

FULLDRAW

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NEW YORK BOWHUNTERS, INC.

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

Winter
2023/2024



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SUCCESSFUL CAMO TO CAMO HUNT HOSTED BY EASTERN NC WHITETAILS OUTFITTERS

(Clockwise from Top Left) Ed Gorch, Greg
Kerns, Doug Preisner and Honored Veteran,
Army Sgt. Bill Cramer, alongside his harvest

New York Bowhunters

New York State's largest bowhunting organization since 1991

5937 County Rd. 33, Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 229-7468

e-mail: nyboffice@newyorkbowhunters.com

web: www.newyorkbowhunters.org

www.facebook.com/pages/New-York-Bowhunters-Inc

OFFICERS:

Andrew Cotraccia, President

acotraccia@gmail.com

Aaron Barton, Secretary

abarton@highpowervtis.com

Bob Ledrich, Treasurer

ledrich@optonline.net

Annie Jacobs, Administrative Secretary

5937 County Rd. 33, Canandaigua NY 14424

nyboffice@newyorkbowhunters.com

phone/fax (585) 229-7468

Cindy Phillips, Editor

NYBFULLDRAW@GMAIL.COM

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

Advertising inquiries:
Cindy Phillips, Advertising Editor
NYBFULLDRAW@GMAIL.COM

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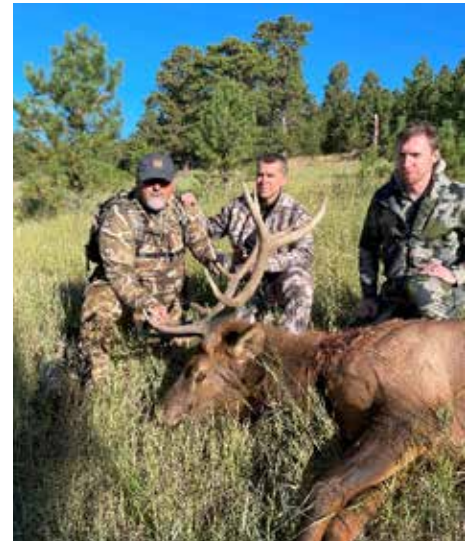
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From the President's Desk

Greetings NYB Member! It is my hope that you are again having an exciting and fulfilling hunting season and that you are able to spend time in camp with your family and friends! I was fortunate enough to again go out to Montana in September on an elk bowhunt with my dad and brother-in-law. While shot opportunities were limited, two out of 6 hunters harvested nice bulls including my dad, Gary. Back here in NY, I was fortunate enough to bag a nice buck with my bow. While he wasn't my target buck for the season, I made a really good shot and his rack is deformed and really unique.

Anyway, good meat for the freezer and hopefully my target buck makes it to gun season!



Gary Socola, Andrew Cotraccia,
Aaron Barton

The biggest news in our NY bowhunting world over the past several months has been the new waiver to allow hunting with an unmodified crossbow during the regular bowhunting season. Under this provision, a reasonable accommodation under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) may be requested by individuals with disabilities whose needs are not met by the Modified Longbow authorization or Modified Crossbow Special Permit. Furthermore, certification of a disability by a licensed physician is required for a reasonable accommodation for unmodified crossbow use to be granted. The physician must certify that: "the individual is incapable of holding a bow or operating a mechanical device attached to a legal longbow for drawing, holding, and releasing a bowstring due to a physical disability." From what we can tell, there is no mention of an expiration date for the form or if the disability needs to be permanent or how it applies to partial disabilities.

NYB leaders are still in the process of collecting information on this and will report on any new information received, but it seems very rushed and open ended at this point in time. There is very little doubt in my mind that the reasonable accommodation waiver came as a result of yet another expensive year for the crossbow organization and their failed attempts pushing full inclusion for the bowhunting season. NYB never lost this battle and successfully fought off every full inclusion attack we've ever faced. A true David and Goliath story as we held off manufacturers, lobbyists, and corrupt legislators, an incredibly amazing feat for a volunteer organization considered small, insignificant, and weak by our detractors!

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

Thank you for being a member, good luck in the woods, and be safe!

Sincerely,

Andrew Cotraccia, President
New York Bowhunters



A ½ gallon jar of shredded and dehydrated meat from 2 turkey legs.

How to Make Shelf-Stable Wild Game

There are several ways to keep wild game including storing it in the freezer, canning it or making jerky. Here is a way you can preserve your wild game (any lean meat for that matter but organic meat is best), keeping it on your pantry shelf without requiring refrigeration.

1. Start by cooking the meat as you would for regular consumption (grill it, broil it, cook in the crockpot or Instant Pot, etc.). Use lean meats only. Trim any fat off prior to cooking, if possible. Rinse fatty meats with hot water after cooking if needed.
2. After the meat has cooled cut it as you would like to use it (cut it in slices or cubes or shred it).
3. Place the cut/shredded meat into a container or bag and put it in the freezer for at least 24 hours.
4. Remove the meat from the freezer and let it defrost.
5. If you will be using the meat to snack on or to add to a trail mix you can add spices such as salt, pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, crushed red pepper, etc. at this time. If you plan on using the meat by rehydrating and adding it to a soup, stew or sauce dish leave it unseasoned.
6. Spread meat out in dehydrator trays in a single layer (as best you can).
7. Dehydrate at 160 degrees until completely dry (meat should be brittle). This can take 4 to 6 hours or more depending on how dry the meat is, how thick the pieces are and your dehydrator.
8. Store in any air-tight container in your pantry. For best results add a moisture removing packet or store in a vacuum-sealed jar. It will keep for a year or more when stored in a cool, dark place.

You can snack on the dried meat (it is crunchy and tender) or rehydrate it for at least 10 minutes (or up to an hour) using 1:1 ratio (by weight) of warm liquid : dried meat before adding to a sauce. Keep in mind meat dehydrates 1:4 by weight so use approximately ¼ cup of dehydrated meat for each cup the recipe calls for. It can also be added right to a pot of stew or soup. It will act as a thickener as it absorbs liquid.

Next time you need room in your freezer try preserving game this way.



FALL RAFFLE WINNER

**Congratulations to
Kevin O'Brien
who was the
winner of a 5 day
spring bear hunt at
Betts Kelly Lodge!**





*Adult Louse Fly, winged form,
actual size approximately ¼ inch*

WHAT ARE THESE LOUSY FLIES?

By Cindy Phillips

I first encountered these strange critters in 2012 when archery season opened on October 1st in the Southern Zone (thanks to NYB's legislative efforts). I was blessed to shoot a doe on the opening day. When I went to skin the deer I noticed strange critters crawling around the carcass. These bugs were not the usual ticks I expect to see on deer. What were these things?

I did some research and found out they are called Louse Flies or "keds." They hatch in late summer/early fall and fly around for a very short time in search of their prey. They are very specific to their host species and you won't find deer keds on birds or bird keds on a deer. They are not partial to human blood but if I told you I was never bit by a ked I would be lying!

Fast forward to the warm fall of 2023. An afternoon walk on a 70 degree day, or a sit on a deer stand, will find you Louse Fly bait! As I was batting a few away I decided to share some of the information I found on these very strange creatures. Maybe you've encountered them as well and wondered what they were.

Here is a look into this bizarre fly.

In the scientific world they belong to the family of flies called Hippoboscidae. The species that feeds on whitetail deer is called *Lipoptena mazamae*. Both the male and female feed on blood and are not found far from their lunch (host). There are more than 200 species of Hippoboscidae and 75 percent of these parasitize birds. While there is no human louse fly, they will bite humans when given no other choice of host, and their bites are definitely itchy. But the flies do not survive long or reproduce when fed only human blood.

Their bodies are distinctly dorsoventrally flattened (from

back to belly), as if someone had dropped a board on them. This flat body shape allows them to slide between the feathers of birds or into the fur of mammals. Their shape and tough exoskeletons also make them hard to squish. Gross as this is, you just can't smack them like a regular fly. The best technique to dispatch one is to roll it between your fingers.

Another one of the bizarre aspects of louse fly biology is their life cycle. Most flies lay eggs, which hatch into larvae or maggots, then from there to pupae then to adult. The hippoboscids flies belong to the group known as the Pupipara or "pupa-bearers." Rather than laying eggs, female "pupa-bearers" essentially lay a pupa or "prepuparium" which is a late-stage larva enclosed in a shell that quickly hardens into a true pupa.



*Prepuparium found
in deer beds*

Female hippoboscids produce one offspring at a time after they are done feeding in the fall. A single egg hatches in the female's uterus and the resulting larva develops there feeding from "milk glands." The larva does not leave its mother's body until it is ready to pupate, at which time it weighs more than the mother! The pupa is usually deposited where the deer beds. The pupa will over winter in this stage. When the pupa has matured, a winged adult emerges and flies in search of a suitable host. On finding one, the fly sheds its wings and is permanently associated with that animal. It will feed, mate and start the cycle all over again.

The next time you are fortunate enough to harvest a deer early in October (or any time before the first hard frost) take a close look at the hide. Chances are good you will come face to face with a ked! And that bug you swat away on stand may not be a mosquito after all.

NOW ACCEPTING SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS



DOUG KERR MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The New York Bowhunters, Inc. Doug Kerr Memorial Scholarship Fund was established to give financial aid to NYB family members enrolled in college.

Ideally, studies related to environmental and wildlife conservation are preferred, however, other majors will be considered. To be eligible, the applicant must be a member or have a parent or guardian who is a member in good standing with New York Bowhunters, Inc. The applicant must be in their senior year of high school when the application is submitted. The applicant must have a letter of acceptance to an accredited school by the first semester of the same year the application was submitted.

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.

Applicants must provide an official copy of a transcript showing grades for the entire enrollment in all high schools, colleges, or universities attended. An essay of 250 to 400 words must be submitted with the application. The essay is intended to show that the applicant has put serious thought into their career choice in their particular field of study and their goals.

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
5937 County Road 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.



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845-294-8041

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

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

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

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

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

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



Region 1:

Mad Dog Plumbing, Steam and Radiant Heat

36 W. Hitchcock Ave.
Floral Park, NY 11001

Matt Sweeney
Serving NY, CT, NJ, VT
plumbing3c@gmail.com
516-322-2881

Suffolk Archers, Inc.

86 Pigeon Hill Road
Huntington Station, NY 11746

Region 2:

John Jasilli, Esq.

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

McSwigin, Christopher

78 Sunset Trail
Bronx, NY 10465

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

Bethlehem Rod & Gun Club

372 New Unionville Rd.
Walkill, NY 12568
Ed Malle
845-728-0084
malle12550@gmail.com

Bob DiGiacomio

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

Highwoods Sportsmen's Club

P O Box 93
Saugerties, NY 12477
845-246-4717
highwoodssc@gmail.com

North Dutchess Rod & Gun

PO Box 728
Rhinebeck, NY 12572
845-846-3711
art.pritchard@dovergroup.me

Paese Precision Archery

26 Van Vlack Rd.
Hopewell Junction, NY 12533
Joseph Paese
914-803-2369

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
Sean Royster
845-418-0465
tiyogibowmennny@gmail.com

Wittenberg Sportsmen Club, Inc.

PO Box 930
Woodstock, NY 12498
545-594-5056
billheinitz@gmail.com

Region 4:

Burnt Knob Mountain Escape

303 Bogardus Rd.
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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

Rensselaer County Conservation Alliance

PO Box 179
West Sand Lake, NY 12196

Sunny Hill Resort

352 Sunny Hill Rd.
Greenville, NY 12083
518-634-7642
www.sunnyhill.com

Region 6:

Bear Pac Archery Club
18893 Game Farm Road
Dexter, NY 13634
315-771-1182

Ed Collins

420 Williams Street
Oneida, NY 13421
315-363-1241

Region 7:

Ronald Bush

5908 South Hill Rd.
Truxton, NY 13158

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

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258 Jersey Hill Rd.
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Steve Barber
607-277-1543

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Buckskin Bowmen

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

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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:

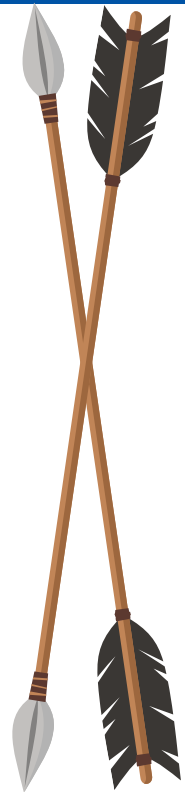
Little Ridge Archery

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

Out of State:

Cos Cob Archers

PO Box 351
Cos Cob, Ct. 06807
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jeffcoscobarchers@gmail.com



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WEDNESDAYS-12:00 AM



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

FULL DRAW

REGION REPORTS

REGION 1 REPORT

Hello from Region 1,

At the time of this article, we are towards the end of October and a lot of us are counting the days until we see some bucks chasing! What bowhunter doesn't love the November rut? Hopefully by now most of us have gotten a few hunts under our belt for the season; maybe some have had some success.

Here in Region 1 we just had a two day pheasant youth hunt for hunters between the ages of 12-15 (must have a junior's hunting license, accompanied by an adult licensed hunter). I was surprised to hear that the DEC went as far as releasing adult pheasants on specific sites for this particular youth hunt weekend. No doubt this is a fantastic effort to get more youth hunters involved here on Long Island.

In a few more weeks my wife and I will be going on a

Maryland whitetail hunt we won from our Banquet's silent auction. To say we are pumped is an understatement! Wishing all of our members a safe and successful season. Shoot straight!

Best Regards

Mike Farrugia-Region 1 Rep
Mfarrugia47@gmail.com
(516)615-3029



REGION 2 REPORT

Hello fellow brothers and sisters of the bow. I hope that you all had a safe and productive season. And hopefully you have shared your love and knowledge with someone else, a new entrant into our world of bowhunting. Mentoring, and passing it on, so that someone who may have never stepped into the woods can be exposed to the wonders of God's creation is the gift that keeps on giving.

There is some very unfortunate news that was unleashed, unceremoniously, upon us just prior to the opening of ARCHERY season. The DEC had their lawyers overturn the decades long, ADA compliant, Modified Crossbow Permit. That permit enabled a disabled person to hunt with a modified crossbow during the archery season. The crossbow would be modified with a breath tube trigger. Now that is gone and replaced by a crossbow permit that only requires a doctor to sign off on. There is no requirement as per degree of disability or longevity of disability. In essence, once it is issued, it is good for eternity. Hundreds have already been issued. It is a sad day for bowhunting indeed.

Hope to see everyone at the Banquet.
All the best,

Al Bottari
Region 2 Rep, Board of Director
bluehillhunta@optonline.net



REGION 3 REPORT

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Not much is happening in this neck of the woods as everyone interested in archery is hunting! Let's hope that Summer 3D shooting and Fall practice has helped your shooting and you get to tag that deer or bear.

Locally the acorn crop has been good but only a few apples were on the trees. We have a grove of crabapples and last year they were loaded but the late frost hit us and we have no crabapples at all. We have very few beech trees here where I live but the Neversink Gorge area is loaded with them. I haven't been down there this season to check on them.

Mike Levitt at "All Things Accuracy" in Liberty has been busy moving his location a few stores from his original shop. He now has more store space and a shooting range area. His store hours are Tuesday thru Saturday 9 AM to 5 PM and the number is 845-742-2769. Hopefully, he will have a Winter league in the evenings.

Silver Birch Archery is another shop available to us archers in Milford, Pa. Russel has a great shop and shooting area and runs leagues. He has a traditional league usually on Friday afternoons in January and February. More on this in the next issue of *FullDraw*.

Good hunting, be safe, and wear that safety harness when tree stand hunting!!!

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

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Greetings All,

As I write this report, Archery season is about halfway through and I'm still waiting for a decent shot. Sightings have been slow, but I look forward to that situation changing soon. My trail cameras have been showing a few more bucks in the area though most continue to be nocturnal. My sons Bob and Michael, our friend Christopher Jones along with my brother-in-law Ron Raffaele (all NYB members), just completed our annual trip to our camp at Brant Lake in the ADKs. The temps were in the upper 70s during the afternoon hunts so there was minimal deer movement. Several were seen during the morning hunts, but no shots were offered. Plenty of good conversations, good food and laughs were had by all. Hopefully, with the cold weather and the rut kicking in we will have some better luck.

Ti Yogi Bowmen will be starting their Winter League on January 3rd. Participants can choose either Wednesday or Thursday nights or you may shoot both nights. The cost for non-members is \$7, \$35 for TYB members. The league will run for 12 weeks with the first

Early reports from many of you who were impacted by EHD over the last two years indicate there was a noticeable difference in deer observed this past fall. I saw more deer this year than I'd seen in recent years near my home in Hopewell Junction. I rely on input from all of you to tell me how you think each season is going on the local front.

I did hear about one of our younger and newer members, sixteen-year-old, Will Reilly, from Sullivan County on the taking of his first deer! Congratulations and welcome to NYB.

As the year draws to an end, and bow seasons close, many of you will be putting away bows and arrows for the winter. For those of you anywhere near a club that holds indoor leagues, I strongly urge you consider taking part. Besides maintaining and improving your shooting skills, league participation is a lot of fun and you'll be surrounded by bowhunters and archers with whom you will surely gain knowledge and friendships. Seek them out if you are anywhere near a range (I regularly shoot at Ti Yogi which is about 45 minutes from me).

Some of you may be interested in taking part in local tournaments. There are two that will be taking place in the Hudson Valley, one in January and one in March. Details are included elsewhere in this issue of *FullDraw*.

It was great seeing some of our fellow NYB members from Tupper Lake back in October when they made a 4-hour (each way) trip to shoot 3D with us. Mike Savage, Sue and Sherm LaLonde, Martin Brown and John Boyer; it was great seeing you and we thank all our Adirondack friends from Tupper Lake Archers for their longstanding support of NYB's programs.

The DEC continues to refuse to require any part of the hunter education safety classes to include mandatory live instruction. The "online" classes that the DEC promotes cannot replace those classes taught in person by experienced, qualified, passionate instructors. Sadly only 10% of all new bowhunters have been interested enough to seek out a live class (over 7,000 new bowhunters in NY entered the woods in 2022 that were certified in an "online" class!!) Bob Ledrich and myself ran an "in person" Bowhunter Education class back in October. Those who attended are to be commended for seeking out a "real" learning experience. These participants are also now new members of NYB and we'd like to welcome: Andrew Butler, Deric Wilson, Mary McLean, Norberto Negron and Beckham Gibbons. And also, new Spikes member, Brodie Read. Thank you to ECON Officer Deo Read for your input. And also welcome to Philip Scarano, Bow and Firearm Instructor from Dutchess County. Thank you Phil, for all you do for the outdoor sporting community.

Finally, from all the Region 3 County Reps, we wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah. And let's all pray and hope for a peaceful new year filled with common sense and care of America by those running the government.

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

Continues on next page

REGION 3 REPORT - continued from previous page

two weeks being non scoring (practice). This is a fun league with all shooting styles welcome. Traditional, Bowhunter, and Freestyle are all included. Scores are submitted individually (unlike a bowling league, although some of us wear what appears to be bowling shirts). Archers of all skill levels take part so don't be bashful, it is a lot of fun! Many Bowhunters are keeping their skills sharp year-round. Hope to see some fellow "Dutchessites" there!

As we wrapped up our 3D season, I'd like to acknowledge the following NYB/Ti Yogi members: Bill Silta for making sure the 3D range at Ti Yogi is always ready when needed, and Sean Royster and Brian Chapman for taking on their new duties at the club.

Please let me know of anything you would like reported for the next issue. Your input is more than welcome!

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

"Keep em Sharp"

Bob Ledrich - Dutchess County Rep / Treasurer
ledrich@optonline.net
914-475-4190

ROCKLAND COUNTY

I would like to start this report with a special thanks to all the help we received at National Hunting Fishing Day at Congers Lake in September, especially Sam DiVietro, Peter DiVietro, Harry Walker, John Parvis, Tom Carney and everyone else who help contribute to a successful day! With the cold rainy day we had, we were still able to get bows and the experience of archery in the hands of about 100 local kids. I was also able to hand out applications and speak to other local hunters who aren't current members of our organization. With the loss of the RCC show we all need to step up where we can to promote OUR organization and add members where we can.

My season has not started off with a bang as I had hoped with my work schedule and then my bow breaking during practice one day. I was finally able to sit in the stand this morning with my new HOYT in hand. I hope you all have had better luck. With the rut still in site I hope we all have a successful bow season. By the time you are reading this the 2023 season will be over—hopefully a very memorable one for you and yours.

As always, I ask you to please reach out to me with anything related to Rockland bowhunting, or something I can address with the organization.

"Nock 'em dead" >>>----->

Curt Carney - Rockland County Rep
Ccarney8799@gmail.com

.....
Hello NY Bowhunters

Hope you are all having a successful season. As of this writing deer activity here in Fahnestock has been very slow, to say the least. I don't know what to attribute it to. It may be the warmer than usual weather or even EHD. (And still DEC is giving out extra management permits, go figure.) Nonetheless I am still plugging away hoping to get

a glimpse of the buck that's been making a few scrapes.

With the weather being so warm for this time of the year let's remember that if you do harvest an animal make sure you field dress it and get it to a butcher right away if you don't do the processing yourself. For me, I bring it to a reputable butcher. The few dollars you spend on getting it properly taken care of is well worth it. They know what cuts to make. They'll even freezer wrap it for you. If you are in Putnam and need the name of a good reliable butcher, e-mail me and I'll pass it along. A venison backstrap is a terrible thing to waste.

One last thing for now... Almost everyone has a cell phone these days. If you take it into the deer woods with you do not forget to put it on vibrate or even shut it off. The last thing you want is to have a deer or a buck of a lifetime come within range only to have a call come through. And I know, in those times of inactivity (and they can be many), you might be tempted to start playing games or texting. (Bad idea for many obvious reasons.) This is the time to enjoy your surroundings and the quiet. Most of us don't get much of that during normal, everyday life.

So remember...be safe and take a child out into the deer woods with you. You both just might have an experience you'll never forget.

John Sarlo
Putnam County Rep.
archer2312@aol.com

ORANGE COUNTY

Greetings all...

The *FullDraw* deadline jumped up at me suddenly and I was already out in Ohio. I didn't want to miss touching base with my fellow Orange County members and hope everyone had a safe and successful hunting season! As I sit here writing this from Ohio, I had one of my most memorable sits in the treestand today. A cold snap came in on Halloween night and sent the deer into a rutting frenzy! I probably saw ten different bucks and regrettably passed on two shooters but there is still a lot of season left. I really find the venison out west is superior in quality compared to New York, likely due to the abundance of soybeans and corn.

I am not sure how things are shaking out back home right now, but I assume timing is about the same as here. I would like hearing from some of you. Drop me a line any time.

Christopher Smith - Orange County Rep.
Bigblue9654@gmail.com

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

The Westchester County Bowhunters Association (WBA) held their fall meeting in September. Some of the topics discussed were trail cam strategies and tips for optimizing their use and public access opportunities for local hunters. Longtime NYB member and President of WBA, Doug Erickson, gave a very informative presentation on Elk hunting. All in attendance thoroughly enjoyed this as Doug shared his experiences and knowledge gained, mixed in with some entertaining personal stories.

In addition to staying on top of bowhunting opportunities in Westchester, WBA also maintains an outdoor archery range.

For more information on belonging to WBA, you may find them on Facebook, or contact me and I'll put you in touch with their membership person.

WANTED in Westchester: NYB needs one of our members to take on the role as a representative. As you can see, I try to always add some local information here, but have not been a resident of Westchester for many years and this should be one of you guys (I'll help!).

Richard Kirschner
bowrichny@aol.com

ULSTER COUNTY

Thank you to all our members in Ulster County for your continued support of NYB. Without your membership and support of New York Bowhunters we would not have had the 30 plus years of success, accomplishments, and benefits to ALL bowhunters. Hope you had a successful hunting season. Please check the Booster page for local clubs in Ulster County and try and participate in some of their 3D shoots. Tell them "thank you" and let them know you are a member of NYB.

Happy Holidays from your Region 3 Representatives and Ulster Booster Clubs.

REGION 4 REPORT

Well, another deer season is in full swing. The deer herd seems to be in good shape with a mild winter last year and an overabundance of acorns hitting the ground. I've seen a lot of bucks on camera and a few nice shooters. I was lucky enough to take a nine point on the second week, the only problem was getting him out of the woods. When my son Ed and I finally got him home and weighed him he hit the scale at 205 lb. We're not accustomed to seeing deer at this weight size in our area with no crops being grown locally. When I cut him open we had the answer; corn. His whole gut system was full, this guy must have been living under a feeder. I talked with my local En.Con officer and he told me that they are receiving a lot of calls pertaining to illegal baiting. There are too many guys hunting over bait and only two or three officers covering the whole county day and night. Not an easy job.

There is not too much news other than Field and Stream and Dicks stop selling hunting gear and the new laws

regarding guns and ammo coming out of Albany.

With the ways things are going around the country and world, no one is going to help you in times of need, especially in rural areas where many of us live. You're on your own....

Take Care,

Ed Gorch, Freehold, N.Y.
Oldbowman48@gmail.com, 518-755-6263



REGION 5 REPORT

Our local Veteran that was selected to go to North Carolina on our Camo to Camo hunt got off to a rocky start.

Bill Cramer left early the morning they were to depart.

When he was about 40 miles from home he hit a deer with his car (this is not the way this is supposed to work, Bill). With the help of NYB member Mike Savage and the understanding of Ed Gorch and the rest of the NYB crew they left about 2 hours late but everyone took it in stride.

Bill initially served as tactical satellite systems microwave operator. In 1987 he changed jobs. After training in Ft Knox he went to Germany as a M1A1 tank driver serving until 1992. In 1992 he was sent to the Middle East. At that time he was injured and could not meet the physical requirements to remain at his post.

All in all Bill said the Camo to Camo hunt was an amazing time with some amazing people. His hunt was successful as he brought home 2 deer!



Continues on next page

REGION 5 REPORT - continued from previous page

We also presented our annual Nellie Staves scholarship of \$500 to Miss Olivia Ellis who had outstanding grades.

Presenting the scholarship award is club President and NYB member Ray MacIntosh.

So far hunting season here has been off to a slow start. Crazy temps haven't helped at all. Like most of you it's been one day in the 80s and next in the 40s. Hopefully it settles down soon.

One thing that has surprised us here in town this year is we have a white colored deer that has been hanging out across the street in a small patch of woods. She has been coming out just after dark so we can't tell if it is a piebald or all white but it is pretty unusual. We're just waiting to get some good pics on the trail cam.

Dave McMahon

Region 5 Representative

davemcmahon97@gmail.com

**REGION 6 REPORT**

By the time you read this, regular archery season will be closed in most Regions. In our area, it seemed as if the rut started the second half of October. There were plenty of bucks on my trail cams, even in daylight. I even had a beautiful 8 point show up at my stand on October 27th, but he wouldn't come any closer than 45 yards. Out of my range. Maybe he will be back before the guns start.

We lost a great friend and NYB member/booster, Ed Collins back in August. Ed was also known as 'Art' when he purchased Art's Fishing & Tackle Shop in Oneida and renamed it Art's Archery. Ed's love for hunting and fishing never waned as he operated the shop for over 50 years. He helped many people become proficient bowhunters, including me. If you had any questions regarding archery, or new equipment, he had all the answers. Ed will be missed.

By now you know there are hundreds of hunters designated "handicapped" using crossbows under a new ADA permit. All it takes is answering 4 questions and getting your doctor to sign the form. This allows for scoped, pre-loaded, long-range devices to be used during all of archery season. Unfortunately, there is no requirement for any crossbow hunter to attend a Bowhunter Safety course. Coupled with the fact that all new hunters of any type are allowed to gain certification online without any mandatory participation with live instruction,

the woods are not as safe as years past. I believe wearing orange, especially on state land, is of paramount

importance. If you have any interaction with crossbow hunters good or bad, I would be interested in knowing about it. I usually hunt private property during bow season. I'd like to know if I am worrying needlessly about hunting on state land during archery season.

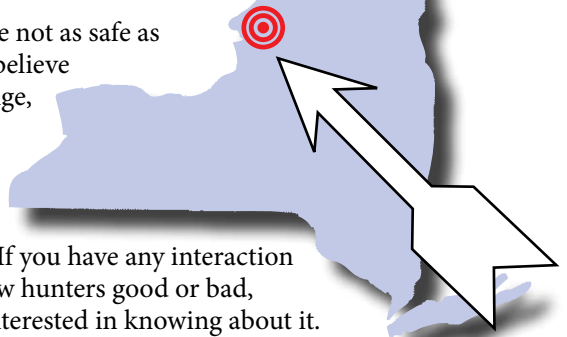
The New York Bowhunters Facebook Page still posts up-to-the-minute updates on what is happening around the state. Now you can also follow us on Instagram. Check out our web page. Go to: www.newyorkbowhunters.com.

Do your part to hunt safely by wearing your safety harness while in your treestand. I wish all you bowhunters not only a successful hunting season, but a most enjoyable and SAFE Holidays!

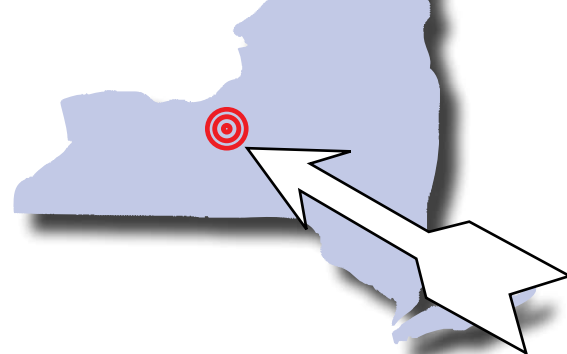
Bill Snyder

Region #6 Rep.

bill4nyb@gmail.com

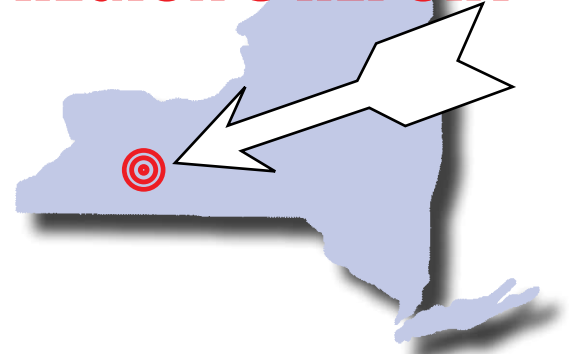
**REGION 7 REPORT**

Representative Needed.



REGION 8 REPORT

No Report Submitted.



REGION 9 REPORT

Hi everyone,

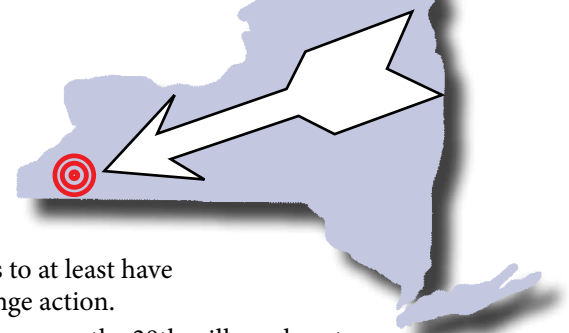
I hope you are all having a great and successful season. It has been a very slow beginning of the season for me and I have talked to a few different people this year with much of the same results. However the fall air is getting cooler and that can only mean one thing.

As I am sitting here writing this the rut is at the point where it can break loose and the woods are going to be alive with new and existing bucks cruising through, looking for does going into estrous. Although it was a slow beginning to the season for me, the ending of October has turned into a madhouse of multiple sightings of increased buck activity and new bucks crossing my tail cams. With the number of buck sightings growing daily, I've been lucky enough to have an opportunity at a few so far. I am hoping everything aligns so that I can send an arrow at the special one I have been sighting and tracking. But enough about my season. In Region 9 the buck harvest is starting to grow and people are out and about in the woods. With waterfowl season and pheasant season open the public land is buzzing with activity. The beautiful part of that is as a bowhunter it gives opportunity to find a spot in the woods and have the effect of deer drives without actually having people purposely driving deer. And if you know how to read the land you can be very successful. The sheer number

of deer in Region 9 is like no other and should provide anyone who puts the time in with opportunities to at least have some bow range action.

The full moon on the 28th will surely get everything moving and I hope everyone has the chance to have action and success. I wish everyone the best of luck for the rest of the season and I can't wait to see what everyone gets to harvest! Remember take your time, pick a spot and don't peek and as always feel free to reach out to me if you ever have any questions or just want to chat about your season.

Vinny D'Agostino
Region 9 Representative
Vinnydagostino1@gmail.com
716-930-4009



REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

for the Region below. Please contact the Main Office at
NYBOffice@NewYorkBowhunters.com

REGION 7 REPORT





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PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED FUND: _____

YOUTH PROGRAMS: _____

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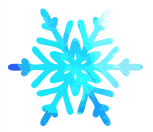
Send in your hunting memories, drawings, recipes, stories and photos for consideration for the next Spikes newsletter. Photos should be in "Good Taste" with little or no blood showing, tongues tucked inside mouths, no tailgate shots, etc. Photos taken in a natural outdoor setting are best. Otherwise 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
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Or email: NYBSpikesEditor@gmail.com

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January
Kwanzaa
lunar new year
melt
migrate
mittens
New Year's Day
quilt
scarf
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skiing
sled
sleet
sleigh

slippery
slush
snowball
snowboard
snowdrift
snowflake
snowman
snowmobile
snowplow
snowstorm
sweater
vacation
Valentine's Day

Enjoying Winter Archery

Hunting season is over and your freezer is (hopefully) full of venison. Your camo has been washed and put away and you may be tempted to store your bow until it's time to start shooting again next spring. I suggest you don't put your bow away just yet.

Why let that expensive gear hang when you could be improving your shooting skills having great archery fun throughout the winter?

Now is a great time to start making your bow a bigger part of your recreational life, especially if you have an archery pro shop and range nearby. Archery is growing rapidly as a recreational outlet for families, and most pro shops offer excellent training programs for both adults and kids.

Many archery shops host indoor target and 3D evening leagues throughout winter that offer friendly competition and social fun while doing wonders for your shooting skills.

For help with your shooting, talk to a pro shop staff member. Many shops have "shop shooters" or instructors who are happy to provide free shooting advice or give paid instruction. Try to find time to work on your own and then consider joining an archery league.

Leagues are a great way to improve your shooting. Leagues in which you shoot at 3D targets are a lot of fun, but a spot target league (where you shoot at paper targets) will do more to improve your shooting. Both compound and recurve or longbow archers shoot together in most leagues. You'll likely find all skill levels, from beginner to expert, in an evening league. The friendly, competitive environment in a league will encourage you to improve your shooting. Don't be afraid to ask questions as you work on improving your marksmanship. Most good shooters are happy to help.

You can also get your archery friends together and shoot outside. One fun game is A-N-T-L-E-R, where the first shooter selects a shot with some handicap involved, such as kneeling, body contortion, doing pushups prior to shooting, etc. If he makes the shot, others must also make it or they earn a letter. The first to spell A-N-T-L-E-R loses.

Other fun games include shooting spot targets with a requirement to hit a specific scoring ring in a specific sequence to score points. Everyone loves shooting at balloons. Blow them up to a variety of sizes and create a ladder of decreasing sizes leading to a winner.

The bottom line is there is plenty to do during the winter months to improve your shooting and all-around archery skills. Newfound friends will serve to expand your knowledge and experience, and you might even find a new hunting buddy. Consider making archery a year-round adventure. You will have the added benefit of keeping your skills sharp for next hunting season!



New York Bowhunters
Youth Membership

"Spikes"

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

Membership Includes:

NYB Membership Sticker, Spikes sticker 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.

Spikes membership is only \$10 per year.



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See <http://tupperlakearchers.net/NCRules.pdf> for detail rules.

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Ti Yogi Bowmen (NYB Booster)

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Both shoots will have a 1:00PM line on Saturday and
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All styles of shooting welcome.

Food & Refreshments available on site.

\$25 adults 18 and over. \$15 under 18.

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For more information and registration, contact:
Bob Harring at Elitearchery35@gmail.com or 518-828-3731

In Memoriam

A tribute to those we have lost...

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*Donated by
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In Memory of
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In Memory of
**the Terry McSwigin
Family**

*Donated by Big Brother
Jim*

In Memory of
Charles Giandana

*From your
NYB family.*

In Memory of
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In Memory of
Karl Lockwood

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

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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.

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RANGEFINDER REVIEW

by Richard Kirschner



I have never reviewed a product and I am not really doing that now. The Internet is filled with folks all too eager to promote stuff (and often themselves just as much!). This is probably more of a company review than it is a product review. This review is my personal opinion and observation as a fellow bowhunter and should in no way be considered a NYB endorsement. I wanted to share a pleasant experience I had recently which I guess surprised me in this current atmosphere of poor quality, quick profits and terrible customer service.

Most of my shooting recently has been with a recurve and with a self-imposed fifteen-yard hunting limit, I have no great need of a rangefinder. Even when shooting a compound, although I liked practicing at forty yards, 90% of my hunting shots were kept to less than 20 yards, with just a few slightly over.

The (really) old rangefinder I had was ok in its day, but had finally given up. And although not really needing one anymore most of the time, I do find myself occasionally setting up a 3D course for my club and for that a rangefinder is helpful. But I did not want to spend hundreds of dollars on one, nor did I need a lot of bells and whistles.

After an Internet search of various reviews of budget friendly rangefinders, I settled on the TideWe HR-F700. A purchase link led me to that company which starts with the

letter "A" and is the same name as the long river and huge rainforest in South America. Beginning in June, I used it occasionally during the summer. As a matter of fact, I think I only needed to recharge it once during this time. I was very pleased with the accuracy, simplicity and compactness of this unit. Then in October, while helping a buddy set up a tree stand, I noticed I was getting inaccurate readings. After a full charge, there was no mistaking the rangefinder was not working (either inaccurate readings or a blank screen). I attempted to return or exchange with the "A" company but was informed of their 30-day policy. This is often frustrating as many things we buy do not get too much activity in the first 30 days. Nonetheless, not expecting much help, I contacted the manufacturer directly via email. I received a response in less than a day! Their customer service dept was not only anxious to resolve the issue, but apologetic for my inconvenience. They promised a replacement product and again apologized it would take about a week to process. Two days later a brand-new rangefinder was on my porch with no need for me to return the faulty product!

Those of you gadget guys out there might like something a little more high tech in your rangefinder selection. But for the simplicity, economics and great product support, if you're in the market for something like I was, consider a TideWe product as an option.

CATSKILL MOUNTAIN STARE-DOWN

by Joel Riotto reprinted with permission by Traditional Bowhunter Magazine

As I silently approached the drop off, I scanned the ground below me for the deer's carcass. It was then that I noticed the black bear looking up at me, a bit too close for comfort. Slowly I withdrew an arrow from my bow quiver and silently placed it on the string, completely unsure of what would ensue. I just focused on controlling my breathing!

My thoughts wandered to the weeks leading up to this moment and the words of the emergency room doctor, "Joel, it appears that your accident has completely detached the long head of your right bicep. The answer to your question is that you will most likely not be able to resume your archery activities for at least 15 to 20 weeks. I've made an appointment for you to see your own orthopedic surgeon tomorrow for another clinical evaluation and recommendation."

The following day, August 29, 2022, found me in the familiar office of Dr. Brian, my friend and orthopedic surgeon of many years. After looking at the radiology report he simply asked, "Joel, what the hell have you done this time?" I started physical therapy the following week. Thus began

an extremely difficult, and uncomfortable, journey, one that I unfortunately have endured before. I would leave each session completely fatigued and frequently unable to reach behind my back. It was easy to see why many people drop out of physical therapy programs and just accept the limitations caused by their injuries.

There were times during the first few sessions that I found my heart saying to my body, "You can do anything for one more hour," yet the fatigue was constant. My sessions were scheduled for every other day, but many times I found myself wishing for more rest between sessions. I was driven by my desire to pick up a bow again. However this old body dictated more rest.

One of the most wonderful things about the traditional community is the encouragement and support one receives from friends. After weeks of physical therapy, friends started offering me 20 and 25 pound bows to pull on for additional therapy. I looked up one of the "Tips of The Week" published by *Traditional Bowhunter Magazine* in July 2021, "Arm Strength Enhancer for Traditional Archery." I constructed two suggested tools using different strengths of the Thera-Band elastic and started a regular routine. About seven weeks after the injury I was shooting about 15 arrows a day out of my Dale Dye Medicine Point recurve with 38 pounds limbs. I was on the way back!!

At this point, I had already missed the first six weeks of the New Jersey archery deer season, as well as the first two weeks of the New York deer and bear archery season. In mid-October I had my first afternoon hunt on our property in New York's Catskill Mountains. Since I was still unable to pull myself up into a tree stand, I opted for a ground blind on the edge of a small clover plot. As the sun began to set I noticed one fine fat doe entering the plot, feeding in my direction. I carefully scanned the woods behind her for any of her young and, not seeing any, I decided that if a really close shot presented itself, I would take it. The gods of the hunt were with me that afternoon and my trusty recurve silently launched a 530 grain woodsman tipped shaft with deadly accuracy. I watched the doe run out of the field and into the woods. Although I was fairly sure I had heard her crash I waited my usual 45 minutes before taking up the trail. I was somewhat surprised that I didn't find blood on the leaves where I was sure she had entered the wood line. I checked the next run and, again, found no blood. At this point I began second guessing my shot placement although I was positive I saw the arrow sticking out of both sides as she ran. Darkness was falling, and knowing the forecast was for a clear, cold night with temperatures in the low 30s, I left the woods and walked back to the house.

The following morning found me back at the location where the doe had entered the woods. Proceeding quietly I picked up spots of blood close to where I had abandoned the search the previous evening. From that point on it was a "stand up" blood trail where I could look ahead and see the blood while walking down the deer run. As I approached a steep drop off I call "the lip," I noticed a lot of blood on the ground and the place where the deer had obviously laid down. This was close to where I had heard her crash the evening before. I began scanning the lower ledge for sign of the deer, fully expecting to see her piled up just below me. With the wind strongly blowing up hill right into my face, I tested the air to see if I could smell the carcass.

It was then I noticed a black bear looking up at me from a short distance away. I froze in place and began to study the scene before me. I carefully took an arrow out of my quiver and nocked it, swung my Swarovski binoculars up and began studying the bear and the area just in front of him. He was in thick cover, looking right up at me, and clearly licking his chops. Then I saw the doe, almost completely covered up with leaves and debris. Straining through the binoculars I realized that the bear had begun to eat the deer at the point of my arrow's entry behind her right shoulder. Although the bear definitely knew I was there, I guessed that he was not sure of what I was, and that he was either going to come to run me off, or move forward to resume his lunch. I decided to wait him

out and be poised for a shot if he took two steps forward to get to the deer.

No matter how experienced we are as Bowhunters, its times like these that require clear thinking. I tried to settle down and was very thankful for all the years of experience about bear hunting I had gathered as a hunter with Jason Lambley of Manitoba and Rob Nye of Saskatchewan. In my opinion these gentlemen are the two best bear outfitters in all of Canada. I counted on that experience to guide me through this stare down.

Although the steep incline made it uncomfortable to stand there, I did so for some time. Then it dawned on me that no one would believe that I was this close to a bear, who was aware of my presence, for this length of time. I reached into my shirt pocket and took out my cell phone and made a brief video of the bear alternatingly looking up at me and then at the deer. That video is time stamped 11:09 AM. Of course I had no idea of how long I was there before I took the video but now proof positive was back in my pocket. Feeling a little more confident, I leveled out a spot for my feet, made myself more comfortable, and resumed my wait. All he had to do

Continues on next page

LETS ALL
CONTINUE TO
PAY IT FORWARD.

STARE-DOWN - continued from previous page

was move forward two steps, just two steps. By now it was clear to me that the bear was not leaving the carcass, nor was he confident enough to come and run me off. He added insult to injury by curling his head down to take a nap. At this point I took another cell phone video which is time stamped 11:22 AM.

I moved to my left in order gain better position for an unobstructed shot. No matter how careful I was, the leaves crunched underfoot with each step, and although the bear had not moved his body, he was turning his head to his right to follow my progress. In so doing his right elbow and shoulder moved backward a little covering up his chest area. I now had what appeared to be an unobstructed downhill view of his right side, but clearly the shoulder was in the way. I had to get him to stand but did not want to anger him by hissing at him or challenging him in any way. The adrenaline coursing through my body caused the usual shakes and I wasn't sure I could draw my bear spray fast enough if he did come. So I simply grunted like a deer, which caused him to stand up giving me a clear downhill shot, which I promptly took. I have replayed that shot about a thousand times in my mind and have come to the realization that I shot too "promptly" and just didn't pick a spot, nor did I consciously allow for the steep downhill angle. The arrow tickled his back and buried into the hillside. At the sound of steel striking rock, he took off trotting downhill and I collapsed in place.

Expecting the bear to return, I quickly walked to the deer, took some photos and field dressed her in place. Fortunately the bear must have just found the deer that morning as the area eaten was not very large and I was able to salvage most of the meat except that front shoulder. Conscious of my lingering physical limitations, I struggled to drag her away from the gut pile, 20 feet at a time, but only managed about 50 yards before stopping. I raced back to the house, told my wife Noreen the story, and began calling friends for help with the recovery as the day was warming up quickly. As no luck would have it, everyone was busy, so I loaded my deer toboggan onto our quad, drove back into the woods and got as close to the deer as I could. I rolled the doe onto the toboggan and dragged it to a large rock near where the quad was parked. Praying this would work, as I could not lift anything this heavy, I backed the quad up to the rock and slid the toboggan off the rock onto the rear rack of the quad. Utilizing every piece of rope I had with me, I securely tied the deer and toboggan to the rack and drove back to the house. After trimming some of the tainted meat, I hosed down the interior of the doe and headed to the local butcher. He took one look at the hole behind her right shoulder and asked what kind of broad head makes a hole that large! He didn't believe the story, but the venison is in my freezer now and my videos tell the rest.

As I said in the beginning, this experience was afforded me because of the support of my traditional community and my own tenacity. Let's all continue to pay it forward.



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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:

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

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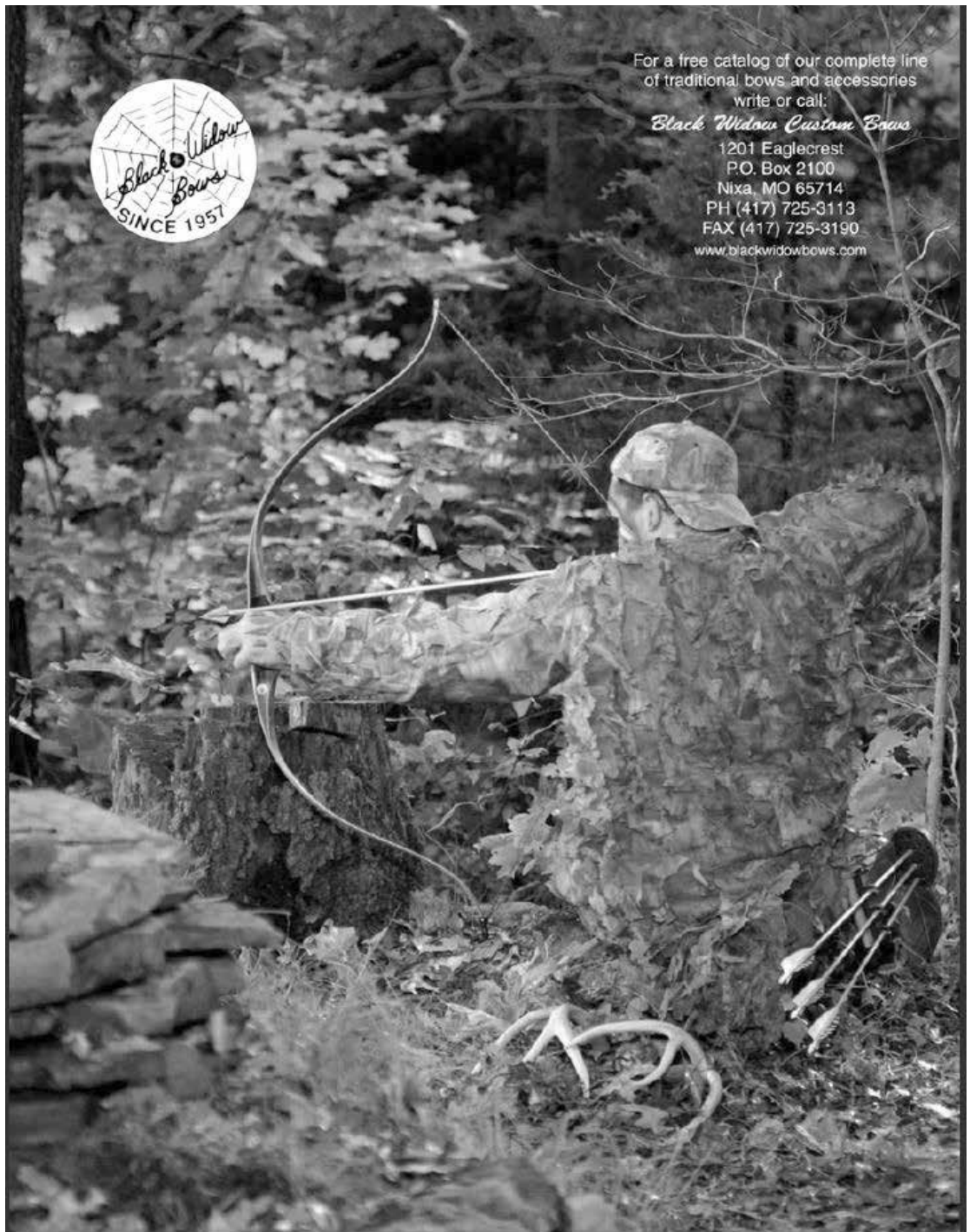
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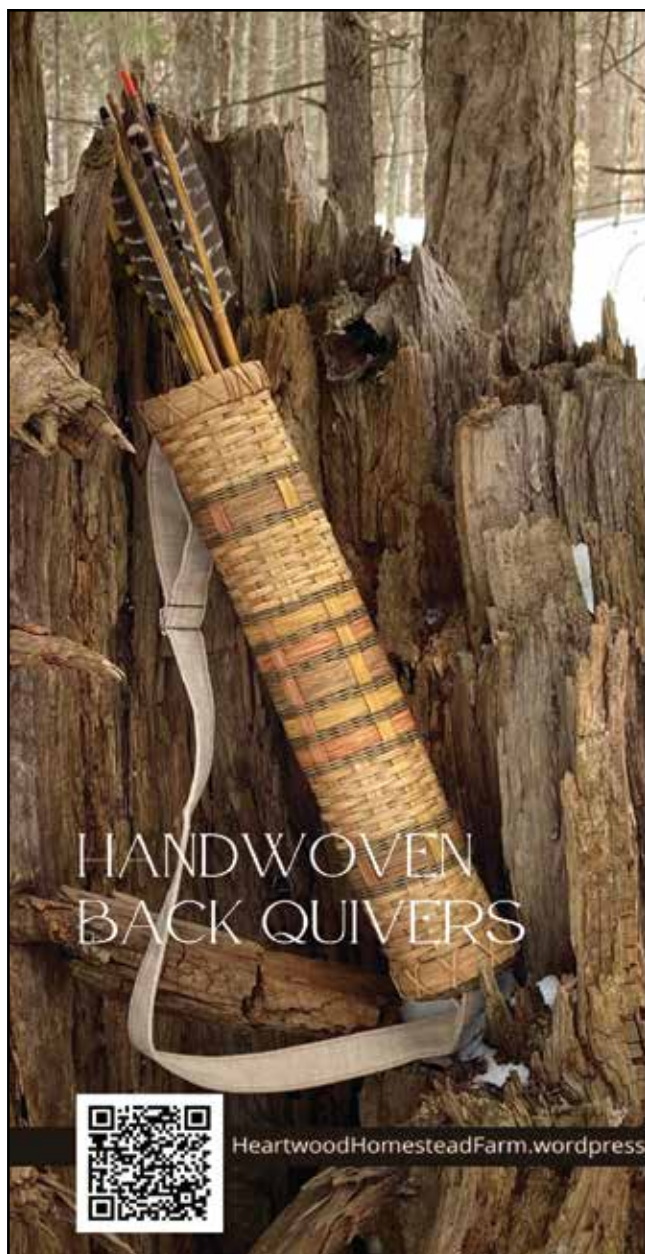


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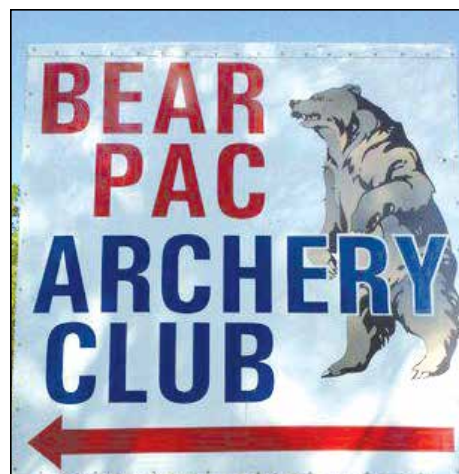
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