

# FULLDRAW

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

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

**SPRING 2022**

## **31st Annual BANQUET & RENDEZVOUS**

**Guest Speaker  
Jim Willems**

**SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2022**

**SATURDAY REGISTRATION OPENS 9:00 AM**

**Sunny Hill Resort  
352 Sunny Hill Road  
Greenville, NY 12083**

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# 31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL **BANQUET & RENDEZVOUS**

**Saturday, May 14, 2022**

**Guest Speaker**

**Jim  
Willems**

***Past President  
of the Pope and  
Young Club***



**Bring the  
whole family!**

Archery novelty  
shoots & contests  
(with Genesis  
bows provided)  
win prizes  
vendor tables  
**CAN RAFFLES**

**Topic: Game Changing Experiences**

**For early birds: Friday Night BBQ with 50/50 6:00 pm**

**Saturday Registration opens 9:00 AM**

**1:00 PM - General Meeting**

**5:00 PM - Cocktail Hour**

**6:00 PM - Dinner & silent auction**

Also available Free 3D Shoot, Antler Scoring,  
Free golf for NYB Members

**Sunny Hill Resort  
352 Sunny Hill Road  
Greenville, NY 12083  
Ph: 518.634.7642**

**Rooms - \$149.00/double  
\$139/single per night  
(includes full breakfast)**

Visit [www.sunnyhill.com](http://www.sunnyhill.com)  
to reserve your room today.

***Don't forget to bring a gift box for our  
Camo To Camo program!***

**Tickets \$45 each, \$85 per couple  
(kids under 12 free)**

**Make checks payable to:**

**NEW YORK BOWHUNTERS, INC**

**Seating is limited – order early.**

**For Dinner Ticket Ordering,  
Presale Raffle Tickets &  
Information Contact:**

**Annie Jacobs  
5937 County Road 33  
Canandaigua, NY 14424  
(585) 229-7468**

**[nyboffice@newyorkbowhunters.com](mailto:nyboffice@newyorkbowhunters.com)**

## New York Bowhunters

New York State's largest bowhunting organization since 1991

a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization

5937 County Rd. 33, Canandaigua, NY 14424

(585) 229-7468

e-mail: nyboffice@newyorkbowhunters.com

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ledrich@optonline.net

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*FullDraw*: Published quarterly by New York Bowhunters, Inc. Contributions are very welcome and are requested to be submitted to the editor strictly via email or on disk. Please include telephone number with all submissions. Photos may be mailed for scanning or digital. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope if photos are to be returned.

THE EDITORS of *FullDraw* reserve the right to edit or reject any and all materials which may be deemed undesirable to New York Bowhunters, Inc. or to the sport of bowhunting.

Electronic files may be sent to:  
NYBFULLDRAW@GMAIL.COM

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Deadlines for future issues:  
Spring: February 1st • Summer: May 1st  
Fall: August 1st • Winter: November 1st

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## From the President's Desk

President's Report by Andrew Cotraccia

Greetings NYB Members,

I hope you had an exciting and fulfilling hunting season and that your freezers are filled to the max with nutritious wild game! I would have to say I probably saw fewer deer this season than in years past but my game cameras are showing an interesting and consistent trend of more bucks than doe. I'm hoping the years of quality deer & doe management are starting to pay off. I did have the pleasure of hunting with my brother in-law Aaron Barton out on our Iowa lease this past season. Even though I didn't draw a buck tag, I drove out to Iowa with him for "moral support." We left NY on Thursday night, got out to Iowa on Friday afternoon and started scouting. Shotgun B season opened Saturday morning and Aaron was quick to connect on a beautiful 150" ten point at around 8:30am. So, we tagged, field dressed, skinned, quartered, and deboned the rest of the day. That night, we packed up our gear, got some rest and headed back home to NY on Sunday morning. For about 2 hours of hunting, we drove approximately 30 hours but, that's how it goes sometimes and Aaron was pretty excited for his first successful Iowa hunt.

If you are not aware, there are two bills, S7747 & A1299, in the New York State Environmental Conservation Committee related to expanding crossbow hunting opportunities. See the Legislative Report in this issue for more information.

The continued drive to overtake the entire bow season shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone! Just look at what's happening in the rest of our country with lowering standards for the sake of "inclusion" and pushing for instant gratification. This is no different. Our opposition is well funded by crossbow manufacturers who want to sell into New York and makes no excuses about what they make or what they are trying to do. Just look at Ravin and Excalibur crossbows as some of the many examples of crossbows that give hunters a significant advantage over hand held/hand drawn bows. Most advertisements emphasize superior range, accuracy, ease of use, tactical style scopes, adjustable triggers, etc. and are marketed to gun hunters for multi-season hunting opportunities. The argument that crossbows are comparable to hand held/hand drawn bows holds little weight anymore. As a result, the crossbow crowd has started to change their tactics as technology has outpaced their ability to conceal the truth. Now, their argument is about a hunter's right to choose the implement of their choice! And only an anti-hunting life member of PETA could argue with that right? If someone can't use facts, reasoning, and evidence to create a compelling case for or against something, they will often fall back on an emotional appeal. If you don't believe me, then just watch CNN for 10 minutes.

Crossbows are effective hunting tools and have their place in hunting season. The archery season, however, was originally placed before other seasons and given its length because it was an accepted fact that bow hunters needed additional days of hunting undisturbed deer to have an opportunity at a close-range encounter. This is one of the many reasons why bow hunting seasons are under attack. As long as there is a push for full crossbow inclusion, without restriction and separation, NYB will be there to push back!

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

Sincerely,

**Andrew Cotraccia**

**President, New York Bowhunters Inc.**





# MAD RIVER ARCHERY

## 3-D ARCHERY SHOOT 2022

**JULY** 23<sup>RD</sup> + 24<sup>TH</sup> • **AUGUST** 27<sup>TH</sup> + 28<sup>TH</sup> • **SEPTEMBER** 10<sup>TH</sup> + 11<sup>TH</sup>

REGISTRATION **8-NOON** DAY OF EVENT

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

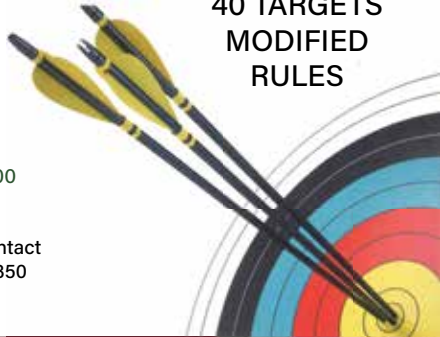
### MAD RIVER CLUB HOUSE

COUNTY ROUTE 15,  
LACONA, NY

ENTRY FEE  
TEENS + ADULTS: \$20.00  
CUBS: \$5.00

For more information contact  
Bill Killam at (315) 387-3350  
wmkillam@gmail.com

40 TARGETS  
MODIFIED  
RULES



## "Outdoor Show Cancelled...Again"

For the second consecutive year, the show most of us refer to simply as "The Rockland Show" or "RCCC" has been cancelled due to Covid restrictions and (or) fear of same. The show promoter reported too many vendors were hesitant to commit within the deadline date. The major issue stated was fear that too many attendees would refuse to attend a venue where either mandatory mask or vaccine policies might still be in effect. There was no indication that the Governor was planning to lift restrictions, which even if that did occur, the school itself might implement their own restrictive policies.

Nonetheless, what this means to NYB is that for the second year in a row, our organization will suffer a reduction in new and renewing members. We usually get over 100 memberships at the annual RCCC Show! For the seventeen years NYB has had a presence at RCCC, on two occasions we had over 300 sign up over the four-day show!

I ask that everyone reading this, whether or not you annually renew at the "Rockland" show, to please renew your membership today. Your membership term will be added on to your existing expiration date. Regardless of when you are due to renew, this added revenue will help NYB at this time, and reduce postage costs in future renewal notices. You can call it in to the office (585 229-7468), take care of it online or mail it in. If you use the online method, consider selecting the "Automatic Renewal" option which will save you time and NYB postage. With the decline of so many outdoor shows over the last twenty years, NYB now must rely on each of us personally to recruit and retain members. Roughly 40% or more of members fail to renew each year, often simply an oversight. Do what you can to ensure everyone in your bowhunting circles are current NYB members. Consider signing them up as a gift for helping you hang stands, drag deer, scout, share their spots, or just being a dedicated bowhunter! If you don't feel comfortable explaining all the benefits every bowhunter in NY enjoys as a result of the thirty plus years that NYB has been fighting for them, have them contact me and I'll explain it!

*Thank you, Richard Kirschner - Membership Chairmen*  
*bowrichny@aol.com | c 914-330-1419*

### MAIL APPLICATION TO:

#### NYB SPIKES

5937 County Road 33  
Canandaigua, NY 14424

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

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

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

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

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



# 3D SHOOTS



## REGION #3

### DUTCHESS & ULSTER COUNTY 3D SHOOTS

**March** .....6-Ti Yogi  
 .....13-Highwoods  
 .....27-Northern Dutchess  
 .....29-Northern Dutchess

**April** .....10-Ti Yogi  
 .....17-Northern Dutchess  
 .....24-Highwoods

**May** .....1-Neighbors  
 .....8-Ti Yogi  
 .....15-Wittenburg

**June** .....5-Ti Yogi  
 .....12-Highwoods  
 .....19-Northern Dutchess  
 .....26-Wittenburg

**July** .....10-Neighbors  
 .....17-Wittenburg  
 .....24-Ti Yogi  
 .....31-Northern Dutchess

**September** .....4-Wittenburg  
 .....11-Northern Dutchess  
 .....18-Ti Yogi (PIG ROAST)  
 .....25-Neighbors (FAMILY FUN FESTIVAL)

**August** .....7-Ti Yogi  
 .....14-Highwoods  
 .....21-Wittenburg  
 .....28-Northern Dutchess

**October** .....9-Ti Yogi  
 (TRADITIONAL ONLY)  
 .....22-Ti Yogi  
 (ZOMBIE SHOOT)

**December** .....4-Highwoods  
 JOY FOR TOTS)

*Note: Most shoots start at 7AM (Except Zombie Shoot).  
 It is recommended the above host clubs be followed  
 on social media (or contacted) to confirm dates, etc.  
 Several can be found on our Booster pages.*

## REGION #5

### 3D SHOOTS

**March 13** ..... Tupper Lake Camo to Camo benefit  
**April 24** ..... Racquette Valley (Colton)  
**May 1** ..... Peru  
**June 5** ..... Racquette Valley (Colton)  
**June 12** ..... Lowville  
**July 2** ..... Norfolk  
**July 10** ..... Racquette Valley (Colton)  
**July 10** ..... Lowville  
**July 16** ..... Tupper Lake Traditional day  
**July 17** ..... Tupper Lake Open Shoot  
**July 23-24** ..... Mad River, Lacona  
**August 6** ..... Norfolk  
**August 14** ..... Lowville  
**Aug 20** ..... Malone  
**August 27-28** ..... Tupper Lake Mt Challenge  
**August 27-28** ..... Mad River, Lacona  
**September 3** ..... Norfolk Traditional  
**September 4** ..... Norfolk  
**September 10-11** .... Mad River, Lacona  
**September 11** ..... Lowville  
**September 18** ..... Peru



## REGION #6

### 3D SHOOT

**Come one, Come all  
 to the Bear Pac Archery Club 3D  
 Hunting Situation Shoot 2022.**

*Getting ready for Hunting Season or just enjoy  
 a fun weekend with friends and family.*

**Located on Rutland Hollow Rd,  
 Watertown, NY**

**Aug. 20-21, 2022**

Registration both days 0800-1100

Challenge Shoots/Door Prizes  
 & 50/50 drawing

Concession will be available

Come out and experience a TRUE NNY Hunting  
 Situation Archery Shoot

**Find us on FB, Bear Pac Archery  
 or you can contact**

**Isaac Thomas, bowfreak19@yahoo.com or Art  
 Pellerin (AJ), ajpellerin@hotmail.com.**

----- Cut Here -----

# WE NEED YOUR VOTE!!

The nominations for the 2022 positions are shown below. Please vote to fill the positions with the candidates you think would be an asset to our organization. You may use this form;

## Officers' Positions ★ Vote for 1 candidates for each position

Secretary - Aaron Barton (2 year term) ☐

## Board of Director Positions ★ Vote for 3 candidates

Randy Kyrk (3 year term) ☐

Mike Farrugia (3 year term) ☐

Ed Gorch (3 year term) ☐

Return ballot no later than April 26, 2022, to:  
5937 County Rd. 33, Canandaigua, NY 14424

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**NAME: Randy Kyrk**  
**POSITION SEEKING: Board of Directors**  
**YEARS BOWHUNTING: 30**

Hello, my name is Randy Kyrk. I was a member of NYB many years ago and had to put my involvement on hold as I began raising a family and pursuing my current career as a Detective in the NYPD. I reactivated my membership in NYB a few years ago and volunteered to fill the open Westchester Representative position at that time. I believe dedicated bowhunters have an obligation to give a little something back to the sport we all love. I would like to take a more active role in the preservation and promotion of bowhunting and therefore seek your vote to fill a position as a Board of Director for NYB.

**Please provide a brief description of your bowhunting career to date:** I started bowhunting as a child and shot my first deer with a traditional longbow. I currently hunt with both a longbow and compound bow. Most of my hunting is in the Catskill Mountain region of NY.

**Why do you feel you will be an asset as an officer or director of NYB:** Maintaining and increasing NYB's membership is a key to our ability to continue representing and protecting the interests of bowhunters in New York State. I would like to see us increase our membership and have more

interaction with members on social media platforms. I believe I can increase revenue through online raffles and fundraisers using social media to promote these projects and events.



**NAME: Mike Farrugia**  
**POSITION SEEKING: Board of Directors**  
**YEARS BOWHUNTING: 14**

My name is Mike Farrugia and I am seeking a position on the Board of Directors. I have been a member of NYB for five years and currently serve as the Region 1 Representative. As a member of the Membership Committee, I have worked at the NYB booth at the Suffern Outdoor Show held annually in Rockland County NY, assisting in the recruitment of new members. I have also volunteered my time helping out the NYB crew at our Annual Banquet/Rendezvous.

**Please provide a brief description of your bowhunting career to date:** I grew up around bow hunting and the outdoors, lucky to have a father that exposed me to it. At 19, I picked up a bow and never put it down! In addition to hunting in Suffolk County here on Long Island, I have been fortunate enough to go on some great trips. These include elk hunting in Colorado and New Mexico, bear hunting in Canada and whitetail hunting in Oklahoma over the past few years. I am a dedicated shooter on and off season, not only because I enjoy slinging arrows, but for the sake of the animals I hunt. I have great respect for the outdoors and the wildlife that inhabit it.

**Why do you feel you will be an asset as an officer or director of NYB:** As a hunter in my thirties, I would like to see other hunters around my age or younger become more involved as guardians of the sport we all love. This where the future of bowhunting, and NYB, is. I hope to inspire younger generations to support NYB and promote bowhunting ethics. I am dedicated and self-driven. Bow Hunting is something that I have had a passion for since a young age. I am honored to be able to give back to the sport.



**NAME: Ed Gorch**  
**POSITION SEEKING: Board of Directors**  
**YEARS BOWHUNTING: 45**

**Are you currently a member in good standing of NYB: Yes**

**Please provide a brief description of your bow hunting career to date:** I have hunted all over the U.S., Canada, and Africa. I have been very lucky.

**In fifty words or less, why do you feel you would be an asset as an officer or director of NYB?** This will be my fourth term as a Director. I feel I've contributed to the Board over the years with a few good ideas and am willing to serve another term!



**NAME: Aaron Barton**  
**POSITION SEEKING: Secretary**  
**YEARS BOWHUNTING: 9**

**Brief description of my bowhunting career to date:** I began shooting archery with homemade bows that my friends and I made out of tree branches and twine, shooting our parents driveway markers (arrows) at hay bales and cardboard boxes.

I never had the opportunity or resources to bow hunt until my early twenties. Gary Socola purchased me my first compound bow (Mathews Drenalin) at the age of 22 and taught me about bow hunting alongside Andrew Cotraccia and Larry Hilderbrant. I learned a lot from the three of them, not only about shooting and bowhunting, but also about true sportsmanship and tradition.

After 3 unsuccessful years, I finally managed to harvest a 6pt buck on October 9th, 2016 (Gary sitting in a stand a mere 50 yards away, watching me and praying that the buck would come within range). The shot was subpar due to the immense amount of adrenaline surging through me but it managed to do the job. That very next morning my grandmother lost her fight to pancreatic cancer. The remainder of that hunting season I only found solace in my life when I was in the woods.

Ever since my first harvest and the passing of my grandma I haven't missed an opportunity to be in the woods with my bow. I'm extremely dedicated to promoting and preserving bowhunting for generations to come. I enjoy working hard and can easily adapt to changes. I know that I can help the continual growth of the organization and help stand up for our God-given right to bow hunt.



**VOTE**

Return ballot no later than  
 April 26, 2022, to:

**5937 County Rd. 33,  
 Canandaigua, NY 14424**



# 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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Region 1:

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

## Region 2:

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

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

## Region 3:

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

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

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

**Joe M. Skipp**  
21 Thorns La.  
Highland, NY 12528  
914-691-5533  
joeskipp@yahoo.com

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

## Region 4:

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

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

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

## Region 6:

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

## Region 7:

**Legends of Fall Outfitter**  
7205 US Route 11  
Tully, NY 13159  
Jeff Bordwell  
315-696-6766  
jeff@legendsofall.com

**Flashing Feathers Bowhunters**  
258 Jersey Hill Rd.  
Ithaca, NY 14850  
Steve Barber  
607-277-1543

## Region 8:

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

**Bill Fox & Son Construction & Remodeling**  
9346 South Street Road  
LeRoy, NY 14482  
585-356-4992  
bfsonllc@gmail.com



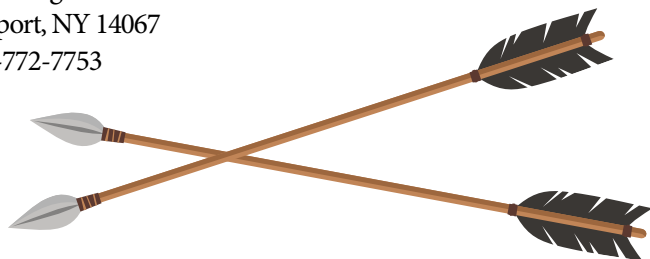
**Dave Peck**  
6469 Stone Hill Rd.  
Livonia, NY 14487  
585-519-2360

**Ronald Scardetta, DDS**  
632 Ridge Road  
Webster, NY 14580  
585-671-4420

**Sportsman's Archery Club of  
St. Mary's, Inc.**  
PO Box 319  
Albion, NY 14411

#### Region 9:

**Little Ridge Archery**  
8862 Ridge Road  
Gasport, NY 14067  
716-772-7753



#### Out of State:

**Ed Conolly**  
17 Wintergreen Rd.  
Mashpee, MA 02649  
**Cos Cob Archers**  
PO Box 351  
Cos Cob, Ct. 06807  
203-625-9421  
edsmith@execsystems.com

**Denis Ryder, Sr.**  
19786 SW 85th Loop  
Dunnellon, Florida 34432  
518-982-0894  
ryderdenis21@gmail.com

## Chesapeake Deer Hunting

### Maryland's Eastern Shore

### Trophy Whitetail

[www.chesapeakehunting.com](http://www.chesapeakehunting.com)



**Contact: Kirby Bryan**  
[kirby@chesapeakehunting.com](mailto:kirby@chesapeakehunting.com)  
9539 Chapel Road • Easton, MD 21601  
Cell: (410) 310-6758  
[www.chesapeakehunting.com](http://www.chesapeakehunting.com)

JOIN NEW YORK'S OWN GUS CONGEMI, HOST OF  
DEAD DOWN WIND'S "LIVE THE WILD LIFE"



Dead  
Down  
Wind

IT'S A WAY OF LIFE  
**pursuit**  
CHANGING

SUNDAYS-11:30 AM  
TUESDAYS-1:00 PM  
WEDNESDAYS-12:00 AM

TIME WARNER  
CABLE Ch. 58

SATURDAY-11:00 AM  
SUNDAY-9:00 AM

# FULLDRAW

## REGION REPORTS

### REGION 1 REPORT

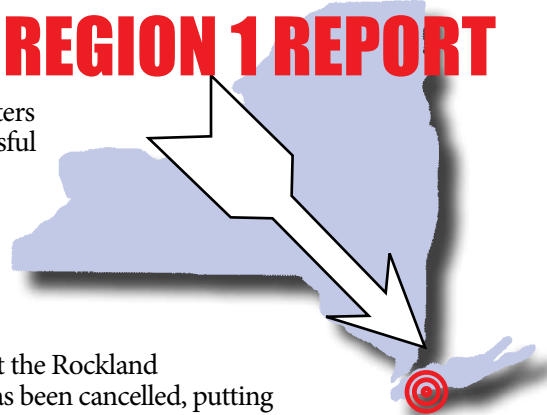
Another season in the books! Hopefully everyone had a safe and successful season. Anyone ever wonder why a successful (or non successful) hunt is so memorable? Some hunters cannot remember their own birthday but can tell you the exact time, location, temperature and the color underwear they wore when they harvested that 8 point buck a decade ago. Most of us shoot hundreds upon hundreds of arrows just to prepare for that one shot. We find time we never thought would exist, money we were convinced was not in our wallets and build a tolerance to cold weather only frosty the snow man could endure. In the end, you cannot put a price on those memories.

Here in region one, I personally did not have much luck. Thankfully I was able to hunt Oklahoma during the November rut. I was put in a stand where a buck nicknamed "chocolate thunder" frequently visited. On day four of the hunt, at 2pm as I sat in the rain, rain coat draped over my shoulders, out comes my target buck. My arrow gave me a double lung shot and he hit the ground within 20 yards. Ironically "chocolate thunder" was taken during a thunderstorm. Is this one of those hunts I will remember in 30 years? You bet it is! All in all, the majority

of the other hunters ended up successful as well. It was a great trip with a great group of dedicated hunters.

We have yet another year that the Rockland outdoor show has been cancelled, putting a damper on membership renewals, as well as new memberships. If you planned to renew at the outdoor show, you can do so through [www.NewYorkBowhunters.com](http://www.NewYorkBowhunters.com). This year marks our 31st annual Banquet, Saturday, May 14th at Sunny Hill Resort. If you have not attended this event as of yet, it is definitely worth at least a day trip. With raffles, silent auctions, contests and the company of passionate bow hunters it is sure to be a good time. Hope to see you there!

*Mike Farrugia*  
*MFarrugia47@gmail.com*



### REGION 2 REPORT

Hello Region 2. I hope that everyone has fared well this past Winter, and is looking forward to the warmer weather.

We are facing another year without the Outdoor Show at Rockland County Community College (RCCC). After discussing options with RCCC, and with COVID mandates still in place, the exhibitor decided to cancel the show. As many of you know, the Rockland Show drew people from Regions 1, 2, 3, and NJ as well. I know that a lot of you from the 5 boroughs would wait to renew your NYB membership when you attended. Unfortunately that is not an option this year. Please renew either through the NYB website, or by calling the office directly.

Make plans to attend our Annual Banquet. It will be held on the weekend of May 14th, 2022, once again at the beautiful Sunny Hill golf Resort. All of the details are in this issue. It is a great weekend and a great opportunity to support NYB.

There will be fun shoots, raffles, the evening auction, and our Guest Speaker is Jim Willems, Past President of the Pope and young Club.

If anyone is interested in becoming a County Rep or my Co-Rep for Region 2, please contact me.

May God Bless the Vice Chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, all of those who serve to protect us both home and abroad, and May God Bless America.

*All the best, Al Botarri*  
*bluehillhunta@optonline.net*



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## REGION 3 REPORT

Well, as I sit here in the dead of winter writing the Spring report, I see that my outdoor thermometer (reading minus five) has not yet gotten the “global warming” memo! By now, those of you who annually attend the Outdoor Show at Rockland Community College are aware it did not take place. I have missed seeing so many of your “old” faces who annually stop by to say hello as well as welcoming each year’s new “crop” of members. Please see my article elsewhere in this issue addressing the impact on NYB.

The EHD issue in and around much of Region 3 was really bad. The overwhelming majority of hunters I’ve spoken with all reported dismal deer sightings, me included. Let’s hope the herd can quickly rebound. On another note, I recently read that deer can get covid!!!! The cynical side of me, especially after all the lies I’ve seen spread by the government, says perhaps this is yet another way to turn people away from hunting! Imagine, “Hey hunters, better stay out of the woods or risk catching the *Odocoileus Virginianus* covid variant”. It would be funny if not for the crazier misinformation I’ve seen “experts” report.

As the weather warms, 3D shoots will start to open up around town. You can find a schedule posted elsewhere in this issue of Full Draw. Some of the host clubs are NYB Boosters. Ti Yogi Archery, Northern Dutchess and Highwoods all support NYB. You can support them by trying to attend a few shoots this year. Speaking of Ti Yogi, those of you NYBers that are the driving force behind TiY (especially Scott, Tammy and Brian) you’ve done such a wonderful job all fall & winter with the indoor leagues as well as hosting a couple of shoots. You’ve helped me find some comfort and sanity during an otherwise crazy period.

The NYB banquet weekend is fast approaching, May 13-15. Last year there was no shortage of criticism in that the banquet occurred on the same weekend as the opening of Spring Turkey. As we explain each year, we are limited by the venue’s available dates, not by what NYB prefers. Luckily, as you can see, this year NYB was able to obtain a later weekend. So now all you turkey hunting “early birds” (no pun intended) have no excuses. I urge you to attend, bring your bows and your families and meet fellow NYB members from across the state who share your passion. We have members attending from Buffalo, across the Finger Lakes to the Adirondacks, down through the Catskills, through NYC and out to Long Island. No excuses for all you “locals” not to attend. More information can be found in this issue, or contact the main office (or me) if you have any questions.

In our final Region 3 business, I’d like to mention that Anthony Picariello, one of the hardest working County Reps in NYB, who has served a very long time as both the Rockland Representative and as a Board of Director, will be relocating out of state. Anthony will no longer be representing Rockland County as a representative. Although we do have a couple of

candidates looking to fill the open BOD seats we have, so far nobody has stepped up from Rockland to represent the members there. Rockland has the largest single county membership in NYB. How can there not be at least one of you willing to fill this proud position? You’ve gotten so much pleasure from bowhunting as well as benefited personally from NYB’s accomplishments. Please call me to discuss how you can give a little something back. Very little time commitment is required and you’ll reap the huge feeling of reward to know you will represent the dedicated bowhunters of Rockland County.

Finally, on a personal note, I can’t thank my entire NYB family enough for all your kindness to my wife Debra. Cards, gifts, baked goodies, flowers, emails, supportive phone calls, and of course all your thoughts and prayers. We are both so appreciative. All of you in our NYB family have been there alongside helping us overcome the challenge that has dominated our lives since last October. God bless you all.

*Richard Kirschner – Region 3 Rep – Board of Director – Toxophilite (Look it up!)*

*bowrichny@aol.com | 914-330-1419*

## SULLIVAN COUNTY REPORT

I have received word that the “SUFFERN SHOW” has been cancelled again. This has been a very important show for NYB because we sign up a lot of new members and also have a lot of members renew their memberships then. That being said, if you know someone that is interested in archery see if you can sign them up with NYB and help us protect our sport and also encourage kids to join in the archers ranks as well.

Sullivan County Archers will attempt to hold their annual Youth Camp this summer on July 8, 9, and 10th. It is held at the Sullivan County Conservation Club between Monticello and Bethel, and is open to youths 11 to 16 years old. Applications can be obtained by contacting me by email or phone, and that information is at the end of this column. Let’s hope the covid variants don’t cause us to cancel again as we feel this camp is very important to help the kids get started on their archery endeavor because of the “hands-on” type of experience they get at this camp.

The summer 3D shoots are still a little bit away and the full schedule has yet to be made, but I have some dates for the Monroe/Chester Club shoots. As of now they are 4/24, 6/19, 7/31, and 9/18.

**Continues on next page**

## REGION 3 REPORT - continued from previous page

So far, it seems like we have missed the “January Thaw” this year. Cold weather and snow have prevailed but the deer can still move around for browse as I write this. Let’s see what February and March brings us!

Winter leagues start at Travis Archery tonight. I have to go and knock off the early winter rust.

*Harry Walker, Region 3 and Sullivan County Rep.*

*149 South Shore Drive–Wolf Lake*

*Wurtsboro, NY 12790*

*bowbender@hvc.rr.com | 845-794-6752*

## DUTCHESS COUNTY REPORT

Greetings All,

Well, the temperature outside this morning was minus 8 with a wind chill at minus 16 degrees! I know that is warm compared to some of our member’s temps but cold none the less. It is a beautiful clear winter day! Not much going on in Dutchess right now but there are a few items to report.

At TiYogi Bowmen, we just completed the first half of our winter league and it was a blast. We shoot on Wednesday and Thursday evenings with both nights having good attendance. Wednesday is a bit more serious with predominately compound shooters and Thursday tends to be more laid back with mostly traditional shooters. The next half will have begun in early February and will go for 10 weeks followed by our 3D league. Anyone interested in joining us can give me a call and I’ll get you the information needed. We definitely have a good time. The Presidents Memorial Tournament was held in early January and the lines were packed. Thank you to Bob Harring for organizing the event along with Scott and Tammy Chenevert, and Brian Chapman for making sure all the help was there to make it happen.

Our annual Board of Directors and Representatives meeting for NYB was held in Lafayette on February 19th. I’ll have more information for you in the next issue. Please save the date, May 14th, for our annual Banquet this year which will be held again at Sunny Hill Resort, in Greenville, NY. This is our main fundraising event of the year guaranteed to be a fantastic time. There is a BBQ on Friday night, a great time to hang out with old friends and to make new ones. On Saturday, our annual membership meeting will be held, followed by dinner and silent auction. During the day, there will also be a 3D shoot set up with plenty of targets to put holes in along with shooting games for the entire family. Please plan to attend if you can. You will be glad you did. More information elsewhere in this issue and on our website, where updates may be posted.

I hope you all have a great winter and I look forward to hearing from you. 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*

## PUTNAM COUNTY REPORT

Greetings from Putnam County,

This is normally the edition that I thank all the members that renewed and new members who joined at the Rockland Sportsman’s show. Well, once again, the show was cancelled due to Covid/mask mandates. I am bringing this up because NYB needs to renew your memberships now to keep our numbers up. The Rockland show has historically been the single largest membership drive of the year. So PLEASE renew now.

On the deer front, this entire area has been annihilated by EHD and is showing zero signs of recovery. The DEC in its infinite wisdom sent out additional DMP’s late in the season for people who applied to Putnam County and did not get 2 tags initially. The rationale was the deer harvest was down so let’s increase the number of DMP’s. The severity of the problem is being ignored by the DEC and I am sure that the harvest report will reflect this.

*“Stay safe and shoot straight”*

*Richard Chizzik - Putnam County*

*Richietix@aol.com*

## ROCKLAND COUNTY REPORT

Hello members. Hope all are doing well and making the most of these crazy times. The Last issue of Full Draw had Jim McSwigin on the cover and a plethora of articles about him. I need to say this again about him. This guy was no ordinary Joe. The leadership/example roles he played in so many lives and the lasting effects of James McSwigin is amazing. A man, a father, a friend, a public servant and a Marine for life. Jimmy, we miss you and owe a heck of a lot to you here at NYB. You were one of the great ones. Miss ya Pal.

OK, deer business. I failed once again to get Rockland to stay open until New Years eve...like Westchester. I have written more letters and made more calls to the DEC then I care to mention on the subject. I hope you did also. I have mentioned it countless times in my articles. I am sure many will benefit from the extra weeks “IF” we ever get them. But it takes involvement, letter writing and phone calls. I hate to say it but it seems that there a whole bunch of folks who put ZERO in and reap the benefits of those that do. I am not talking about food stamps here. I am talking about bowhunters like us that need to be involved in what is taking place in our county regarding deer hunting. A while back, Rockland County residents were SO close to getting permission to hunt the county parks and a bad incident, by one individual, took place that threw a damper on the whole idea. All of us suffered for it. But we are still fighting. If expanding hunting opportunities in the county is something that interests you, get involved with NYB. I am going to beat this drum again and, at the chance of sounding like a broken record, I am going to ask for a Rockland County Rep to take over my position. I am retired, moving and leaving NY. We have a great NYB membership population in Rockland and I cannot believe no one wishes, so far, to step up to represent your brother and sister bowhunters in Rockland County. This



Rockland article will be disappearing very soon if no one fills these boots. Contact me for what is required.

I would like to say congrats to a fellow NYB member from Brooklyn, Phil Leone. This man hunts the hard way, traditionally, and is a HUGE Fred Bear fan. Philip was able to connect with a good buck in a hard hunted area of Sullivan County this November. His arrows are made with self-harvested turkey feather vanes, self-sharpened reusable tri blade woodsman broadheads and port orford cedar shafts. Like I said, the hard way. Congrats Philip!

Instagram...Who ain't on it yet? NYB has a very cool page and is growing each week thanks to Samantha's masterful administration. A monster "Atta Gal" to Sammy for all the hard work she puts in on Instagram. That phone goes "beep, beep, beep" all hours of the night and she does a rocking job of handling it all. Thanks Sammy! Congrats also for filling the freezer as you always do.

The RCC show was cancelled again this year. NYB did very well in signing people up at this show and it really helped keep the membership alive. With two years passed and no shows due to covid, our exposure is being hurt a bit. Try and increase our membership/exposure in any way shape or form. Leave your old Full Draw around work for others to read. Talk up bowhunting a bit. Get someone to sign up. NYB is a paying membership. So, the folks we have as members REALLY want to be here and believe in the cause. To belong to the xbow coalition, all you need is an email to be counted. Not much dedication needed there, huh? We do not receive "payola" from companies in order to advance self-interest agendas as is now the norm in this society. NYB is a special group of volunteers, donating tons of time. Check your expiration date and renew if necessary. Perhaps with this new Governor NYS hunters will be in a better place soon enough. Again, please reach out to me if you are interested in becoming the Rockland County Rep. I spoke to the president of NYB, Andrew Cotraccia, and he agreed to double the salary of the new Rockland rep. That is 2x what I got, LOL! Don't pass this opportunity up. Seriously, a chance to be part of protecting and promoting the sport we all love.

Be well, be safe. God Bless America, our military and First Responders.

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

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY REPORT

I hope everyone is staying warm through the winter and getting some reps in to keep the rust off. If anyone is feeling the urge to get out in the woods, coyote season is open until March 27th. There are a bunch of free predator calls to download on your smartphone if you want to give it a shot without much investment. Coyote hunting is a great experience and any reduction can help the deer population in your area. I would love to hear from anyone who regularly bow hunts for coyote.

Please contact me with your stories and successes.

This time of year is also an excellent time to scout for the spring turkey season. The snow makes it easy to track daily movements and feeding areas. The birds are already getting a little feisty and you can see some full strut shows.

As hunters I urge everyone to be cognizant of social issues going on in other states in regards to hunting. Bear hunting has been under constant attack in NJ and now even Washington has lost its spring Bear hunt. Even more alarming is that Washington State legislation has announced it believes the Bear hunt is a social issue and should be under the control of the legislature and not the wildlife commission. It is unethical to remove the considerations of the wildlife conservationists and scientists that recommend continuing the hunt in order to properly manage the population. I ask you to be aware of the situations because it is only a matter of time before we have to join the fight here in our own state.

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

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

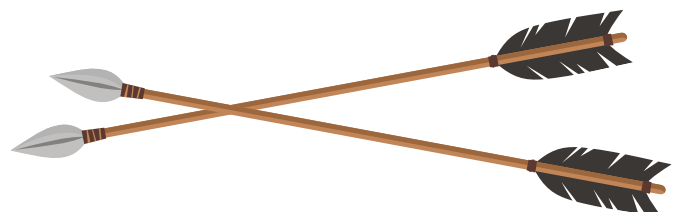
## ULSTER COUNTY REPORT

Well, I'm sitting here today looking out at all this snow! 9 degrees outside, no wind thank goodness. During deer season I saw 2 deer 100 yards away showing me nothing but butts! No shot there! By the end of the season, I was really worried about the herd! Two days ago, the first thing I saw at sunrise was four deer bedded (alive!) in the path through the snow in my back yard. "Wow!" I thought, "There are some left!" I was beginning to think almost all the deer in this area had been wiped out by EHD after hearing so many dismal deer sighting stories all season. On another note, the first 3-D shoot at High Woods Sportsman's club in Ulster County is March 13th. Look them up on line. There you'll find a list of all their shoots for the year.

Well stay warm & get ready for Spring Turkey,  
*Bob DiGiacomio  
Ulster Co- Rep shorefisher07@gmail.com*

## ORANGE COUNTY REPORT

Still looking for an Orange County member (or anyone who hunts there) to help out with this column. Please contact me- Rich Kirschner (info above following R3 report)



Hi, Guys & Gals

This past hunting season seems to have the local taxidermists working overtime with all the large bucks being taken, not only during the bow season, but all the way into the late gun season. The antler restrictions taking place in parts of Region 4 is definitely the result of so many bucks in the 130-140 class. This past winter was a bit hard on the deer, not with a huge snowfall, but with two or three ice storms leaving a hard granulated six-inch crust of ice over the snow that was actually hard enough to support the deer's weight. And then add in the cold subzero temperature in the end of December. These conditions made it difficult if not impossible for deer to dig and expose grass. In February I had a dozen or more deer around my place eating every exposed green shrub they could get to. The only good thing about the subzero temperatures is it might kill off more ticks and the small fly's causing E.H.D.

I was surprised to see the Rockland County Sports show cancel so early due to the China virus again (this was the second year). It must be because the show is held on the Rockland County property. If you normally renewed your membership at the show, you could simply mail it in to the NYB office or go to our website.

As you noticed, the cover of this Full Draw has all the info on this year's Banquet at Sunny Hill Resort in Greene County on the weekend of May 14th. If you never attended a Banquet at Sunny Hill you're missing out on a wonderful time. The resort has so much to offer us over the weekend, 3D course, fishing, golf, tennis, there's something for everyone, bring the kids. The

This last quarter has been a pretty sad one for us here at Tupper Lake Archers. In one day we lost two of our faithful members.

Member Yvon Soucy who you could always depend on to put a smile on anyone's face passed away in the morning hours. Yvon was always there to help not just the club but anyone he could. He is surely missed by many. On the same day Chad Savage also passed away. Chad was an avid outdoors man more than willing to help new hunters and sportsmen learn as much as he could offer them. Chad was a family man that put his kids before anything else.

Our league night has started and looks like there are going to be some fun times ahead. We will be running it until the weather breaks and we can get outside. Stop in and check it out.

TL Sportsmens Club hosted our Annual Northern Challenge Ice Fishing Derby on Saturday, February 5th. Despite Friday's snow storm, we still ended up with 967 Anglers. After having to cancel last year's Derby, everyone was glad to be back! Youth Archery Program started Monday, February 14th. We have 48 kids from grades 3-6 participating. Camo to Camo Benefit Shoot will be held Sunday, March 13th. Archery Shoot Schedule is posted on Tupper Lake Archers Facebook page.

*Region 5*  
*Dave McMahon*

## REGION 4 REPORT

location is easy to get to; just a 15-minute ride west of Catskill Exit 21 on the New York State Thruway. Also

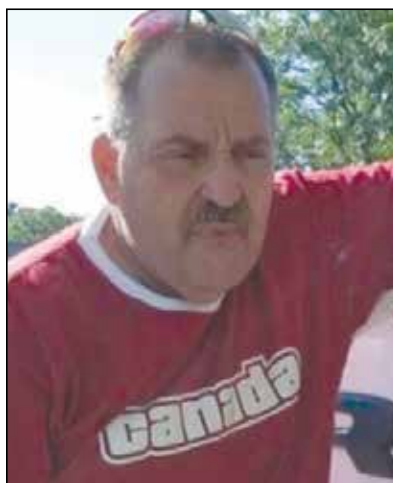
inserted in this issue is our spring raffle tickets. It takes not only a lot of kind people volunteering their sweat and time to keep NYB running smoothly, but it also takes money. Being a not-for-profit it doesn't mean we don't have expenses. There is a cost for every event and program NYB takes part in. Please take the time to fill out and send in a few chances and help out YOUR organization. Maybe you'll be as lucky as our last winner, James Fowles, who won the fall raffle and will be going on a two-day Salmon, Lake Trout fishing trip for four people on Lake Ontario. Congratulations again James.

Well, hope to see you at the Banquet and don't forget to send in your pictures and bow hunting stories to our hard-working editor Cindy. She's always looking for a cover photo.

*Take Care, Ed Gorch, Region 4, Greene County Rep*  
*Oldbowman48@gmail.com | 518-755-6263*



## REGION 5 REPORT



*Yvon Soucy*



*Chad Savage*



# REGION 6 REPORT

Things are picking up in the Sports Show world around the Region. The Syracuse Sports show was good, although about half the normal size. There were a few cancelled shows: CNY Sportsmans' Show in Oneida, Outdoorsman Show in Johnstown, and the Watertown Show. There are still a few 3D shoots on the schedule. Bear Pac Archery has a good one for those of you in the Watertown area. In fact, it may be the only 3D shoot near Watertown. Other happenings include:

Our 23rd Annual Region 6 Youth Bowhunting Camp will not be held again this year. Many schools are still not holding group classes.

April 1, 2, & 3, 2022 ~ The Big East Camping & Outdoor Sports Show at the Turning Stone Casino in Verona is still on. It is a good show to attend. We will not be exhibiting there this year, but the Archery shoot might be a good activity to participate in. Check it out.

Saturday, May 14th, 2022 ~ The New York Bowhunters 31st Annual Banquet will be held in Greenville, NY, at the Sunny Hill Resort. Friday night Bar-B-Que and campfire, followed by a full day of Rendezvous-like activities: turkey hunting, archery shooting contests, outdoor 3D shoot course, and much more! Our special guest speaker will be a past President of Pope & Young, Jim Willems. The Saturday night auction is a great

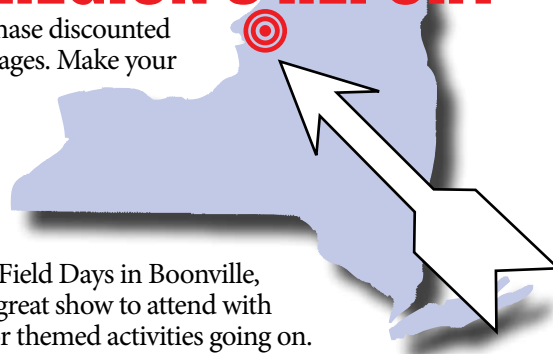
place to purchase discounted hunting packages. Make your reservations today.

August 20, 21, & 22, 2022 ~ NYS Woodsmen's Field Days in Boonville, NY. This is a great show to attend with many outdoor themed activities going on. Lumberjack and Lumberjill Championships: log rolling, chainsawing, speed chopping, and lots more. It gets better every year! We will not be exhibiting there this year, but it is well worth your time to attend. Put it in your schedule right now.

Social media may be the best way to stay in touch with fellow bowhunters. Check NYB out on Facebook and Instagram. Contact me if you know of any good bowhunting activities in the Region 6 area.

Now get out there and enjoy your summer!

*Bill Snyder*  
Region #6 Rep.  
bill4nyb@gmail.com



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Greetings from Region 7!

Hope everyone is having a good start to the year.

We are well underway toward the May turkey season for all those gearing up to archery hunt them. I have seen more and more each year in the region. I would say we are getting closer to the numbers of birds we had when I first started hunting them almost 20 years ago. There have been some quiet springs in the past 10 years and I couldn't quite say if it were for my lack of trying, luck, or just plain low numbers due to predation, low poult success, or disease, but I still haven't been lucky enough to connect with my bow yet. In New York, I feel like the ground blind and the right decoy spread is the best technique. With enough scouting, some decent calling and a little luck anyone should have at least one opportunity!

Shed antlers have also been starting to show up! It is a fantastic time to get to know "your" deer herd. Hiking and counting tracks, figuring out core winter/spring areas, and if you're lucky enough, finding the elusive white gold, may all help in measuring success next fall. You can realistically set your goals based on what you find this time of year - be it

I'm sitting down to write this report having just come in from taking my dogs out. It's 30 degrees with a light snow coming down on top of about a foot of crusted-over snow that's on the ground. This winter has been more typical of winters of the past with the amount of snow and low temperatures we have had and the good news is the birds are singing! Although winter has been tough the wildlife in our part of the state seem to be faring well from what I can see. Several flocks of turkeys and dozens of deer are gathering daily in the cut corn and soy bean fields around home. If you have areas that deer gather in the winter, once the snow melts it is time to start looking for shed antlers. I like to wait until the snow is gone as to not pressure the wildlife. Last spring was first for me finding a matched pair of sheds in a deer bed under a hemlock. More typically I find one side and spend countless hours looking for the match only to never find it. It's a great feeling to pick up a shed knowing the deer made it through winter and likely will be around again come fall. Besides looking for sheds, spring is the time to start scouting for fall. Deer trails, rubs, scrapes, escape routes, terrain change and bedding areas are all very apparent in addition to fresh sign. Once the woods green up this sign quickly disappears and it becomes much harder to read the woods.

Spring brings a new start and is great time to look up 3D archery shoots in your area. It feels great to get out and walk the courses with friends new and old, talking about last fall's adventures and plans for the coming year. Maybe you even have some new gear to try out and familiarize yourself with before hunting season comes. The weather in March and April with muddy trails and cool temperatures allows us to dress

## REGION 7 REPORT



targeting does in the early season or playing the cat and mouse game with mature bucks. Let's face it - not every property is going to hold bucks, let alone four plus year olds, year in and year out (or decade for that matter). But getting out and collecting this data could help!

*Keep calm and pick a spot,*  
**Jeremy Kraus**  
*Krausanator@gmail.com*

## REGION 8 REPORT



and practice with hunting clothes on, unlike when shooting during the heat of summer.

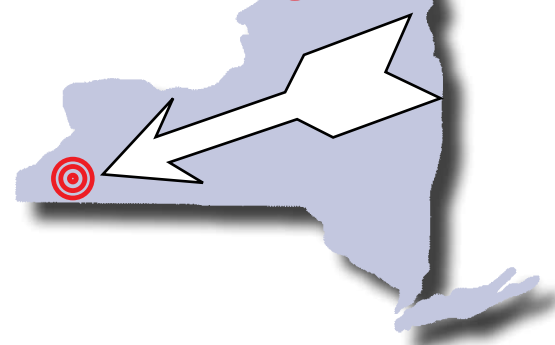
Spring also brings turkey season! This spring will be my 42nd season chasing turkeys and I'm still like a kid on Christmas Eve when I hear that first gobble! I have never taken a turkey with my bow although I have attempted to draw my bow on a few in the fall while deer hunting, always getting spotted drawing. I keep telling myself one day I will hunt all spring with my longbow and no blind but then grab the shotgun. My hats off to the hunters that pursue turkeys with stick and string and I know more than few NYB members who have been successful.

I encourage everyone to introduce a youth (or anyone for that matter) to archery. With our busy lifestyles we need to take the time to introduce people to the sport we love so much. Have you ever seen the look on someone's face the first time they draw a bow, release the arrow and it hits the target? I have and it's priceless. Never once have I seen someone be anything less than ecstatic. I read somewhere "teach your kids to hunt and you'll never hunt for your kids".

**Bob Brown, Board of Directors**  
*waptichasr@aol.com*



# REGION 9 REPORT



Howdy Region 9 Members,

I hope you've had the time and place to keep shooting this winter. With spring comes 3D shoots. Join a league or travel to an archery shop that holds 3D shoots. It just may be the edge you need to harvest that deer you've been eying.

NYB needs your help! We have over 70 NYB members in your region. 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

## In Memoriam

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

*In Memory of  
Ed Fetherbay*

*Donated by the  
Flashing Feathers  
Bowhunters*

*In Memory of  
Ty Moore*

*Donated by  
His NYB Friends*

*In Memory of  
Harry Lang*

*Donated by  
Family*

*In Memory of  
Jim McSwigin*

*Donated by  
his NYB family*

*In Memory of  
Larry Hilderbrant*

*From your loving family  
and NYB friends.*

*In Memory of  
Charles Giandana*

*From your  
NYB family.*

*In Memory of  
the Terry McSwigin  
Family*

*Donated by Big Brother  
Jim*

*In Memory of  
Philip Guarnuccio*

*Donated by  
David Klein*

*In Memory of  
Karl Lockwood*

*1950 – 2014*

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

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

### DONATION INCLUDES:

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

# MATLABAS GAME HUNTERS

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Once again we had National Hunting and Fishing day in Rockland county in September. The archery booth we setup was the largest draw once again at the event. Each year we are able to use the equipment provided by grants from the NRA that the Pearl River Gun Club stores for this day each year.

It was a busy day but not as busy as it has been in the past. Myself, my son Joe and his wife Sammy (our Instagram admin) and her father Peter handled the duties.

Next year we need new blood for this event. This is basically my family here and we cannot do it every year.

Be well and shoot straight!



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# Legislative Report - Spring 2022

By David Kosowski

Greetings NYB Members,

I wanted to make you aware, that once again, some NYS Legislators have introduced bills in both the Senate and Assembly to further conceal the differences between hand-held/hand drawn bows and crossbows. If passed, these bill will further degrade the archery hunting experience in NYS.

Senate Bill S7747 & Assembly Bill A1299 have been introduced in the Environmental Conservation Committees. The full text of the proposed changes can be found at:

**NY State Senate Bill S7747 ([nysenate.gov](http://nysenate.gov))**

**NY State Assembly Bill A1299 ([nysenate.gov](http://nysenate.gov))**

Many members have contacted NYB to express their disapproval for some or all of these proposals and there is much to be concerned about:

1. Further expansion of crossbow hunting in special archery seasons.
2. Allowing hunters to purchase a bowhunting privilege, instead of a muzzle-loading privilege, in order to crossbow hunt.
3. Redefining a crossbow bolt as an "arrow."
4. Removing the minimum crossbow limb width restriction.
5. Removing the maximum draw weight restriction.
6. Lowering the dwelling crossbow discharge requirement from 250 feet to 150 feet.

New York Bowhunters does not deny the effectiveness or ease of use of modern crossbows. NYB has always maintained that there should be a clear distinction and separation between implements of superior capabilities and hand held/hand drawn bows. **Can anyone deny the superiority of modern crossbows?**

The archery season was originally placed before the regular season and given its length because it was an accepted fact that bowhunters needed additional days of hunting undisturbed

deer to have an opportunity at a close-range encounter. This is one of the many reasons why bowhunting seasons are under attack.

As long as there is a push for full crossbow inclusion, without restriction and separation, NYB will be there to push back!

Although NYB tries its best to express the opinions of our members as an organization, we all have a responsibility as individuals to take action as we deem appropriate. If you would like to comment on this proposal please email and call the Encon Committee Chairs listed below.

**Senator Todd Kaminsky**

Albany Office: 518-455-3401

District Office: 516-766-8383

[kaminsky@nysenate.gov](mailto:kaminsky@nysenate.gov)

**Assemblyman Steve Englebright**

Albany Office: 518-455-4804

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# Dad's Last Deer

By Donald & Richard Plant

Our dad passed away in August of 2020. We were very blessed that we were able to bring him home and be with him during his final days. Our dad was more than a father. He was a friend and a life-long hunting partner. We hunted together for over 40 years. He passed on his savvy bowhunting and woodsman skills to us. The time we spent chasing the illusive whitetail will forever be etched into our memories.

Last bowhunting season was the first we were without him. His loss didn't hit us as hard as we thought it would. Don't get me wrong, we did miss him.

But this bowhunting season, his loss really hit us hard. One day over the summer, as we prepared for the upcoming bowhunting season shooting our bows, we had to stop. As the memories of pre-seasoning rituals flooded back to us, we realized that we would never share them again with Dad. It felt like we got gut punched. The sadness we felt settled deep in our souls. So, to help us heal, we thought we would share a story about dad's last deer.

It was the first weekend in November 2014. Don rolled out from under his warm covers around 4 am and climbed down out of the loft. He headed to the kitchen, made coffee, and started breakfast. About 15 minutes later, Dad popped out of his room, covered only in his white Fruit of the Loom briefs and gruffed "Don't burn the bacon this time," as he headed to the bathroom.

By the time he finished his morning bathroom ritual, his breakfast was waiting for him, less the burnt bacon. We finished breakfast, pounded down our last cups of coffee, dressed, and headed out for the morning hunt.

It was a perfect, cold, windless, cloudy November morning. The temperature hovering around 30 degrees. The three of us headed down the dirt road, jumped the ditch and entered the woods. After a 30-minute walk, we came to the ground blind that we had prepared for Dad. He no longer was able to safely hunt from a tree stand. After getting him set up, we headed to our stands.

About an hour later, Don heard a commotion in the hedgerow behind him. It sounded like a couple of deer coming. Don listened intently for a moment and then slowly turned and caught a movement. It took a couple of seconds, but he realized that it was Dad. He let out a whistle and waved his hands. It took a second, but Dad caught his movement and headed directly to his stand. As he approached, Don climbed down and hit the ground just as Dad arrived. Don

saw the excited look on Dad's face. In a quiet, but excited voice, Dad told him he had shot a deer. Don stood there and took in his story.

Dad shared his tale; "I was sitting, enjoying the morning when I saw this spike coming up the hill. He got 20 yards from me; unaware I was there. He turned broadside at 15 yards. I pulled up and shot. I know I hit him, but not sure where, it happened so fast. I think he ran down into the ravine. We got us a tough track ahead of us." Don saw the concern creep into his face. He nudged Dad on his shoulder and said: "If he is down, we will find him."

They headed to Rick's stand, grabbed him, and backtracked to Dad's ground blind. Dad repeated his story and then pointed to where he was and where the deer was when he shot it. We gave the area a quick glance. Off to the right, about 10 yards from where he claimed the deer was standing, Rick saw a white clump. He narrowed his eyes and quickly realized that it was the belly of a deer. Rick pointed the spot out to Don than gave Dad a poke and pointed. It took a few seconds, but finally Dad saw his treasure laying there. After he did a double check, we could see the worry in his face drain and replaced with joy. He grinned, gave us a high five and headed over to field dress the deer, almost falling face first as his feet couldn't keep pace with his excitement.

Our Dad hunted for a couple more years after that hunt, but that was the last deer he shot. We can't express the gratitude that we have that we were with him when his last arrow flew and hit its mark. As time marches on, we hope that our sorrow over his loss will be replaced by more smiles and remembrances of our memories of 40 plus years of hunting together.

*RIP. Love you Dad*





# Tale of a Good Miss

by Arthur (AJ) Pellerin

It happens to every hunter. Your nerves get the best of you. Regardless of whether you use a bow, muzzleloader or rifle, buck fever sets in and you miss. It doesn't matter how many hours you practice, what angle you shoot at, or the distance. It could be 10 yards or 100 yards – a miss is a miss. But what is a good miss?

I decided to set up a new stand on the back side of our property, down in a swampy brush covered area that has apple trees and two streams surrounding it. I named the stand (and area) the Triangle Stand. I placed my stand 20 yards off the trail, facing one of the streams. I cleared the area of undergrowth and figured it would be a good place to try some "Throw and Grow" seed to see what would happen along this heavily traveled area.

Finally, bow season came around. I had trail camera pictures of deer making their way through, bucks, does and fawns, so I knew I made the right choice as far as stand placement. Of course you don't want to sit in the same stand every day, so you have to form a plan based on wind direction, travel patterns, correct time (either morning or afternoon) and, the most important of all, family obligations and spousal blessing (lol). Once I checked all the blocks, cross all the "T's" and dotted all the "I's" – I was ready.

I got to my stand one afternoon, perfect for the evening watch. I settled in, ruck sack placed, bow with arrow notched, cell phone silenced, reading glasses out, snacks on the ready; now the wait begins. After about 30 minutes, I got antsy and started playing a game on my phone (boredom set in quick).

An hour and half into my watch, out of the corner of my eye, I see movement. Yes, it is confirmed, there is that 8 point buck I have seen on my trail cam and he doesn't even see me! Perfect. I put down my phone and glasses, reached for my bow, and started going through my visual checks; that log is 20 yards, that tree is 25 yards, that bush is 30 yards. "Now I

just need you to step out from that tree" – heart is pounding, still not at full draw, waiting a life time or two minutes...

Then it happened. The buck took a couple more steps from that tree – and started to move- quartering away - perfect – still doesn't see me - now's my chance. I came to full draw, and in a blink of an eye my arrow flew through the air and hit its mark. I could see thenock glowing red and my heart was pounding even harder. Now I'm confused. Really, did I just do that?

Say it isn't so...Wow, yup, sure did, a clean miss. I watched the 8 pointer walk away from me with not even a white flag to add insult to my injured ego. He just walked away like nothing happened. Just a clean miss.



After I regained my composure, dried my tears, cursed myself out, swore off archery all together (for that day) I got down from my stand to retrieve my arrow, the glow red dot of misery. I decided to check the distance. As if the archery world decided to give me one last slap in the face I discovered what I thought was 30 yards was actually 35 yards and on a small enough incline to make a difference. Yes, a real good miss.

I did not see that buck on stand again (although I saw my fair share of does) even though I sat in that stand numerous times during the season. He did grace my presence (on trail camera) just to mock me and let me know he was still around. Until we meet again, my friend, now I know – 20, 25, 30 and 35 yards – I have it marked.

I'm already planning for next year...

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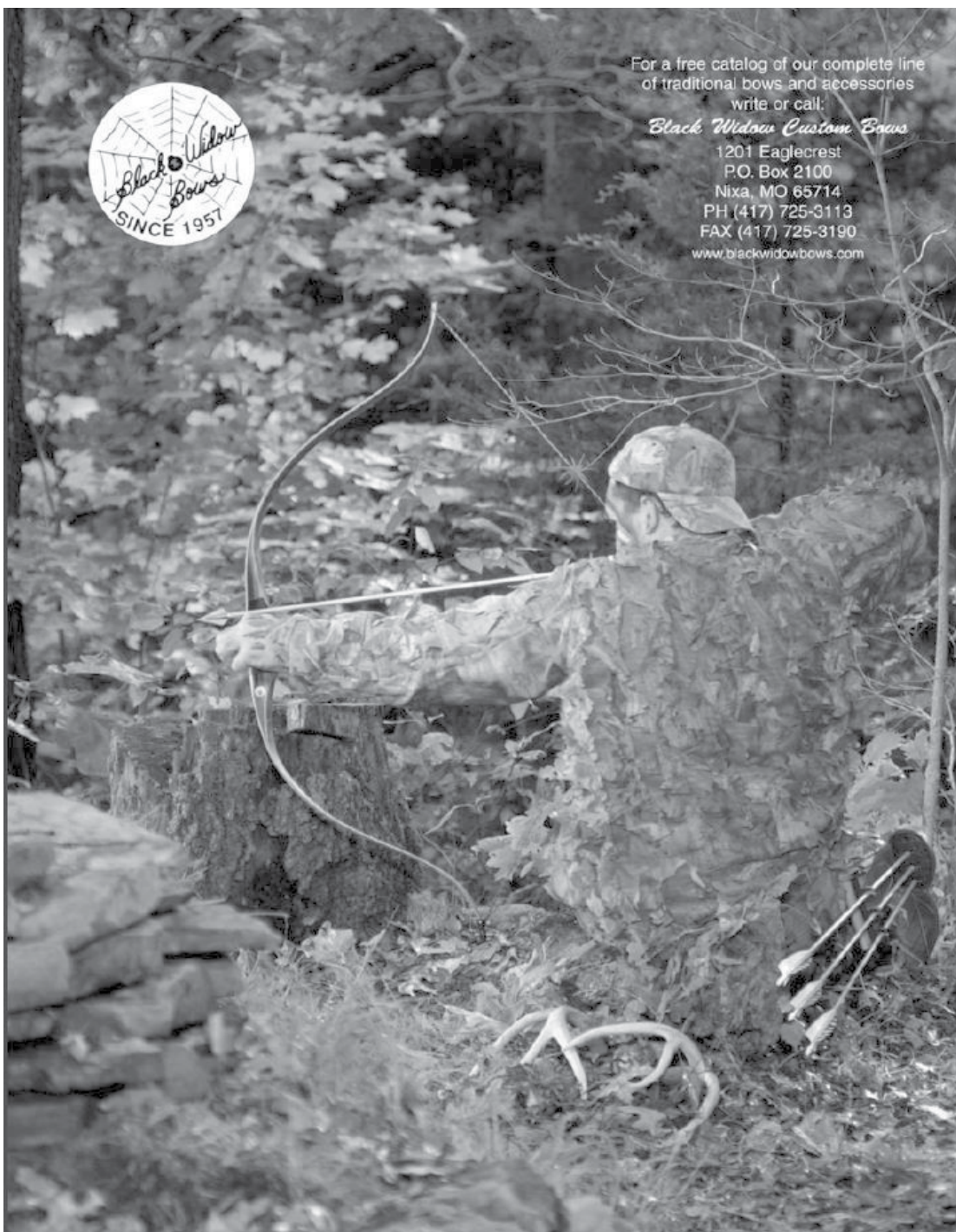
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# Listen to your *wife*



By Ray Otto

I hunt three different properties that are located near the home I share with my wife, Susan, in Bethel, New York (in Sullivan County). One of the properties is in zone 3-H, the other two are in zone 3-K. I drew a doe tag for the 3-H zone (and did not draw a doe permit for zone 3-K), so my plan for Hunting Season 2021 was to first hunt for a doe and then hunt for a good buck (after I got some new venison in the freezer). I was busy with work early in the Archery season so I didn't get a lot of opportunities to hunt for my doe.

I started my 2021 hunting season on Susan's family's 200-acre dairy farm in zone 3-H. Susan's family farm always had a good supply of does. The farm is located five miles from our home. The farm gets very little hunting pressure during October and early November and only one other person hunts during the rifle season. The plan was to kill a doe on the farm and then hunt my hunting club and the Otto family home property, which although is only 18 acres, is still good hunting. I decided that I would have a better chance at a good buck on these two properties than on the farm when the rut kicked in.

Well, you know how it goes when you think it is going to be easy (it is never easy with the bow). I never did get a doe on the farm. I had some does in range, but none offered a shot. Before I knew it, the first week of November and the start of the rut was upon us.

Saturday evening, November 6th, I told Susan I will hunt the farm one last time and then I will switch my focus to a hunting a respectable buck. Susan said to me "What are you doing? Forget about a doe, concentrate on a buck." However, I was still hell bent on killing a doe.

The first Sunday of November, the 7th, was the day we moved the clocks back an hour. I left our Bethel house at 5:00 am to hunt the family farm. It was a perfect November hunting morning. The sun would soon be shining and it was bitter cold. Susan was still sleeping at our house. I have a cell phone, but it is an old-fashioned flip phone. I am not into texting, and when I hunt, I generally keep my

cellphone with easy access, on vibrate, in my backpack.

At daylight, I had a small eight-point buck come past my stand, but it was not a deer I wanted. I watched him hunting for a doe (just like me). And just like me, he couldn't find one.

It was about one hour into the hunt when I heard someone calling in the distance. I thought the person was calling for a dog. The sound was getting closer to me and now I could hear someone calling, *Ray, Ray*. I thought that this could only be bad news, so I dug into my backpack for my classic flip-phone (which was on vibrate). I saw that Susan had tried to call me several times. Just then, I saw her at the back end of the field I was hunting. I called her on the phone, she answered by yelling "I saw a big buck below the Otto family house! The biggest buck I ever saw! Get home!" I said that there is nothing I can do about it now. By the time I got home, he will be gone. She said, "get home!" I hung up the phone and thought about what happened. I thought to myself, "My God, she couldn't get me on my phone, so came looking for me, not knowing exactly where I was on a 200-acre farm." I couldn't let her down after what she went through to tell me.

I got down out of my tree stand and headed home. As I traveled, I started thinking this must be a new buck I hadn't seen yet. There must be a doe in heat. Wow! This could work. He could hang around for a few days. When I got home, Susan showed me the direction he went. It was

**Continues next page 27**



**Continues Listen to your wife on page 26**

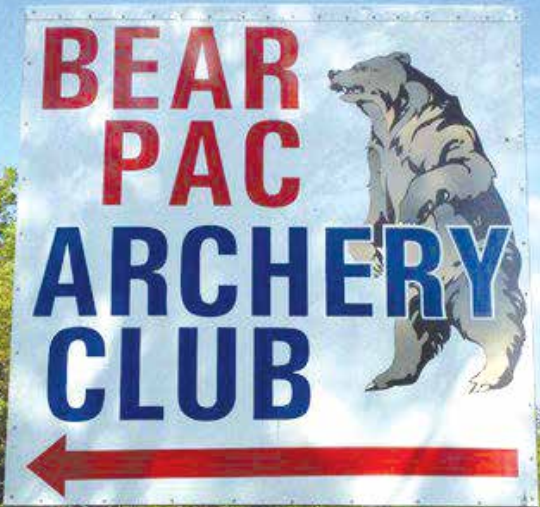
perfect! I have a tree stand in that area, and a new scrape was near my stand. I wanted a cup of coffee, but said, I better get down there. I checked the wind, and all was good. I got into my stand with that feeling something good was going to happen. The conditions were perfect. No wind. It was about 25 degrees. I was ready to stay there all day. I was prepared with a bottle of water on me and some candy bars.

About 20 minutes went by when I saw a deer coming my way. I glassed him and right away I knew this is the buck Susan had seen. On his travel route, I knew that I would have a good chance of a shot. He was coming in a fast walk. He got about 25 yards from me. I came to full draw, but when he came to where I could shoot, he turned and gave me a poor angle, so I didn't take the shot. He went another 20 yards and turned toward me and came right to the scrape, only 15 yards from me. He just stood there behind too many branches to shoot. He was not working the scrape. He just

stood there. An agonizing three or four minutes passed. Finally he moved out from the branches and gave me the shot. My arrow flew true and I watched him drop. I couldn't wait to get to the house and tell Susan that I got her deer.

I have been bow hunting all of my life and have bow hunted from here to Alaska. This hunt was right up there with my most exciting hunts because Susan was my guide. No drug could give you the feeling Susan and I felt that morning. This deer ended up being my best NY buck ever, scoring 131 P&Y and dressing out at 170 pounds. And all because... "I listened to my wife!"

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