

FULLDRAW

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NEW YORK BOWHUNTERS, INC.

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

Fall/Winter
2025

**Army Major
CHRIS MOROSKI,**
scored this antelope on
the Camo-Camo hunt with
Mitchell Outfitting

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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

Dear Members and Fellow Bowhunters,

It is with great pride and humility that I write to you today as the newly elected President of New York Bowhunters, Inc. I am honored to serve this incredible organization that has stood as the voice of bowhunting in New York for almost four decades. I want to thank the Board of Directors and, most importantly, you—the members—for your continued trust and dedication to our shared passion.



I would like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to **Andrew Cotraccia**, our former President, for his leadership, dedication, and service to NYB. Andrew has played a key role in guiding the organization through important challenges and opportunities, and I'm grateful for his continued support as we move forward. I also want to thank the entire Board of Directors for their ongoing guidance and encouragement as I take on this role.

Stepping into this position, I recognize the deep responsibility of preserving our bowhunting traditions, advocating for our rights, and ensuring a strong future for the next generation of archers. NYB has always stood firm on the values of conservation, ethical hunting, and unity among hunters across the state. As president, I intend to carry forward that mission with energy, transparency, and a collaborative spirit.

My Focus for the Year Ahead

As we look to the future, my primary goals will be:

- **Advocacy:** Strengthening our voice in Albany to ensure bowhunters' interests are represented and protected.
- **Membership Growth:** Expanding our community by reaching new hunters and engaging youth in our programs.
- **Education & Outreach:** Supporting hunter education efforts and promoting safe, ethical bowhunting practices statewide.
- **Preserving Our Heritage:** Honoring the roots of bowhunting while embracing innovations that help us grow and adapt.

I also want to continue building relationships with landowners, state agencies, conservation groups, and fellow sportsmen and women to ensure that NYB remains a respected and influential organization in New York's outdoor community.

Get Involved

I encourage every member to stay active, attend events, and share your input. NYB is only as strong as its members, and your voice matters. Whether it's participating in our annual banquet, volunteering at an archery event, or simply sharing your hunting stories and experiences—you are what makes this community special.

Let's continue to lead by example, support one another, and protect the bowhunting lifestyle we hold so dear.

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve. I look forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead.

Shoot straight and stay safe,

Greg Masaitis

President, New York Bowhunters, Inc.

516-241-4109

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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Colleen's Bow



Early in 2025, NYB Board of Director Bill Snyder became aware of a young lady who was physically challenged and wanted to shoot a bow. Colleen is a High School student at Skaneateles High School. We got in touch with her PE teacher, Jenel, and began to see how we could help Colleen.

Board of Director Merritt Compton contacted a gentleman that he's come to know, Marlon Clapham, from Stevensville, MT, who builds adaptive archery equipment for physically challenged individuals. After 3 months of communication between the parties involved, Colleen's dream became a reality. The Flashing Feathers Bowhunters Club covered the cost of the 're-constructed' draw lock unit. The Skaneateles Central School covered the cost of the bow.

The smile on Colleen's face was priceless!

Because of dedicated bowhunters at NYB, Colleen will be one of the 230 students participating in Jenel's archery program this year. If you ever wondered how your membership to NYB impacts others, this is one great example!



NYB BOD Merritt Compton with Colleen and Jenel



Colleen with her new bow



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The 2025 NYB Rendezvous & 3D Shoot at Flashing Feathers Bowhunters

by Andrew Cotraccia, Board of Director & Past President

Nestled in the serene woods of Willseyville, New York, the Flashing Feathers Bowhunters club hosted NYB's much anticipated 2025 Rendezvous & 3D Shoot Fundraiser—an event that proved, once again, why the 34th annual gathering remains a beloved event for members around NYS.

As the summer sun rose on the club grounds, members and guests alike arrived with much anticipation. These annual rendezvous and banquet events have been a part of the NYB's 34 year tradition of gathering to celebrate archery, blended with the thrill of competition and the warmth of community. While Flashing Feathers runs 3D shoots on a regular basis, this shoot elevated our gathering experience into something truly memorable.

Across the rolling trails lay a roving 3D course dotted with lifelike animal targets—from deer and bear to more “exotic” creatures. Archers navigated varied distances and angles, testing not just their accuracy, but their adaptability and composure under competitive pressure.

This rendezvous was more than just scoring points—it was about people. As seasoned members offered pointers to novices,



NYB Founding members Dale Walburger and Tom Weaver



The Board of Directors thanking Andrew Cotraccia for his presidency. From left, top, Bill Snyder, Bob Brown, Andrew Cotraccia, Kathy Savage, Aaron Barton, Ed Gorch, Mike Farrugia. From left, bottom, Greg Masaitis and Rich Kirschner.

laughter rippled through the range. The push back of arrows striking foam targets harmonized with tales of past hunts, shared tips, and plans for the upcoming fall season.

Families and friends gathered outside for the delicious BBQ lunch and traded stories, laughs, and camaraderie while enjoying the beautiful sunny weather. The club's long held values of mentoring new archers and fostering a welcoming spirit shone as bright as ever! The FFB members were accommodating in every way, allowing NYB to take charge



Can Raffles and Silent Auctions

of their clubhouse and shooting range for the entire day.

These events always reaffirm what makes organizations like New York Bowhunters and Flashing Feathers special. These volunteer organizations are built on respect for the craft, reverence for nature, and a spirit of togetherness. For many like myself, the day's highlights were not the awards for the best scores, but the moments of connection with friends we hadn't seen in many months, the thrill of hitting a challenging target, and the shared laughter over the course of the entire day. I'm always amazed by the amount of love I see at NYB events.



Chicken BBQ prepared by Flashing Feathers members



Rich Kirschner presenting Rep of the Year Award to Mike Ciavolino from Ulster County



Admiring A Nice Group



Venison Donation CWNV 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 2 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/>

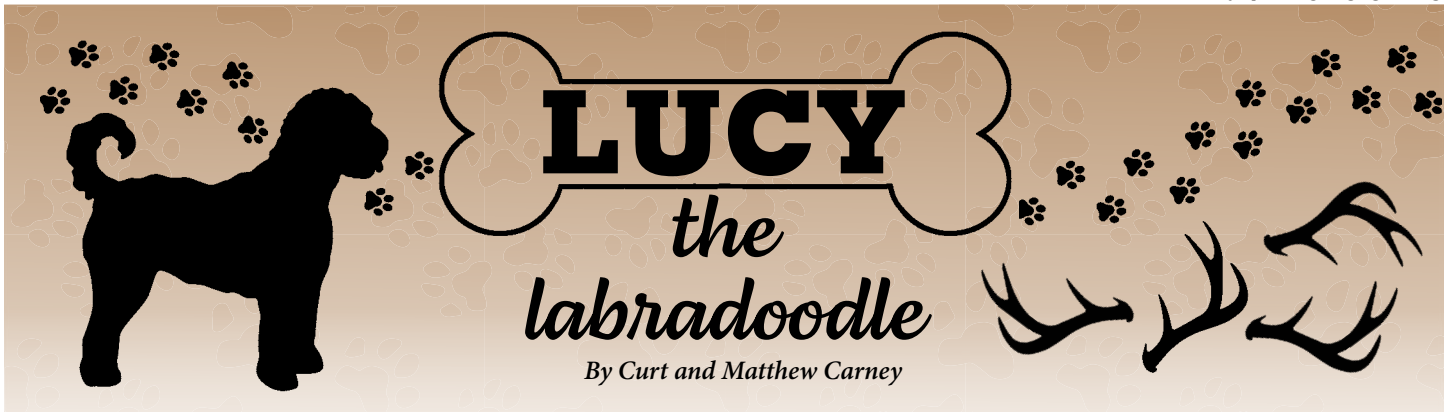
The Venison Donation Coalition (VDC) remains an Incorporated 501c3 organization working completely on donated funds and one small annual grant from a county Department of Social Services. Based in Bath, NY, the VDC is managed by a Sportsmen volunteer Board of Directors and a part-time Program Aide. While 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, N.Y. 14810



One day's haul

Lucy is a 5 year old Lab–Labradoodle with boundless energy and a mind as sharp as her nose. She isn't just a pet, she was the missing piece that completed our family.

Her favorite game is chasing lacrosse balls, no matter how far you can throw them. But her true passion? Trekking through the woods with her favorite humans, nose to the ground, in search of shed antlers.

At first, no store-bought toy could outlast Lucy's excitement, so we handed her a shed antler, and unknowingly started down the path of creating our very own "shed dog."

Each spring, boots laced and gear ready, we head into the woods looking for antlers, skulls, and bones. For years, our finds were few and far between, maybe half a dozen at best. That all changed when my son, Matthew, stumbled upon a YouTube video showing how dogs could be trained to find sheds. Inspired, he called me on my lunch break and asked, "Can I train Lucy?"

By the time I got home, Matthew had turned an idea into reality. With seven sheds from previous years and a pocketful of kibble, he had Lucy waiting behind doors, then charging off on her mission to uncover hidden antlers, inside cabinets, under clothes, behind pillows. I was floored.

The next day, we put her skills to the test outdoors. I hid antlers in tall grasses and under leaves. It took her longer, but she found them. Soon, we were ready for the real challenge: the woods.

Carrying an antler or two in my pack and a small bag of treats, we guided Lucy through known shed areas. At first, she was about fifty/fifty. Sometimes she missed, but every now and then she nailed it. Then came the day she beat us both. Matthew and I had walked right past a fork horn, but Lucy came bounding up behind us with it clenched in her mouth. Matthew swore he hadn't planted it. That's when we knew we had an official shed dog!

This season, I couldn't even guess how many miles we logged on boots and paws. If it wasn't raining, we were walking. When our usual spots dried up, we pushed into new ones, and that's when success really came. The truth is, Lucy's excitement when she found an antler was greater than ours could ever be.

There was one low point this season: ticks. Lucy tested positive for Lyme just before Easter, her energy dipping. With meds from the vet and a daily battle to get her to swallow them, she bounced back. By season's end, we'd found over 50 sheds, including 3 matched sets and 4 dead heads.

Now, every couple of weeks, we still practice to keep Lucy sharp. For us, the sheds are just a bonus. The real gift is the time outdoors—father, son, and dog, all together.

In the end, it's not just about finding antlers. It's about finding memories.



Matthew and Lucy's Season Haul



Bowhunter Rendezvous

On August 2nd Suffolk Archers hosted the Bowhunters Rendezvous and the committee for the event did an exceptional job. Multiple Long Island outdoor businesses were present to show, discuss and sell equipment. New York Bowhunters Inc. members were there to discuss how each of us can be part of the solution that preserves our bowhunting past and, protects our bowhunting future. Plus, one of our members, Ed, was there with some beautiful pelts and handmade fur hats and quivers for sale.

The highlight of the morning were guest speakers Gene Hopkins, Chris Kossowsky, and Chris Ritter.

We also had some great prizes to raffle off and, of course, lunch. Besides BBQ (hamburgers and hot dogs were done to perfection), there was venison sausage and goose pastrami to munch on.

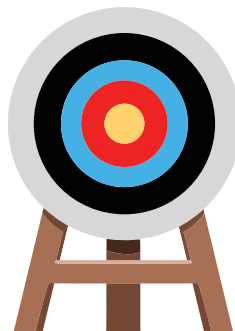
If you missed the event this year, don't worry, the committee is already hard at work planning next year's Bowhunters Rendezvous. Every year it gets better and better. I can't wait to see what they have in store for us in 2026!



Gene Hopkins drove thirteen hours from Indiana and gave a great talk on the History of Archery in America. He brought displays with arrows used by various historical archery figures; small bolts used in WWII and a recurve bow used by Fred Bear.



Chris Kossowsky talked about building your hunting arrow and how placing the weight FOC (Front of Center) increases penetration. Not only was it informative but the amount of research and evidence that Chris did to show the benefits of FOC was outstanding.



Turkey guru Chris Ritter discussed all things turkey, from their behavior, to how, where, when and what decoys to set up. He gave tips on what to pack and how much you actually need for a turkey hunt. Chris also demonstrated calls and brought members up to teach them how to use a glass friction call. He gave the whole talk with a mouth call in his mouth and would let out turkey sounds that made you think an actual turkey was in the room with you!

New York Bowhunter's BOOSTERS

Tell 'em NYB Inc. sent you!

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



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WEDNESDAYS-12:00 AM**



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

FULL DRAW

REGION REPORTS

REGION 1 REPORT

No report submitted



REGION 2 REPORT

Greetings NYB Family.

We held our very first 3D Fundraiser event at Flashing Feathers Bowhunters Club in June. Although I was unable to attend, from everyone I spoke with, it was a great day with great people. Many thanks to all who helped put it together, who attended, and to Flashing Feathers who accommodated us.

Remember that ticks are everywhere. Take precautions. Tick borne illnesses are on the rise.

As you know, crossbows will now be legal to use in any season, in any place where hand drawn, hand held bows are legal to use. The Legislature failed EVERY bowhunter in the state, most especially the Assembly EnCon Committee. The office of Assemblywoman Deborah Glick, who has been the EnCon Committee Chair for several years now, failed to recognize the superiority of the crossbow with its distinct advantages over a hand drawn, hand held bow. Her aides even went so far as to lie to me about her intentions, saying it was NOT a full inclusion Bill. In the final days of the Legislative Year, the cesspool that is Albany decided to extend the session. That is when the voting occurred. It was then sent to Governor Hochul's desk to sign into law, and that is where it languished for nearly 2 months.

According to NYS law, she could've signed it, vetoed it, or do nothing, which is what she did. But, there is a provision that says that any Bill awaiting her signature that was passed at the end of the session, automatically becomes law after 30 days. Calling Albany was futile, as no one knew

for sure what that status was. Then, on August 25th, she symbolically signed it into law.

The bill also includes no limb to limb size or poundage restrictions on crossbows. Users must now take the Bow Safety Course and buy an Archery License. Which, according to chatter, those who cried for years about wanting to use a crossbow, don't want to do. Safety be damned!!!!

My concern is SAFETY and ethics. Safety because many crossbows far exceed the distance and poundage of hand drawn, hand held bows. During the early archery season there is still a lot of green on the trees, making visibility a concern. Most bowhunters shoot between 12 and 20 yards on an animal. Do crossbow hunters have the same ethics? Many crossbow advertisers state their weapons are accurate to 100 yards. What do you think happens when bolts are shot at deer at far distances? I have several friends who run tracking dogs, and once crossbows were allowed during the last weeks of archery season, their phones were ringing off the hook.

My last concern is that of the herd itself. In 2024, 564,363 hunting licenses, including 153,072 bowhunting licenses,

Continued on next page

REGION 2 REPORT - continued from previous page

were issued. Using a 37% crossover rate of hunters from firearms to crossbow gathered from other states, there is a potential to have over 200,000 crossbow hunters in the woods. We have seen this before, when the DEC wanted to stop the archery season midway, and have a 2 week muzzleloader season, then reopen the archery season. Many firearms hunters were going to get an MZ because they felt that they would miss an opportunity to kill a deer. This is exactly the same, only this time it is for real.

If you hunt public land, or the fringes of property lines close to public land, I would advise you to wear Hi-Viz.

Stay safe, pick a spot, and mentor someone into the world of archery.

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

*All the best, Al.
ajbottari@gmail.com
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REGION 3 REPORT

Thank you to my NYB family throughout not only Region 3, but the entire state, for all the cards, baskets of food and emails sent upon learning of the passing of my beloved wife, Debra. Many of you also made donations to charitable organizations in Debra's honor as well. Thank you. Unfortunately, our 45 years of marriage had to endure the last four years battling cancer. You may have met Debra at a Banquet or Rendezvous before her illness was discovered and our lives changed forever. Or perhaps you didn't know her personally but through me were aware of Debra's journey as we tried our best to squeeze in as many precious years as we could despite the setbacks along the way. My family and I appreciate the many thoughts and prayers so many of you sent our way throughout this most trying ordeal. We'd also like to particularly acknowledge all our good friends at Ti Yogi Bowmen and the Tupper Lake Archers whose love and friendship continue to come our way.

Good luck to all of you for the upcoming season. Be safe and I sincerely wish the best of health to you and your loved ones. Cherish them. Give an extra hug to those you love for the ones Debra and I can no longer have.

*Richard Kirschner – Region 3 Rep/Board of Director/Past President
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SULLIVAN COUNTY

In early July, "All Things Accuracy" (ATA) held a weekend 3D at Holiday Mountain Ski Area in Rock Hill. It drew in excess of 200 archers the first day and about 150 on Sunday. The weather was hot but luckily the archers could ride the chair lift to the top of the mountain and shoot the courses on the way down. Next May there will be fliers and Instagram advertisement for the 2026 3D Festival. ATA will also be starting their Fall league in November so guys and gals can prepare for the Lancaster Archery Competition.

Sullivan County Archers has had sparse attendance at their past Archery Youth Camps, so the usual three day event was changed to a one-day Bowhunting Clinic. It seems to get more difficult getting kids to participate as the years go by. Maybe the DEC is getting their wish to have everyone get their certificates

online and do away with the hands-on instruction we provide. I hold archery clinics through the Summer here at Wolf Lake, at the Sullivan County Conservation Club, and the Federation of Sportsmen Clubs at the Grahamsville Fairgrounds and, thankfully, a lot of kids come to these events.

As for the local wildlife, the deer are in the process of changing to their winter coats and, as the first week of September arrived, the bucks will have begun shedding their velvet. Acorns have been coming down in the oak forests for those areas with oaks and the recent rains have helped with the local food plots and grass growth. Bear sightings are frequent here this year because the blueberry crop is light or nonexistent. I guess they will go into the beech tree areas next or compete with the deer and squirrels for acorns.

Have a good hunting season and remember, keep those broadheads sharp and wear those safety harnesses!!

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

DUTCHESS COUNTY

Greetings all,

As you read this report, Bow season is either underway or close to opening day. Good Luck and stay safe! The deer population in Dutchess has rebounded since the EHD epidemic. I have observed several impressive bucks. On a personal note, I had rotator cuff surgery in June, so being out there by opening day is most unlikely!

Fall leagues have started at all the local clubs; I encourage everyone to participate. They are fun and keep you in tune with your bow. If you could not get into any fall leagues, be sure to watch for the winter leagues. I know Ti-Yogi Bowmen



Spikes

Newsletter

Photo by Chuck Musitano

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

Harvest festival

Word Search

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

ANNUAL
APPLES
AUTUMN
CELEBRATION
CONTESTS
CORN
CORNUCOPIA
CROPS
FARMER
FEASTING
FESTIVAL
FIELDS
GAMES
HARVEST



HAYRIDE
LEAVES
MERRIMENT
MUSIC
OCTOBER
PUMPKINS
REGIONAL
SCARECROW
SEPTEMBER
SQUASH



Archery - Where It All Began

Archery is one of the oldest arts still practiced. Yes, while we call it a sport, it started as an art. Evidence of ancient archery has been found throughout the world.

The earliest evidence of archery was when the Egyptian and neighboring Nubian cultures used bows and arrows for the purposes of hunting and warfare.

In China, archery dates back to the Shang dynasty (1766-1027 BC). A war chariot of that time carried three men: driver, lancer and archer. During the Zhou (Chou) dynasty (1027-256 BC), nobles at court attended sport archery tournaments that were accompanied by music.

When the Chinese introduced archery to Japan in the sixth century, it had an overriding influence on later etiquette and techniques. One of Japan's martial arts was originally known as kyujutsu (the art of the bow), now known as kyudo (way of the bow).

Modern Kyudo is practiced primarily as a method of physical, moral, and spiritual development. After certain ritual movements, the archer moves to the shooting line and shoots from a distance of a little over 30 yards at a target 14 inches in diameter set in a bank of sand that is roofed over. The bow used is 7 feet long and made of laminated strips of bamboo and wood.

In the Greco-Roman period, the bow was used more for personal exploits or hunting, rather than warfare.

Archers are frequently seen on pottery at that time. The Parthians were horsemen who developed the skill of swiveling around in the saddle and were able to shoot backwards at full gallop.

Middle Eastern superiority in archery equipment and technique continued for centuries. With bows like those of the Assyrians and Parthians, Attila the Hun and his Mongols conquered much of Europe and Asia, and Turkish archers were able to hold back the Crusaders. The Asian and Turkish bows were highly efficient and the record shot with a composite Turkish flight bow was close to 900 yards, far beyond the capability of an English yew bow.

The popularity of archery is reflected in much folklore, such as Robin Hood, to name the most famous one.

References to archery are also frequently made in Greek mythology. The story of Odysseus in the *Odyssey* is a well-known example. Odysseus is mentioned as being eminently skilled in the art of archery. The wife of Odysseus, Penelope, thinking that her husband would never come back after being gone for 20 years, formed a resolution to determine which of her suitors shall receive her hand by shooting with Odysseus' bow. Odysseus, back from the Trojan war and disguised as a shepherd, was the only one able to draw his own bow and shoot an arrow through twelve rings. This way he could prove to his wife who he was and defeat all the other suitors.

Archery evolved as a competitive sport in England. The first known organized competition in archery was held at Finsbury, England in 1583 and had 3000 participants. By the time of the 30 Years War (1618-1648) it was clear that, due to the introduction of gunpowder, the bow was a weapon that belonged in the past.

Since then, archery has developed as a recreational and competitive sport. It has evolved from stick and string to the modern compound bows we see today. The compound bow was invented in 1966 by Holless Wilbur Allen, Jr., a mechanical inventor and bowhunter from North Kansas City, Missouri. The first commercially produced compound bow, the Allen Compound Bow, was introduced in 1967. Although initially met with resistance and considered ungainly, the design gained traction when Tom Jennings, a skilled bowyer, took an interest in it. Jennings refined the design, leading to the release of the highly successful Model T in 1974.



New York Bowhunters
Youth Membership
"Spikes"

NYB's "Youth Membership" includes all youth ages 17 and under.
 Those between the ages of 12 to 17 will be considered "Senior Spikes."
 Those under 12 join as "Junior Spikes." All will receive our "Spikes" 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): _____

will be running winter leagues and all are welcome. For more information, you can go to their website or give me a call.

As you know, the crossbow is now allowed during Archery season. Previously, crossbows were only permitted in the last two weeks of the season. We have fought long and hard to prevent this from happening. NYB does not consider the modern, technologically superior crossbow to be defined as archery equipment. Although perhaps there may be a need for some type of adaptive equipment (of which there are several different types) for a few deserving individuals, a crossbow also allows those not willing to become proficient with a bow access to a season that was never meant for a superior implement, whose characteristics more closely resemble a rifle than a bow. All I can say is thank you to those who have dedicated their time and finances in helping to preserve the tradition of bowhunting for as long as we did. Be sure to wear orange now when hiking into and out of your stands. "Nuff said"!

Please let me know of anything you would like to report on for the next issue. Your input is more than welcome. I look forward to hearing from you!

That's about it from Dutchess County for now. Stay Healthy and get out there and do some shooting.

Keep "em" Sharp.

Bob Ledrich - Dutchess County Rep

ledrich@optonline.net

914-475-4190

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Greetings New York Bowhunters! Summer is gone and I hope everyone had some good times with their friends and families. And hopefully you all spent some time tuning up your shooting and PT for the Westchester Early Antlerless season from September 13th through the 21st of September. Then, we have a full 3 months, October 1st to December 31st, to bag that "Big Boy."

In high deer-density regions like ours, its a key time to cull the herd a bit and start packing the deep freezer. Last year, I broke a brand new bowhunter in to the game and this year I will add another, a young Westchester lad, to boot.

It's amazing to me how, as a fairly successful bowhunter for over 35 years, I can spit out very useful information and tips rapid fire to a new jack that will save them frustration, time and money and get a deer on the ground quicker. We all know how difficult and grueling this game is.

Tillman, my 88 lb GSP, is coming up on his 2nd birthday. We train on blood tracking along with his Pointing and retrieving skills year-round. Very exciting.

God Bless, be safe and go get em!

Matt "Mad Dog" Sweeney - Westchester County Rep

plumbing3c@gmail.com

516-322-2881 (call anytime)

Howdy New York Bowhunters,

It's been a long time between *FullDraw* issues and by the time you're reading this the bow season in NYS will be underway. There is so much to cover so I'll try to be as brief as possible.

There have been a multitude of changes this year, far too many to get into in a short article. Before heading out to the woods, please check the DEC website to keep you abreast of all the changes. It is your responsibility to know the laws. Regarding tree stand safety; wear your safety harness and use a hoist to pull up your bow. There are no more backtag regulations and no back tags will be issued. To purchase your license, you can get it either at a license issuing agent or on-line. Once you get your license you can simply download it to the "Huntfishny" app on your phone. You will have your tags automatically available to you right there. If you decide to go that route and not carry a paper license in your pocket, remember, if you do harvest an animal, it must be reported IMMEDIATELY right on the app. If you do decide to go with the paper license you must fill it out as normal and call 1-866-GAME-RPT. You have 7 days to do so.

Now, let's get to the "elephant in the room." As of 8/26/2025, the NY crossbow inclusion law was signed, and put into effect immediately by Gov. Hochul. This redefines the term "longbow" in NY law to include crossbows, putting them on equal footing with longbows, recurves and compound bows under Environmental conservation law 11-0103. This also means that they can now be used during the entire bowhunting season instead of just the last 2 weeks of the bow season. This law removes any of the technical restrictions such as minimum bolt length, minimum limb width, maximum draw weight and minimum overall length. If you have any questions, please contact the NYDEC. Just an FYI, a modern crossbow can easily project a bolt 100yds. However, for a quick, clean, ethical kill at long distances, there are way too many variables...wind, weather, game movement, etc. There is so much at play in a projectile's trajectory. Will crossbow hunters keep their shots as close as other bowhunters for maximum accuracy and effectiveness? Will they climb into a stand with a cocked or loaded crossbow? Remember, hunters during the bow season are not required to wear blaze orange so please be wary of this. Crossbow hunters now need a bow license to use their implement of choice. If you have any reports to pass along to our members, please let me know.

Let's all be ethical and safe and remember to get those young ones out into the woods with you. I can guarantee that neither they nor you will ever forget the time you spend together.

John Sarlo - Putnam County Rep.

Archer2312@aol.com

ROCKLAND COUNTY

Hello fellow Rockland Bowhunters. I hope your summer has been as good as mine. I've been out boating most weekends on my boat "Buckfever." My little play on words to get the buckfever out as much as possible in summer so when fall hits I'm steady and true!

I am proud to say my son and I are dialed in and ready for the season. He passed his bowhunters education class at one of the NY state run DEC summer camps this past July. It was a sleep-away camp located in Livingston Manor for the low cost of \$300! If you look at any other sleep-away camps, they cost thousands! Depending on the week you send your child, they can take hunters ed, bow ed, or trapping ed. Camper age is 11-17. The DEC has 4 different camps throughout the state. If a child in your life loves the outdoors, this is the place for them!

National Hunting and Fishing Day event at Congers Lake Memorial Park was on September 27th this year. I was grateful to be there, helping teach the fun and excitement of archery to youths and adults alike and spreading the word about the great things our organization does.

Plenty of deer are to be seen throughout the county again this year. As always Rockland cannot give away enough doe tags. Please do your part as a bowhunter and don't just go for antlers this year. Put a slick head or two down and donate the meat if you can.

If the need does arise that you need help locating a hit deer, Rockland has a local tracker now. "Ruger to the rescue" is located in Nanuet, NY, a leashed tracking dog with handler Andrew Pollack. Phone number (845) 558-9622. Thankfully I haven't needed his services yet but have seen him in action at the Congers Lake event. Andrew is a nice guy who is more than willing and capable to give a hand when and where needed.

As always, reach out to me with any questions or concerns with Rockland or NYB related items and I'll do my best to help out.

"Nock 'em dead"

>>>----->

Curt Carney - Rockland County Rep
Ccarney8799@gmail.com

ORANGE COUNTY

Greetings from Orange County,

As we all prepare ourselves to take to the field this hunting season, here is a little information regarding last year's total deer harvest. Hunters in Orange County harvested 4,752 deer during the 2024-25 season. This figure is from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation harvest report. For context, Orange County's harvest is part of the larger state total of 223,304 deer harvested during the season. Orange County had a 10-20% increase in both adult buck and antlerless deer take from the previous season.

New Yorkers can now use crossbows to hunt for big game during the bow season. The Governor signed the crossbow legislation, Senate Bill S6360A, into law. This bill will allow hunters to use a crossbow during any big game season where bow hunting is allowed. This bill also removes prior crossbow requirements, including minimum bolt length, limb width, overall length and maximum draw weight. All crossbows must have a working safety feature and have a minimum peak draw weight of 100 lbs. A bow hunter education certificate and archery privilege certificate is required for anyone who wishes to hunt with a crossbow. Additional information can be found on the DEC's website.

Good luck to all as our hunting season will be in full swing. It won't be long before the leaves will be falling and hopefully we will be filling our freezers with tasty morsels of venison. Be safe, remember to always wear your safety harness and spray for ticks! Please remember to always support our sponsors as well. Any thoughts or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

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

ULSTER COUNTY

Hello Ulster County Bowhunters. As I put ink to paper here at the end of the summer, folks throughout the NY Southern Zone are all getting ready for the upcoming season, which is right around the corner. As September got underway, Highwoods Sportsmen Club in Saugerties held a 3D shoot which also served as a fundraiser for NYB's Camo to Camo program. In addition, several NYB members were on-hand to offer free lessons to new archers, young and old. The remaining 3D shoots being hosted by Highwoods for 2025 are on October 7th as well as December 7th (which raises money for Toys for Tots). Highwoods also has a BOWHUNTER'S SHOOT, every Saturday, from 9:00 am till 12:00; for more information, please contact me (info below).

And back on the other side of the Hudson River, our friends over at Ti Yogi Bowmen have a 3D Shoot on October 12th. They will also begin their Indoor Leagues starting in mid-September as well as another one starting up after hunting season in the winter.

I wish you all the very best of luck this season!!

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



REGION 4 REPORT

And so it begins. Crossbow full inclusion into the entire archery season is official, and it's all about the money. The crossbow industry has been sending lobbyists to Albany for years to convince the Assembly and Senate members that New York sportsmen want and need the crossbow to be successful archery hunters. You have to remember most legislators in Albany have absolutely no idea what they're voting on when it comes to hunting issues. Many times they vote without even reading the bill. Why do they vote? Because one of their young aids told them what a lobbyist (you know, the guy that donated to their campaign) told them how they should vote. Money talks and we can't forget the two hundred thousand bowhunters that didn't step up and defend their sport. They have no one to blame but themselves. We will see how things change over the next few years and can only remember back to the days when archery was about a stick and a string.

On to good news, our Camo-to-Camo hunt this spring was back at Betts Kelly Lodge in New Brunswick for black bear. In our party, eight out of ten hunters took a bear, which is pretty good. Two guys passed on bears holding out for a larger bear. Our Veterans this year, Army Sergeant Sam Ick and Army Major Chris Moroski, both shot bears. If you're looking for a reliable outfitter, give Keith a call. This was our fifth year with Betts Kelly Lodge, proof enough of his operation and our success.

Our annual fundraising event this year, a 3D Shoot & Rendezvous, was held at Flashing Feathers Bowhunters club in Ithaca. We had a great time and added a few members. It's events like this that keeps our organization going forward in the future. We also were invited to the Suffolk County Archers on Long Island for their summer 3D shoot and we signed up a few more members and a booster. They have a fantastic club and a great bunch of guys. If it wasn't three hours away, I'd like to join.-

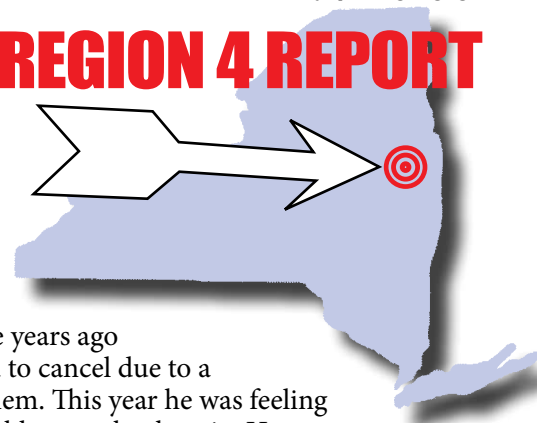
Not long after the Suffolk shoot, I was off to Montana on the second Camo-to-Camo hunt for antelope with Major

Moroski again. This hunt was set up with Rick Gatlin of Mitchell Outfitting in Broadus three years ago but Chris had to cancel due to a medical problem. This year he was feeling fine and was able to make the trip. He overcame 10 degree weather and a swarm of mosquitoes due to unseasonably heavy rain the week before we arrived, but still managed to take a beautiful antelope on the second day. As for myself, I didn't think it was possible to get dehydrated sitting on my ass in a ground blind over a water hole for nine hours a day but I did. It's not that I didn't see game. I just can't get used to shooting out of the windows. Oh yeah, I did manage to shoot two holes in the outfitters new ground blind. If you are looking for a western hunt give Rick a call. He's a great guy and has been donating to NYB for years.

I would like to thank Jerry Brady from the Irish Rovers Golf Club and fellow NYB member Greg Seeley for sponsoring the Vet's on the bear hunt and Joel Riotto for his constant donations to Camo-to-Camo over the years. Although our membership has never topped the tens of thousands, you guys are the cream of the crop.

Have a safe season and don't forget to send in your pictures and stories to our editor and new treasurer, Cindy. We can't thank her enough.

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



REGION 5 REPORT

Well with summer behind us and the Tupper Lake Mountain Challenge now over, we're moving quickly into hunting season. Many people have already started checking their bows and all the rest of their equipment and have set out their trail cams. A few really nice bucks are showing up as well as many does. We would like to wish all our bow hunting friends good luck and remember to be safe.

Our Mt Challenge was a success once again this year with 99 shooters showing up. Being the holiday weekend, kids going off to college and everything else going on, we are happy with the turn out, especially our NYB friends. A huge thank you to all the help and sponsors that made it a great event.

Club Secretary Ray McIntosh will be sending out letters to the clubs in the area soon to prepare our shoot cards for 2026. Get your dates ready if you want them on it

Dave McMahon
Region 5 Representative
davemcmahon97@gmail.com

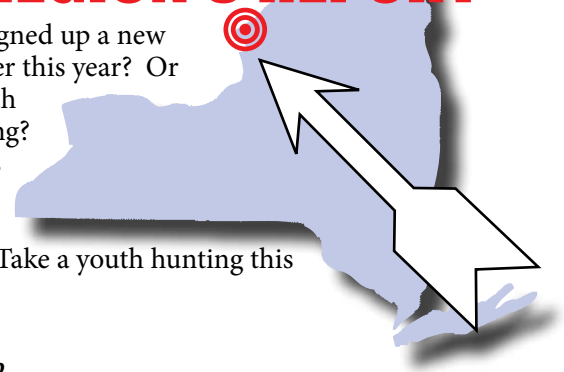


By the time you read this, it will be October and you should be out in the woods bowhunting. You've already been practicing for the big opening day for months, right? Hopefully by late October the weather will cool down enough to really enjoy the outdoors. Best of luck to you all.

Region 6 held two July archery classes at the Great Swamp Conservancy in Canastota. There were eight students, ages 13–17. Most of the students attended last summer's class. We give a big thank you to our instructors, Scott Bailey and Jenn Mann for their assistance. The program is open to Madison County residents only. Get your young archer signed up for next year for this free 'Summer Teen Program' event. All students will receive a free one year subscription to Spikes. Congratulations to all.

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.

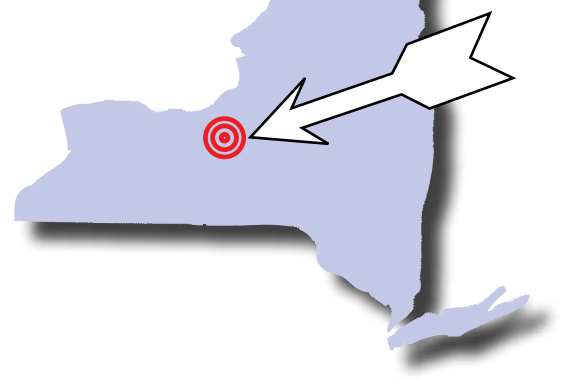
Bill Snyder
Region #6 Rep.
bill4nyb@gmail.com



REPRESENTATIVES NEEDED

Please contact the Main Office at
NYBOffice@NewYorkBowhunters.com

REGION 7 REPORT



Did you know?

On the back of your *FullDraw* magazine, below your name and mailing address, is your membership expiration date. You can use this as proof of your NYB membership. Renewing your membership before it expires saves NYB the cost of mailing you reminder letters.

REGION 8 REPORT

Well, the time we wait for each year will be here when you read this. Cool mornings watching the woods wake up is the best time of year and it is short lived. I have heard many questions around when to hunt. I've been asked; Should I hunt before a cold front or after, full moon or no moon, rising barometer or falling? My answer is hunt every minute you can be in the woods!

The 3D archery shoots I attended this year were well attended. It was nice to see new people and first timers along with the familiar faces. I even saw some new people toting longbows and recurves, proving the tradition is still alive. Some of the courses even have tree stand shots. There is no better way to prepare for hunting than shooting elevated at lifelike targets.

If you follow the hunting related news, you most likely heard about the two young bowhunters who lost their lives last week in Colorado. It's a wake-up call all of us should heed. We have some large wild areas like the Adirondacks and the Catskills along with many smaller but remote areas. Situations can change quickly even if you are in the back 40 for an afternoon hunt. Be prepared for the worst.

Does someone know where you are and when you expect to be back? Do you have a compass in addition to electronics to guide you? Do you have a way to communicate if something goes wrong? If you had to spend the night in the woods, can you start a fire, keep dry and warm? The loss of these two bowhunters made me reflect on two different situations I had in Colorado that could have ended much differently and I vow not to get myself into those situations without being prepared again.

Stay tuned for a special NYB event in Regions 8 & 9 this spring. Details to follow.

Bob Brown
Region 8 Representative
Waptichasr@aol.com



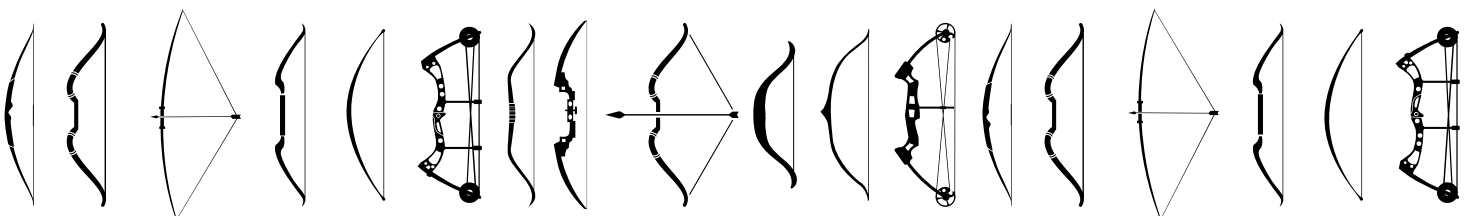
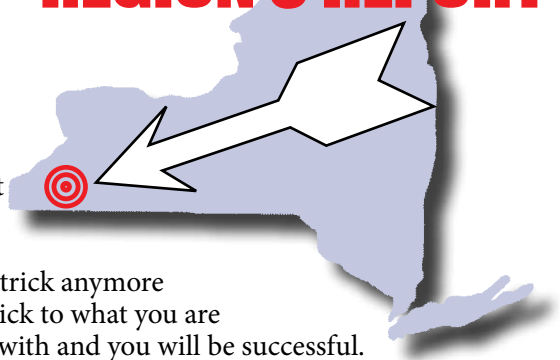
REGION 9 REPORT

Hello again everyone. I hope everybody is doing great and has had a fantastic summer and was able to get the bow out, practice and enjoy some of the beautiful weather. By the time you are reading, it is the start of our bow season. I know in some areas the early antlerless season has come and gone and I hope that if you participated, you were successful. It's that time of year we all know and love, where the woods are changing, the mornings are crisp, and that fall smell is in the air. It's just a matter of time before we are going to be seeing the bucks going into the rut and the woods become alive again. Take this time to check over all your equipment if you haven't already done so. This is our favorite time of the year. Remember, above everything else, the main goal is to get safely home at the end of the day.

In the Region 9 area not much has changed with the archery season dates being October 1st through November 14th. Thankfully, for my area, we definitely get the rut advantage before the regular gun season opens. However, if you have not heard by now, crossbows are now permitted for the entirety of the archery big game season statewide. I can go into my feelings and ideas about the subject, however, in this article, I will keep that reserved. The facts are if you have a bowhunting license you can now carry a crossbow during the whole season. That doesn't mean

go out and get yourself a new crossbow right now, nor does that mean that your recurve won't do the trick anymore either. Just stick to what you are comfortable with and you will be successful. No matter what you choose to use, the name of the game is to do it in the most ethical and efficient way possible. That being said, I hope that everyone has a very successful and bountiful season with opportunities to let an arrow fly. And, as always, if anyone has any input, wants to send pics, or just plain wants to chat about the season I will always get back to you if you call or text. Thank you so much everyone for reading. Good luck, be safe, take a youth out hunting, and have fun!

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



TUPPER LAKE NORTHERN CHALLENGE ICE FISHING DERBY

FEBRUARY 7TH, 2026



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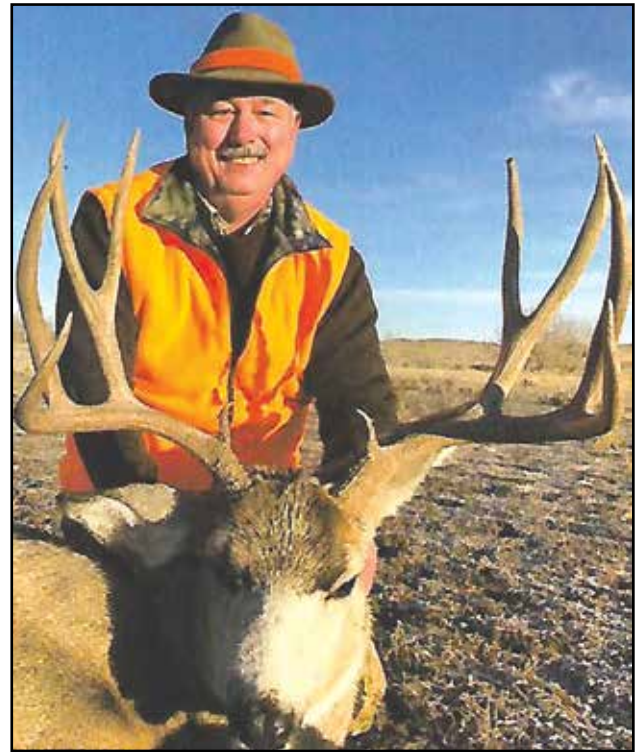
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Ty Moore
Donated by
His NYB Friends*

*In Memory of
Jim McSwigin
Donated by
his NYB family*

*In Memory of
Harry Lang
Donated by
Family*

*In Memory of
Ed Fetherbay
Donated by the
Flashing Feathers
Bowhunters*

*In Memory of
the Terry McSwigin
Family
Donated by Big Brother
Jim*

*In Memory of
Larry Hilderbrant
From your loving family
and NYB friends*

*In Memory of
Philip Guarnuccio
Donated by
David Klein*

*In Memory of
Karl Lockwood
1950 – 2014*

*In Memory of
Charles Giandana
From your
NYB family*

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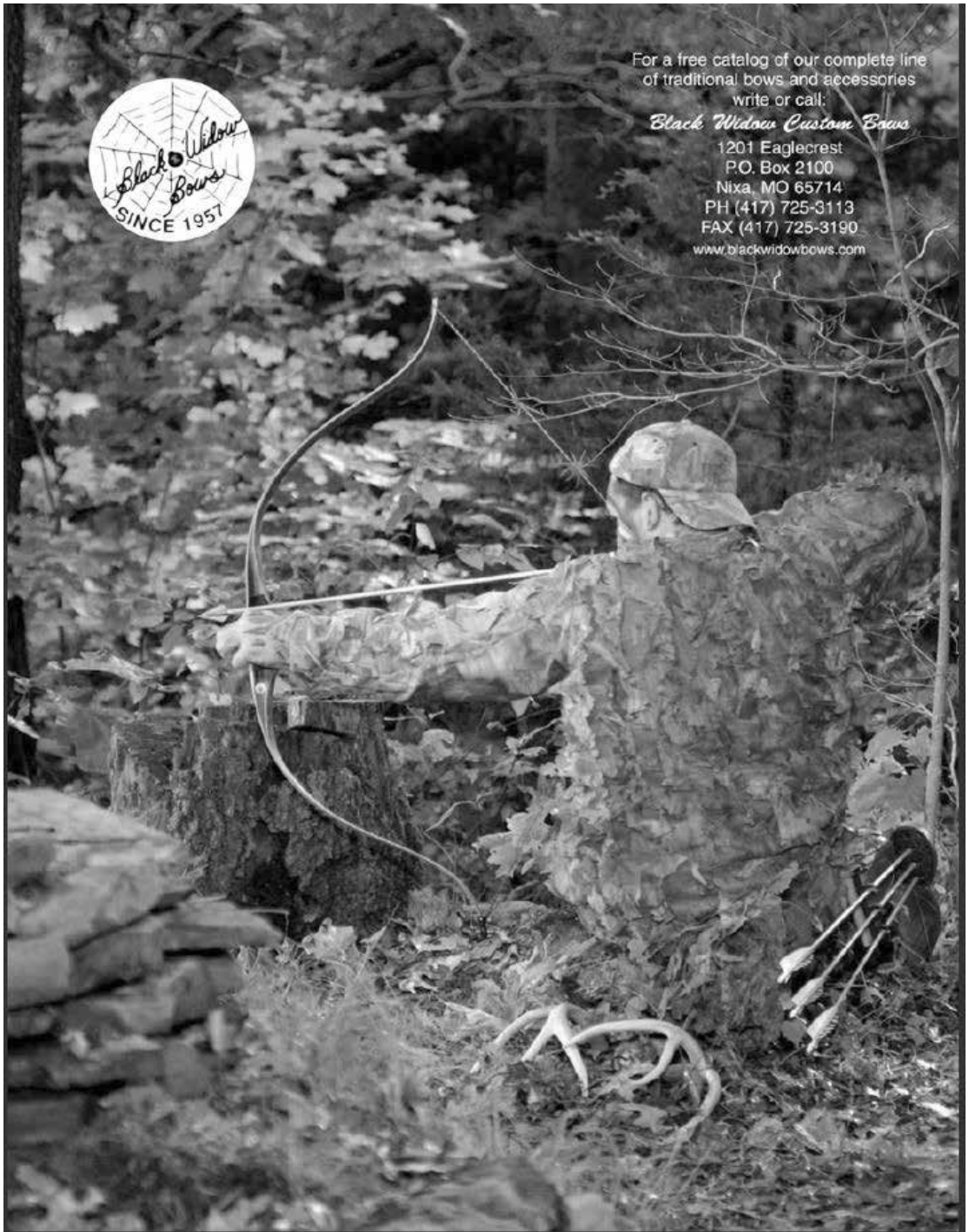
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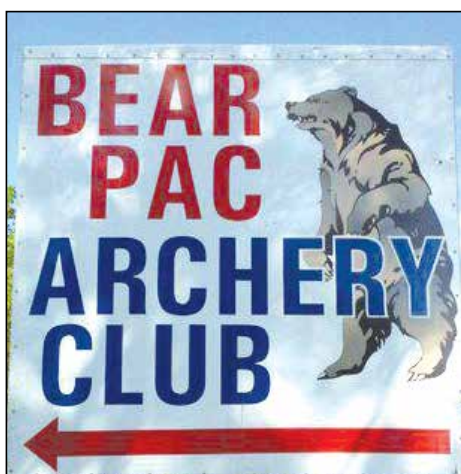
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- ☐ YEARLY MEMBERSHIP - \$25.00
- ☐ 2 YEAR MEMBERSHIP - \$40.00
- ☐ 3 YEAR MEMBERSHIP - \$55.00
- ☐ BOOSTER MEMBERSHIP - \$30.00
- ☐ LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$500.00
- ☐ BENEFACTOR MEMBERSHIP - \$250.00 (MUST BE A LIFE MEMBER)
- ☐ YOUTH MEMBERSHIP - \$10.00 (BIRTH DATE REQUIRED)
- ☐ YOUTH LIFE MEMBERSHIP - \$300.00 (CONVERTS TO ADULT AT 18)

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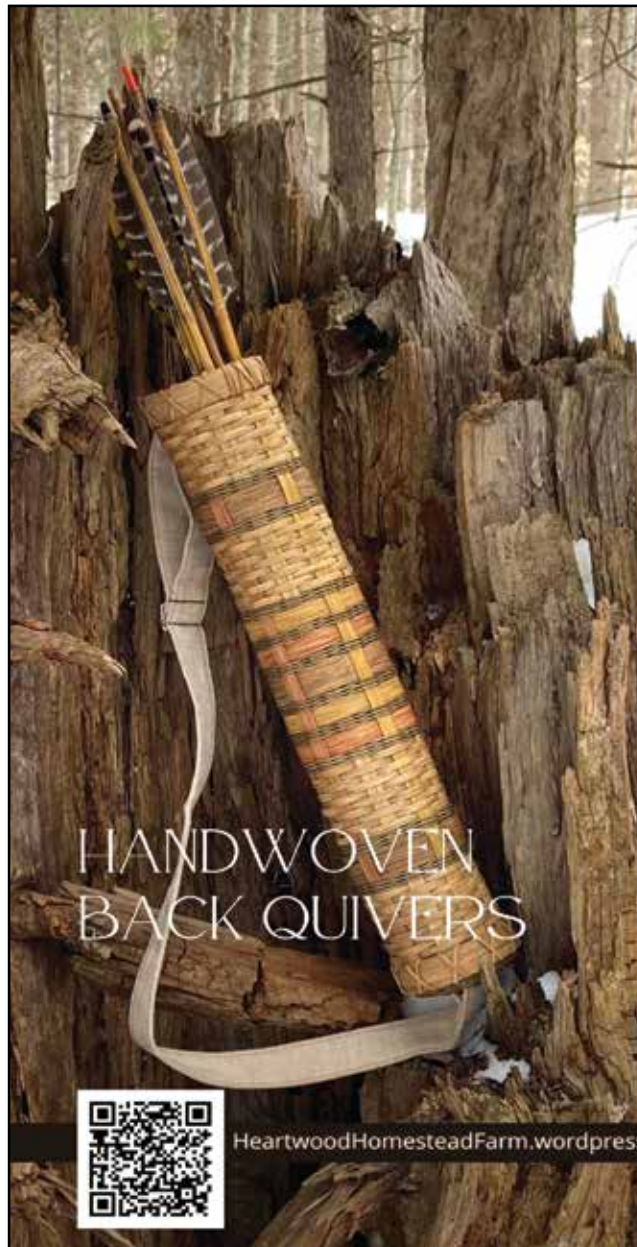
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Pronghorn harvested by
Thomas Carney
at hunt with Mitchell Outfitter
he won at the 2024
Banquet Auction



**Camo to
Camo Hunt**
at Bett's Kelly Lodge



**Steff
Stefanovich**
with his Montana Elk
shot at 27 yards



**Rick
Colasacco**
after 6 seasons
finally got him



**Brian Chapman (rear),
Rich Kirschner, his
granddaughter, Aubrey
Lake and Ed Gorch**
at Ti Yogi Bowmen



**Tom
Phillips'**
Pronghorn
Antelope
harvested in
Douglas, WY

