.

Lastly, if you have ever dreamed about an out of state hunt now is the time to start planning. You need to decide what animal/animals you would like to pursue, what state best fits you, how you plan on traveling, etc. Many states have drawings for tags with deadlines you need to apply for. You should be checking out outfitters or, if you go DIY, electronic scouting, pouring over regulations, getting in shape and making sure you have the needed gear for your adventure. None of us are getting any younger and it's never going to get less expensive, so chase your dreams now. Be warned once you go you will begin planning your next trip before you are even home - ask me how I know.

Send in your pictures and stories. You are NYB and we want to hear from you!

Bob Brown
waptichasr@aol.com



Happy Hunting Region 9 Members,

The 2021-22 deer hunting season is expected to be another very productive year for deer hunters. Statewide, deer populations benefited from a relatively mild winter and favorable weather conditions during fawning season and early summer. Some regions in the state experienced a severe Gypsy Moth caterpillar population and some Regions in the south of the state lost deer to EHD, both impacting the deer herd. Region 9 seems to have escaped these issues. The deer food supply across the Region is generally in good condition. The deer harvest forecast for this Region is good.

One of the impacts of Covid on deer hunting last year was an increased number of hunters applying for DMPs and, according to the Bowhunter Sighting Log, hunters spent more hours afield than in 2019. A higher percentage

of DMPs were filled in 2020 and this trend is expected to continue in 2021.

We're looking for someone to provide Region 9 reports for *FullDraw*. If you are interested please contact the NYB Office or e-mail NYBFullDraw@gmail.com

Cindy Phillips
NYB FullDraw Editor

REGION 9 REPORT



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RETURN TO SOUTH AFRICA

In May of 2021, after cancelling my 2020 plans, I completed a trip to South Africa hunting with Willem and Flippe Frost of Matlabas Game Hunters (loyal supports of N.Y.B.) for the second time. My first hunt was in 2013 after successfully bidding on the hunt at a N.Y.B banquet. I had been dreaming of a return trip since my first successful experience.

The first 2 hours hunting I had seen Zebra, Impala, Blue Wildebeest and Nyala, plus too many birds to remember. When you compare an African hunt with one at home where you may see deer and, if lucky, a coyote, fox or bear, it's easy to see how Africa can get in your blood. Because I had been there before my list of target animals was shorter and more selective. It wasn't until the 5th day I arrowed a nice Nyala bull. Bruce Taylor, my hunting buddy on this trip, his first to South Africa, had taken a Nyala, Kudu and Waterbuck so far in the hunt. I ended the trip with 6 animals and Bruce with 5 animals. However, the lure of Africa isn't just the plethora of animals to hunt, it's the whole experience. The many different bird species, different trees and plants is intoxicating. You will see animals you may never have heard of. The sounds alone are exciting, from Kudu cows giving warning, Vervet Monkeys and Baboons calling, the constant chatter of Guinea fowl and the howls of Jackals at night. While hunting we sat in blinds over waterholes and watched a parade of animals all day long, in addition to a constant stream of birds to identify and observe.

If Africa has ever been a dream of yours, I highly



recommend Matlabas Game Hunters. Accommodations, food and hospitality are outstanding. Its also a great trip to bring a non-hunting spouse or friend. Make sure they have a camera because they will have plenty to see. South Africa will never disappoint.

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The Ol' Buff, Jim McSwigin

by Al Bottari

My first mistake was writing a letter (yes a real letter, on paper, with pen, and mailing it, yet another draconian method of communication) to Jim. I was a recent member of New York Bowhunters, Inc. and I wanted to see how I could help out the organization. I joined, not just for a sticker and a magazine, but to help out MY state's bowhunting voice in any way I could.

Jim called me as soon as he read it and asked me to help out at the Nassau Outdoor Show, held at the Nassau Coliseum. Mistake number two, I agreed. I met Jim there with a few other NYB members and we worked the show and signed up new members for NYB. From that point on, Jim pushed me deeper and deeper into NYB.

Jim, by that time, was already a BODs Member, but he was also the Region 2 Rep. After a few months of our courtship, he appointed me as the Queens County Rep. From there on, he continued to suck me in deeper and deeper. The start was finding NYB on Bowsite and eventually I became President, all thanks to Jim. Through NYB, I have met so many wonderful people, and some of them I refer to as "friends who became family." Jim was one of those people.

We would joke and say "Thanks Rich" when we would embark on another NYB mission. This was because it was Rich Kirschner, who first heard about NYB through his membership in PBS, who got Jim involved. Rich spoke to Jim about this new NYS bowhunting group forming, and Jim jumped right into it. Rich laid low for a few years, while Jim continued to get more involved with NYB.

Jim was a larger than life character, as anyone who knew him can attest to. He was a big "strong like bull" man who survived two building collapses during his tenure on the FDNY, built his hunting cabin with his brother Terry from a pile of logs dropped off from a kit, and hunted hard around the world. Elk, Deer, Sheep, Moose, Bear, Mountain Goats, Prairie Dogs, Duiker, Zebra, Gemsbok, Leopard, Cape Buffalo, Plains Game, Snoobab, Geese (with a bow), and Ducks with his beloved Chessies (Chesapeake Bay Retrievers) were all fair game. He never stopped and always went at it full tilt. Regardless if he had to climb a mountain, go through rogue African checkpoints, fall from a tree, or endure pneumonia at air thinning elevations, Jim did it.

His tales could fill several volumes, and I am certain, save for his sons Sean and Christopher, not everyone has heard every one of them. He never boasted about his exploits, or his trophies, even forgoing, as he would call it "Pope and Crockett." He chose to have them displayed through taxidermy, pelts, Euro mounts, and thousands of photographs. His home and hunting cabin reflect that. Also in the cabin is the "World of Wonder," a group of shelves that house items that Jim had collected during his travels in nature. Skins, bones, skulls, teeth, feathers, scat, odd shaped rocks and branches, etc... He was always looking to pass along the wonders of what God provided to others.

Despite having killed hundreds of animals, including some of high ranking record keeping status, he never entered any animal into any book. He did support those organizations though, and many others. There are too many to list here, but Jim had a heart of gold to match his stature, and he gave generously.

He would hold an annual shoot at his hunting camp. One stipulation, you had to be a member of the NRA in order to partake. If you weren't, he had applications. Later on, NYB had a contest to sign up new members. Jim, not a Board Member at the time, switched his NRA membership requirement to an NYB requirement. He signed up over 40 members and stunned the BODs. They all wanted to know who this guy Jim McSwigin was.

He knew that NYB needed a membership boost which would include a presence at the outdoor shows, and he also knew that he could get the job done. After convincing the BODs to fund a booth at the Rockland Show, then President Kevin Armstrong threw down the gauntlet to him. I think it was to sign up 100 members. Through Jim's tactics, we signed up over 300 new members. While other people who occupy booths wait for people to come to them, Jim went out into the walkway and got up in their faces. "Hey fella, are you a bowhunter?" "C'mon over here and let me talk to you for a few minutes." More often than not, he signed them up.

He gave and gave and gave. Not just his money, but his time, and his thoughts. He proposed the Benefactor Member Level, requesting to be Member #1, and he was also the driving force behind NYB attaining its 501c3 Tax Exempt status, which he proposed well over a decade before it came to fruition. He consistently gave items for the gift boxes for the Camo to Camo program, as well as monetary donations. As a Marine in his early years, he had tremendous respect for our armed forces.

His kindness could often be overlooked, because at times he could be gruff and filterless. But I can tell you firsthand how generous he was. Every year when it was "cookie time" for my daughter's Girl Scout Troops, he would send a check for dozens of boxes, without even asking. Another time, when I was laid off from work, he wanted to send me a check for an exorbitant, in fact, a ludicrous amount of money. I refused him, but thanked him for his kind offer. He has always offered a place to rest your head for as long as you needed, be it his house in Throggs Neck or his hunting camp, and he offered sage advice to anyone who asked. That was Jim, the big comfy blanket that you could always rely on.

He loved to joke around, and he took it as well as he gave it. If there was a white paper napkin around, get ready for the chicken joke. Don't ask, if you have never seen him do it. He fondly referred to me as "The Silverback" and I accepted it with honor. He would make fun of my Italian ancestry often interjecting/interrupting with "How 'bout dis!"

Continues on next page

THE OL' BUFF, JIM MCSWIGIN

continued from previous page

We spent many a road trip to BODs meetings and Banquets across the state, lodging together and getting in some real quality time, discussing a wide range of topics. We shared cocktails, meals, and plenty of laughs along the way.

Two particular times at his cabin were most memorable. We had completed a BODs Meeting there, and most of the Members had left, but there were a handful of us staying the night: Jim, Rich, Jim Beltrami, and myself. Late that afternoon, we saw a tornado off in the distance while we were sitting on the back deck. It was heading straight for us. "What are we gonna do?" someone asked. "Nothing we can do, we can't escape it, it's right here!" Jim said. "Let's get a cocktail and whatever happens, happens." That is just what we did: had a drink, sat down and watched it get closer and closer. Then, as it was getting really close, we saw it break up and just disappear.

Another night while sitting on the back deck, again enjoying a drink, we witnessed a natural phenomenon like no other. There was an explosion of fireflies, literally millions of fireflies covering well over an acre. We could not believe

what we were seeing. We still have no explanation as to why this happened. Those two memories will forever be with me.

One funny story, well at least to me, occurred one night while we were away for another BODs Meeting. I heard him pacing about and asked why he was up. He responded that he couldn't sleep and took an Ambien, but it wasn't working. When I checked the bottle, it said Lipitor. Both pills look similar and he didn't bother to check. I told him it won't help him sleep but he could have extra bacon with breakfast! He didn't think that remark was very funny. But when he did sleep, oh boy! I can fondly remember the sounds of the veldt emanating from the bed a few feet away.

I reflected back to all of those happy times as I held his hand one last time and gave him a kiss on his forehead. I prayed that God would give him comfort and that Padre Pio would grant an intercession to assist him on his ascension. May God rest your soul Uncle Warmth. I love you, I will forever miss you, and I am honored to have known you. Rest now brother, take thy sleep, for when me march, your sword rides with me.

As he always liked to end it, 'Nuff Said.

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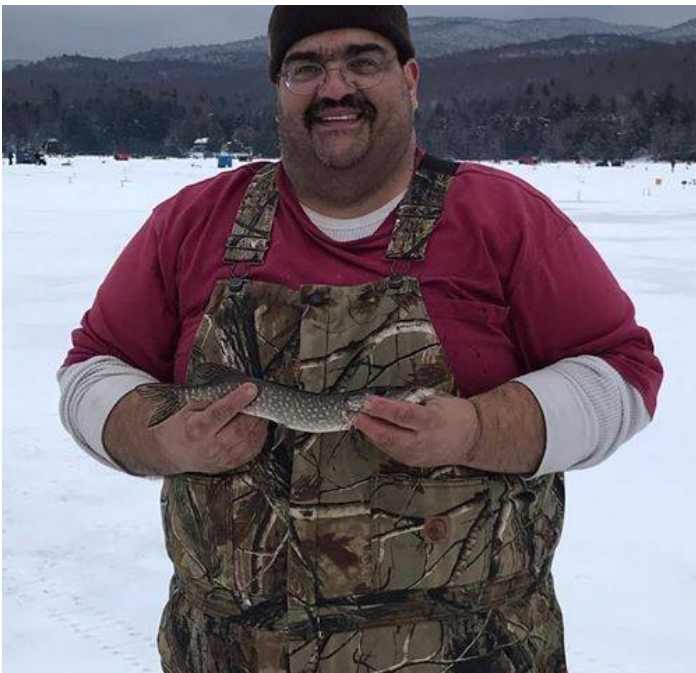
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Epizootic Hemorrhagic Disease

by Patrick Connelly, Cornell Wildlife Health Lab

Viral disease of deer is causing a widespread outbreak in New York

Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) is a viral disease of white-tailed deer that generally results in rapid death in local deer, typically within 36 hours of developing symptoms. Since discovery in 1955, it has primarily been a disease of deer herds in the southeastern United States where the environmental conditions are more suitable for the biting midges which spread this disease, commonly called “no-see-ums.” However, outbreaks in northern states have occurred with increased regularity in recent years, and unusually, New York has experienced outbreaks for the first time in consecutive years (2020 and 2021). Prior to 2020, EHD had only caused relatively small and isolated outbreaks in 2007 (Albany, Rensselaer and Niagara Counties) and 2011 (Rockland County). Because outbreaks occur sporadically in the Northeast, local deer have poor immunity to the virus, and most will die. In 2020, a large outbreak occurred in which an estimated 1,500 deer were killed in the Lower Hudson Valley. The virus returned this summer, causing an ongoing and widespread outbreak, affecting at present 29 counties and killing nearly 2,000 deer. The largest mortality events are occurring in the Hudson Valley, Long Island, and counties bordering the eastern shore of Lake Ontario.

In an effort to better understand this emergent disease in New York and its impact on our deer herd, we at the Cornell Wildlife Health Lab are asking deer hunters to help us by collecting blood and spleen samples from deer they harvest this season for antiBODsy and viral testing. We will be supplying interested hunters with sample collection kits that will provide instructions on how to collect these samples as well local sample drop-off points. Any interested hunters who would like to participate in our project or have questions are encouraged to contact Dr. Patrick Connelly by email at pjc275@cornell.edu. We look forward to working with you.





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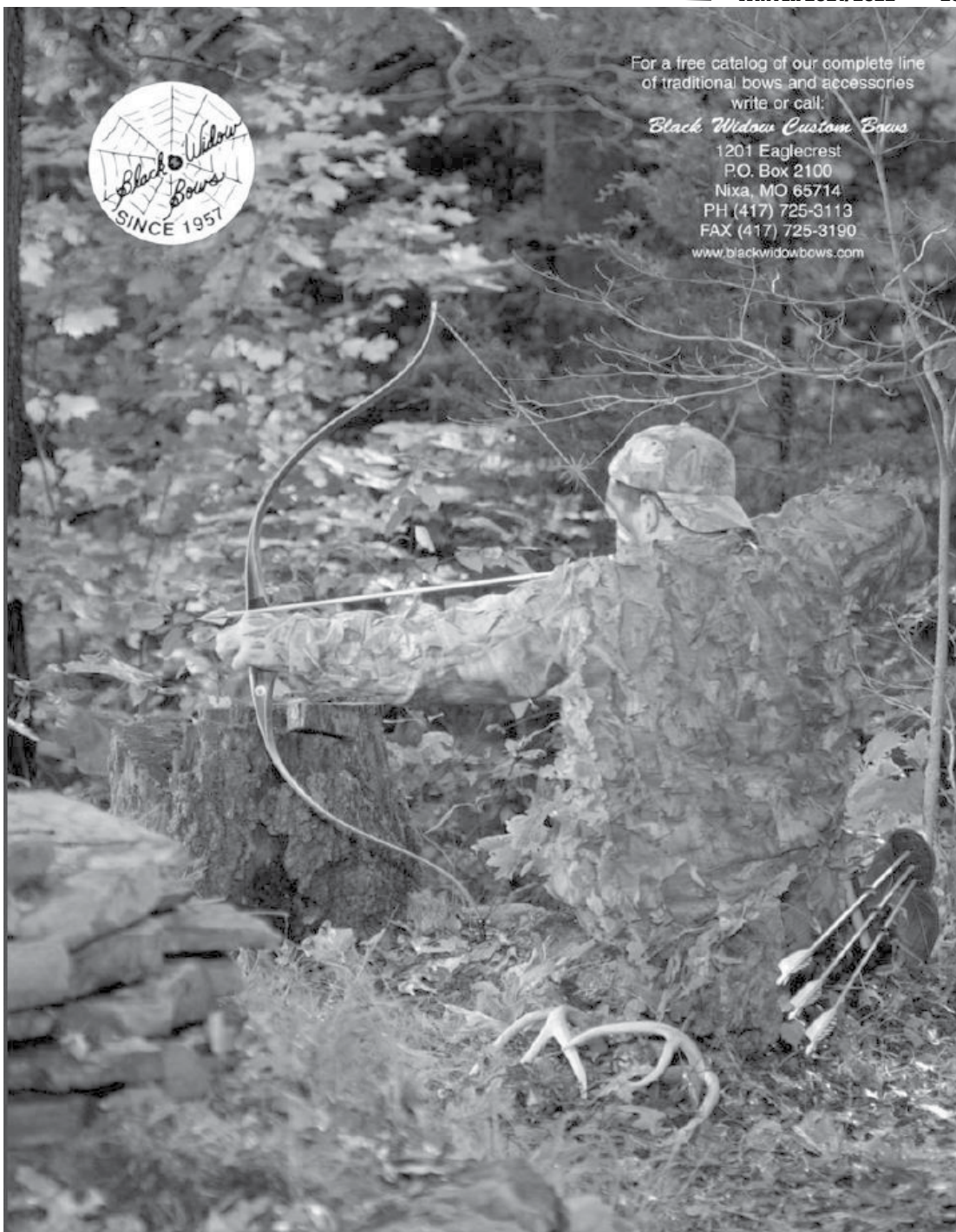
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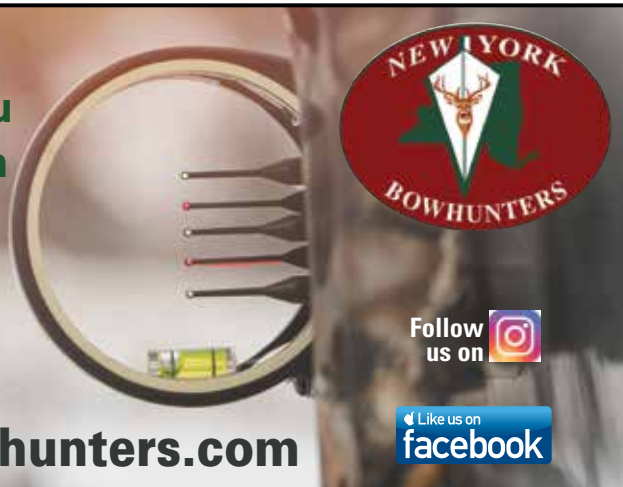
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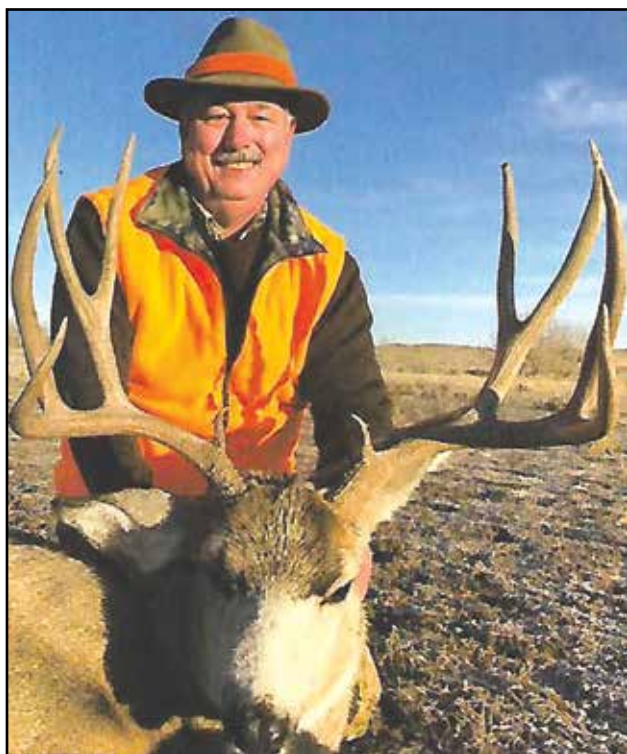


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