

FULLDRAW

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NEW YORK BOWHUNTERS, INC.

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

**Long-time
member
DOUG
PREISNER**

Fall
2022

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The scholarship, not to exceed \$500/year, will not be awarded until the first semester has been successfully completed. All applications must be received by March 1st of each calendar year. If there are no high school senior applicants, other qualified applicants may be considered. The same requirements will apply.

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The NYB Doug Kerr Memorial Scholarship Fund Committee members will review the applications and recommendations will be presented to the Board of Directors for final approval.

Go to <https://newyorkbowhunters.com/scholarships/> for the Scholarship application.

Submit all information to:

**New York Bowhunters, Inc.
Doug Kerr Memorial Scholarship Fund
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From the President's Desk

I hope everyone has had a healthy and productive summer. I can't believe it, but the early archery season will soon be here. I don't know about everyone else, but again this year, same as last, I'm way behind on my summer deer hunting chores and will be trying to cram as much work in as possible over these next couple of weeks. It seems like I have less and less time each year to spend out in the woods. I've also found it increasing difficult to disconnect from technology and work to completely focus my attention on doing what I really need to do as it relates to hunting. I absolutely love and am fascinated with technology but sometimes I really miss not having my phone in my pocket and not being connected to the world. It's so easy to pull out your phone and start reading the news or start watching a show or movie when the hunting is slow, and you need to pass the time. I don't know how I survived prior to always having a phone in my pocket, but I definitely need to do a better job at being present and not being so distracted!



NYB Members can celebrate another year of legislative success in preventing full inclusion of crossbows in the archery season. As long as we have to fight this battle, we will continue our efforts in a very focused way with the right people in Albany. It's not particularly challenging to have conversations with our elected representatives about the differences between crossbows and hand-held, hand-drawn bows when presenting the facts. They get it and have been very understanding and sympathetic to our point of view. We will continue to watch and read commentary from our opponents to the various sportsman's publications throughout the state and country calling us names and instructing readers that "we all need to stick together," but none of that makes any difference to the people in Albany. None of it matters to them! I love it when we get referred to as "bowhunting purists." If protecting something I love and care deeply about makes me a "purist," then so be it.

I would like to think that NYB and NYSCC could come to some sort of compromise about finding a place for crossbows in our hunting seasons. If I were a betting man, I would venture to bet that we probably agree on 95%+ of everything else hunting related. Maybe that's being too naive. As long as there is a push for full inclusion without restrictions, NYB will not compromise, and we are not preventing anyone from enjoying themselves in the woods by doing so.

Thank you and good luck in the woods this fall!

Sincerely,
Andrew Cotraccia, President New York Bowhunters

Not All Bowhunters grew up on a Farm

(Early lessons from the Bronx)

By Richard Kirschner



Am I alone in observing that so many bowhunting “personalities” who appear in videos, podcasts or public speaking engagements, when discussing their background often refer to their time “growing up on a farm?” It’s usually somewhere “down south” or “out west” and accompanied with a geographically correct accent or “twang,” giving the deliverer an appropriate air of expertise. Don’t get me wrong, I’ve gained a wealth of knowledge from some of them and I sometimes wonder if given a choice, would I have chosen a “country” upbringing? However, I’m here to say that there are many of us who enjoy bowhunting and for better or worse were raised in the city. Personally, my discovery of the “joy of the hunt” took place not far from the shadows of Yankee Stadium.

My own hunting roots, starting at the age of nine or ten, took place in the alleys and basements in and around the old tenements in the middle of the Bronx somewhere in the mid 1960s (although in my mind I was roaming the deepest forests of the continent). One of my earliest experiments with “shooting” began by twisting a paper clip till it broke in half, which provided two projectiles. And by spanning one’s thumb and forefinger with an appropriately sized rubber band, a simple shooting implement was created with which to torment any squirrel (or younger sister) which happened along and veered too close. My old Bronx neighborhood had an overabundance of wild feral cats. These ten-ish pound creatures were no one’s pets, skittish as most whitetails, but could be quite aggressive if you got too close. They made for a challenging (traditional only!) type of hunting. I must admit, I shot a lot of paper clips and don’t remember if I ever hit any, but nonetheless I early on discovered the joy in the challenge of a hunt regardless of the outcome.

These cats bred like, well, like wild cats, and their numbers matched the carrying capacity of the garbage found in the streets and alleys, especially behind restaurants. (Yes, I referenced “carrying capacity.” Sound familiar? An early conservation observation!) By carefully stalking where most buildings stored their often-overspilling garbage cans, I was learning to hunt food sources. And the hunting opportunities increased and decreased with scheduled sanitation pick-ups. The best opportunities occurring the day or two before pick up as the garbage would pile up in the streets. Unbeknownst to me, I was learning the value of taking advantage of the timing of a hunt (later translating to hunting the rut, moon phases, etc.). And I was also learning the value of ethics, as although getting hit with a paper clip was hardly fatal, I knew enough to try my best to avoid hitting the target in the head area. I noticed that the largest cats were usually scarred from fighting and I assumed from declaring and defending their territory. Do I see a lesson of pecking order and “herd structure” happening here? Sometimes adding to the excitement of these back alley “hunts” would be the avoidance of getting caught by an often mean (and usually large) building superintendent. Even back then, not having “landowner permission” had consequences!

By the age of twelve I had already begun experiencing real small game hunting for wood chucks and rabbits with a fiberglass bow and a .22 on (where else but) a farm! This was an old, abandoned, overgrown dairy farm a couple of hours north of New York City, where my dad had permission to hunt. But these were limited trips and the Bronx neighborhood where I lived offered year-round hunting excitement with no seasons, so I still occasionally satisfied my

“need” to hunt with paper clips and rubber bands. By now my dad had “lent” me his old Red Ryder BB gun that he got as a boy in the 1940s. I still remember the difficulty I initially had in cocking the spring-loaded lever. By filling a box with some rags, I was allowed to shoot, under dad’s supervision, in our little apartment. However, as some boys will do, I occasionally pushed the envelope when dad was not home. By sneaking the BB gun out of my apartment down the leg of my pants, past my mom and tattle telling sister, I soon would discover “Upland” bird hunting! And I do mean “UP!” I lived in a 5-story building and it was up on this roof top that my buddy and I would practice our shooting skills with tin cans as targets. And no, although close a few times, we never, “took our eye out!” The little “pop” sounds were never enough to alert the unaware neighbors below, and hardly anyone ever went up on the roof except the rare occasion to fix a broken wire detached from someone’s TV antenna (a what?!?).

Sometimes upon first stepping out onto the roof, a flock of pigeons would take flight from the short wall which surrounded this large flat roof. We realized that even if we snuck out quietly, it would not be smart to shoot a BB at a bird sitting on the edge of a roof. This is where the awareness of being sure of what is beyond the target sunk in, another early lesson. Plus, in the event a pigeon was hit, it would fall to the street below to be seen by a “non-hunter.” Somewhere in my little brain I was already aware of respecting non-hunters by not subjecting them to something they might find distasteful and thereby draw an unfair negative impression of those of us who enjoyed the pursuit of “wild game!” Or maybe it was just fear of us getting caught! My buddy and I figured out if we placed a pile of old bread in a safe location on the roof, one with a backdrop to prevent an errant BB from flying off the roof, we might be able to “bait” in a bird! And therein lies my discovery of creating a food plot, Bronx style!

Somewhere between the revelation of “roof top baiting” and actually putting it into practice I had a real hunting/life lesson while upstate at the farm. As has been done since cavemen roamed and little “Tuk-Tuk” would spend his days trying to prove himself to the tribe, I too longed to be accepted as one of the men in my dad’s hunting circle. I loved listening to the hunting stories the men told each other and couldn’t wait to be part of a real “deer camp.” I was about twelve, still too young to hunt big game, but allowed to roam the fields and woods up in the hills beyond the old barn for small game. On this particular excursion, rather than take my little fiberglass bow or the .22, I opted for a CO2 pellet pistol, recently received as a

birthday gift. After what I thought was a successful solo outing, I proudly returned to the farmhouse with a small song bird that had the misfortune of getting shot by a boy trying to prove his marksmanship and impress the “elders.” To my dismay, I did not receive the “returning hunter welcome” I was looking for. My dad showed no sign of pride nor did I gain any points towards being counted as part of the “group” that I had hoped would occur. Instead, I was asked in front of all how I planned to pluck, cook and eat this tiny creature. As embarrassment replaced my excitement, I was not scolded but rather told to sit and listen to an explanation about the ethics of hunting. Young as I was, I grasped the concepts that my dad steered me towards understanding for myself on that day. The beauty and value of all living creatures, having ethical goals and the sportsmanship of setting worthy challenges. Despite my initial disappointment, I remember everything dad said making sense to me.

Needless to say, upon returning to the city, the pigeons who called the roof tops of Bronx apartment buildings their home, remained safe from a young hunter. I continued to derive pleasure from target shooting without needing a living recipient. It was not too long after this that big game hunting, starting with firearms, followed quickly with bows, would become a lifetime endeavor for me. Little did I know back then that in addition to all the enjoyment I’d spend throughout my life across the entire state of New York, I would someday also discover the majestic Rockies, the beauty of the Dakota “Badlands,” the farms in the Midwest, and the sub arctic tundra that laid under the Northern Lights. All viewed with bow in hand. Nor did I know that I’d be successful in passing on my love of archery, hunting and the outdoors with my own children, as my dad had done with me. Well into my sixties now, the passion is still there. And yet it began not on a farm, but with a rubber band and some paper clips on narrow concrete and asphalt trails sandwiched between sixty-foot brick mountains. The soundtrack of my earliest “hunts” is not that of a breeze and a babbling brook, but the rumble of an elevated train and the hissing air brakes of a bus!



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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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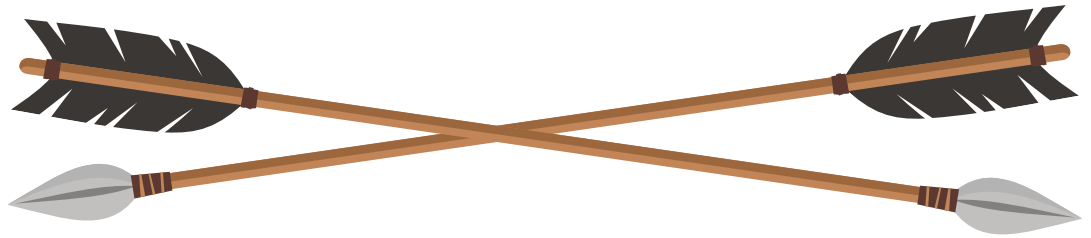
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**SATURDAY-11:00 AM
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FULL DRAW

REGION REPORTS

Greetings Members!

As I write this article, we are getting to the time of summer where we can begin to look forward to the fall hunting season and begin preparations. Some of us are looking into buying a new bow, scouting a new hunting area and, most importantly, practicing our shooting.

Here on Long Island, the DEC continues to make efforts to slim down our deer population. According to New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation, Long Island is overpopulated with 25,000-30,000 whitetail deer, a staggering number of deer for an island of 1,400 square miles. For more than two decades now we have had a culling program in place. "Deer damage permits" are made available on a case-by-case basis in areas where the DMAP have been ineffective. This has poised a few issues recently. Here in Suffolk County, we have a 200-acre public hunting area in Hampton Bays. A hunter who was issued a deer damage permit had illegally shot a doe in a restricted no-hunting area assuming he was still within the limits of the public hunting land. As a result of this, this 200-acre public hunting land is now at risk of being restricted to hunters.

Hello fellow archers and bowhunters. Can you smell it, can you feel it? The leaves are changing, the leaves are falling, the air is getting a bit crisp in the morning, and woods are coming alive. Here is our favorite time of the year, and there is no place that I'd rather be than in the Fall woods.

After diligent practice, either in the backyard, at the range, or during 3D shoots, we are prepared to deliver a lethal and ethical kill shot. Our goal is filling our freezers with nature's bounty of organic venison, bear, turkey, small game, and upland birds.

The primal instinct to kill and provide sustenance for our families is embedded in our DNA. More and more people became hunters during the lockdown for fear of food shortages, and an enlightenment about the wholesomeness of wild game. And just a reminder, those hamburgers, that slab of salmon, those chicken thighs, weren't born into those plastic trays covered with shrink wrap.

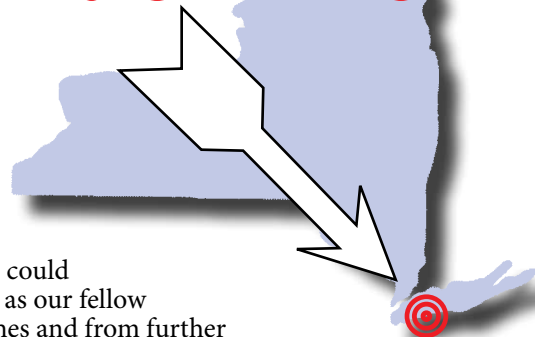
So get out there, get off of the couch and get into the woods and pursue your passion. A bad day hunting beats a good day working anytime! Pick a spot and loosen that string.

Remember Permethrin for those nasty ticks, respect fences

As Fall approaches, we all must do our due diligence on what is restricted property and what is not. This could save you, as well as our fellow hunters, headaches and from further restrictions being put in place than we already have...not to mention our reputation as bowhunters.

*Best regards,
Mike Farrugia-Region 1 Rep
Mfarrugia47@gmail.com
(516) 592-7756*

REGION 1 REPORT



REGION 2 REPORT

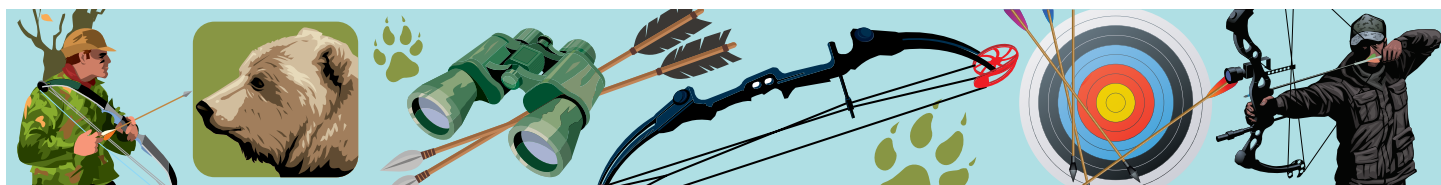
and property boundaries, and most importantly, consider mentoring a non-hunter.

If you wish to take a step up and become a County or Region Rep, please feel free to contact our main office, any BOD member, any County or Region Rep to answer any questions that you may have.

Remember Everyone Deployed.

May God Bless America and ALL who defend us both home and abroad. May God Bless the VCJCOS.

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



REGION 3 REPORT

Well, it's finally, almost, soon to be here...our favorite season...fall with all its sights, sounds and smells. But for some of you I know your bows did not gather dust over the summer. I bumped into, and shot with, some of you at the many 3D shoots held throughout Region 3 on almost every Sunday. I especially tried attending those put on by NYB Booster Clubs- Northern Dutchess TiYogi in particular- and another great 3D courses, although located in CT, NYB's longtime supporter, Cos Cob Archers. A few others will be joining our Booster Page shortly: Neighbors Club in Rhinebeck (Dutchess), Bethlehem R&G in Plattekill (Ulster). To Scott, Brian and Bob of TiYogi Bowman, thank you guys for letting me tag along all spring and summer and especially exposing me to ETAR. I haven't sold my compound bow yet, but it has been gathering more dust than it ever did!!!

I sent an email out during the summer to Region 3 members with information regarding local 3D shoots. Several "bounced" back as undeliverable. The following members' emails as shown were removed from database. Matthew Chirico (Westchester) mrchirico@mnc.org, Jim Blakesley (Sullivan) summi63973@hotmail.com, Vito DiGirolamo Jr. (Sullivan) vdigirolamojr@hvc.rr.com, Joseph DeAngelis (Putnam) joey0424@aol.com, Doug Erickson (Westchester) flurker@netscape.com. Please guys, update by either contacting office nyboffice@newyorkbowhunters.com or call 585-229-7468 with current email info. Or you could send an update to me if you like.

A question for Alex Bugnon...does pulling a bow string for so many years help your fingers in your line of work? If so, how come I can't play a piano? Call me when things slow down. I am looking forward to shooting with you one of these days. And I did go down your list of "Hello's" at ETAR!!

As of this writing, we did not have any volunteers to assist at the archery range annually set up on National Hunting & Fishing Day held in Congers Lake in Rockland County. Please contact me ASAP if you can spare a few hours on September 24.

Check out some interesting statewide deer harvest facts in the Westchester report. I don't want to repeat them here, but worth a look for all to read.

Be safe and prepared as you all start heading out to the fields and woods across the state, and for some lucky enough to travel, beyond. Good hunting...

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

SULLIVAN COUNTY REPORT

Now is the time to hit those few remaining 3D shoots in the area to polish up that shooting form before the Fall hunting seasons arrive. Sightings of bears and bucks have been numerous in this area, though the bears have made their move from berries to beech trees and we have only a few of those right here by my house. The Unique Area along the Neversink River has plenty of them and most are scarred by bear claws. It would be a tough haul out of there with a bear because quads are prohibited, so you better have a few strong friends!!

I have done several archery clinics in the area and it is refreshing to have some interest in archery and bowhunting

shown by the youngsters. Hopefully Sullivan County Archers will be able to get back to holding their youth camp and get the kids some hands-on archery experience instead of just computer courses.

I hope those of you folks that made it to ETAR this year had a good time, but then how can you not enjoy two or three days of slinging arrows on three 3D courses and then going to seminars and browsing through the vendors exhibits?

I will keep my eyes and ears open around the skeet and trap fields, the 3D shoots, and sportsman club meetings for news of any outbreak of EHD. Hopefully it won't surface again, or at least not be as serious as last year.

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

DUTCHESS COUNTY REPORT

Greetings All,

I trust everyone has been hitting the practice range for the opener in just a few weeks. For me, shooting at 3D targets of unknown distance or "stump shooting" are my primary ways of preparing. Over the summer, I've shot many 3D shoots in our area, mostly accompanied by fellow NYB/TiYogi members who will be mentioned later in the report. I have found this to be an effective and enjoyable way to practice. At each of these events, we spread the NYB message and encourage these clubs to become boosters. I'm hopeful that as we continue to enter these events and explain what we are accomplishing for our sport that the booster and general membership rosters will increase as well.

Back in June, I had the good fortune of hunting for Bear in New Brunswick, Canada on our NYB Camo to Camo hunt. We were graciously hosted by Janet and Keith Betts who run an extremely scenic and comfortable camp. (No weight was lost either thanks to the great meals!) By the way, they also know their business, as all of us had opportunities to kill a bear. Six of our seven hunters were successful killing a bear, including our veteran, former marine Corpsman, Josh Chiarini! I am currently writing an article on the hunt which I'll have ready soon.

At the end of July, I attended the Eastern Traditional Archery Rendezvous (ETAR) at the Sawmill Ski Resort in Morris, Pa. with fellow NYB/Ti Yogi Bowmen members, Rich Kirschner, Scott Chenevert, and Brian Chapman. There were 7 main 3D courses to shoot along with the "Pig" course (yes there was a course set up entirely of pigs in many shapes and sizes). There was also an abbreviated mountain course along with a youth course. We liked the Mountain Top course the best with plenty of uphill and downhill shots. They were all challenging and loads of fun! While going through the vendors tents, I ran into several NYB members. Among them

Continues on next page

REGION 3 REPORT - continued from previous page

were Tom Weaver, Dale Walburger and his son, Noah, Bob Brown, Walt Dixon, Joel Riotto and Sean and Karen Walp. It is always great to be around people who share a passion for the "Stick and String."

I also plan on attending this year's Mountain Challenge XXVIII at Tupper Lake Archers on August 27th and 28th. The Mountain Challenge will have 2 courses with 30 targets each! My sons, Bob and Michael, will be attending this year along with Rich Kirschner and his son, Andrew. This is an incredible event! If you enjoy 3D, this shoot is a must!!

As always, please think of our sponsors when purchasing any new archery equipment. I know they would appreciate our business!

All the best and stay safe out there! Keep "em" Sharp

Bob Ledrich, Dutchess County Rep

845-266-0615

ledrich@optonline.net

WESTCHESTER COUNTY REPORT

As all of you prepare to take to the "wilds" of Westchester, I thought I'd give you a little food for thought. Last year the buck take in Westchester was 486, down from 677 the year before, that's a 28% drop! The total deer take in Westchester was 851, down from 1,282 in 2020 for a 34% drop! The entire state's deer take was down approximately 17%. We assume EHD had a lot to do with the drop in many areas, particularly down here in the lower Hudson Valley. But here is a really interesting thing: despite pretty much every category of the statewide deer take being significantly down (antlered take, down 5%, antlerless take, 27% down, DMP take 27% down Bowseason take 28% down, muzzleloader take down 3%, etc) guess what category had a 28% increase? If you guessed the crossbow, you would be right! I know crossbows are not (yet) allowed in Westchester, but as I said, just giving you food for thought... and perhaps a glimpse at the writing on the wall.

I'm curious to hear from you if you notice more sightings this year (particularly of fawns) than last year in the hopes the herd is starting to recover from the last two years of the EHD impact. I would love to get some feedback from our local members.

Be safe out there and good luck.

Randy Kyrk, Westchester County Rep.

Rjkyrk@gmail.com, @kyrks.hunt

(Instagram, Facebook, Twitter)

646-295-0890

PUTNAM COUNTY REPORT

Greetings from Putnam County,

Well, it's almost that time of the year. The air is getting cooler, the leaves are turning and hopefully where you are the deer are becoming more active. Locally, I do not see much of an increase in the deer herd. After 2 years of EHD the herd has been greatly diminished. The harvest last year was way down and what is the DEC doing to help the situation? They are going to issue the same amount of DMPs as last year. I look at this data and came to a realization that the interests of the hunter are not a priority. So who has the most to gain by a smaller deer population? If you guessed the automobile insurance companies, you would be correct. I often wonder which lawmakers' pockets are being lined by the insurance companies' lobbyists in Albany? That is the only explanation that I have.

On a personal note, we are moving to Pennsylvania. I have been a member of NYB since 1991 and the first ever county representative for Putnam. We see retirement in our future and are escaping the insane taxes and basically all of the New York BS politics. With that being said, NYB will be looking for another representative for Putnam County. If you want to take on this position I am sure that you can negotiate for a much higher rate of compensation. NYB will probably be able to give you double what I am currently making. If you are interested reach out to myself or Rich K. and we can answer your questions, etc.

Be safe, shoot straight

Richard Chizzik, Putnam County Rep.

ROCKLAND COUNTY REPORT

For the past couple of years, our good friend and loyal NYB member, Anthony Picariello was letting us know he'd be giving up his position as Rockland County Rep with his imminent relocation out of state. Besides the many events Anthony ran and helped out at in his many years as an NYB member, he was a regular contributor to *FullDraw*, never missing a quarterly submission. His insights on the local deer woods as well as a little DEC politics sprinkled in were informative and often humorous. Anthony was a regular at the Outdoor Sports Show held at RCCC in Suffern each year where so many of you "Rockland-ites" stopped by to sign up, renew your memberships, or simply chat. The time has arrived for at least one of you to represent your fellow bowhunting neighbors and fill this empty slot in Region 3. We have a very large membership consisting of 7 counties in the Hudson Valley. We can't leave Rockland unrepresented. If you are at least remotely curious as to how you can help a little, please contact me. We would all hate to not see any more Rockland County Reports in *FullDraw*.

Rich Kirschner

bowrichny@aol.com

ULSTER COUNTY REPORT

Happy to report that joining the NYB family is the Bethlehem R & G Club in Plattekill, NY. Located just over the Orange County border in lower Ulster, in addition to an archery range and 3D course, they offer trap shooting, rifle/pistol range and lake fishing. The archery program at this club has grown in the last few years. The range is 60 yards and can be expanded. The 3D course has been redesigned, including 30 stations with over 45 targets. An adult league and youth program has been introduced. The club is pursuing joining the S3DA (Scholastic 3D Archery) program for their school age members with the goal of creating a youth archery team that will compete in indoor, field and 3D archery. For more information about BR&G's archery programs, contact Ed Malle at emalle1178@aol.com

Good luck to all as we soon begin the hunting seasons across the state. Be safe and, as always, feel free to send me any items of interest to our members.

Bob DiGiacomio, Ulster County Rep.

Well, with the temperature in the high 90s I think it's a good time to sit down in the air conditioning and send in my report before our editor gives me the stink eye when we meet again. I'm usually a week or so late getting it in. Not too much to report other than hot dry weather. The local golf course looks like a desert; I don't see any apples forming or acorns on the trees and I'm thinking we might be heading into a drought by the middle of August. I'm wondering how this type of weather will affect the small flies that carry the EHD virus that devastated the deer herd last year and what type of action the DEC will take regarding doe permits in areas affected. No one knows what they're thinking and your guess is as good as mine.

I recently saw a report where a 85 pound wolf was shot in Albany County last December. A DNA test confirmed that it was a gray wolf. A few days later the DEC came out and said it's mostly coyote and tests vary based on the method each lab is using and how results are interpreted by individual scientists. So, they're saying this is an 85 pound coyote...I don't think so.

I know a few members are heading out west this year and I wish them better luck drawing a tag then we had. We had a Camo To Camo antelope bow hunt set up for

REGION 4 REPORT

Montana and didn't draw a tag even with a bonus point. I'm wondering if the price of gas will have an effect on the DIY hunters that save all year for the chance to experience a wilderness hunt. The price of a non-resident tag is enough to dash the dreams of many. It's sad to say, but in many areas hunting is becoming a rich man's sport.

It won't be long before the leaves will be falling and we'll all be out flinging arrows again. Good luck and send your pictures and stories in to our editor, Cindy. She works very hard to get our *FullDraw* magazine out on time reminding county Reps. and BOD members of the due date and for once, and only once, I'm on time.

Take Care, Ed Gorch
Oldbowman48@gmail.com
 518-755-6263



Hello from the Adirondacks of New York!



Summer here is in full swing. 3D shoots around us are also happening. With the price of gas we are seeing some decline in numbers, however here they are only slightly down. On July 16th we held our traditional only day with some fun targets and novelty shots. This one got yours truly. It has to be at least a 5 (notice the real target to the right of me between the tire and tree). All in all everyone had a great time.



On Sunday we had open classes for anyone that wanted to shoot. We had some old friends show up that haven't been able to get here for several years and some new shooters that will be back.

Our next shoot is the famous Mt. Challenge on August 27th and 28th. If you happen to see Rich Kirschner ask him why it's called Mt. Challenge. Two trails of 30 targets set up in the great Adirondack mountains. We

REGION 5 REPORT

are expecting to see Bob Brown here this year and see how he likes our mountains. Bob Ledrich Sr. and Jr. will also be attending the Mt. Challenge.

Jerry Ward is trying his luck for the first year with a re-curve.

Young Lily Chase and her step-brother Taylor Hall are new to shooting 3D this year and have fallen in love with it, asking almost daily to go to the range and when the next shoot is.

Keep shooting and I wish you the best this hunting season.

Region 5
Dave McMahon
davemcmahon97@gmail.com



REGION 6 REPORT

The heat is on, literally! The whole world is suffering 90 degree temps, leading to plenty of raging forest fires. This doesn't seem to be effecting local wildlife as far as I can tell. I haven't seen any twin fawns in my area this year. Maybe they know something we don't!? Nature is all-knowing, and beyond our control. Unless you consider global warming.

Not much happening in Region 6. There are a few group events scheduled this summer, and a couple of sports shows. Some local archery shops, such as Bear Pac Archery up in Watertown, still run their 3D shoots all summer. When you tire of your solo practice, you have a go at the 3D shoots. You know it is best to keep your shooting muscles tuned up for using your bow. The trouble is to take the time to do it. Good time to start is now.

Have you signed up a new Spikes member this year? Or mentor a youth for bowhunting? Youth hunters are our future! Invest in the future. Take a youth hunting this Fall.

There are still no Region 6 boosters registered in our area. Sign up your favorite Archery supply shop now. Or contact me to recommend someone I can talk to. It may help the Archery supply shop more than NYB, but we need them to subscribe.

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



REGION 7 REPORT

Hi Region 7!

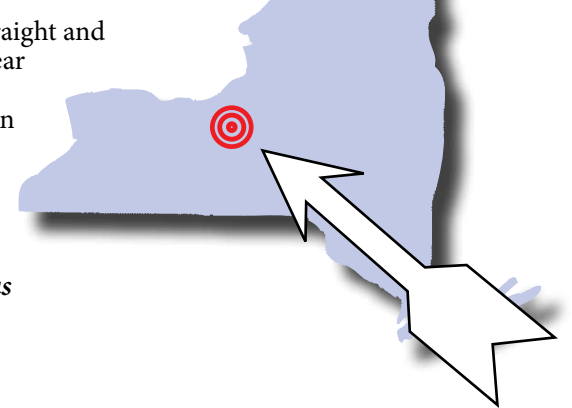
The deer forecast in our Region (and the State in general) is good. As hunters are voluntarily passing on yearling bucks, the number of mature bucks being harvested is increasing every year. More than 30% of typical and nontypical bucks in the B&C record book for the state have been entered in the past 10 years. Big deer aren't all from one area of the state, either. The latest entries have been submitted from about every area of New York.

Tags are easy to come by and public land is plentiful. Hunters across most of the state report healthy deer populations. Harvest numbers should be particularly good this fall.

I hope you have a safe and productive archery season. Send me your photos and stories! We love to showcase member shots in *FullDraw*.

Shoot straight and ALWAYS wear your safety harness when hunting from an elevated stand.

Jeremy Kraus



REGION 8 REPORT

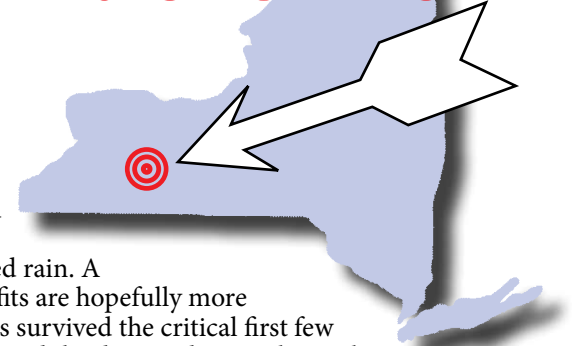
It's hard to believe it will be Fall when you are reading this report. Right now it's almost August and summer has flown by! I will be attending three more large shoots this summer; the Eastern Traditional Archery Rendezvous in Morris, PA is first, then onto the Hawkeye Bowman traditional shoot in Marilla and to wrap it up, the Tupper Lake Mountain Challenge for the first time. In between, I will make as many local shoots as I can. Being around people who love shooting archery, camping out and the camaraderie, make these events unmissable.

There seems to be more deer around this summer than ever. Last night there was a fatality in Region 8 when a motorcycle hit a deer. Please be on the lookout whenever you are on the roads. This is the second year in row that the gypsy moths have been bad in the Region. In June, many trees were defoliated and it looked like a winter landscape. The trees have mostly thrown a second canopy, but use a lot of energy doing this and can only take three years of this from what I have read. Nature always seems to adapt and overcome, but I would be lying if I said I'm not concerned. One positive is more sunlight has made it to the forest floor and the understory is green and thick.

We have also been very hot and dry this summer. Finally, last night we did get some much-needed rain. A couple benefits are hopefully more turkey poults survived the critical first few weeks of life and the dry conditions also make it harder for coyotes and bears to find newborn fawns.

Savor every moment you can in the woods this fall, shoot straight and most of all—be safe!

Bob Brown
Region 8
waptichasr@aol.com



REGION 9 REPORT

The total 2021 deer harvest in Region 9 was 38,474, which is down from 48,129 in 2020. In 2021 18,882 bucks were taken which is UP from 18,675 in 2020. Overall, the deer forecast should be good. It has been a dry summer, so scouting water sources would be well worth your effort.

Have you started your Fall hunting checklist yet? I've got a nice 3D target range set up, my bow is tuned and I've been enjoying shooting in this warm weather. The summer has gone by fast and before you know it the deer will be sporting winter coats and bucks' antlers will be velvet-free! If you have any photos or stories you'd like to share with your fellow NYB members, please let me know.

We're still looking for a member in your area to provide Region specific news. Please contact NYBFullDraw@gmail.com if you are interested.

Cindy Phillips, NYB FullDraw Editor
NYBFullDraw@gmail.com



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ATTENTION ALL SPIKES! WIN FREE NYB MERCHANDISE AND OTHER COOL STUFF!

Send in your hunting memories, drawings, recipes, stories and photos for consideration for the next Spikes newsletter. Photos should be in "Good Taste" with little or no blood showing, tongues tucked inside mouths, no tailgate shots, etc. Photos taken in a natural outdoor setting are best, otherwise try and position game so that homes, roads, etc.

are not showing in the background. All submissions will be entered in our random drawing for the "Submission of the Quarter" prize. Winners will be notified by mail and announced in the next newsletter.

NY Bowhunters Spikes
5937 County Road 33
Canandaigua, NY 14424
Or email: NYBSpikesEditor@gmail.com

KID'S KORNER



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R Z W T Q I T D U D Q K N C M K O G A Q



Make a Wise Shooting Decision

First and foremost, making a quick clean kill should be the number one goal of every deer hunter. Keeping the following items in mind before taking a shot will help you make that wise decision that leads to a quick, clean kill. Also, knowing what represents the first good shot and when "not" to shoot will make you a more ethical, confident & successful deer hunter.

How Arrows Harvest Deer

Arrows tipped with razor sharp broadheads are designed to cut. Arrows kill by cutting arteries and veins, resulting in blood loss. In addition to severe bleeding, arrows shot through the lungs cause the lungs to collapse, causing rapid death through suffocation if both lungs are hit. Thus, both razor sharp broadheads and careful shot placement are critical to successfully kill and recover a deer.



Broadside Shot

A broadside deer represents the best bow shot because it requires the least amount of penetration to reach the vitals. The broadside shot is also the best single angle for accomplishing a double lung shot. Concentrate on a spot right behind the front shoulder about 1/3 of the way up from the bottom line of the deer. There are more blood vessels in the lower lung, so keep your shot below the middle of the body.

Quartering Away

Quartering away shots up to about a 45 degree angle are great. This position produces the largest possible margin for error in the vital area. Beyond a 45 degree angle you have to be a lot more precise because the gap between the rear hip and front shoulder becomes very small. Move your aiming point rearward to correspond with the deer's body angle. What you see on the outside of a deer is never your target; it's what's inside that you are aiming for and what counts. The bottom line is, the more the animal is quartering away from you, the farther back and the higher you have to aim to get into the vitals.

Shots to Avoid;

Shooting Through the "Thick Stuff"

Attempting to shoot a deer through brush, weeds, vines, or limbs is not what is considered a high percentage shot and should be avoided. Arrows deflect easily and a small piece of brush can cause the arrow to wound a deer and make for a difficult, if even possible, recovery.

Sharp Downward Shot Angles

Sharp downward shot angles should be avoided by bowhunters. This angle produces a high likelihood for insufficient penetration and a single lung hit at best. A straight down spine shot as the deer passes under your stand is good, but only if you can make it. This shot carries a high degree of risk for the bowhunter because the target is small and full penetration is often difficult to achieve if you miss this small target.

Walking or Running Deer

Bowhunters should avoid shots at moving deer. Try grunting or whistling, or even a slight tap on your deer stand with some object can bring a deer to a complete stop. But be ready to shoot as soon as the deer stops because you will most likely have an alert deer to work with!

Test your shot-placement skills at <http://bowsite.com/bowsite/features/articles/deer/heartorlungs/>



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"Spikes"

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

Membership Includes:

NYB Membership Sticker, Spikes sticker and the NYB Quarterly Magazine.

Prizes:

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

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

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BIG RUBS AND DOUBLE DRAGS

By Joel M. Riotto (reprinted
with permission from
Bowhunter magazine)



The two does fed their way up the hill and continued browsing in my direction. My stand was on the downhill side of a ledge that ran horizontally along the hillside for several hundred feet, narrowing and swinging uphill to the Beech thickets that served as their bedding area. A huge boulder, almost centered on the ledge, created an obstacle that forced deer to walk around one side or the other. As luck would have it, the does split up, one walking on the uphill side of the boulder and the other walking on the downhill side. They passed by me, totally unaware of my presence, confirming my choice of trees.

About fifteen minutes later, a young buck, neck outstretched and nose to the ground, followed the does. When he reached the boulder he paused, looking one way, then the other. He took a few steps along one trail, backed up and started along the other trail. When he stopped and repeated the process he reminded me of my old Beagle hound who acted this way, when temporarily confused, on a cold trail. Eventually the buck walked quickly along the trail, passing my stand, and followed the does up hill and out of sight. Fifteen minutes later a chunky spike buck came trotting up the trail and followed the three other deer. When he reached the boulder he came unglued, first going one way then the other. It was comical to watch as he passed my stand and proceeded up the hill. My best guess was that both does were nearing Estrus and the bucks didn't know which one to follow. I thought about the confusion shown by these two young bucks and wondered if I could create the same response in mature deer. Initially,

I just did a double drag using the same lure. I thought that simply putting down additional scent might work, and it did, to a point. However, by using lures from different companies at the same time, I observed a more excited reaction with some of the bucks following the double drags. With so many lure companies proclaiming that the lure in each of their bottles is collected from the same doe, rather than a blend of urines, I began developing a strategy to use two different drags from two different companies simultaneously. I tied each scent wick to a cord approximately six feet long, a red wick on one side, a blue wick on the other. I dipped the red wick in the red bottle and the blue wick in the blue bottle. I tied the other end of each cord to a sapling about eight feet long, grabbed it in the middle, and started walking. I gave careful thought to the actual route I took as I always wanted to pass by one of my existing stand locations. I refreshed each lure several times during the drag, depending on how far I had to go and how damp the ground was. I dragged the lures past my selected stand site, being sure to make a wide circle around any large tree in front of the stand. This created a double drag circle in front of my stand. I always refreshed each wick when making the circle in front of my stand, as it doesn't hurt to have an extra drop of scent on a leaf or twig right in front of the stand. I continued to drag the lures past my stand. After about 25 yards I hung the wicks from a bush with the hopes of enticing a buck to walk past my stand, and by following my double drags, to slow down and circle in front of my stand, thus affording me additional

shooting opportunities. I always wore surgical gloves and rubber soled boots to minimize my scent. In addition, I followed a regular routine of treating all my clothes and equipment with scent eliminating spray. The first two bucks that followed my initial double drags passed by my stand so quickly that I realized I had not placed the scent wick far enough upwind and had hung it too high in a bush. As the bucks got close they simply raised their noses and followed the air borne scent directly to the wicks. As soon as I corrected my mistake, my success improved greatly.



I carry the two bottles of lure in separate zip lock bags and when finished for the day, I drop the scent wick into the appropriate bag for repeated use. I tie a small piece of colored flagging ribbon to each scent wick. The color of the ribbon matches the color of the label on the bottle so even I can't get things mixed up!!

Whitetails are challenging animals no matter where you hunt. The strategies and tactics that are successful in the creek bottoms and CRP fields of Iowa and Illinois are usually less effective in the big woods of the Catskill Mountains of New York.

I spend a great deal of my time in these hardwood ridges each fall and since there isn't a CRP field or soy bean field within miles of my area, I have been forced to be creative and have developed a rather successful system. Everyone I discussed this system with had their own opinion as to the best place to start the double drag line. In my eagerness to try different applications of this double drag system, I tried starting the drag from "inside" the wood line and proceeded out and along the edge of a clover field and past my stand. Currently I am still experimenting with this application because I have experienced a problem with the reaction of some bucks. It seems that, once a buck is in the open, he picks up his head and looks for the doe he has been trailing. When he doesn't see a doe he seems to lose interest in continuing. I have two ideas for next season. I will re-visit this application and have the double drags lead out to a decoy placed in front of my field edge tree stand. I expect that the decoy will be a positive addition to this technique by providing visual confirmation. With this in mind I will also try placing a decoy on an old logging road and do a double drag into the decoy from both directions. By starting out about 150 yards away from the decoy on each side I can lay down 300 yards of scent using the double drags. The obvious beauty of this approach is that I

can place a stand on both sides of the logging road by the decoy so that wind direction won't be a problem.

Until then I find myself going back to my old favorites: rub lines and community rub trees. A serious rub line, or cluster of good sized rubs, is a good sign anywhere. It's what you do with that knowledge that can spell success. In this area we rarely see the classic daily movement of bedding to feeding and back. In the big woods deer seem to follow the food source and many times will bed close by when acorns or Beech nuts are falling. As soon as that food source dries up they move again, often changing bedding areas. With a buck to doe ratio of one buck to six or seven does in our area, there isn't a lot of classic scraping activity to be found as there seems to be no need for it. For me, at least, the one constant is an active rub line or a cluster of rubs. It seems that no matter where the deer are feeding, at any given time, bucks return to these community, or signpost rubs.



In 2010, and again in 2012, I had trail camera photos of at least six different bucks revisiting the same community rub. This has been a constant on my property since 2006. The buck I harvested in 2010 was a 4 1/2 year old, eight point deer and I had at least five different photos of him at this rub over a period of three weeks. My 2012 buck was 6 1/2 years old and I had nine photos of him at, or along, the rub line north of this community rub tree during a two week period. These photos made starting my drags at the community rub a no brainer. By starting my double drags at a community rub, or from an active rub line, I increase my chances of having a mature buck pick up the scent trail and follow the double drags to my stand site.

With technology invading our sport, with new gadgets being designed to make things easier and less time consuming, I take great pride in utilizing good woodsmanship and common sense in the pursuit of the magnificent Whitetail Buck.



In Memoriam

A tribute to those we have lost...

*In Memory of
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*Donated by
Family*

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Ty Moore*

*Donated by
His NYB Friends*

*In Memory of
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*From your
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*In Memory of
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*In Memory of
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2022 EASTERN TRADITIONAL ARCHERY RENDEZVOUS (ETAR)

By Richard Kirschner

The 2022 ETAR was held in Morris, PA at the end of July. Although I've shot a compound bow for over 40 years, I recently began shooting a used Bear recurve (built in 1973) as well for the fun of it. I had heard about this annual Archery Festival, which has been taking place for over 30 years, and decided to check it out for myself. Traditional archers from dozens of states and several different countries converged at the Sawmill Ski center where this event now takes place (recently relocated for more accommodating grounds). Over five thousand archers took part in this event over the four days! 600 campsites were occupied on the property and area hotels were full. Seven 3D courses, both on the mountain and in nearby woods, allowed for a variety of shooting. The "Mountain Top Course" worked its way up alongside and on the ski slope itself to the 2,200 foot peak. It then crossed over the top and went back down through the woods with a wide variety of 3D targets all along the way. A second separate course went up the mountain about halfway before looping back down. The remaining courses were more or less flat, all with plenty of targets with varying shot set ups. Besides the four courses (plus a kids course) at the mountain site, two more 3D courses were located less than a half mile away with shuttles conveniently transporting archers for those wishing not to walk or drive. The "Winery" course conveniently ended within sight of the Oregon Hill Winery for those wishing to stop in for an "après" archery refresher!



Bob Ledrich, Rich Kirschner, Brian Chapman and Scott Chapman of TiYogi Bowmen at the crest of the Mountain Top Course at ETAR. And, no, the chair lift was not operating!



There were several novelty shoots set up including a long-distance giant “Big Foot” and an aerial archery range. The vendor area gave attendees a variety of archery equipment to browse through or purchase, etc. Archers were able to borrow “lender” bows from manufacturers and try them out on the practice range. This was a great opportunity to test a variety of bow types, grips, lengths, weights, etc. before making a purchase either on-site or in the future. Each evening was a “blanket” swap where hundreds of people gathered to buy, sell and swap equipment from fellow archers (not commercial businesses). What a great way to find a used bow, broadheads, quivers, arrows, artwork, etc. and socialize at the same time!

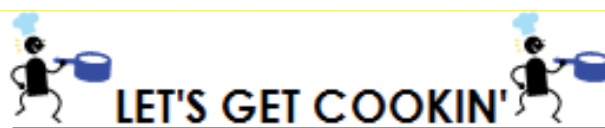
Amongst all the archers in attendance was a large contingent of NYB members. Personally, my shooting “foursome” consisted of Bob Ledrich, Scott Chenevert and Brian Chapman (all NYB members from TiYogi Bowmen in Hyde Park, NY). I “bumped” into the following NYB members over the course of my adventure: Walt Dixon, Tom Weaver and Dale Walburger (all founding members of NYB in 1991!). Noah Walburger, Bob Brown, Dennis Scicchitano, Tim Joens, Sean & Karen Walp. My old friend and hunting partner, Paul Willey, snuck up from behind and accosted me! Also in attendance was the legendary Joel Riotto, along with his buddies John & Kevin of TANJ, all of whom I’ve slung a few arrows with as well shared some laughs with in the recent past. If you are reading this and were at ETAR, and we missed each other (or I overlooked mentioning you), please shoot me an email.



NYB members from near and far gathered at the Eastern Traditional Archery Rendezvous in Pennsylvania

I started off this article mentioning I have been a lifelong compound shooter. I urge all of you to find a recurve or longbow (a used or new inexpensive one is fine). Leave off the sights, put away the release, and start having fun with it. Keep it light to start, between 30 and 40 pounds is fine. I guarantee two things: you will love the simplicity and pureness of it, and you will not lose any skill or forget how to shoot your compound bow! Shooting amongst traditional archers has given me a whole new love and perspective of a sport I already thoroughly enjoyed. It opened up a door to a fascinating and challenging new world, full of dedicated passionate archers (and some pretty impressive hunters as well!). Maybe I’ll see you out there someday too... behind a target helping me look for my arrows!!!





Wild Turkey and Rice

Ingredients

1 (6 ounce) package long grain and wild rice mix	¾ cup water
3 cups cubed, cooked wild turkey	¼ cup chopped onion
1 can condensed cream of chicken soup (<i>undiluted</i>)	3 tablespoons soy sauce
1 (8 ounce) can water chestnuts (<i>sliced, drained and halved</i>)	1 cup soft bread crumbs
	1 tablespoon butter, melted



Directions

Prepare rice according to package directions.

Stir in the turkey, soup, water chestnuts, water, onion and soy sauce. Transfer to a greased 2-qt. baking dish.

Cover and bake at 350 degrees F for 30 minutes.

Uncover. Toss bread crumbs and butter; sprinkle over the top.

Bake 15-20 minutes longer or until bubbly and golden brown.

Let stand for 15 minutes before serving.

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INTRODUCING

NORTHILL OUTDOORS ARCHERY SHOP

Conveniently located at 916 Main Street, near the intersection of Route 28 and routes 30 in Margaretville, this Delaware County Archery and Pro shop has something for everyone. Consisting of approximately 5,000 square feet of indoor space, this well-organized facility is an authorized dealer for a complete line of Matthews, Hoyt, PSE, Bowtech and Darton bows. Also featured are racks and racks of arrows and accessories for compound and traditional archers alike. The friendly, knowledgeable staff are truly passionate about their work and are constantly striving to improve your archery experience.



Owned by Leif Amundsen and Zeb Cohen, the shop was in the planning stages for a long time. It is named for the Margaretville property where Zeb Cohen grew up and traipsed the woods with Amundsen. Together they brought together many new dimensions to the local hunting community. This is clearly a well-stocked pro shop with products from Rage, Outdoor Edge, PSE, Bowtech, and Trufire, just to name a few. Additionally they carry tree stands, knives, bow fishing equipment and lots of related items.

A full service shop staffed by certified technicians is capable of all kinds of repairs and tuning. The 20 Yard indoor range allows archers to try out a bow before purchasing it. This 20 yard traditional archery range is open to the public on an hourly basis and also hosts junior, adult and team league events. There is a viewing area for those



watching or waiting their turn. The large open space also allows for guest speakers and educational classes for new archers.

Most archers find the new Technohunt virtual indoor simulator range to be very challenging and a lot of fun. This is especially appealing to those interested in the sport of shooting but not in actually shooting game animals. This state of the art indoor range simulator provides for up to three people to shoot at “moving targets” on screen, at the same time. Set up at 20–55 yards, it offers actual video recordings of various animals moving through virtual habitats. Built-in infrared sensors detect each shot fired, providing feedback based on proper hunting principals. Competitive leagues are formed and lots of friendly team events are available. The simulator even keeps the “score” of each shooter.

With Archery growing in popularity with men, women and children, this year-round operation offers a place to gather with others who share the same interests. The days and hours of operation may vary with the season so you are encouraged to telephone ahead at 845-586-3006.



*Respectfully
submitted, Joel M. Riotto*

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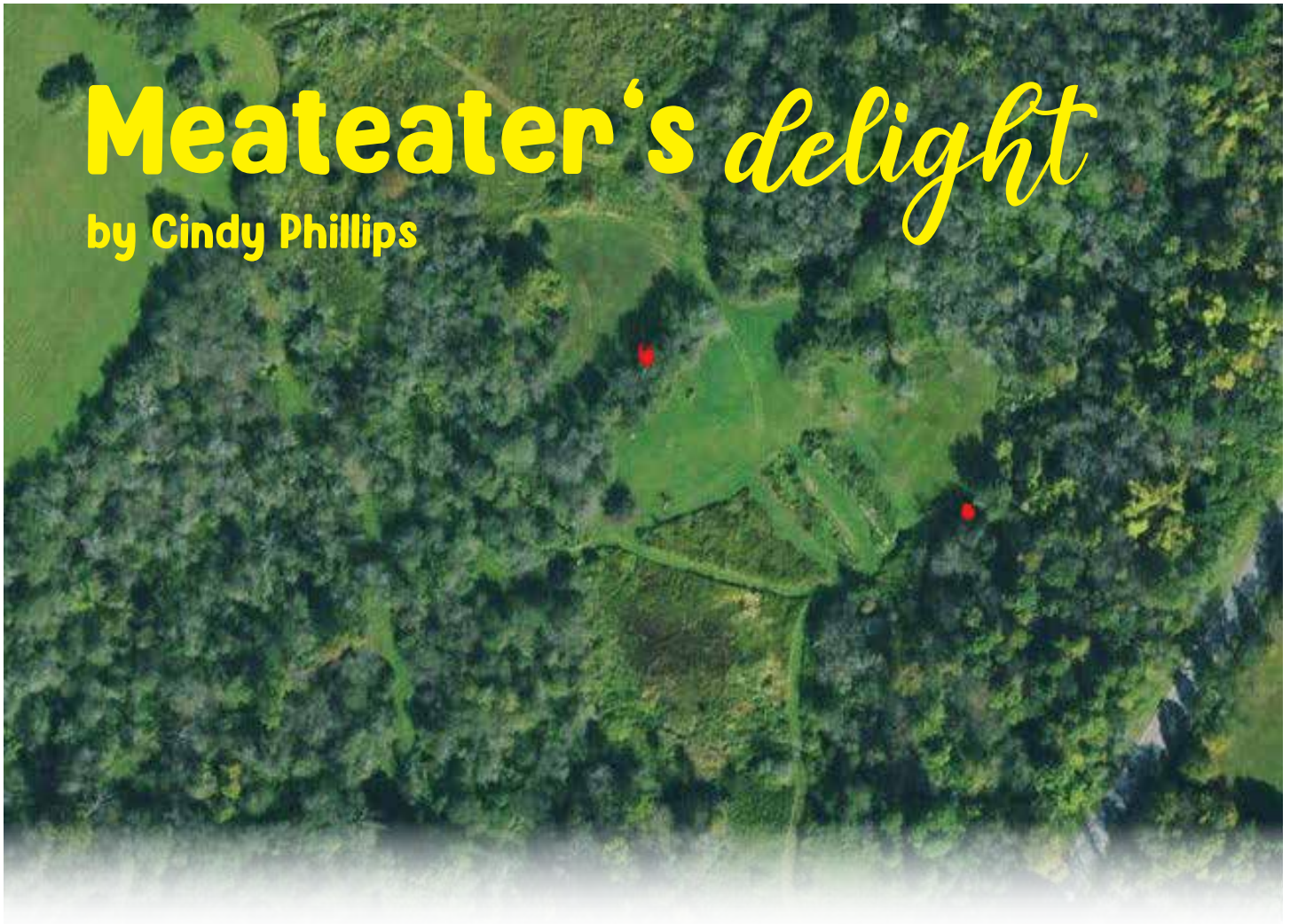
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Meateater's *delight*

by Cindy Phillips



With the wind shifting to the North an hour before sunset, the Lower Cow Foundation was my stand of choice. Located on a hedgerow between two micro-food plots, this stand gives me shots into both. The only issue with the stand is a few does are clued in on it and even if they can't smell me, they look for me. It's a great pinch point located near bedding areas and I try to only hunt it when conditions are perfect.

Above is an aerial view of the area. The red dots represent treestands. I was sitting on the one on the hedgerow. I was able to get on stand quietly a few hours before sunset. Immediately it started to snow and I was hoping I would stay warm enough to make it to sunset. Thankfully, the snow stopped after a few minutes.

For the next half an hour or so I was entertained by birds. First a flock of about 50 Juncos came into the food plot, feeding on seeds, keeping contact with one another with their light *smack* calls. Next a small flock of White-breasted Nuthatches came to feed in the apple trees, right-side up, then upside-down. They were replaced by Tufted Titmice and Chickadees with a couple of Crowned Kinglets in the bunch. It was interesting to see these bird species as they fed. The Titmice like to pick through the moss on the trees while the chickadees preferred to pick under bark. One Downy Woodpecker flew in and pecked on a branch within just a few feet of me. It was a pleasant way to pass the time.

Suddenly, I sensed something behind me so I quietly stood up, losing my focus on my feathered entertainers. Sure enough, feeding on the red clover with gusto, in came Anthony Jr. A

button buck with a voracious appetite we named him after a friend's son who is a big eater.

Anthony Jr. entertained me for about an hour. It was nice to have him around because he was not aware of me and he served as an early alert system for other deer coming into the area. When Anthony suddenly stopped eating and looked up and to my right I knew there was something coming in. I looked over my shoulder and sure enough there was a mature doe standing just at the edge of where I could shoot, looking at Anthony.

This doe was no stranger to the food plot and, unfortunately, my stand. She stood statue-like for 5 minutes just looking around, alert. Finally, she decided Something Wasn't Right and did a 180 and went back into the woods. Anthony walked along the food plot edge parallel to the hedgerow and went into the woods after the doe.

I was relieved to, first of all, get rid of that too-smart doe and for the chance to move again. I sat down, but not for long, because after 5 minutes the doe came into the food plot to my left, bringing Anthony along. I was able to once again stand without being noticed. I thought the doe was done trying to see if I was in the stand, but that was wishful thinking. She came in and stared hard at me. I did not move a muscle and even closed my eyes (for some reason it just seems wrong for me to stare at them when they are staring at me).

For the next 10 minutes I played statue again as she came in, stared at me, walked around the food plot, stared at me again... Meanwhile Anthony was feeding his face.

I was recovering from a mild case of Covid and had a little lingering cough. Every once in a while a piece of phlem wants to come out. If I don't clear it voluntarily it will trigger an involuntary cough. Right at that moment I had to clear my throat with a quick "huh." The doe didn't think anything of it, but Anthony clued right in on me and gave me The Look. Great, I thought, now I've educated a BUCK to my stand.

Anthony decided there was nothing to this blob in the tree that made a strange noise so he continued feeding. Mama doe, however, decided to take an interest in me again. Right at that moment in trotted a grey fox. That diverted her attention off me (allowing me to move for just a second to relieve the pressure on my knees). She and the fox had a staring contest until they both spooked. The fox went back into the woods to my right and the doe ran into the woods to my left. Anthony exited the food plot behind me.

Once again I was able to take a break and sit down. It was getting near sunset now. The doe was hanging in the woods and Anthony was nowhere to be found. Suddenly, I noticed activity to my right in the food plot above me. In came the biggest deer I think I've ever seen. My heart started racing. It HAD to be a buck. When it took a few steps closer I realized it had no antlers! It was a HUGE doe. A fawn was right behind her. Since I was here for a buck only I relaxed just for a second. Out of the woods right behind the fawn came a big 8-pointer. I grabbed my bow and positioned myself to shoot in that direction (which means I had to do a 180 in my stand). The doe was not ready to deal with him so she and her fawn ran into the tall grass. The buck, now at 40 yards from my stand, walked up the old cow barn foundation wall, walked through the center, then over the other side, disappearing into the tall grass after the doe. I hoped against hope that he would come in close but alas, that did not happen.

Right as my heart was falling for the missed opportunity I heard a buck grunt behind me. I looked over my shoulder and did not see any deer in the lower food plot. Another grunt caused me to reposition to focus below me. I looked hard and coming right out of the trail was a buck. I saw he was big bodied and that he had, to me, a "shooter rack." If he came into the food plot parallel to me I would get a 25 yard shot. I got ready. Once I decide I will take a shot I am all focused on getting the job done. I stop looking at the rack. Often times I don't know how many "points" my bucks have until I see them down. Anyway, this time was no different. On a quick count I thought maybe a 6-pointer. I knew he was not as big as the other buck, but he was a meat-eater's delight.

He gave me the shot. He was walking slowly and would not stop when I grunted at him. I aimed and released the arrow. It flew true and I heard that hollow THUNK assuring me of a good double-lung hit. He took 5 big leaps, then I heard nothing. I knew that meant he went down. I radioed my husband, Ed, and told him I had a buck down. I waited a few minutes, then quietly got down, backed out, and went home.

Ed and I went down together and followed a beautiful blood trail ending in the buck, piled up, about 30 yards from there I shot him. My goal of a big-bodied tender buck, killed quickly with no ruined meat, came to pass. The rack he sported was a big crotch-horn.

I praise God for the opportunity to hunt, for the skill He gives me, and for leading me to the right place at the right time. I truly enjoy being a silent observer to the natural world around me, treasuring every encounter with the animals that come to visit when I am on stand.



Did you know New York Bowhunters supports the Feeding New York State initiative?

Did you know because NYB supports donating venison we become eligible for more grant monies?

Venison Donation Coalition and Feeding New York State help provide food for those in need. Through a cooperative relationship involving the New York State Department of Health, non-profit organizations like Feeding New York State's regional food banks and deer processors, hunters contribute nearly 40 tons of venison each year to needy families across the state!

There are many ways a hunter can help feed those less fortunate. You can donate your deer or part of it at a cooperating processor, support your regional food bank monetarily, or make a cash donation to the Venison Donation Coalition when you purchase your hunting license to help offset the cost of processing donated venison.

After you make a donation, please call the NYB Office at 585-229-7468 or e-mail nyboffice@newyorkbowhunters.com and provide your name, how many deer you donated and the name of the deer processor who accepted your harvest.

If you'd like to learn how you can support these programs or donate venison to help feed local families, visit the Venison Donation Coalition (<http://venisondonation.com/>) and follow the "Find a Processor Link" or call 866-862-3337(DEER) or Feeding New York State (<https://feedingnys.org/hunters/>).

HOW TO DONATE YOUR DEER

You can help feed your hungry neighbors throughout New York by taking the following simple steps:

1. Donate any legally harvested deer by dropping it off at a participating processor.
2. It is suggested you call one of the participating processors before dropping off your deer to ensure they can accept your deer.
3. Please handle the carcass as you would for your own family.
4. When dropping your deer off at a processor, please complete the log sheet indicating your desire to donate the deer. The donated deer will be processed and the venison will be distributed to food pantries and food banks to help feed hungry New Yorkers.

5. Contact the NYB Office at 585-229-7468 or e-mail NYBOffice@newyorkbowhunters.com

MAKE A FINANCIAL DONATION TO THE DEER DONATION PROGRAM

If you don't have a deer to donate, but want to help with this effort, please consider giving a few dollars to support this program. Your contribution will help process more venison than would otherwise be possible. You can donate online or mail a check to:

Feeding New York State
25 Elk St.
Suite 201
Albany, NY 12207

Please make your check payable to "Feeding New York State" and add "Venison donation" in the memo field so we can apply your gift to the venison program.

Contact NYB so we can have record of NYB members' contributions to this program.

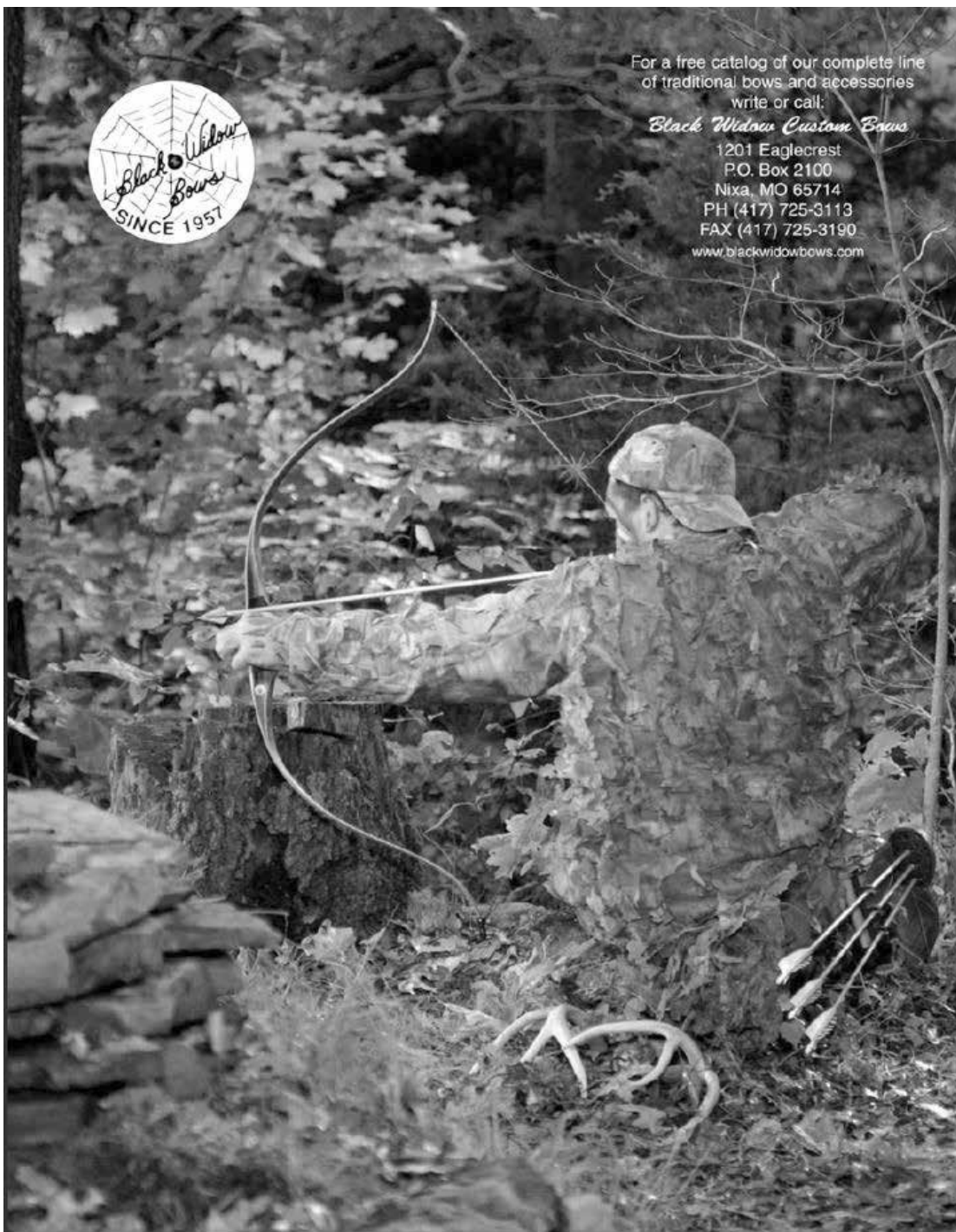
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Bear Pac Archery Club is located in Rutland, NY, just outside of Watertown, allowing friends and family a place to practice, have fun and enjoy archery. Our range offers 3D archery with over 40 targets ranging from 10 to 45 yards, April through September, with unlimited access for paid members. We also put on a 3D archery hunting situation shoot every year.

Membership is \$50 per member per year with a family rate available.

For more information you can find us on Facebook under Bear Pac Archery or you can contact Issac Thomas, bowfreak19@yahoo.com or Art Pellerin, ajpellerin@hotmail.com

Are you looking to expand your hunting opportunities and manage your own land but just can't do it on your own?

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MEMBER PHOTOS



Bob Ledrich took this 275 lb. bear at Betts Kelly Lodge in New Brunswick. Bear dropped less than 15 yards after being hit and skull measured 18 & 1/2 inches

Vet. Josh Chinrine harvested this bear on the Camo to Camo hunt



2022 Spring Camo to Camo Bear Hunt



Keith Betts (outfitter) and Doug Preisner with his P&Y bear



NYB Bowhunters' success!