

FULLDRAW

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NEW YORK BOWHUNTERS, INC.

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

SPRING 2024

Colorado Big Game
Bowhunter & Guide

Guest Speaker
John Gardner

33rd Annual BANQUET & RENDEZVOUS

SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2024

SATURDAY REGISTRATION OPENS 9:00 AM

Sunny Hill Resort
352 Sunny Hill Road
Greenville, NY 12083

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NEW YORK BOWHUNTERS

33RD ANNUAL *BANQUET & RENDEZVOUS*

Saturday, May 18, 2024

Guest Speaker
John Gardner

Colorado Big Game
Bowhunter & Guide



For early birds: Friday Night BBQ with 50/50 6:00PM
Saturday Registration opens **9:00AM**

1:00PM - General Meeting
5:00PM - Cocktail Hour
6:00PM - Dinner & Silent Auction

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For Dinner Ticket Ordering.
Presale Raffle Tickets &
Information Contact:

Annie Jacobs
5937 County Road 33
Canandaigua, NY 14424
(585) 229-7468
nyboffice@newyorkbowhunters.com

From the President's Desk

President's Report by Andrew Cotraccia

Greetings NYB Members,

I hope you had an exciting and fulfilling hunting season and your freezers are filled to the max with nutritious wild game. I had a successful fall, hunting in Montana, New York, and Iowa and I have high hopes again going into 2024!

NYB's leaders are preparing for our 33rd annual banquet and rendezvous on May 18th. This is our largest fundraising event of the year. Funds generated from Banquet sustain our organization throughout the entire year. This year, I'm excited to announce that our guest speaker will be John Gardner and will again be at the beautiful Sunny Hill Resort in Greenville, NY. John is a Colorado sheet and mountain goat guide and Pope & Young Board member. I hope to see you there! If you cannot make it to this year's gathering, please consider supporting NYB by purchasing the set of Banquet Raffle Tickets included in this issue.

Congratulations to Vincenzo Caragine of Garrison, NY who was the 2023-2024 recipient of the NYB Doug Kerr Scholarship. For those members that are unaware, the New York Bowhunters Doug Kerr Memorial Scholarship Fund was established to give financial aid to NYB family members enrolled in college in studies related to environmental and wildlife conservation (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 and the applicant must have a letter of acceptance to an accredited school by the first semester of the same year the application was submitted.

Legislatively, we are preparing for another year in Albany to meet and educate our elected officials. As I have reported in past issues, the DEC had their lawyers nullify the long standing "Modified Archer's Permit" which, for DECADES, was in accordance with the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act). There is also a crossbow bill in both houses A2940 (Woerner)/S3191 (Mannion) which would do the following of note:

1. Change the tag from Muzzleloader to Archery
2. Change the set back from 250' to 150' to align with the current archery standard
3. Eliminate the minimum limb width and draw weight restrictions
4. Allow anyone 55 and over to use a crossbow during the entire Archery Season
5. Allow 12-15-year-olds to use a crossbow during the entire Archery Season

Rest assured, NYB has already had a flurry of activity and correspondence related to this bill and will be sending out future alerts via email and social media on its status. The two Chairs of the NYS Environmental Conversation Committees remain from 2023. On the Assembly side we have Deborah Glick representing Lower Manhattan. On the Senate side, Pete Harckham represents District 40 which includes Westchester and the Hudson Valley.

Lastly, I can assure you that NYB's leaders don't volunteer because they have an excess of time and energy. We have a passion for bowhunting and for helping each other. If you want a complete listing of what NYB has done for you lately, go to our website and check out our Accomplishments section. It spans 33 years and is a testament to the hard work, dedication, and commitment of NYB's past and current leaders.

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

Sincerely,

Andrew Cotraccia, President, New York Bowhunters Inc.



New York Bowhunters

New York State's largest bowhunting organization since 1991

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

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

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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**



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3D SHOOTS

REGION #3

- March** 10-Highwoods Sportsmen's Club
17-Ti Yogi Bowmen
24-Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club
- April** 14-Highwoods Sportsmen's Club
14-Black Rock Fish and Game
20-Southern Dutchess & Putnam Sports Club
21-Ti Yogi Bowmen
28-Bethlehem Rod & Gun Club (BR&G Archery)
28-Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club
- May** 5-Neighbors Gun Club
5-Walden Sportsmen's Club
12-Ti Yogi Bowmen
18-Wittenberg Sportsmen's Club
19-Sliver Birch
26-Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club
26-Monroe Chester Sportsmen Club
- June** 2-Bethlehem Rod & Gun Club (BR&G Archery)
2-Highwoods Sportsmen's Club
8-Wittenberg Sportsmen's Club
9-Black Rock Fish & Game Club
16-Ti Yogi Bowmen
30-Northern Dutchess Rod & Gun Club
30-Walden Sportsmen's Club

REGION #5

- March 17** Tupper Lake Camo to Camo Benefits
- March 23** Bear Pac
- April 21** Colton
- April 26** Peru
- June 5** Bear Pac...IBO Qualifier
- June 9** South Colton
- July 6** Norfolk
- July 14** Tupper Lake
- August 17-18** Bear Pac
- August 24-25** 30 Years of Mt. Challenge
- August 31** Norfolk Traditional Day
- September 1** Norfolk
- September 14** Bear Pac...Night Shoot
- September 22** Peru



This schedule is posted as a convenience to the subscribers of *FullDraw* magazine. These events are hosted by the individual clubs as shown and not New York Bowhunters. Individual clubs' websites (or social media) pages should be checked for details, changes, cancellations, directions.

REGION #7

- April** 14-Clay Sportsman
21-Mountain Trail Bowhunters
28-Deerslayer Bowman
- May** 5-Mountain Trail Bowhunters
12-Mother's Day No Shoot
19-Cortland Field Archers
26-No Shoot
- June** 2-Deerslayer Bowman
9-Clay Sportsman
16-Mountain Trail Bowhunters
23-Deerslayer Bowman
30-Cortland Field Archers
- July** 7-July 4th weekend (Tues)
27 & 28-Deerslayer Bowman (ASA)
- August** 4-Deerslayer Bowman
11-Clay Sportsman
18-Cortland Field Archers
25-Mountain Trail Bowhunters



Hawkeye Bowmen Archery Club Events 2024

13300 Clinton Street, Alden, NY 14004

March 17th | 10AM
NEW MEMBER
ORIENTATION

March 23rd and 24th
ALASKAN SHOOT
Open to the public
All equipment welcome.
Registration 7AM-12PM
Courses close at 2PM
Cost is \$12

April 20th
WILD ANIMAL
SHOOT
Open to the public
All equipment welcome.
Registration 7AM-12PM
Courses close at 2PM
Cost is \$12

April 26th and April 27th
SPRING THAW
PRIMITIVE SHOOT

August 16th-18th
31ST ANNUAL
TRADITIONAL
SHOOT
Open to the public
Traditional Equipment Only



September 2nd
LABOR DAY SHOOT
Open to the public
All equipment welcome.
Registration 7AM-12PM
Courses close at 2PM
Cost is \$12

September 7th and 8th
FALL FESTIVAL
CRAFT & VENDOR
SHOW
Saturday 10AM-4PM & 7:30AM-9:30PM
Sunday 10AM-3PM

BOWHUNTER
LEAGUE
May 6th June 3rd
May 13th June 10th
May 20th June 17th

WOMEN'S LEARN
TO SHOOT
ARCHERY CLINIC
May 16th June 6th
May 23rd June 13th
May 30th June 20th

YOUTH ARCHERY
CLINIC
June 24th July 8th
July 15th July 22nd
July 29th

Please visit our website www.hawkeyebowmen.com for more details about each of our events and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and X.

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WE NEED YOUR VOTE!!

The nominations for the 2024 positions are shown below. Please vote to fill the positions with the candidates you think would be an asset to our organization. You may use this form.

Officers' Positions ★ Vote for 1 candidate for each position

Vice President - Greg Masaitis (2 year term)

Secretary - Aaron Barton (2 year term)

Board of Director Positions ★ Vote for 2 candidates

Al Bottari (3 year term)

Richard Kirschner (3 year term)

Return ballot no later than April 26, 2024 to:
5937 County Rd. 33, Canandaigua, NY 14424

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NAME: Greg Masaitis
POSITION SEEKING: Vice President
YEARS BOWHUNTING: 35

Brief description of my bowhunting career to date: I started bowhunting at age 15, mostly for whitetail deer. I harvested a bear with my bow in 1993 and shot my first Pope and Young buck in 2001. Since then I have harvested four more Pope and Young class deer and have a bunch that just miss the minimum.

Why do you feel you would be an asset as an officer or director of NYB? Being guided into the hunting world by my grandfather and uncle, I was taught the values of hunting and how great of a sport it is. I enjoy passing my knowledge and experience onto others to get them involved in our sport. I have introduced my children, relatives and friends to bowhunting and involve them every chance I get. Increasing membership is power. I feel that my passion for bowhunting can help increase membership and help with taking New York Bowhunters to new levels.



NAME: Aaron Barton
POSITION SEEKING: Secretary
YEARS BOWHUNTING: 11

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

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

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

Ever since my first harvest and the passing of my grandma I haven't missed an opportunity to be in the woods with my bow.

I'm extremely dedicated to promoting and preserving bowhunting for generations to come. I enjoy working hard and can easily adapt to changes. I know that I can help the continual growth of the organization and help stand up for our God-given right to bow hunt.



NAME: Al Bottari
POSITION SEEKING: Board of Directors

My name is Al Bottari and I am seeking to renew my term as a member of the Board of Directors. My passion for this organization runs deep and I am interested in continuing my service in any way I can. I have held various other positions in the organization including President, Vice President, 2nd Vice President, BOD Member, Committee Chairman, Region 2 Rep and Queens County Rep.

Brief description of my bowhunting career to date: When it comes to my hunting experience, I have bowhunted whitetail deer, small game, predators, upland birds, and wild turkey. I have killed more foam animals that formally live ones, but the desire and drive to get up close and personal still gets me up and out on cold dark mornings.

In fifty words or less, why do you feel you would be an asset as an officer or director of NYB? The one thing I would like to see improve at NYB is more members participating in THEIR organization.

I feel I would be an asset as a member of the NYB Board because I am deeply committed to preserving and protecting the archery season, as well as promoting and expanding bowhunting opportunities throughout the State. I have many years of experience visiting the Albany and District Offices of Legislators to discuss

pertinent bowhunting issues, and educating them on those issues.

All the best, Al.



NAME: Richard Kirschner
POSITION SEEKING: Board of Directors
YEARS BOWHUNTING: 43

Brief description of my bowhunting career to date: Besides hunting deer & small game in NY, I've bowhunted many times in the following states on "do it yourself" hunts; Colorado, North Dakota, Kansas, Oklahoma & Wyoming. I have also been fortunate to make a couple of ventures into Canada. Whitetails, Mule Deer, Black Bear, Caribou, Coyote, Turkey, and a wide variety of small game have stood still long enough for me to respectfully admire, and once in a while even arrow! Of all the great hunts I've had, spanning over forty years, what stands out the most are the relationships I have with several hunting partners as well as the hunts I've shared with my children. Since joining NYB, I have held several positions including President, Vice President, Board of Director, Region Rep & County Rep. I have been very active on our Legislative team for the past 15 years and have served on many other Committees as well.

Why do you feel you would be an asset as an officer or director of NYB? Having served in so many different roles in NYB, I feel that experience can be helpful to the organization. As bowhunting continues to increase in popularity throughout New York, so should NYB. New hunters need to learn that NYB is the premier outdoor sports organization in the state and responsible for so many benefits they currently enjoy.

Hopefully with continued improvement in our communication capabilities we can accomplish this. I would like to see more members get involved as county reps, committee members and event participants in keeping with NYB's grassroots approach to preserving bowhunting and representing bowhunters.



Return ballot no later than
April 26, 2024, to:

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

VOTE

New York Bowhunter's BOOSTERS

Tell 'em NYB Inc. sent you!

The Bowhunter Booster Program was started in 1993. We are proud to list the clubs, businesses and individuals who have become NYB Boosters to date. You can become listed as a Booster for a minimum of \$30 per year by marking the membership application as "Booster" or by calling 585-229-7468.



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

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.westfallscsn.org

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



Region 1:

**Mad Dog Plumbing, Steam
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36 W. Hitchcock Ave.
Floral Park, NY 11001
Matt Sweeney
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NJ, Vermont
plumbing3c@gmail.com
516-322-2881

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

Region 2:

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

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

Region 3:

All Things Accuracy
25 Sullivan Ave.
Libery, NY 12790
845-650-1354
allthingsaccuracy@gmail.com

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

Bethlehem Rod & Gun Club
273 New Unionville Rd.
Plattekill, 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
PO Box 93
Saugerties, NY 12477
845-246-4717
highwoodssc@gmail.com

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

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

**Sullivan County
Archers**
149 S. Shore Dr.
Wurtsboro, NY 12790
Harry Walker
845-701-6603
bowbender@hvc.rr.com

Ti Yogi Bowmen
57 Mill Rd.
Hyde Park, NY 12538
Sean Royster
854-418-0465
tiyoginbowmenny@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.
Acra, NY 12405
Les Armstrong
Theresa Reinwald
518-929-2443
Airbnb.com

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

Norton Hill Wildlife Club
PO Box 652
Greenville, NY 12083

**Rensselaer County
Conservation Alliance**
PO Box 179
West Sand Lake, NY 12196
518-821-9372

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

Region 7:

Ronald Bush
5908 South Hill Rd.
Truxton, NY 13158

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

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

Region 9:

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

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

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

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

Region 9:

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

Out of State:

Cos Cob Archers
205 Bible St
Cos Cob CT 06807
203-625-9421
jeffcoscobarchers@gmail.com



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TUESDAYS-1:00 PM
WEDNESDAYS-12:00 AM**

**TIME WARNER
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Ch. 58

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

FULLDRAW

REGION REPORTS

REGION 1 REPORT

Who has a freezer full of venison? Hopefully most of us. As I write this, the archery season is coming to an end and bucks are starting to drop antlers. Hopefully everyone had a safe and successful season, now it's time to count the days until next fall!

In Region 1 this year's season seemed too NEVER get cold, but that didn't stop a lot of bowhunters from dropping some quality trophy bucks. Here on Long Island, we are limited to archery ranges, archery supply and outdoor supplies in general. I have some good news for our region. There is an additional range and dealer opening up in Levittown in the near future (likely open by the time you're reading this). This 20k square foot space will be carrying major bow brands and equipment. They have a shooting range up to 50 yards and a 3D course. They will be holding tournaments and leagues. Another archery range, The Archery Forum, is hosting their 4th annual 3D competition, which my wife and I attended last year. It was a great time shooting and engaging with fellow hunters. The date for this year's competition is yet to be determined. Another local club, the Peconic River Sportsman Club in Manorville, is

holding a 4-H archery program for ages 13+ starting January 17th from 6:30-8:00pm.

Hopefully some of you are involved in off-season archery activities. This always helps move the time along until next season! Our Banquet will be here before we know it. If you have not attended, I highly suggest you come for the weekend. You are guaranteed to have a blast! Hope to see you there.

*Best regards, Mike Farrugia
(516) 615-3029
Mfarrugia47@gmail.com*



REGION 2 REPORT

Hello my brethren. I hope everyone had a safe and successful big game season. Since the DEC lawyers were able to deem their own, ADA acceptable, "Modified Crossbow Permit" discriminatory language, hundreds of crossbow permits were issued with just a doctor's note. As a result, contacts across the state who partake in the recovery of wounded deer with the use of specially trained dogs report the increase of wounded deer quadrupled during the 2023 season.

Our Annual Banquet is just around the corner, on the weekend of May 18th, 2024, at the majestic Sunny Hill Resort in Greene County. It is sure to be a great time as always. With lots of things to do, such as fun shoots, can raffles, silent auction, 3D range and a Guest Speaker, it is a perfect opportunity to bring the family and friends.

There is a major change in the way our hunting licenses will be available this year. The following is from a statement from the DEC:

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) announced that by Aug. 1, the material used for state sporting licenses and carcass tags will change from special stock synthetic paper to plain paper. This change will modernize the license purchasing process by allowing easier, quicker access to licenses and tags and offering at-home license and tag printing options for the increasing number of hunters, trappers, and anglers who purchase their licenses online.

"DEC's transition to paper tags will provide the sporting community with a streamlined process to go afield," said DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos. "This cost-effective shift to paper tags will reduce the state's carbon footprint and ensure our sporting license program is at the forefront of emerging technologies. In recent years, supply chain issues have made it increasingly difficult and more expensive for fish and wildlife agencies to acquire synthetic paper and many have successfully made the switch to plain paper licenses. New York State looks forward to joining our partner states in this transition to modernize our system."

Customers will still be able to purchase licenses in-person at an issuing agent, online, or over the phone, but will have more flexibility in license delivery, including printing at the point-of-sale or email and print-at-home. Additionally, when hunters and anglers are afield, proof of licensure can be shown electronically through the HuntFishNY mobile app. The app is also a fast and easy way for hunters to report their game harvests. Currently, the only option for backtags and carcass tags will be plain paper.



Continues on next page

REGION 2 REPORT - cont. from previous page

This change is effective for the 2024-25 license year and will begin with sales starting Aug. 1, 2024. Lifetime license holders should also expect to receive their 2024-25 licenses and tags on plain paper by mail by Sept. 1, 2024. The change to plain paper does not apply to the spring 2024 turkey season.

Mentor someone into archery and bowhunting. You will be giving them the gift that will last a lifetime.

May God Bless all who serve to protect us from threats both home and abroad.

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

FREE ADVERTISING

Did you know one of your membership benefits is **FREE** advertising in the *FullDraw* magazine? If you have an item to advertise send the information to **NYBFULLDRAW@GMAIL.COM**

REGION 3 REPORT

Congratulations to those of you who found venison on the receiving end of one of your arrows this past fall. Congratulations on the taking of their first deer with a bow to Ronal Martinez from Westchester and Bill Silta from Dutchess. Congrats to other Region 3 members of NYB, no stranger to bow kills, such as longtime NYB Dutchess Rep and NYB BOD & Treasurer, Bob Ledrich who put all his traditional archery practice to use on the taking of a beautiful buck with a recurve bow. More successful outings for Jeff Davis of Orange County, and Marko Cvitkovic from Dutchess. Chris Smith, the Orange County Rep, made the many days he spent in Ohio count when he scored on a magnificent buck he had targeted.

I'd like to thank all the NYB members active in Ti Yogi Bowmen (Hyde Park) for helping make the club such an enjoyable place to share our love of archery. In addition to year-round leagues and outdoor shoots, our two winter tournaments were a huge success again thanks to NYB member, Bob Harring, and all who helped him. All of us at Ti Yogi and NYB are very proud of member Jeff Davis, who besides regularly taking big game with his recurve, was one of the top shooters in the barebow division at the 2024 Lancaster Archery Classic which attracted over 2,500 archers from 28 different countries! Jeff scored high enough to make it into the coveted shoot off rounds, finished 28th out of 267 barebow shooters, placing him ahead of many of the world's top BB shooters. Keep up the great work, Jeff, both in the woods and on the range!

Although as I'm writing this and seeing snow outside, by the time it goes to print and arrives in your mailbox, winter will be winding down and many of us will be turning our focus on 3D. Always fun, all shooting styles, as challenging as you make it, and there are several courses located in Region 3. I have included a schedule elsewhere in this edition of *FullDraw*. Drop me a line if you would like to join us out on one of the courses we plan to attend.

For any of you who live in the Ulster/Orange area and have kids

between the ages of 8 and

17 and would like to get them interested

in archery, Ed Malle of Bethlehem Rod and

Gun Club in Plattekill is running a program. You can check out this program at www.s3da.net Contact Ed at (845) 541-6775 or archerybrgc@gmail.com for more information.

Finally, there is plenty of information in this edition regarding the upcoming annual NYB Rendezvous/Banquet. Bottom line, it's a great time of camaraderie amongst the most passionate (and nicest!) hunters in this state. Just as important, your attendance and participation will help NYB survive. Hope you can make it.

That's it for now. If you are aware of any local events coming up, please let me know so I can spread the word. Keep in mind the quarterly *FullDraw* publishing dates and the approximate 4 to 5 week turnaround time.

Richard Kirschmer
Region 3 Rep/Board of Director
bowrichny@aol.com
(914) 330-1419

**SULLIVAN COUNTY**

When you come across a kid interested in archery, please keep in mind the annual Youth Archery Program that Sullivan County Archers will be holding on July 13 and 14 at the Sullivan County Conservation Club located between Bethel and Monticello. This is a bowhunting education program

Continues on next page

REGION 3 REPORT - continued from previous page

that teaches all the facets of bowhunting deer and bear, ethical shooting, blood trailing, tree stand safety, arrow making, and a compass course, along with the usual archery shooting instruction. A good course with hands-on instruction, the kids take the DEC test at the end of the program to get their archery certificate so they can get bowhunting. The ages are 11 to 16 and applications are available through me at the contact information at the end of this column.

Sunny Hill Resort in Greenville, NY will be the location for the annual NYB weekend and banquet. You should consider attending this great event. We have a Friday night barbecue, novelty shoots, can raffles, the annual NYB meeting, 3D archery, golf and the Saturday night banquet with a guest speaker. This is a great weekend and I hope to see you there!

Jay Corbett of Shohola, PA is putting together traditional shooting at Silver Birch Archery at 2 pm Fridays from late January until the shooters start having trout fishing and turkey hunting on their minds.

All Things Accuracy has a Winter league going now followed by a four-week, spot shoot and an indoor 3D league towards April.

Till next time,

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

ROCKLAND COUNTY

Hello fellow Rockland Bowhunters. I hope that your season has been successful not only with filled tags and freezers, but with a full soul enjoying the outdoors with family and friends. My season did not go quite as planned but I was able to harvest a doe with both my kids at my side. Being that it was my daughter's 1st ever sit during deer season with me it was quite memorable. As I wrote in the past, taking a kid hunting and showing the enjoyment we as hunters get from nature could be the reason they stay on the right path in life.

With as many bucks as I saw in Rockland during the summer months I'm sure a lot of you have made this season your personal best. We as hunters should focus on supporting and commending others on their hunting success. Finding time in our busy lives to put in time on stand is hard enough on its own. At the time writing this report I haven't seen the yearly totals for reported deer harvest but I'm hoping many of you did well.

I have not heard of any Rockland based 3D shoots yet, but Orange, Dutchess and Ulster Counties always have something going on and they aren't as far away as one might assume. Ice fishing season is next on the schedule for my group; hoping the cold weather and ice hold out. It has been a few years since I was able to hard water fish in Rockland. I also look forward to turkey season right after that, and most important is the NYB rendezvous and Banquet in May. If you haven't gone to it yet you

really should make the time. Besides all the great door prizes, raffles, auctions and supporting this great organization, you get to meet other like-minded members. It is truly something my family looks forward to every year.

As always, please reach out to me with any concerns or events in Rockland that I can bring to the attention of the organization and the rest of the members of NYB.

"Nock 'em dead"

>>>----->

*Curt Carney - Rockland County Rep
Ccarney8799@gmail.com*

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Greeting All,

I hope everyone had a safe and successful hunting season with plenty of tales to tell and venison in the freezer. My season was slow at first with the warm temps and rain. The deer sighted around my area were not as plentiful as in previous years, but I believe that is due to the EHD we experienced. Hunters I've spoken to in Dutchess and Columbia counties have informed me that although the sightings are still down from the 2 years of EHD we had, they do seem to be gradually increasing.

I put a lot of time in this year and finally, on December 2nd, I connected with a nice 7 pointer who was led by an unwilling doe to within 12 yards of my stand. I was able to put a nice shot on him and killed my first traditional buck. It was a long time coming.

Our winter leagues are in full force around the area and I hope a lot of you are taking advantage of them. Rich will be posting a list of the upcoming 3D shoots in our area as well, which, believe me, are a lot of fun. They are also excellent practice for hunting. Further, at TiYogi, I would like to extend a big "Congratulations" to Bob Haring and his crew for organizing and running the Past Presidents Memorial Tournament. It was a tremendous success for the club and enjoyed by all who participated.

As most of you know, our annual Banquet is just around the corner. It will be held again at Sunny Hill Resort in Greenville on May 17, 18 and 19. This event is our biggest income producer of the year. Since we no longer have the outdoor shows to attend, it has become vital to the survival of our organization. We have been the only ones out there taking on the state for our hunting rights. October 1st season opener, allowing the hunting age to be reduced, keeping camouflage on our back instead of orange or pink, are just a few of the items we have accomplished. Many wounded veterans have enjoyed a hunt with us, and many youths have been introduced to archery through our camps. As the treasurer of NYB, I strongly urge you to try to attend this year's festivities. If you are unable to attend the entire event, there will be plenty of activities for the entire family on Saturday. There will be a nice lunch at the



Spring 2024

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

KIDS KORNER

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE!

Find 10 differences between the 2 pictures!



Find the hidden items!



Find 15 objects in the picture



Go Hunting – For Sheds!

One of the greatest ways to scout for next season is to “hunt” for shed antlers. With the woods being open and with (hopefully) some snow on the ground, you can observe late season deer activity. Finding sheds also indicates the bucks that survived hunting season. Here are some tips for finding sheds:

When to start looking: Most bucks lose their antlers by mid-March in our State although it is not uncommon to see younger bucks lose their antlers in late December. The best time to look is when the snow has melted enough for you to see some ground. Pick a day that is overcast as the antlers are easier to spot when compared to a bright sunny day.

Where to start looking: 80 percent of the overwintering deer are congregated in 20 percent of any given habitat and concentrated in the areas that have the best food sources and cover. Where the bucks spend most of their time is where you will find their sheds.

Searching Crop fields: Any crop fields left to overwinter is an ideal place to search. While you might spot an antler or two out in the open, be sure to walk and check brushy and grassy field edges. Even scrubby overgrown fields with native browse where the bucks feel comfortable feeding and hiding, especially on the edge of planted crop fields, is a great place to look.

Searching the “bedrooms”: Brushy, wooded areas within 100 yards of a good food source is the next place to check. From there, follow deer trails to nearby bedding areas. Experts say they find their biggest sheds in thick cover where mature bucks rest in winter. Trails that link such sanctuaries to nearby feed fields are also hotspots. Take the time to walk every muddy deer trail you find. Focus on south-facing slopes when possible as bucks will likely bed where the sun can warm them on a cold but sunny winter day.

Jump spots: Bucks can also lose their antlers in areas where they have to jump and land hard like fences or small creeks. As the antlers begin to loosen any jarring motion can dislodge them.

Walk slow: Walk slowly and deliberately. Look straight down and scan every square foot of the ground. You might spot a whole antler, or maybe just a tine sticking up. Some sheds are white, others are brown and blend into the grass and leaves. If you go too fast you may miss seeing them.

Enlist help: Have a friend go with you (more eyes = more finds) or take your dog! Any breed with a strong instinct to retrieve can pick up antler-hunting quickly. Antlers have a distinct odor and once a dog learns it he will zero in on them in the field. You can train your family pet to hunt sheds. If your dog likes to retrieve anything it's a rewarding game to him. Just substitute an antler for a ball or toy to get your dog used to finding and picking it up. Make it a fun game and you've got the makings of a shed dog.



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 joins 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's 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.



Mail Application to:
NYB Spikes
5937 County Road 33
Canandaigua, NY 14424

SPIKES NAME: _____ PARENT/SPONSOR NAME _____

DOB: _____ COUNTY/REGION: _____ EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

SPONSOR ADDRESS (if different): _____

REGION 3 REPORT - continued from page 14

lakeside pavilion, followed by our annual meeting. With novelty shoots for the kids, can raffles and a free 3D target course through the woods, there is something for everyone. Of course, the actual banquet dinner is a blast! Dinner includes a great speaker and a silent auction as well. If you have never been, this is a perfect time to attend. You will have a fantastic time with a bunch of great people!

As members, the success and continuation of this fine organization depends on us. It is in our hands. Without funding, NYB will cease to exist. I'm sure we all know someone to bring into the organization. If you bowhunt in NY, why would you not belong?

"Keep em Sharp"

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

PUTNAM COUNTY

Hello again NYBowhunters,

Well, another season has gone by and I hope you all had a successful and safe season. Even though my season wasn't successful in terms of harvesting an animal, it was successful in so many other ways, ways that make so many seasons extra special, ways that will give me memories to last a life time. The companionship of friends and family in my deer camp and the memories of past seasons is a treasure. The excitement surrounding opening day still gets my heart pumping. Setting up stands in new areas and the anticipation that goes along with them is more fun than chore. The changing temperatures. The changing leaves. Sitting in an elevated blind (one we call "the Penthouse") with my grandson, AJ. Coming in after the morning hunt and sharing the stories of what we did or didn't see while chowing down on a breakfast prepared for us by my long time and best friend Tom's wife. These are just some of the memories I will take with me forever.

On another note, now is the best time to be scouting for next year and one of the ways to do this is shed hunting. Follow trails and look for old rubs and scrapes. You just might find a set of antlers that will lead you to next year's trophy. And it could be there again next year, right on your doorstep. And don't forget to take the young ones with you.

Also let's not forget that turkey season is right around the corner so start practicing your calling.

Remember to get those pictures out to me. You might just get them published.

John Sarlo - Putnam County Rep.
Archer2312@aol.com

ORANGE COUNTY

Greetings Orange County

Snow is falling with chilly temperatures upon us and hunting

season is over! But is it really? This is where it all begins. Now is actually the best time to begin scouting and prepping for next season.

A few years back I was out shed hunting and came upon a winter kill yearling which was obviously providing meals for various predators during the harsh winter months. This piqued my interest in studying various types of canine tracks which in turn led me to trapping. What a great way to help manage the predator population and hone your outdoor skills! I knocked on some doors and landed several horse and cattle farms in which coyotes were causing problems for the farms. The DEC offers several classes throughout the year usually running from May thru September at https://register-ed.com/programs/new_york/128-new-york-trapper-education-course.

Shed hunting is also another great way to stay busy during the winter and spring months. Sun, water and food are key components for where I look for sheds. Scout your sheds like you scout your deer. Driving around and glassing during the late winter months will help tenfold when it comes to finding sheds. Not only will it help determine when to start looking, but where. You might notice deer are congregating in a particular area of a wide open ag-field. Again, this will help narrow down the area you're searching. It will also help you find potential treestand locations for the upcoming season.

Stay warm, keep those fireplaces going and remember to shoot year-round and keep sharp! Turkey season is almost here. God Bless America and our troops here and abroad. Be safe and remember to renew your memberships to help support this great organization.

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

ULSTER COUNTY

Hello Ulster County,

I'm writing this the last day of January which has been a miserable month as far as weather goes. Except for a few sunny days it's been rain, rain and rain here in the Hudson Valley! There are a few booster clubs, several in Ulster, that will be holding 3D shoots right through the summer. I made it across the river to Ti Yogi Bowmen which has an indoor winter league. The shooting lanes on Thursday nights were full but there was some room on Wednesday nights. By the time you get this, that league will be ending but I know they will also be starting up an indoor spring league if you are interested. Contact Bob Ledrich for info.

NYB's annual Banquet/Rendezvous is coming up in May; information is elsewhere in this magazine. It is always a great time and a chance to get a good deals on equipment, hunts, artwork, etc. Hope to see you there.

For you turkey hunters out there, be safe and good luck,
Bob Di Giacomo - Ulster County Rep
shorefisher07@aol.com

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

(STILL) WANTED in Westchester: NYB (still) needs someone who lives (or hunts) in Westchester to be a representative. Westchester is a bow only county and should be represented in NYB. I have been occasionally adding local information here but have not been a resident or hunted in Westchester for almost 5 years. As long as you can pass the below test, you may be qualified;

Choose the most correct answer from the four choices:

- A: Westchester is an island in the Pacific Ocean.
- B: The correct spelling of Westchester is wezchstr.
- C: The official bird of Westchester is a pterodactyl.
- D: I love bowhunting & appreciate all the work NYB has done for me over the past 33 years.

Call me to find out the correct answer. I will be anxiously waiting by my phone for it to ring off the hook from one of you guys. I look forward to helping the next Westchester Rep with material.

Richard Kirschner
(914) 330-1419
bowrichny@aol.com



Greetings fellow wet bowhunters,

I hope everyone had a chance to fill the freezer with a little venison this past season. The weather pattern we seem to be in is not making our time in the woods very enjoyable. The early part of October was very warm with rain almost every weekend. I personally don't care to hunt in the rain because it makes it difficult to follow a blood trail.

The warm weather pattern puts a big damper on ice fishing across the state. It's a shame to see the Tupper Lake Northern Challenge ice fishing derby cancelled due to thin ice for the first time in 25 years. At the last Federation meeting in Greene County our local En Con officer reported the deer and bear take in the northern zone was up a few percentage points but a decrease in the southern zone. That's understandable with all the rain and the EHD outbreak we had in the southern zone a couple of years ago. Another possible reason for the lower harvest numbers is the increase in predators. After talking with a few hunting buddies, they all agree their trail cameras are full of coyotes, bears, bobcats and fishers. They are all fawn and small game killers. Don't be surprised if you have to work a little harder this spring to find a nice tom.

It won't be long before the NYB Banquet will be upon us. Mark your calendar for May 18th at Sunny Hill Resort in Greene County. If you've never attended, you're missing out on a fantastic weekend and the chance to meet fellow NYB



BOWHUNTERS ONLY

OTTAWA REGION'S
FAMOUS PONTIAC COUNTY

RONALD HENRY'S
GUIDING SERVICE
Post Office Box 239
FORT COULONGE, QUEBEC
CANADA J0X 1V0

REGION 4 REPORT

members and make a few new bowhunting friends. If you have a buddy you hunt with, bring him along. We're always looking for new members.

With many sports shows shutting down or downsizing and less people attending 3D shoots, it's getting harder to cross paths with fellow bowhunters to add to our membership. More people join organizations when the sport or hobby they love is under attack and sometimes it's too late. You only have to look at the recent bill to end coyote contests and others downstate to see the Anti-Hunters will not stop. Their attitude is if they don't do it or disapprove then it should be stopped. They will look at this as a success and look for their next victim. It's just a matter of time before they set their sights on trapping and bowhunting. Now is the time to support organizations such as NYB who can make your voice heard.

Take Care,
Ed Gorch, Freehold, NY
Oldbowman48@gmail.com



REGION 5 REPORT



Hello from Region 5.

Tupper Lake Archers Big Deer contest was won by Wm. Cramer. Bill was also selected as the recipient of 2023's Camo to Camo hunt. Bill gave an exciting account of his trip and would like to thank everyone involved.

Kids archery is off to another great year. We have 40 kids participating again this year and each of them is getting a membership in Spikes. Instructors Ray McIntosh and Kathy Savage are doing a great job as well as helpers Mike Savage, John Hoyt, John Boyer, Bill Cramer, and myself. This 7-week course teaches the basics of archery.

Speaking of Camo to Camo our Camo to Camo benefit shoot this year is on March 17th. Hope to see many of you here.

This year it seems that there were more than normal really nice bucks shot with impressive racks. Congratulations to the lucky hunters.

See our 2024 3D shoot schedule in this issue of *FullDraw*. Remember the work and volunteers it takes to put on a shoot so please attend. The NYB banquet is May 18th. Make plans to attend this great event.

Dave McMahon

Region 5 Representative

davemcmahon97@gmail.com



REGION 6 REPORT



This is the time of year for Region 6 Bowhunters to attend a couple of local area Sports Shows. By the time you read this, the Syracuse Sports show and the ADK Outdoorsman Show in Johnstown will be done. The CNY Sportsmen Show in Oneida has been moved to Verona FD Event Hall. It will be held March 16, 2024. The Big East Camping & Outdoor Sports Show, traditionally held at the Turning Stone, has been moved to the Sports Complex on Judd Road in Whitesboro (Utica). It will be held on March 23 & 24, 2024. NYB will not be exhibiting in any of these shows. There are still a few 3D shoots on the schedule. Bear Pac Archery has a good one for those of you in the Watertown area.

Saturday, May 18th, 2024 ~ The New York Bowhunters 33rd Annual Banquet will be held in Greenville, NY, at the **Sunny Hill** Resort. Friday night Bar-B-Que and campfire, followed by a full day of Rendezvous like activities: turkey hunting, archery shooting contests, outdoor 3D shoot course, and much more! Our special guest speaker will be John Gardner, Colorado sheep and mountain goat guide and P&Y Board member. The Saturday night auction is a great place to purchase discounted hunting packages. Make your reservations today.

August 16, 17, & 18, 2024 ~ NYS Woodsmen's Field Days in Boonville, NY. This is a great show to attend with many outdoor themed activities going on. NYS Open Lumberjack and World's Open Lumbermill Championships, log rolling, greased pole climb, chainsawing, speed chopping, and lots

more. It gets better every year! We will not be exhibiting there this year, but it is well worth your time to attend. Put it in your schedule right now.

Social media is a good way to stay in touch with fellow NY Bowhunters. Our Facebook group is still going strong, and we now have over 2,000 followers on Instagram. If you know of any good bowhunting activities in the Region 6 area, post it!

Now get out there and enjoy your summer!

Bill Snyder

Region #6 Rep.

bill4nyb@gmail.com



REGION 8 REPORT

As I type this at the end of January winter has been mild so far in most of Region 8. Our neighbors in Region 9 seem to have received enough snow for both of us! The deer should be in good shape along with the other creatures.

Archery season was a roller coaster with warm weather, plenty of rain and a few “perfect days.” The hunters I spoke to ranged from seeing a lot of deer to almost none. The mast in the southern part of the Region was hit or miss after enduring several years of gypsy moth damage topped off with a hard freeze in mid-May.

One activity I have been enjoying in recent years is shed hunting. Normally it's March before the snow is melted enough to get out but this year I may start early. Actually I did find a shed from ten pointer in November so I'm off to a good start.

Looking for a new hunting spot? Did you know the Finger Lakes Land Trust has many properties open for hunting by permit? Some of the properties are archery only and the FLLT wants hunters that will harvest deer. For more information look up the Finger Lakes Land Trust.

Lastly get your bow out and start shooting. If you have a local archery shop please support them. I'm hearing of more shops closing and you can't get the same service from a big box or mail order.

Bob Brown

Region 8

bbrown@ur.com

NYB member, Dan Blankenberg, from Region 8 posing with the custom Black Widow bow he won at the 2023 Annual Spring Banquet Raffle. Tickets are available now for this year's raffle. Will you be the lucky winner?



REGION 9 REPORT

Well I am sad to say, as we all know, the season is over. I hope everyone had a fantastic and bountiful season and at the very least had some fun and made some great memories out in the woods. However now is the time to put the bow away and wait for next season...WRONG LOL. Now is a great time to keep the bow out and get after small game, or at the very least keep on practicing. Preparing for the next season, for me, starts as soon as the current season ends. I am a big fan of shooting at least shooting 1 arrow a day if possible. It keeps the muscle memory and gives you a idea of what your shot on a animal would have been. And there is nothing like shooting the bow to keep yourself centered in the hectic and busy world we all live in. If you have the time and availability another great idea is joining a indoor archery shooting league. I have only done that a few times but it was definitely a riot and I highly recommend trying it. I also recommend trying your hand at rabbit hunting with archery equipment if you haven't done so yet. It tests your skills and gives the hunt a whole new challenge, and it is a lot

of fun! I hope everyone is doing well and enjoying the winter months as much as I am.

As always, if you ever want to chat feel free to write me or find me on Facebook. Thank you all so much and remember just because the season is over doesn't mean the bow has to go in the case!

Vinny D'Agostino

Region 9 Representative

Vinnydagostino1@gmail.com

(716) 930-4009

REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

for the Region below.

REGION 7 REPORT



Please contact
the Main Office at
NYBOffice@NewYorkBowhunters.com

Chesapeake Deer Hunting
Maryland's Eastern Shore
Trophy Whitetail
www.chesapeakehunting.com



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

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Scent

CONTROL

by William McCoy

I am putting to paper my whitetail scent control regimen both in the camp and out in the field. I'll admit I have tried a number of the options out there, and have spent a bit of money over the years, but have reached a point where my process is stable and affordable. This has worked for me, with some supporting proof through my log books, but there is no guarantee it will work for you and your hunting techniques. Hopefully you can take one of my ideas and fill a hole in your process.

Starting with the bodily process, I shower (mornings) with scent free body soap all season from prior to day one, and most brands of liquid or bar soap work adequately. I prefer Dead Down Wind liquid or Duke Cannon bars. I use a scent free deodorant, usually a hunting brand because truly scent free regular retail brands are difficult to find. I brush my teeth with baking soda right before going out the door each hunt.

All my hunting clothes are washed in scent free detergent and dried with scent free dryer sheets before the season and stored in totes and scent free bags. This includes socks and sock liners, which go into their own bag. Much of my clothing inventory is of the scent free varieties, usually purchased on clearance after each season to keep costs down. I will reactivate both base and outer layers in the dryer every couple hunts, and wash usually after two or three reactivations. Socks get washed after each use, boots always sprayed with a Scentlok ozone sprayer and put on a boot dryer. All hats, masks and gloves are sprayed after each hunt and washed frequently. I store the clothes I am currently using at a given time on hooks in my laundry room, and I turn on both my Scentlok 120V plug in and rechargeable ozone generating units immediately after the hunt and close the door. Nothing goes back into a plastic bin or bag unless it has been washed scent free. My backpack and safety harness are also sprayed before and after each hunt.

Going to stand, I try to minimize heat and sweat by using one shirt. When arriving at my stand, I will either spray that shirt and finish dressing with my upper layers, or quickly

change that shirt, seal it in a plastic bag in my backpack, spray my skin lightly or wipe down with scent free wipes, and finish dressing. After getting up in my stand, I will spray around my waist, gloves and mask. For the past couple of seasons I have been using Buck Scents pads as a cover scent with a butane-fueled Thermacell heating unit. My favorite scent pad is persimmon, with acorn being used occasionally. I have started refilling the Thermacell butane cartridges using butane refill cans, available at the big box stores, to reduce ongoing costs. I also put my used scent pads into a small plastic bag and spray some Buck Scent concentrated cover scent and lure (the persimmon is pleasant smelling to humans, not just the deer) to regenerate the old pads to extend their useful life. I will put the used scent pads into the compartments and pockets of my backpack as additional scent masking. Buck Scents pads are now the foundation of my field process, and have completely replaced use of my Ozonics unit.

I log all my hunts, and the number of documented instances of deer "busting" me recently has been only a couple times a year, with deer encounters measured in the hundreds each year. Some of the times I have been busted were not even scent related, but due to my movement or just being sighted in the stand. My somewhat scientific conclusion as to my scent control results is that it has been hugely successful. Some may not agree with my methods or tools used, and that's fine. I firmly believe you should hunt in a way that makes you happy and allows you to see nature as undisturbed as possible, while allowing high margins of harvest opportunities. Confidence in my scent control regimen contributes significantly towards the end goal. Safe hunting!

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My Big Sister's Buck

BY ROBERT BARNES



Bud with his sister, Bobbie

Greetings. I'm from Stanfordville, NY in Dutchess County and a longtime supporter and member of NYB. My hunting career began over 55 years ago using a lemonwood longbow with cedar arrows. I hunted with a gun for a few years but went exclusively to a compound bow for the last forty years. I've had the good fortune to take many bucks over the years, both in NY and the Mid-West, several of which would be considered trophy class. I've hunted the same private farm in western NY for almost twenty years using my own QDM and passing on many mature bucks. The landowner allows me to leave my camper on his property so I can set up for the entire bow season. My largest NY buck was taken this year and it is very special to me for reasons other than its green score of approximately 160.

I began my 2023 hunt in early October and after several days returned home to finish chores around the house. During that time, my older sister, Bobbie, entered a nursing home in eastern Long Island with failing health. I drove three hours to be by her side on Sunday, October 29th. It was a painful yet comforting visit and after holding her hand for several hours, I kissed her goodbye with the sinking feeling that the end of her life was near. After a long three-hour return drive, I had to make a decision. Should I wait for the inevitable call or press on four more hours and go get my camper to bring it home? With my wife Linda's encouragement, I left the next morning knowing any day or minute I would get the call.

Upon arrival at camp, I figured I might as well hunt. Whether I get a day or two or an hour or two, this would be the best mental medicine. I'm sure you all understand how quiet time in a tree stand can relieve a lot of stress. I have been watching a particular buck for at least two years, collecting many pictures along with a few sightings in 2022. Unfortunately, he never presented me with a decent shot. When I got a trail camera picture of him on December 20th 2022 I was confident he made it through the gun season. I shed-hunted until my legs couldn't take another step, with no luck, but continued to remain confident he lived. I put cameras back out in July and was extremely happy to see him on camera in August, 2023. As the weeks ticked by, I was collecting more pictures of this very impressive buck.

So, returning to the farm that day, with my mind and thoughts on my older sister, I sat a few stands over the next day and a half with no sightings. On the afternoon of November 1st, a wicked snow squall coming off the Finger Lakes had me wondering if I should go sit. If not for the impending news, I would have stayed "camper warm" and give it hell the next morning. Soaked and snow covered, I got in my stand at 3:30 thinking and praying for my sister. I planned on getting down at 6:15. Thanks to daylight savings time the end of legal

shooting was 6:32. At 6:07, "my" buck came from downwind and behind me walking less than five yards off my right side. I had to freeze. I couldn't move with him being so close. I had to wait until he was far enough out to raise and draw in one fluid motion to make a 25 yard quartering away shot. A perfectly placed shot with a SIK broadhead and gold tip arrow did the job. As luck would have it, he ran 60 yards after impact directly toward my truck!

I called home immediately to share the news with my wife. She was very happy for me and could not help reminding me she was the one who encouraged me to go hunting and await word.

Sadly, my sister Bobbie passed away peacefully the next morning, November 2nd, at 88 years old. I packed up my camper with the help of local friends and brought the biggest deer of my life and my camper home.



This buck, which was aged by the DEC to be 4? years old, is at the taxidermist and will forever be known as "MY BIG SISTER'S BUCK."

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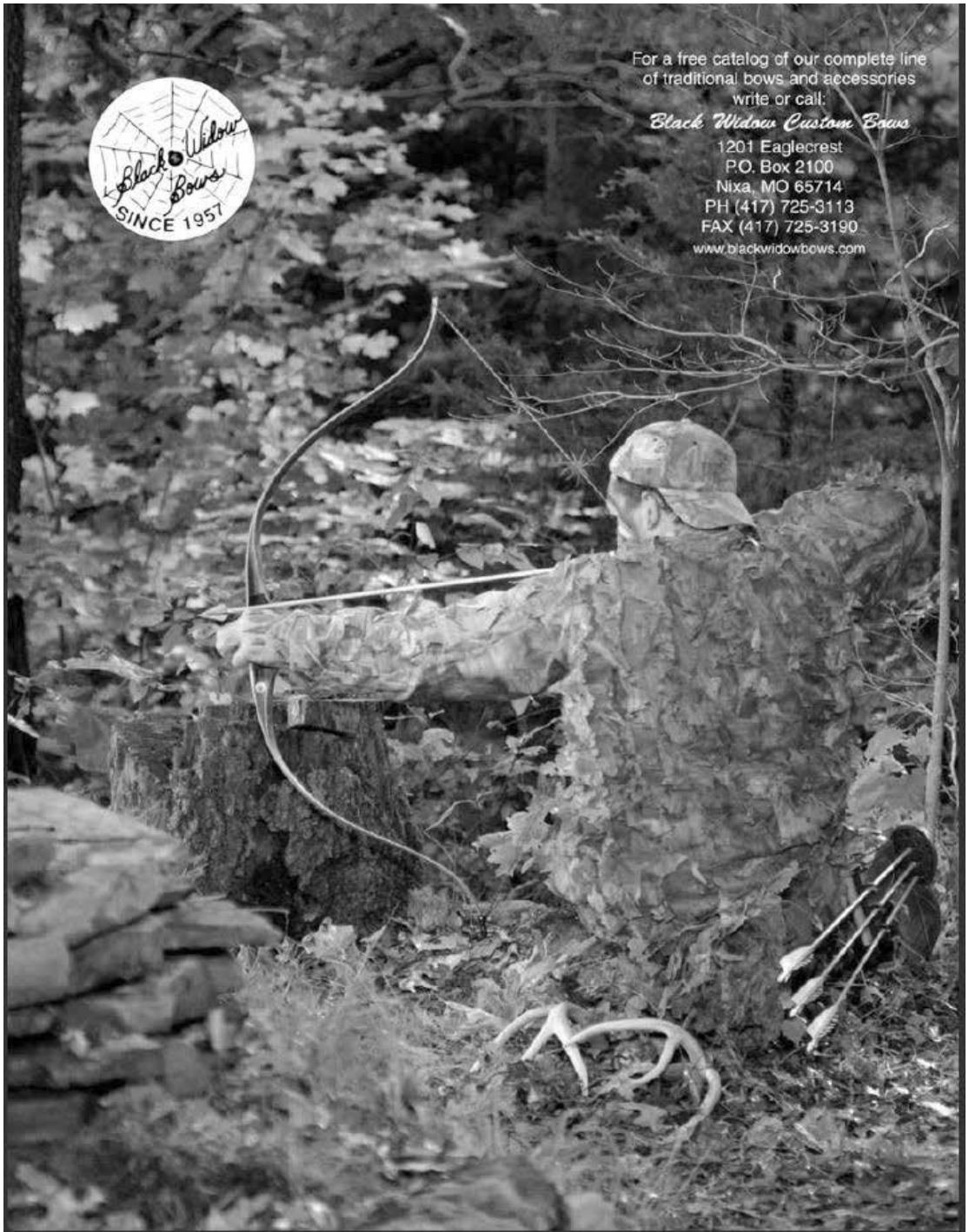
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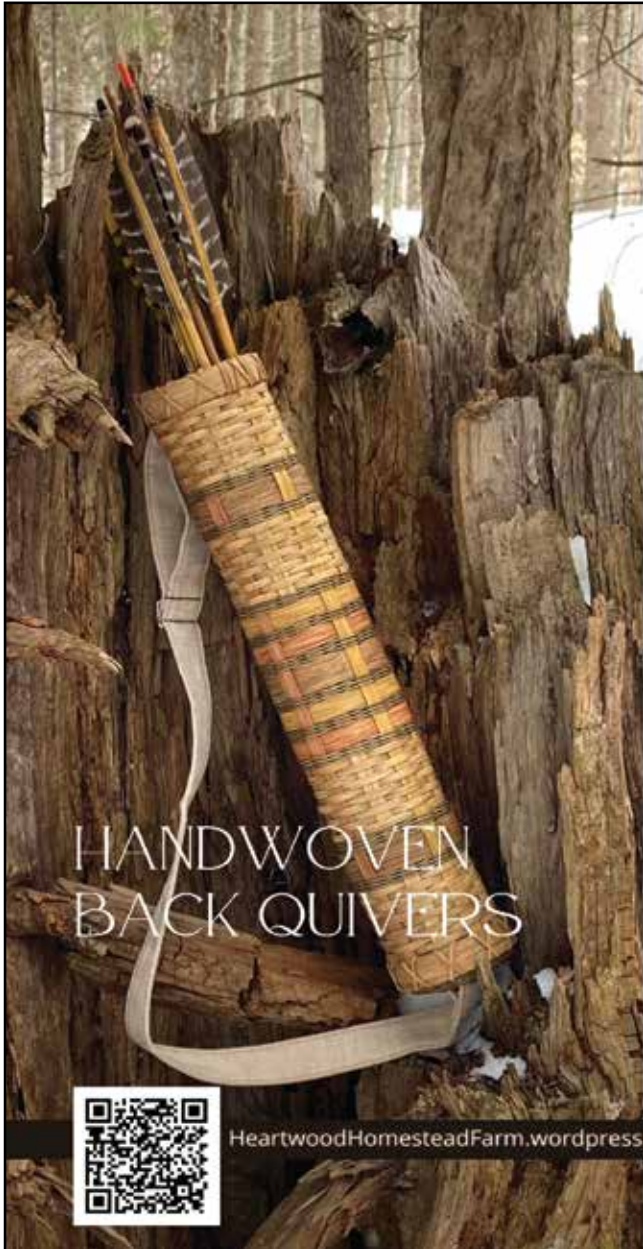
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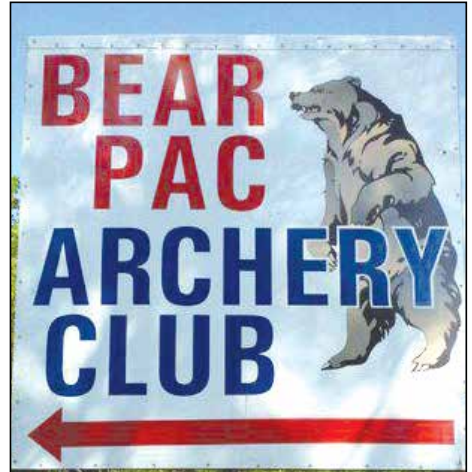
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Carmine Marranzino,
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