

FULLDRAW

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NEW YORK BOWHUNTERS, INC.

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

Fall/Winter 2024

**BOB
BROWN,**
Board of Director
from Region 8,
with his
longbow buck

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New York Bowhunters

New York State's largest bowhunting organization since 1991

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

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From the President's Desk

President's Report by Andrew Cotraccia

Greetings NYB Members, I hope everyone had a healthy and safe summer. My summer deer hunting chores are largely over with and I've had my trail cameras out for the past several months. I haven't really seen the quality of deer compared to the past several years but the quantity seems to be there in addition to more black bears than ever, so I'm excited and practicing diligently! In addition to preparing for whitetail here in NY, I am fortunate enough again to be heading back out to Montana on an archery elk hunt with my dad, Gary.



This will be my third time bowhunting elk and I'm looking forward to time afield and away from work! It's absolutely amazing how busy work can keep you and how distracted it can make you. 2024 has been a really bad year for the electronics manufacturing industry that I work in. Even though business is down, my schedule is crazier than ever, traveling between plants in Rochester and Conklin, NY. There is a lot of speculation and uncertainty about the future, especially regarding the 2024 Presidential Election. Fingers crossed that we can get this country back on track!

With all crossbow legislation stalling in early 2024, the biggest news to hit our community has been the elimination of the back tag requirements and the transition away from the synthetic to traditional paper licenses. Past NYB President Rich Kirschner recently submitted a letter to New York Outdoor News on the topic. The official announcement regarding the material changes from the DEC came back in February. The DEC noted the "transition to paper tags will provide the sporting community with a streamlined process to go afield" and that the "cost-effective shift to paper tags will reduce the state's carbon footprint [...]" Regardless of if you agree with the rationale behind the changes or not, I think we will see a movement to digital licenses and backtags over the next several years by more and more states. My only hope is that a portion of the cost savings realized is passed on to us hunters. I know, wishful thinking!

This will be the last year of my Presidency for New York Bowhunters, concluding at the Annual Membership Meeting at the Banquet in 2025. Over the next several months, NYB past presidents and I will be working with current VP Greg Masaitis to bring him up to speed to ensure a smooth and peaceful transition of power. In all reality, the vast majority of the work is done behind the scenes by all the volunteers who serve New York Bowhunters. I cannot adequately describe how much your time and efforts mean to me and our group. It doesn't go unnoticed. Please stay connected to NYB for more news and alerts via *FullDraw*, our website, Instagram and Facebook.

Thank you and good luck in the woods this fall!

Sincerely,

Andrew Cotraccia, President, New York Bowhunters, Inc.

newyorkbowhunters.com



CONTACTING NYB

For inquiries or questions, please contact your closest Region Representative, Board of Director (BOD) or Committee of Interest as shown below.

NYB's Administrative Secretary has many tasks, which include processing e-mails, bookkeeping, data entry, bank deposits, mail handling and many other functions. Much of her time is spent receiving phone calls as well. The most efficient way for our members to have questions or concerns answered would be for you to contact either your own Region Representative (or one close to you), a Board of Director (BOD) or Officer, or the person who is affiliated with a committee related to your question or concern. Very often the phone calls received at the office are then forwarded to the various members as listed below.

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Save the
DATE

MAY 17
2025



Mark your calendars for the weekend of May 17th, 2025.

You won't want to miss New York's only statewide bowhunting organization's annual banquet and rendezvous held at the spacious and accommodating Sunny Hill Resort in Greenville, NY.

The weekend-long festivities start with a BBQ around a bonfire Friday night, followed by Saturday's day-long family-oriented bowhunting activities such as a challenging 3D course, novelty games, can raffles, etc., culminating with our annual Banquet and silent auction.

Join your passionate fellow archers for fellowship and fun. You won't be disappointed.

Note: If date or location changes, updates will appear in future FullDraw, Website, Instagram and Facebook.

Antlerless Deer Harvest Survey Follow-up

By Richard Kirschner

Last winter several members of NYB took part in a focus group to discuss ideas on increasing the harvest of antlerless deer by hunters in New York. This was part of a research project being run by a big game biologist who would be advising the NYSDEC. Not enough antlerless deer are being taken and the DEC is trying to find a way to increase these numbers. NYB was contacted in order to get bowhunters' thoughts, opinions and ideas on this topic. Those members who took part were recently contacted again in an attempt to determine the importance of objectives related to hunter satisfaction with antlered buck and antlerless hunting opportunities. It remains to be seen what, if any, changes will be made to increase the antlerless take. But at least NYB having a voice in the decision-making process is a good thing. Although those in the DEC who have personal agendas do not consult with NYB, we take pride in the fact that there are at least a few professionals there who still consider us the experts that we are and place some value on our opinions. Thank you to those members who were a part of this latest study. And thanks to all reading this who, by simply being a member, have given NYB the credibility we have.



Venison/Bacon Wrapped Avocado Bombs

- 1 ½ pounds ground venison**
- 1 teaspoon salt**
- ½ teaspoon ground black pepper**
- 4 avocados**
- 8-ounce pepper jack cheese, cubed or shredded**
- 1 pound sliced bacon**

Preheat a gas grill to medium heat (350°F).

In a large bowl, combine the ground venison, salt and pepper.

Cut each avocado in half and remove the pit. Fill the center of each avocado with cheese, then put the two halves of each avocado back together. Carefully hand peel each cheese-stuffed avocado.

Divide the venison into 4 equal portions and flatten each into a very large hamburger patty. Lay an avocado in the center of each patty and wrap the meat around it, completely encasing the avocado.

Wrap strips of bacon around each meat encased avocado. Try to cover most (if not all) of the meat with bacon slices. Place the stuffed/wrapped avocados on the grill and cook until the meat is cooked through (grill with the lid closed), turning over once during the grilling. This will take about 25-30 minutes.



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Venison Donation CWN Pantry Project

Attention Friends of the Venison Donation Coalition.

Please know that the Feeding NYS Venison Donation Program is very different from, and is **NOT** part of, the Venison Donation Coalition. These two programs are separate.

Based in Albany, NY Feeding NY State operates many Food Donation programs on a statewide basis as a partner of Feeding America. Funding usually involves government grants. They work in concert with the 10-12 **FOOD BANKS** located in major cities and have large distribution networks. For details on Feeding NY State Food Donation programs and the wonderful work they do visit <https://feedingnys.org/>

The Venison Donation Coalition (VDC) remains an Incorporated 501c3 organization working completely on donated funds and one small annual grant from a county Department of Social services. Based in Bath, NY, the VDC is managed by a Sportsmen volunteer Board of Directors and a part-time Program Aide. While our name remains the same, the Venison Donation Coalition has initiated the **Pantry Project in Western and Central NY**. This involves coordinating a Venison Donation Project where donated deer go directly from the participating processor to nearby **FOOD PANTRIES** (many of which are located in your local churches).

If you, your business or group would like to be listed as a sponsor to our efforts, please email or call after visiting our website at www.venisondonation.com.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Venison Donation Coalition
Board of Directors
3 East Pulteney Square
Bath, NY 14810

Just in Time

By Cindy Phillips

Buck



Autumn is my favorite time of the year. This is the time we fill the freezer with meat – or as my Husband calls it, “going grocery shopping in the woods.” It is a time spent sitting still, perched in a tree, observing God’s great creation and hoping for the right deer to come by. For me, treestand time is a time for prayer and reflection. My prayer for the hunt actually begins before I leave the house. I ask God for guidance, trusting Him to lead me to just the right stand. I ask Him to protect me, and keep me safe, as I climb up and down trees.

I typically get on stand while it is still dark, enjoying the peaceful time between night and dawn, listening to the awakening woods. As I sit in silence my ears are leaning into every sound. I try to identify the night creatures as they seek their daytime lair and the day creatures getting ready to start the day.

I was blessed to pull two DMPs (deer management permits) for my region so my goal was to fill three tags with my bow. I like to target mature lone does early in the season, before they get too fat. I like to take my buck later in the season, toward the beginning of November, when they are rutted up and at their heaviest (and a little distracted).

This morning was a typical hunting day. I arrived on stand early and enjoyed the clear, crisp air, the star speckled sky and the gentle noises of the awakening woods. I was not on stand long when a nice doe came in with her two fawns. Although I knew she could not see, smell or hear me, she was alert as she walked across the food plot. All her fawns wanted to do was eat. The doe had no interest in food as she stopped every few feet to smell the air and listen, ears twitching back and forth. She and her twins continued to move closer to me when suddenly they whipped their heads to look back the way they came. Charging at them from another trail, an eager “teenager” 6-point buck put Mama and her kids to flight. The doe jumped down a trail toward the creek while the twins dashed behind me, 6-pointer in tow.

I settled back into my seat in the tree, thankful for the opportunity to be a part of that scene. An hour later another doe came in with one fawn. A single doe was with them, maybe the doe’s daughter from last year or just a tagalong. I decided if that single doe gave me a shot I would take her. You know what happens next: the minute you make the mental assent to shoot, your body reacts – the heart gets pumping, breathing becomes shallow... The doe and her fawn fed across the field and followed where the first doe went, presenting me with nice 15 yard broadside shots. The single doe was following suit. When her head was behind some cover, I drew. She jumped back and ran back out into

the field. What happened? I am sure I made no noise. The gentle west wind was in my face. It just must have been that seemingly supernatural sixth sense deer have. She wanted to join up with her buddies and made several attempts to take that same trail but she never came in to give me the shot. She circled around the field, leaving me alone, wondering what went wrong.



The action slowed and the early October air got warm so I headed back home. Mid-day light rain was expected. I don’t like to bowhunt in the pouring rain but when there is a light rain, and then the rain quits an hour before sunset, that’s Prime Time to me. A few hours before sunset, as the light rain was misting, I got on a different stand. The previous day I saw three big mature does, fawnless, feeding into the sugar beets. I was in the wrong stand that night for shots so I wanted to try this stand, right on the edge of the food plot, hoping the ladies were regulars. Right on time I could see deer coming in. Just like the night before, the first deer to come in was a fawn, with a very alert doe right behind it. I stood up in position to shoot well before they could see me. If this night was like the last, the big does would be next. I wanted to be ready. The fawn was stuffing her face with sweet beet leaves, at times only 5 feet from the bottom of my stand. Her Mom was not ok with things. She sensed something was not right and kept looking to see what it was she did not like. I stood still, bow in hand, motionless (often with my eyes closed), for a very long time. Finally, she left the food plot and I gave a silent “thank you, Lord” because it was almost more than I could bear. After she left I hung my bow back up and tried to relieve my tense muscles. I kept an eye out for where I expected the big does to come

from but they never came. I did, however, watch five antlerless deer filing out of a bedding area about 100 yards from my stand. I began to think this evening my target does were not coming into the beets.



Suddenly I sensed something to my right. Along the hedgerow, heading straight for my shooting lane, was a very big lone doe. In one smooth motion I stood up and grabbed my bow. She stepped out at 15 yards and stood still looking into the field. I drew, anchored and released the arrow. I saw the arrow pass through – a perfect double lung shot! The deer took a few leaps, got to the edge of the woods, staggered, and went down.

Praise God! What a perfect answer to prayer. The doe dressed out at just under 150 pounds. I am glad I did not get the shot opportunity at the doe that morning. This doe was much bigger.

The following Sunday I sat in a stand over a micro-food plot. I could see 8 or more does/fawns under another stand on a lower micro-food plot. The next day I set up on that lower stand. Right on time a huge doe with 2 fawns came out with 2 smaller does. They fed toward me and I was tempted to arrow that mama doe at 30 yards. I don't like to shoot does over fawns but this crew hung together and I knew the fawns would have other adults to teach them winter survival skills. Before I could put the decision to shoot in motion they all suddenly stopped feeding and looked toward a deer trail in front of me. After a few minutes out walked another mature doe with a fawn. But this doe was smart. She looked and looked at my stand and even though I did not move and the wind was completely in my favor, she was nervous. She stomped her foot and the whole herd exploded and ran out of the food plot. A few minutes later I could see 4 or more deer making their way

through the swamp toward me. As I was focused on them I almost missed a big lone doe coming out of the trail in front of me, where that smart doe had come out. This doe was only interested in eating clover. I drew early because she was coming in close and I didn't want to spook her. As I was at full draw, I was mentally coaxing her to take 2 small steps so she'd be in the shooting lane 18 yards from me.

She took one. I prayed I could continue to hold and asked for just one more step. She gave it to me, face still stuffed in the clover. I let the arrow fly and I double-lunged her. I watched her run away, then go down in the swamp.

Two down, one to go. But then life happened.

I was invited to my sister's son's "last minute" wedding reception scheduled for the last weekend of archery season. That meant the pressure was on to get my buck. I made reservations for the out-of-state wedding and crossed my fingers.

Three weeks went by and I did not even see a buck while on stand. I had until Saturday to cancel the reservation and get my money back. Unfortunately, I had to work Friday because of training I had to attend. My hopes of getting my archery buck were fading. That Thursday night into Friday the weather was terrible (rain and wind). Because of the weather and my expected work schedule I was not planning on hunting Friday. My Husband tried to encourage me, reminding me of all the deer I've harvested during windy conditions.

They let us go early from training that Friday so I was thinking I might hunt for a few hours Friday afternoon. I felt led to go to the same stand I got my first doe. I rushed around, doing chores, then headed out to the woods. It was windy and cold. On stand with the cold wind in my face, I started doubting my decision. I was thinking I needed to be dressed in warmer clothes. My feet were starting to get cold. I started to shiver. Suddenly a doe appeared in the field in front of me. I stood up and grabbed my bow thinking maybe a buck would be behind her. She worked her way toward me, feeding. No buck appeared. When she got behind some brush I hung my bow back up. I leaned against the tree, still standing, trying to warm my hands. About 10 minutes later, right at dusk, I saw movement out of the corner of my eye. A 2 1/2 year old buck walked out into the field, all eyes on the doe. I reached over, grabbed my bow, drew, aimed and released. The arrow flew true, right into the lungs. He ran off, out of sight. I waited until full dark, got down and went home to recruit my Husband for a nighttime tracking job. The buck did not go far at all. He was a nice 8-pointer with a HUGE body.

On the last minute of the last day, I had the opportunity to harvest my buck. Thankfully, he came in 'Just in Time.' I wonder what is in store for this year?



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. Life Booster \$750.



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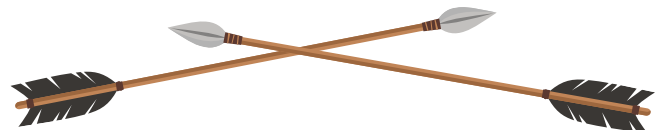
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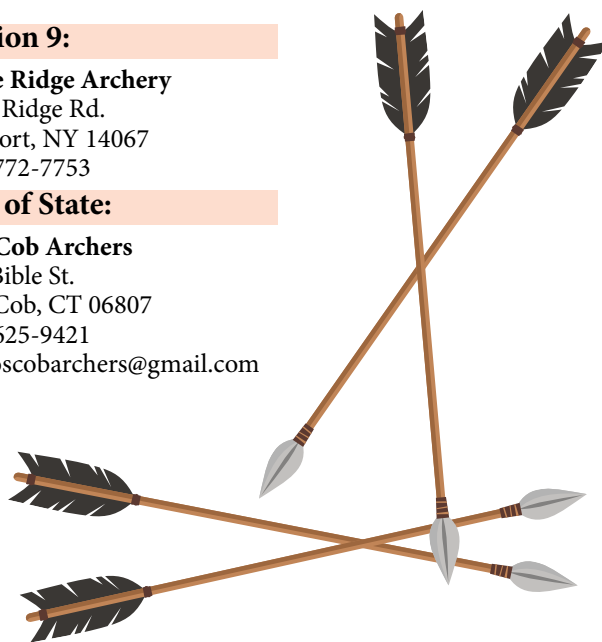
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FULLDRAW

REGION REPORTS

REGION 1 REPORT

Hello fellow bowhunters!

The 2024 archery season is upon us. Hopefully your bows are sighted in, stands hung, and you have been frequently target shooting. (Don't forget target shooting!)

I am pleased to report the opening of a new archery range in Levittown offering a full stock of bows and accessories. In addition, they offer lessons, leagues, 3D shooting and even birthday parties. This is huge for us here in Nassau County, considering our closest archery shop has been 40-60 minutes away!

I recently dove into some 2023 harvest results for our archery season. A total of 2,637 deer were taken, 871 does (355 female fawn) and 1,190 bucks (221 male fawn). With 1-2 bucks reported per square mile, our average reported number of antler points ranged between 7-8. These

numbers had little to no change from the previous (2022) season as well as the number of deer management permits issued.

I wish everyone a safe and successful season this year. I cannot wait to see some pictures and hear some success stories!

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



REGION 2 REPORT

Hello fellow bowhunters, archers, and stick and string enthusiasts. With our season underway, please be mindful of treestand safety and also safety in general while afield. Use a full body harness, or a fall arrest system. Be sure of your target and beyond. Know the game you are taking aim at. Keep broadheads safely stored in a quiver. Most bowhunting injuries are self inflicted. If you are a fan of the show *ALONE* you know what happened this season to an experienced bowyer and bowhunter. He fell while stalking and a broadhead tipped arrow went into his leg. He had to call in the medics and tap out on his second day! Be smart, be safe; stupid hurts.

Be aware of ticks, ticks, and ticks. These are THE only living creature that I am fearful of when in nature. They can carry a whole host of bad, really, really bad, bugaboos, which can cause lifetime ailments. I use a permethrin based liquid which I soak my hunting clothes in, along with a pantyhose type material as a next to skin layer, which prevents a tick from latching onto, should they get past my outer, treated clothing.

Back tags are no longer required to be worn, and they are not being issued any longer anyway. All licenses are now printed on paper instead of the thermal plastic. You are being encouraged to download the NYS DEC app to

register your harvests. You can also have your license, privileges, DMPs, and other tags on the app as well. Since all items are now on paper, once filling it out and tagging your animal, place it in a Ziplock type bag and attach it to the animal using string or a Ty-Rap to prevent the ink from washing away if it gets wet.

I wish you the best this season. Fill the freezer. Mentor a new hunter. Sign a family member or hunting buddy up to NYB. The more, the merrier.

Any questions, please send them over. My email and number are listed below and on the website.

May God bless America and ALL who defend us both home and abroad. On Friday, wear RED to Remember Everyone Deployed.

All the best, Al.

----->
*ajbottari@gmail.com
(646) 294-4062*



REGION 3 REPORT

This issue of *FullDraw* is a combination Fall & Winter edition. Rising costs of everything has caused NYB to cut back on our publication costs. We have refrained from raising the cost of memberships for an extremely long time and hope to keep it that way. I pay considerably more than \$25 a year to several organizations and even with those higher dues many are looking to turn to digital magazines to combat the rising hard copy publication (and mailing) expenses. Although going to a digital online publication would save us money, members overwhelmingly want to continue receiving a printed copy. This combination Fall/Winter issue is the result of all this. The membership renewal rate and fall raffle revenue will determine whether we'll have to do another combo issue in the future.

Thank you to Ti Yogi Bowmen who held an NYB fundraiser at their "Father's Day" 3D shoot. Over 60 archers were in attendance and enjoyed the course. One lucky participant took home a beautiful double treestand which was donated by Dutchess County Rep., Bob Ledrich.

In the last issue of *FullDraw*, Bob DiGiacomio was recognized for his many years of service as the Ulster County Rep. I am happy to welcome Mike Ciavolino to the Region 3 NYB Team. Mike has taken on the responsibilities of the Ulster County Rep. and also serves Ti Yogi Bowmen as their Secretary.

I'd like to thank the following Region 3 NYB booster clubs for their support and for hosting the many shoots they collectively held all spring and summer: All Things Accuracy, Bethlehem R&G, Highwoods SC, North Dutchess R&G, Ti Yogi Bowmen and Wittenberg SC.

I know, as you read this, you are all either bowhunting already or about to capitalize on the soon approaching rut. The average bowhunter spends a few days practicing before the season, or maybe, if they are very diligent, a few weeks. Most bowhunters, with limited practice, feel "accurate enough" at 20 yards or under, and that's about the extent of their archery involvement. Bow season will come and go pretty quickly. Some will score, some will miss, many will never take a shot, and "boom," just like that, archery as a hobby is over for the majority of bowhunters. I don't know why, but only a very small percentage of bowhunters enjoy archery as a great year-round sport. Yes, I can shoot in my yard, too, for hunting practice, but surrounding myself with knowledgeable, enthusiastic archers in a club setting has taken my shooting skills and enjoyment to a new level. Just as a sport like golf fulfills peoples' desires to participate in a challenging, social activity, archery can do that as well, in addition to making us all better hunters. Outdoor clubs depend on participation to exist and some of the clubs mentioned previously have indoor winter leagues as well as their spring/summer outdoor activities. If you are fortunate enough to live in proximity to an archery club or range, explore archery as a fun activity. You won't be the only bowhunter there and you will learn things you don't even know you don't know!

I hope you all have an enjoyable and safe hunting season. As this is the last issue before the winter, Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas & Chanukah and a Healthy New Year to my NYB family. As always, contact me with any issues, news, questions, etc.

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

SULLIVAN COUNTY

Many of you have received the paper copy of your hunting license. My first thought: will this last in a hunting environment? Maybe I'm spoiled by our former licenses which were made of durable printed material. At any rate, even though backtags are not needed, I will be using my old tag holder to store my paper license in. It will be interesting to see how this whole new license format pans out.

Bears and deer seem plentiful this Fall. Squirrels are already cutting acorns which seem to be large in size so far. It remains to be seen what the crop will be as time goes on. Apples seem plentiful this year. I am hoping the chestnut trees I've planted over the past years will produce nuts this year.

All Things Accuracy opened as a full-service archery shop last year at 25 Sullivan Ave, Liberty, just a minute off Rt. 17. Bows, arrows, custom bow strings, targets, and other archery related items for shooting and/or hunting are available. There is also a standard 20 yard range for shooting and archery instruction, which is expanded to 30 yards for the indoor Winter 3D league. A spot target league usually starts just after Christmas. As that date approaches you can call the shop at (845) 650-1354 for the official date.

Sullivan County Archers cancelled their annual Youth Archery Camp this year because we only had 6 applications returned. Kids must have other interests even though the Archery clinics I hold in the area are well-attended. More advertisement and maybe a date change might be in order for next year.

*Harry Walker-Region 3 Rep/Sullivan County Rep.
149 South Shore Drive, Wolf Lake, Wurtsboro, NY 12790
bowbender@hvc.rr.com • (845) 794-6752*

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Helllloooo there Westchesterites!

The spring & summer scouting is over, trail cams are clicking away and I'm salivating and agonizing over which spot I wanna be in and when. I've been seeing good signs of

Continues on next page

REGION 3 REPORT - continued from previous page

and actual deer activity in the county on my scouting trips. I'm excited to be hunting Westchester after a few years solely on Long Island.

In June, The Westchester Bowhunters Association (WBA) held their meeting at the Teatown Lake Preservation in Ossining, NY. WBA manages an archery range at this location and currently has openings. If you're interested contact johnlapadura@aol.com for more information. Members were all in agreement that the 2024 spring turkey season had less activity than in years past. The annual shed hunting contest was once again won by NYB Life member Steve Cowles, Westchester's "antler whisperer!"

We're an archery only county. Let's try and get our buddies to sign up to NYB (or you sign them up as a Christmas gift!). The fact is, if you bowhunt, you already enjoy a benefit that NYB obtained and protected to keep.

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Chanukah. I hope you'll have a little venison to share with your friends and family at the holiday tables!

Good luck and put one in the breadbasket!

*Matt "Mad Dog" Sweeney-Westchester County Rep
plumbing3c@gmail.com • (516) 322-2881 (call anytime)*

ROCKLAND COUNTY

To start off my report I'd like to thank the other NYB members that worked with me in Rockland, helping people with disabilities launch some arrows down range. The joy in these wonderful people's faces won't be soon from my memory.

As the New York State bowhunting season approaches, excitement is in the air. It's a time for us hunters to reconnect with nature, test our skills, and enjoy the solitude and challenge that bowhunting uniquely provides. The early mornings, crisp air, and anticipation of that perfect shot are experiences that only our fellow bowhunters can truly appreciate.

This season, let's focus not just on the thrill of the hunt, but also on our responsibility as ethical hunters. Remember, the true mark of a successful hunt isn't just about filling a tag, it's about respecting the wildlife, preserving the environment, and ensuring that our actions reflect the values of conservation and sportsmanship.

Here are a few key reminders for this season: Safety should always be our top priority. Use Safety Harnesses: If you're hunting from a tree stand, always use a full-body safety harness. Falls are one of the most common hunting accidents, and a harness can save your life. Practice Makes Perfect: Spend time honing your shooting skills before the season starts, as well as throughout the season. A well-practiced archer is not only more successful but also more humane, ensuring a quick, clean harvest. Lastly, remember that every hunt is an opportunity to enjoy the beauty of New York's wilderness. Whether or not you bring home a trophy, the memories you make and the connection you feel with the great outdoors are what truly matter.

If you have the opportunity to take a youth hunting,

please do so. As I mentioned in previous reports, you could be the difference in setting them up on the correct path in life.

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*

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Greetings all! I hope you are enjoying the Archery season and have all your scouting and stands in order. All the best for the season! Please let us know of your successes and send in some pics! I haven't had an opportunity yet, but judging from my camera pics and signs, I do have a few decent bucks and does in the area.

At the end of August, a bunch of NYBers and TiYogi Bowmen attended the Tupper Lake Archer's Mountain Shoot. Rich Kirschner and I have attended this event for years, and it seems to get better each year. NYB members Dave McMahan, Mike and Kathy Savage, along with many other TLA-NYB members, continue to provide a tournament second to none! Breakfast and lunch are available, too. There are several fun and challenging specialty shoots as well. You can shoot the GUT course, one arrow only to shoot at five targets protected by rocks, re-bar and steel pipes for only a dollar. It cost me three dollars to destroy three arrows! What a blast! Plus, prizes for shooting a floating ping pong ball and swinging bottles were also available. The event is on the last full weekend before Labor Day every year, so if you haven't attended one, give it a shot...it's for a good cause!

NYB, as well as many clubs, is experiencing some difficulty in recruiting new members. We recently did get a small boost with a creative membership expansion program, however, whether or not these new members renew going forward remains to be seen. The truth is, it takes a lot more work now to recruit new members than it did twenty years ago. We all need to try and sign up our fellow bowhunters who are not members. As NYB members know, but many others do not, the privileges all bowhunters currently enjoy were fought for and earned by NYB.

Since this is also our Holiday issue, I would like to wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving, Happy Hanukkah and Merry Christmas.

*Keep "em" Sharp.
Bob Ledrich-Dutchess County Rep/Treasurer
ledrich@optonline.net • (914) 475-4190*

PUTNAM COUNTY

Hello again NY Bowhunters,

With the New York Bowhunting and gun season on the horizon, I'd like to address the elephant in the room



Spikes Newsletter

Photo by Chuck Musitano

Fall/Winter 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

FALL

Word Search



ACORN
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HALLOWEEN
HARVEST
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HAYRIDE
LEAVES
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NOVEMBER
NUTS

OCTOBER
PUMPKIN
QUILT
RAKE
SCARECROW
SEPTEMBER
SLEET
THANKSGIVING

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions and diagonally.

How to “Roughly” Age a Buck Afield

New York State encourages hunters to let younger bucks go (in other words, don't harvest them) so the number of mature bucks will increase. The program is called *Let Young Bucks Go and Watch Them Grow*. For some deer hunters, the opportunity to see and harvest older bucks with larger bodies and antlers is an important component of their overall satisfaction with deer hunting. Older bucks are often more challenging to hunt, yield more venison, create more rubs and scrapes, and vocalize and spar with other bucks more - all things that add to the deer hunting experience. Other deer hunters primarily hunt to fill their freezers with quality venison, or may have limited time, energy, or experience, and value being able to harvest the first buck they encounter.

DEC's Let Young Bucks Go and Watch Them Grow educational campaign encourages hunters to voluntarily pass up opportunities at young bucks to allow more bucks to reach older age classes, while protecting the freedom of hunters to harvest any buck they desire. Throughout the campaign's implementation DEC has documented a steady decrease in the percentage of yearling bucks (1.5 years old) in the buck harvest, with the percentage of older bucks (at least 2.5 years old) in the harvest continuing to increase. As a result, more older bucks are being harvested in New York than ever before. The key features you'll be looking at include the length of the legs, sway of the back, the belly, the neck, and the chest. Antlers typically aren't a reliable clue for age estimation, despite what a lot of hunters think.

While there are no hard-and-fast rules, and regional variability does exist, here's a breakdown of body characteristics that can get you in the ballpark for an age estimate.

1.5-Year-Old Bucks

A 1.5-year-old buck will typically look like a young doe with antlers. This means long gangly legs, a slender chest and stomach, and a long skinny neck. Their headgear will be noticeably smaller than the rest of the herd.

2.5-Year-Old Bucks

A 2.5-year-old buck is still going to be relatively slender. They'll have a flat back with a neck width that is about equal to the width of their face. During the rut you'll start to see some minor neck swelling.

3.5-Year-Old Bucks

When a buck reaches 3.5 years old, you begin to see some notable differences from younger bucks—particularly in the chest and neck. At this age the neck usually meets the chest farther down the body, and during the rut this front half of the deer will take on a more swollen appearance. The most common analogy is that a 3.5-year-old buck will look similar to a thoroughbred horse, with a bigger front end that tightens up as you move back on the body.

1 1/2 YEAR OLD BUCK

- Looks like a doe with antlers
- Narrow neck
- No muscle definition
- Thin antlers

2 1/2 YEAR OLD BUCK

- Thin waist and shoulders
- Neck width equal to face width
- Back and belly are flat

3 1/2 YEAR OLD BUCK

- Chest and shoulders begin to look heavier than hindquarters
- Neck wider than the face, especially during the rut
- Overall look of an athlete in prime condition



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" insert in the quarterly *FullDraw* magazine, which is geared towards hunting and contains items for the "Juniors" as well.

Membership Includes: 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.



**MAIL APPLICATION TO:
NYB SPIKES**
5937 County Road 33
Canandaigua, NY 14424

SPIKE'S NAME: _____ PARENT/SPONSOR NAME _____

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

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ PHONE _____

SPONSOR ADDRESS (if different): _____

REGION 3 REPORT - continued from page 14

regarding the new licensing procedure. Let me begin by saying that I would like to remind everyone that we are always to be ethical and safe hunters. So, I went to get my new license and was told that there are no more backtags and the licenses would now be in paper form with no place to cut out your date of harvest. For those of you who have already gotten your license you know what I am talking about. After paying for my license I received three pieces of paper, the receipt, another page that is supposed to be the actual license and another page with all of my harvest tags (again, with no place to notch out your date of kill). Upon returning home and checking my e-mail there is a duplicate of the three pages I just received when I purchased my license. I think you know where I am going with this. So, let's remember to be ethical and report our harvests in a timely manner. On another note, remember, to hunt in NY, whether it's small game, big game, turkey or whatever your preference you need a NYS hunter safety course. If you decide to hunt with a bow, you need to take a separate bowhunter safety course. To find out where a course is given near you, go to the NYSDEC website. All of the courses are listed there. By now you should have gotten your gear ready, hung your stands or groundblinds and placed your trail cams.

Last but not least, remember to take a youth hunting. Whether it's a son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, nieces, nephews - get them out into the woods. I took my grandson, AJ, out with me for the first time when he was 12 years old and at 14, he took part in the special youth hunt. Although unsuccessful in harvesting a deer, it's a time he still talks about.

Be safe out there and good luck. It's not about whether you harvest an animal or not, it's also about the good times you share with family and friends. And get some pictures to me and maybe we can get your pic into *Fulldraw*.

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

ORANGE COUNTY

Greetings from Orange County,

Well, it's that time of the year. Strings are waxed, clothes are washed, treestands are hung and trail cameras are in place. All in pursuit for that buck of a lifetime!

During the summer months, Spongy moth caterpillars cast their web over Orange County. The caterpillars are defoliating insects that feed on trees. Oak is their favorite, but when their population spikes, they aren't picky eaters; they'll feed on maple, apple, crabapple, hickory, basswood, aspen, willow, birch, pine, spruce and hemlock trees. This causes trees to lose their foliage. A healthy tree can recover within a few weeks, but defoliation does leave trees weakened and more susceptible to disease, draught, or other insects - which can kill the tree or cause long-term damage. It appears that this will significantly affect the acorn crop this fall. Hopefully, the deer population can find an alternate food source to help them through the winter months.

I have been doing quite a bit of scouting in Sterling Forest. There is so much public land to choose from and it is quite a challenge. You can find your next adventure using the DECinfoLocator- an interactive map featuring wildlife management areas, WMU boundaries, parking areas, trail heads, and other information to help plan an excursion on state-managed lands.

Good luck to all as we begin the hunting season across the state. Always remember to wear your safety harness and spray for ticks. Feel free to send me any items of interest to our members.

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

ULSTER COUNTY

Hello New York Bowhunters.

My name is Mike Ciavolino and I'm the new Ulster County Rep. I would like to thank Rich Kirschner for giving me the opportunity to report on all the events and news in and nearby Ulster County.

I am the Secretary for Ti Yogi Bowmen in Hyde Park, just across the river from Ulster. Ti Yogi offers 3D shoots as well as tournaments starting in early 2025, as well as mid-week leagues throughout the fall, winter and spring. During the month of October, Ti Yogi runs a TRAD only 3D shoot as well as the WORLD FAMOUS ZOMBIE SHOOT...bring your head lamp and lighted nocks! Contact me for more information.

There is a lot going on in archery here in Ulster County. I was able to attend 3D shoots at High Woods Sportsmen's Club as well as Wittenburg Sport's Club over the past few months. High Woods, in Saugerties, offers 3D shoots as well as leagues during the year. Checkout their website www.highwoodssc.com. They are running a 3D shoot on December 8th where they raise money for children to receive Christmas presents.

Another club offering archery in Ulster County is Bethlehem Rod & Gun Club. In addition to hosting several 3D shoots throughout the outdoor season, they offer Scholastic 3D Archery to youth between the ages of 8 & 18. Contact Ed Malle malle12550@gmail.com for more information.

All the above clubs have been longtime NYB booster clubs. I ask that you try your best to attend some of their events during the year to show them back a little support. Some GREAT NEWS: As part of your NYB membership you may receive 10% off ALL items from THREE RIVERS ARCHERY. Check out their website 3riversarchery.com. FOR ACCOUNT EMAIL AND PASSWORD, PLEASE TEXT ME.

Mike Ciavolino-Ulster County Rep
Mciavolino24@gmail.com
Cell Ph: (516) 388-4627

REGION 4 REPORT

Hi Folks

By the time you receive this report, you should be well on your way to setting your trail cameras, checking stands, shooting daily and getting ready for the perfect shot. I've been out a lot over the last couple of weeks cutting wood and clearing shooting lanes around my stands. What I've noticed is with all the rain we had, the underbrush is like a jungle. And, yes, plenty of ticks and mosquitoes. I often pick off ticks. I'm OK with that. But what has me a little more concerned recently is the new diseases carried by mosquitoes called Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile, plus a few more that can be fatal to 30% of people infected. There is no specific treatment for these mosquito borne illnesses. At least with Lime you have Doxycycline for treatment. If you never used a Thermacell, I think it's time to get one. Well the only thing guys at the bow shops are talking about is the new paper licenses in N.Y. I've had them in other states but only for one animal. Deer, bear and elk...I'm not sure how it will work out with so many animals on one page with cutouts for each. The first thing I did was to make a couple of copies because, for sure, I'll need one. Our last Banquet at Sunny Hill Resort was an enjoyable time for all. At the end of the evening's silent auction we had a few hunts with low bids that didn't sell. We have a spring bear hunt and two whitetail hunts in Ohio and Missouri. If anyone is looking for a bargain give me a call. Like always, NYB is

looking for new members.

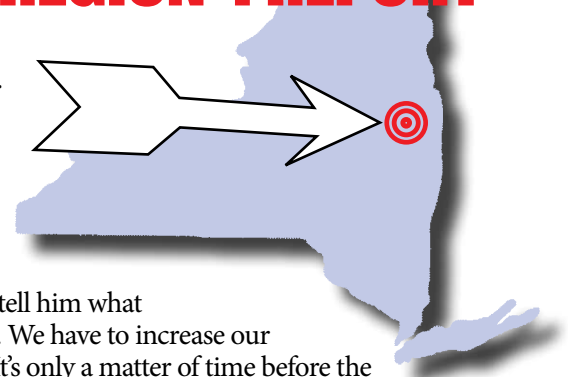
If you have a buddy you hunt with, or someone just starting out, pass on a *FullDraw* and tell him what we're all about. We have to increase our membership. It's only a matter of time before the freedom to bow hunt will be under attack by anti-hunters. They are well funded and will never stop pushing their agenda. Last year they introduced a bill for wolves to be released into Colorado. It was voted on by a mandate at the ballot box, not by Colorado Fish & Game. It's not that they love wolves; they hate hunters more. Well, good luck this season and don't forget to send your pictures and stories into our overworked editor, Cindy. She's always looking for a cover shot.

Take Care, Ed Gorch

Region 4 Representative

Oldbowman48@gmail.com

(518) 755-6263



REGION 5 REPORT

Now that Mt. Challenge 30 is in the books and hunting season is upon us it's time to remember when you first went hunting with your Dad or whomever taught you and the joy you had. Bring a youngster with you so they can experience the same joy and happiness.

Now back to the Mt. Challenge. We had 119 shooters show up ranging from 6 years old to the older people like NYB's Rich Kirshner, who ended up in 4th place in the traditional class. It is always great to see our NYB family and we appreciate them coming. Our biggest class was the Traditional Class by far. We noticed that the number of younger shooters was up from years past and there were many families, which is great. All in all, everyone had a great time and the weather was amazing.

Shoot straight and safe. Happy hunting from Region 5.

Dave McMahon

Region 5 Representative

davemcmahon97@gmail.com



Our winner of a \$1,200 bow generously donated by Matt from Blue Line Sports. Matt has been a major supporter of our shoots for many years and he is greatly appreciated.



Our future family fun time. He looks like he is having a ball.



One of our younger shooters trying his hand on the guts course.



REGION 6 REPORT

Greetings Region 6,

The new “normal” weather we’ve had for the past 4 summers of excessive heat and excessive rain sure makes it difficult to enjoy the outdoors. The local wildlife loves the taller weeds and choice of fruits and berries. I wonder if this is what it is like in the deep Amazon jungle. For me, it is time to find a way to get more north of the heat. But what about those Canadian wildfires? Is it hopeless?

We held the 2 July archery classes at the Great Swamp Conservancy in Canastota. There were 8 students ages 13-17 years old who, by most accounts, had a grand old time. They had 15-20 minutes of classroom instruction followed by 90 minutes at the shooting range. Many of the mostly girls class had never used a bow before. We had great reviews for the first 2 classes. All students will receive a free one year subscription to Spikes. Congratulations to all.

Unfortunately, after the first two days were completed, the insurance company stepped in and cancelled the event. Archery is not covered by their insurance. After some searching for another insurance company, the Summer Teen Program was ultimately cancelled.

Last month there was a new Sports Show to attend at Vernon National Shooting Preserve in Vernon, NY. I

didn’t go, but from what I’ve heard there were many big name guides, hunters, and writers who participated. Some local archery shops, such as Bear Pac Archery up in Watertown, still run their 3D shoots all summer. Have you signed up a new Spikes member this year? Or mentor a youth for bowhunting? Youth hunters are our future! Invest in the future. Take a youth hunting this Fall.

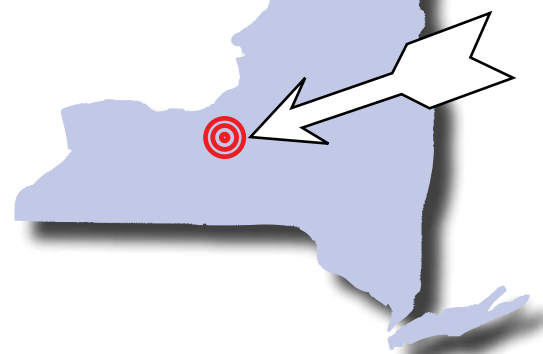
*Bill Snyder
Region #6 Rep.
bill4nyb@gmail.com*



REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

Please contact the Main Office at
NYBOffice@NewYorkBowhunters.com

REGION 7 REPORT



Please notify the NYB Office by e-mail or regular mail and provide any address updates as soon as you can. Returned mail costs the organization at a time when belts are tightening everywhere.

Thanks, Annie
New York Bowhunter’s Administrative Secretary
nyboffice@newyorkbowhunters.com

**5937 County Road 33
Canandaigua, NY 14424**

REGION 8 REPORT

Hopefully everyone had a great summer! Summers seem to fly by and winters drag on lately but, although last winter was long, we didn't have much snow and temperatures were manageable. Because of the mild winter and good weather this spring and summer the deer herd in Region 8 seems to be very high and I have seen many large bucks. We have apple trees in our front yard and the deer clean up the apples quickly. This summer a doe with triplets have been daily visitors and yesterday, after filling up on apples, they took a cat nap in the front yard! The turkeys also seem to be faring well and I have seen many hens with broods throughout the summer.

I managed to get to the Eastern Traditional Archery Rendezvous in Morris, PA for my 24th year. It's great to see, and shoot with, old friends and meet new ones. People come from all over and we shot with friends from Alabama, Georgia, NY and Maryland to name few. Many families make this a yearly tradition and it's great to see the folks enjoying each other and the love of archery. I also made the Traditional Shoot at the Hawkeye Bowman in Region 9 and had a great time as usual. If you are into traditional archery, or would like to be, these are two great shoots.

Hunting season in the southern zone is going to look a little different this year with no back tags. Ever since I started hunting in the late '70s it's been a requirement to wear a back

tag in the southern zone

and, although sometimes I cursed them when I

forgot to switch it from jacket to

jacket or one year lost it and had to get

a reprinted one, they became part of the tradition. I'm not convinced its good idea to

forgo them and being able to reprint tags at home may tempt

some to be game hogs. I have all of my back tags from NY and PA until they went to cheap paper that the ink fades on.

Some day maybe they will be for sale as a novelty item in an antique shop like many of the old license buttons that pre-date back tags.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable and safe hunting season.

Please send stories and pictures of your hunts to *FullDraw* and share the passion with fellow bowhunters. If everyone

signs up one friend we could double in size!

Sincerely, Bob Brown

Waptichasr@aol.com



REGION 9 REPORT

Well, everyone, it's finally here. This is the time we all prepare for. It's our time. It's our time to finally hit the field and do what we do best. I am so excited to get out to enjoy the outdoors, make new memories, and hopefully get a shot at the big one. I hope everyone has been practicing and preparing for this bow season and is feeling confident with how they are shooting. A good thing to remember is that during season, practice is never a bad thing. A lot of people practice hard all the way up to season but then stop the first time they hit the woods. I urge you to try and keep practicing through the year just so when that moment comes you are ready and shooting straight. I used to make that mistake years ago when I was a young hunter and paid the price for trying to shoot at a deer cold. I missed clean at about 10 yards and ever since I always shoot, just to keep the movement fresh and the body in tune. As I'm sitting here writing this I just received an email from the DEC just pertaining to the Region 9 area. They are saying that the deer population in our area is at an all time high and they are urging people to at least harvest one doe if at all possible. Personally I am kind of in the middle of the road on this, never knowing when is the perfect time exactly to take a doe. Some years I have wrestled myself on it for so long that I didn't harvest a doe at all. I am going to do some of my own research on the matter and hope you will, too. That said, if everything they are saying is correct, I will be more likely to let an arrow fly early this season on a doe if the opportunity arrives. However, no matter what happens this year, I think it's going to be a great year. I am so excited to start this hunting season and see what everyone gets to harvest. I love to hear all the new stories and just enjoy the outdoors. Above all, be safe. The bottom line is have fun. Remember to make sure your treestands are safe with new

straps and that you have a good safety harness. I wish everyone the very best of luck and

I hope you are all

successful at harvesting a deer or

bear this year. Pick a spot, shoot straight, let your arrows be true and don't peek.

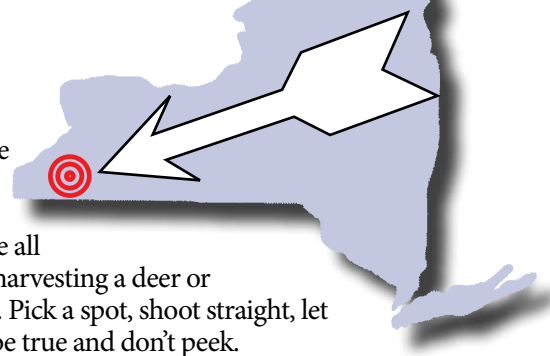
P.S.-I love seeing success pictures so please feel free to send them to me at any time and I look forward to hearing some great hunting stories. Stay safe and have fun.

Vinny D'Agostino

Region 9 Representative

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Squatting Doe

FOLLOW-UP

by Rich Kirschner

Mystery



This “Squatting Doe” picture appeared in the last issue of *FullDraw* (Summer 2024). It was submitted by NYB member, Bill McCoy who explained it was retrieved off a trail camera on January 31st in Orange County, NY. The time stamps revealed the deer was in this same position for between two and three minutes. Several days had passed when Bill retrieved the chip, therefore there were no fluids, substance, or other evidence in the area to suggest what might have been occurring. We asked members if anyone had any theories as to what was happening.

I reached out to two of NYB’s consultants who are experts on deer health and disease. Dr. Krysten Schuler, Research Professor at Cornell University College of Veterinarian Medicine and Dr. Pat Connelly currently serving as Wildlife Veterinarian for New Jersey Fish and Wildlife Department. Both have appeared as guest speakers at NYB Banquets as well as Region Reps meetings.

Here is what they offered: Although most hunters know about (and some have witnessed) bucks urinating on their hind legs and tarsal glands to lay down scent, many don’t know (nor have ever seen) does also engaging in this activity in order to attract bucks! Although January 31 is a little late for breeding, there is occasionally some very limited action as late as January. However, 2 to 3 minutes does seem a little long to “rub-urinate” so perhaps the deer was also having difficulty urinating or straining due to an underlying cause such as a UTI, tumor, nerve damage, cramps, etc.

Congratulations to NYB member, Cindy Phillips, who knew about does “rub-urinating” and submitted a correct guess.

Rich Kirschner
Bowrichny@aol.com



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By Donald Plant



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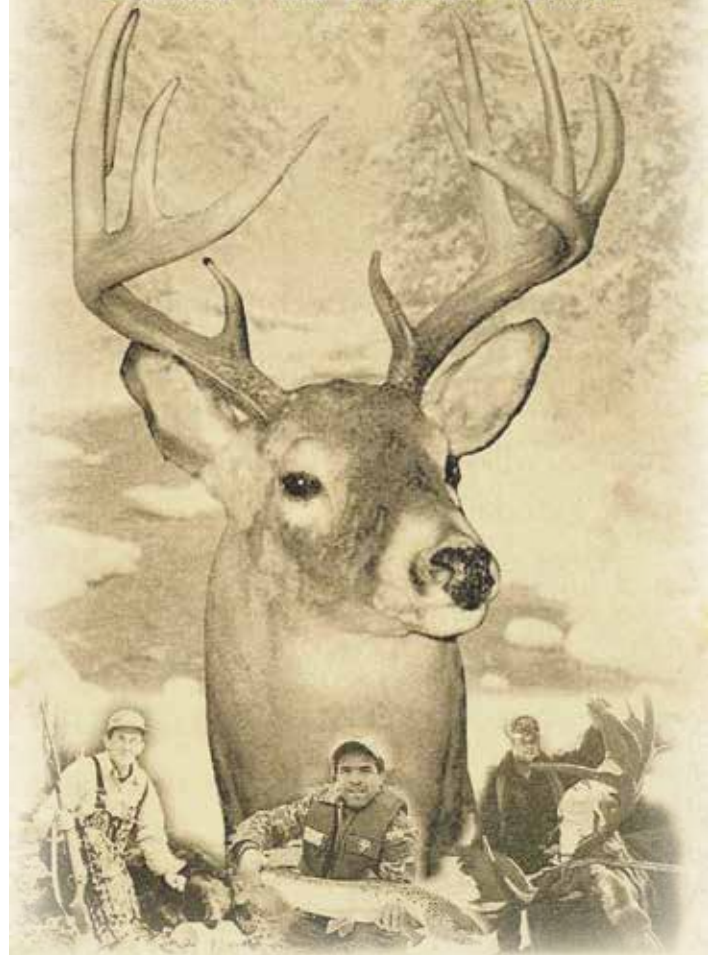


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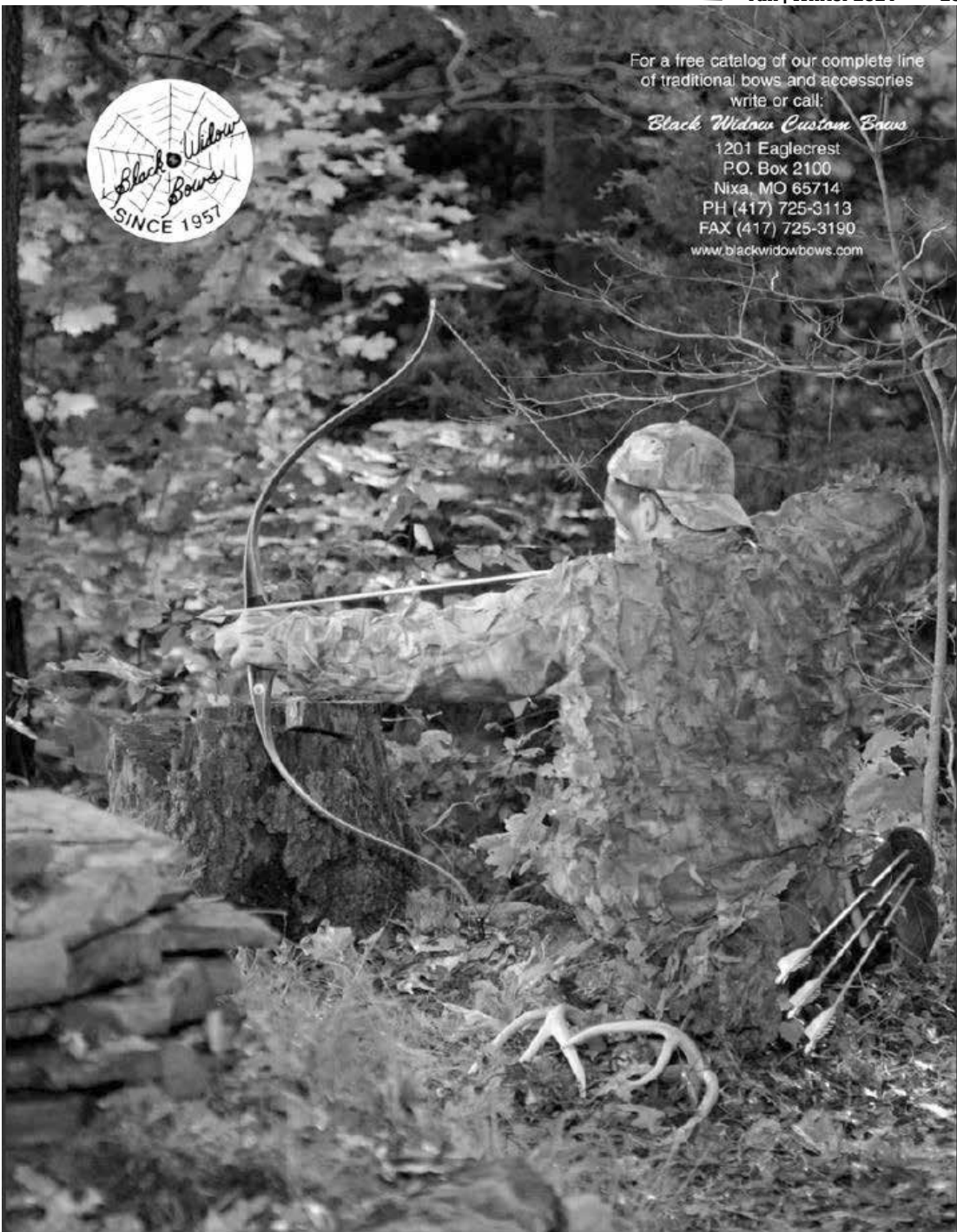
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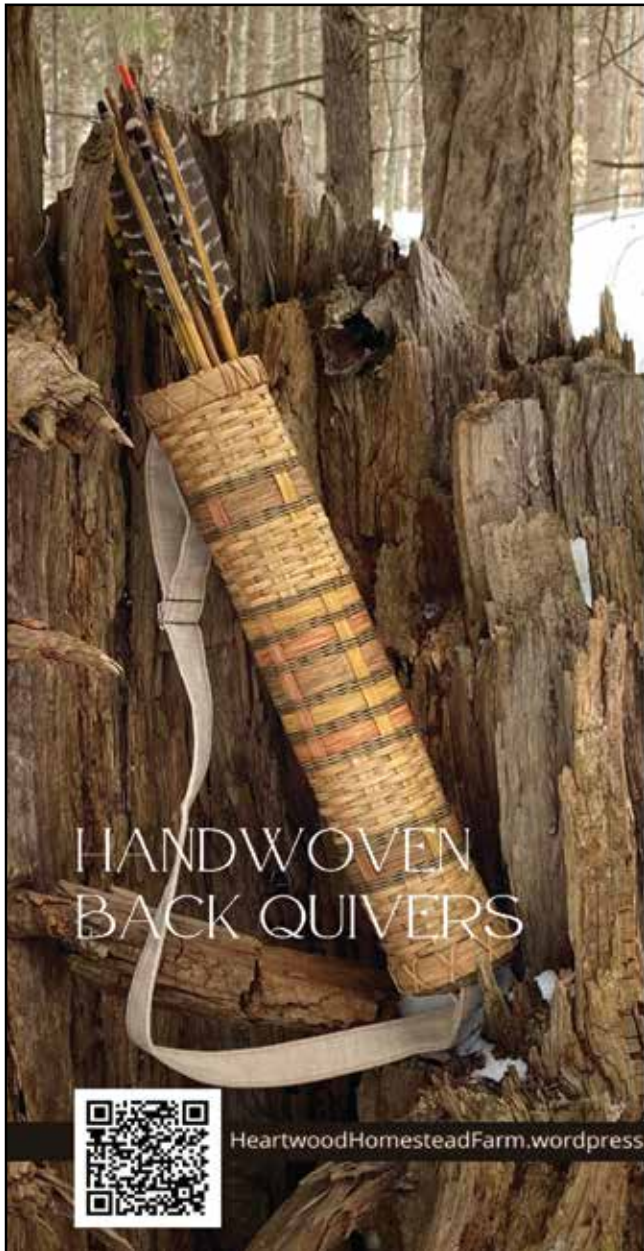


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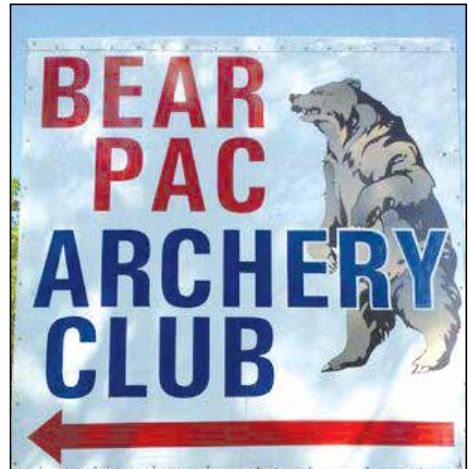
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member, with a
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his recurve buck



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