

# FULLDRAW

THE OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF NEW YORK BOWHUNTERS, INC.

New York State's Largest Bowhunting  
Organization Since 1991

*Fall/Winter*  
2026

Glen DeFrancesco with his  
Mitchell Outfitting Antelope

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[www.newyorkbowhunters.org](http://www.newyorkbowhunters.org)



## 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

As we head into another hunting season, I want to take a moment to reflect on some of the great things happening within New York Bowhunters and to thank the many people who continue to make our organization strong.

First, I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Flashing Feathers Bowhunters Club in Region 7 for once again hosting our Annual 3D Bowhunters Rendezvous. The event was a great success, and that success was due in large part to the hospitality, preparation, and hard work of everyone at Flashing Feathers. It was a great opportunity for bowhunters from around the state to come together, shoot some 3D, share stories, and enjoy the camaraderie that makes our organization special.

I also want to thank the NYB Board of Directors and staff for all of their hard work in planning, organizing, and supporting this event. These events don't happen without a tremendous amount of time and effort behind the scenes, and your dedication is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to thank Suffolk Archers in Region 1 for inviting New York Bowhunters to participate in their annual Bowhunters Rendezvous. We appreciate the invitation and the opportunity to support our fellow archers and bowhunters across the state.

As always, please keep an eye out for our upcoming events. Check Full Draw, our social media pages, and the New York Bowhunters website regularly for dates, locations, and additional information. We want to see as many of our members as possible at these events.



## Earn-a-2nd-Buck Proposal

I continue to receive many calls and emails from members concerning the New York State DEC's proposed **Earn-a-2nd-Buck system**. One of the biggest concerns I am hearing from hunters is how the DEC will enforce the requirement that an antlerless deer must be harvested and reported in order to earn a second antlered deer tag.

Under the DEC proposal, a hunter would receive one Antlered Deer Tag and could earn a second Antlered Deer Tag after harvesting and reporting an antlerless deer. DEC has stated that hunters who falsely report an antlerless harvest could face enforcement action, and that compliance would be monitored using harvest data and information from DEC's Division of Law Enforcement.

This is an important issue for New York's hunting community, and **we want to hear from you.**

### What are your thoughts on the proposed Earn-a-2nd-Buck system?

Do you support the proposal? Are you concerned about how the antlerless harvest requirement will be verified and enforced? What changes, if any, would you like to see?

Please continue to share your thoughts with your county representatives and the NYB Board. Member input is important, and we need to make sure the voice of New York's bowhunters is heard.

## 2026 Bowhunting Season Opening Dates

As we get ready for the 2026 season, here are the primary deer bowhunting opening dates to keep in mind:

- **Northern Zone:** Early bowhunting opens **September 27, 2026**.
- **Southern Zone:** Early bowhunting opens **October 1, 2026**.
- **Westchester County (WMU 3S):** Bowhunting-only deer season opens **October 1, 2026**.
- **Suffolk County (WMU 1C):** Bowhunting-only deer season opens **October 1, 2026**.

The DEC regulations should always be consulted for the specific Wildlife Management Unit where you hunt, as season dates and regulations can vary.

**Please make sure you know the regulations for the area you hunt before heading into the woods.**

### Good Luck in 2026

Finally, I want to wish everyone a **safe, successful, and enjoyable 2026 hunting season**.

Whether you're after your first deer with a bow or you've been chasing whitetails for decades, I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy time in the woods, make some memories, and share the experience with family and friends.

And when that opportunity finally comes together, **please send us your harvest photos!** We enjoy sharing our members' successes in *Full Draw*, on our social media, and through other NYB communications.

We do ask that you keep the photos **tasteful and appropriate for publication**. Remember that *Full Draw* and our social media are viewed by hunters and families of all ages. A good field photo that shows the hunter, the deer, and the experience of the hunt is what we're looking for.

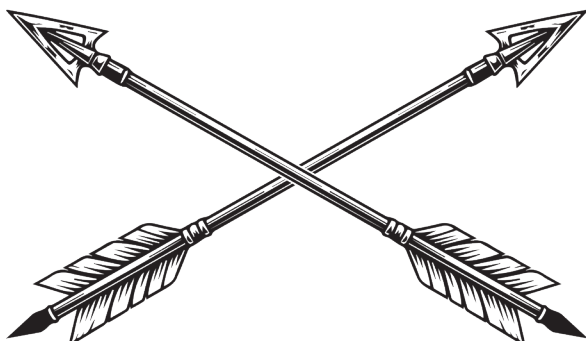
Once again, thank you to all of our county representatives, volunteers, Board members, staff, and members who continue to give their time and energy to New York Bowhunters. **Your voluntary service is what keeps this organization moving forward.**

Good luck, hunt safely, respect the resource, and enjoy the 2026 season.

**See you in the woods!**

*Greg Masaitis*

President  
New York Bowhunters  
516-241-4109



## Vice President's Report

### What Does It Mean to Be a Bowhunter?

As I begin my role as Vice President of New York Bowhunters, Inc., I've found myself thinking about a simple question: **What does it really mean to be a bowhunter?** To me, bowhunting has never been just about filling a tag or putting antlers on the wall. It's about everything that happens before the shot—the hours spent practicing, scouting, learning the land, understanding the animals we pursue, and developing the patience to get within bow range. Anyone who has spent enough time in the woods with a bow knows there are plenty of days when you come home empty-handed (or see nothing but birds and squirrels), but that doesn't necessarily mean the hunt was unsuccessful.

Being a bowhunter also carries a responsibility. When we draw our bow on an animal, we owe it to that animal to have prepared ourselves to make the most ethical shot possible—and sometimes the best decision we can make is **not to take the shot at all**. But our responsibility extends beyond the woods. Every interaction with a landowner, another hunter, or someone who may not understand hunting shapes the way bowhunters are viewed and this is extremely important. As hunting opportunities and land access continue to face challenges here in New York, how we conduct ourselves matters. Respecting the land, supporting conservation, helping fellow hunters, and representing our sport in a positive way are all part of being a bowhunter.

As Vice President, one of the things I hope we can continue to accomplish through New York Bowhunters is protecting this tradition while passing it on to the next generation. We need to encourage new hunters, introduce young people to archery, share the knowledge we've gained over the years, and make sure the opportunities we enjoy today are still available decades from now. **Success in bowhunting shouldn't only be measured by what we take from the woods, but by what we give back to it and what we leave behind for those who follow us.** That's what being a bowhunter means to me, and I'm proud to have the opportunity to represent New York's bowhunting community.

*Mike Farrugia*

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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 includes 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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# GETTING READY FOR OPENING DAY

By John Sarlo

The best bowhunters know that opening morning isn't really the beginning of deer season. It is the beginning of the **harvest phase of a preparation process that started weeks or months earlier.**

Now is the time to check your equipment, scout your property and pay close attention to the changing patterns of the deer you're hunting.

## Check Your Bow

Before opening day, shoot your bow regularly and make sure:

- Your bow is properly tuned.
- Your broadheads are flying accurately.
- Your arrows are in good condition.
- Your nocking points and strings are sound.
- Your sights are properly aligned.
- Your release is functioning correctly.
- Your practice distances include the ranges at which you realistically expect to shoot a deer.
- If you are having problems bring your bow to a seasoned professional bow shop.

Don't wait until September 30 to discover that your broadheads don't group with your field points.

## Check Your Stand and Safety Equipment

This is also the time to inspect every tree stand, climbing system and safety harness.

Look carefully at straps, cables, platforms, ladders and attachment points. If something looks questionable, replace it.

A successful deer season isn't worth taking a chance with your safety.

## Scout—But Don't Overdo It

One of the biggest mistakes a bowhunter can make before opening day is turning the woods into a co-nstruction project.

You want to learn where the deer are moving without unnecessarily disturbing them.

## Look for:

- |                 |                                      |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Fresh tracks  | • Funnels                            |
| • Rubs          | • Field edges                        |
| • Scrapes       | • Creek crossings                    |
| • Bedding areas | • Travel corridors                   |
| • Feeding areas | • Trails connecting bedding and food |

Most importantly, pay attention to **how the deer are using the property now.**

The buck you watched in July may not behave the same way in October.

When you finally climb into your stand on October 1, remember that you don't have to force the hunt.

The woods will tell you what's happening.

Listen for movement.

Watch the wind.

Pay attention to squirrels, birds and other wildlife. They often reveal movement before you see the deer.

And when that mature buck finally appears, don't let excitement take over.

Slow down.

Breathe.

Pick your spot.

Know your target, know what lies beyond it, and make sure you have enough light to make a clean, ethical shot.

Make the shot you've practiced all summer.

## A New Season. A New Strategy.

The 2026–27 season gives New York bowhunters something new to think about.

The state isn't simply giving hunters two buck opportunities anymore. It is encouraging hunters to participate in managing the deer herd by making an antlerless harvest the pathway to a second buck.

For the serious bowhunter, that means the doe may be just as important to your season as the buck.

Deer Management Permits—commonly called **DMPs**—remain an important tool for bowhunters seeking antlerless deer in New York.

DMPs may be used only for antlerless deer and only in the Wildlife Management Unit for which they were issued. They can be used during any deer hunting season.

The DMP application period opens in August, and applications for WMUs with limited DMPs must be submitted by **October 1.**

That means a hunter who hasn't yet taken care of his or her DMP application should not put it off.

So as October 1 approaches, get your equipment ready, check your tags, know your WMU, finish your DMP application if necessary, and spend some time studying the deer on your property.

Then, on opening morning, climb into that stand with a bow in your hand and a plan in your head.

**The woods are waiting.**

# LEGISLATIVE REPORT

BY DAVID KOSOWSKI

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) made a change to clarify the definition of how mechanical broadheads with moving blades meet the legal requirement of being non-barbed when the arrow is pulled from the flesh. Broadheads that appear to be barbed but which freely swing forward to a non-barbed position when withdrawn are not considered barbed.

In an effort to increase harvest of antlerless deer the DEC has enacted a number of regulation changes for the 2026 season. The DEC has adopted several changes to increase opportunity for hunters to utilize Deer Management Permits (DMPs).

Prior to 2026, hunters could only receive up to two DMPs through the lottery system except for the archery-only Wildlife Management Units (WMUs) 1C, 3S, 4J and 8C that had unlimited DMPs available to archers. In units that still had DMPs available after November 1st, hunters could receive two additional permits.

(1) For a \$10 fee hunters can apply for 4 DMPs, two in WMUs with a limited number of permits "via the lottery system" and two in units with no quota where you will automatically receive your two permits. The following 23 WMUs have an unlimited number of permits available; 1C, 3M, 3P, 3R, 3S, 4J, 6P, 7F, 7H, 7J, 7R, 8A, 8C, 8F, 8G, 8H, 8J, 8N, 8R, 8S, 9A, 9F, and 9G. For every permit, including bonus permits, reported in these WMUs hunters will automatically receive another bonus permit. In essence you have an unlimited number of permits available to you in these specified WMUs.

(2) Prior to 2026 you could only transfer or receive 2 permits. Now a hunter is allowed to transfer or receive an unlimited number of DMPs.

(3) Prior to 2026 the DEC enacted a 9 day antlerless only deer season in mid September where any legal firearm, muzzleloader, cross-bow or bow could be used in 9 WMUs. In addition, you could hunt with a bow in the four archery-only WMUs in September. The DEC has now included all of these 23 WMUs with unlimited number of DMPs in this antlerless only mid September season.

(4) Other than the original \$10 fee, there is no additional fee for bonus permits.

In an effort to encourage hunters to harvest more antlerless deer, the DEC has enacted a statewide, very controversial, Earn-a-Buck (EA2B) system, including in WMUs where major increases in antlerless harvest aren't necessary. This is not the first time the DEC has attempted to institute an unpopular regulation. During the 2015 season bowhunters could only harvest antlerless deer (no bucks)

during the first 15 days of the early season and during 9 days of the late bow and muzzleloading seasons. This very unsuccessful and highly unpopular regulation was rescinded the following 2016 season. To facilitate this EA2B regulation the current regular (firearms) season tag is being reclassified as an antlered deer tag that every hunter will receive with the purchase of their hunting license. This buck tag can be used during any season. The former bow/muzzleloader either sex tag has been completely eliminated. Hunters will now receive a bow/muzz antlerless tag for each privilege. Both tags can be used in either season with the appropriate implement. To earn a 2nd buck tag a hunter has to report an antlerless deer using a DMP, bow/muzz or Deer Management Assistance Permit (DMAP) tag. However, the DEC is now denying renewals of DMAP permits in the 23 WMUs that have unlimited number of DMPs available. DMAP permits that are still valid will continue to receive their tags until renewal when they also will be denied. Permits in WMUs that have a limited DMP quota will continue to be issued when renewed. This 2nd tag can also be used in any season at no extra cost. Thus, if you report taking a deer during the antlerless-only September season, you would have two buck tags for the early archery season or for any of the following seasons. Hunters who live in areas where DMPs are limited or unavailable or antlerless deer are few and far between, the DEC encourages them to try and secure a hunting location elsewhere in the state where deer and tags are more plentiful in order to secure their 2nd buck tag. Of course one could falsely report they harvested a deer with a bow/muzzleloading antlerless tag. The DEC has made an attempt to limit such fraudulent reporting. DEC will require report attestations (affirm report is true), conduct law enforcement field checks and require proof of their antlerless harvest within seven days if requested by the DEC. Proof may include a photograph, the deer head, or contact information where deer was processed. Once a hunter submits an antlerless harvest report, the bonus antlerless DMP tag (if applicable) as well as the 2nd buck tag will automatically be added to their Decals profile and emailed to them if there is a valid email address associated with the profile. Paper tags can be printed from the Decals profile, from your email or at a regional DEC office with an appointment. Electronic E-tag users will automatically see the tags listed in their HuntFish-NY mobile app. Antlered deer tags may be used as an either-sex tag during the weekend youth hunt, in the four archery only WMUs, and during all late bow and muzzleloading seasons.

The DEC may consider establishing a January antlerless season in the future if additional harvest is necessary to achieve management goals. Such a season is certain to be unsuccessful as well as targeting bucks that have shed antlers.



# 2026 Rendezvous and Annual Meeting Report

The NYB Rendezvous at Flashing Feathers Bowhunting club was a great event once again! Thankfully, the weather held out and we enjoyed a rain-free 3D Shoot. Flashing Feathers does an excellent job placing 30 challenging shots winding through the woods. By the time we got to the 30<sup>th</sup> target, the smell of BBQ chicken had our stomachs growling louder than the sound of our arrows hitting the target!



*Flashing Feathers members barbequing chicken*



*Chicken Bar-B-Q*

After a delicious BBQ Chicken lunch, we held our 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Member Meeting. President Greg Masaitis recognized the NYB Founders Members who were present (Tom Weaver and Dale Walburger), who, with 15 other dedicated bowhunters, founded this great organization in 1991.



*President Greg Masaitis presiding over the Annual Meeting*

Greg also honored the Past Presidents in attendance, Tom Weaver, Rich Kirschner and Andrew Cotraccia.

We were introduced to our new Region 7 Representative, Darren Moore. A “big thank you” for stepping up to represent NYB in your area.



*Greg (right) recognizing founding members Tom Weaver and Dale Walburger*



*Past Presidents (L to R) Tom Weaver, Andrew Cotraccia, Rich Kirschner with current President Greg Masaitis*

Awards to top shooters were presented. Thomas Pattoe won the Hunter Class, John Thomas won the Open Class, Bob Brown snuck a win over Rich Kirschner for the Traditional Class and Cayden Bowman scored the highest in the Youth Class.



*Mike Savage taking aim*

An award was also presented to the Outfitter of the Year, Mitchell Outfitting, out of Montana. They host our Veteran hunts.

NYB rarely presents the Potlash Award. The individual who is nominated for this award is someone who has made a major contribution of materials or a donation of cash to NYB or an NYB program. Andrew Cotraccia, on behalf of NYB, presented this award to Michael Pryor for his generous donation to NYB in 2026.

*(Continued on next page)*



# Congratulations



Congratulations to Megan Reilly for being the 2026 recipient of the Doug Kerr Memorial Scholarship award. Megan has a great love for animals and will be pursuing her goal of becoming a Veterinary Technician. The New York Bowhunters, Inc. Doug Kerr Memorial Scholarship Fund was established to give financial aid to NYB family members enrolled in college. NYB offers up to \$500 to qualified candidates.

See our website

**([www.NewYorkBowhunters.com](http://www.NewYorkBowhunters.com))**

for more information and Scholarship application.

(Continued from page 7)



Dave Reed, President of Hawkeye Bowman, receiving the reward from BOD Bob Brown

Lastly, we awarded Hawk-eye Bowman in appreciation for them hosting a shoot in May. Bob Brown received this award on their behalf and presented it to Dave Reed, President of Hawkeye Bowman. Dave Reed, President of Hawkeye Bowman, receiving the reward from BOD Bob Brown.

Before the Can Raffle and Silent Auction winners were announced, Greg drew the winning raffle ticket for the Rendezvous Raffle. Harry Walker, our Region 3 Sullivan County rep, won. He chose the custom Black Widow bow. Congratulations, Harry!



Can Raffles and Silent Auction Items

If you missed the event this year, you won't want to miss it next year. A great time was had by all.

## 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 reminders





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# In Memoriam

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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*

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*In Memory of  
Ed Fetherbay*

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Flashing Feathers  
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*In Memory of  
the Terry  
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Jim

*In Memory of  
Larry Hilderbrant*

From your loving family  
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*In Memory of  
Karl Lockwood*

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*In Memory of  
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*In Memory of  
Charles Giandana*

From your  
NYB family

*In Memory of  
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**DO YOU HAVE A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER  
WHO HAS PASSED ON.**

The New York Bowhunters' "In Memoriam" program offers a unique and meaningful way to honor and remember a friend or family member with a \$400 gift to NYB.



# New York Bowhunter's BOOSTERS

*Tell 'em NYB Inc. sent you!*

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



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845-418-0465  
[tiyogibowmennny@gmail.com](mailto:tiyogibowmennny@gmail.com)  
[www.tiyogi.com](http://www.tiyogi.com)

### REGION 4:

**Green Island Rod & Gun Club**  
PO Box 25  
Melrose, NY 12121  
[girodandgunclub@wildblue.net](mailto:girodandgunclub@wildblue.net)

**Norton Hill Wildlife Club**  
PO Box 652  
Greenville, NY 12083

**Tri Village Bowhunters Club**  
PO Box 22  
Nassau, NY 12123  
518-428-4864  
[jrmaczek@gmail.com](mailto:jrmaczek@gmail.com)

**Bear Pac Archery**  
18893 Game Farm Rd.  
Dexter, NY 13634  
315-771-1182

### Ride'er Dirty

37206 Route 3  
Carthage, NY 13619  
520-234-0242  
[www.rideer-dirty.com](http://www.rideer-dirty.com)

### REGION 7:

#### Legends of Fall Outfitter

7205 US Route 11  
Tully, NY 13159  
Jeff Bordwell  
315-696-6766  
[jeff@legendsoffall.com](mailto:jeff@legendsoffall.com)

#### Flashing Feathers Bowhunters

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

### REGION 8:

#### Bill Fox & Son Construction & Remodeling

9346 South Street Road  
LeRoy, NY 14482  
585-356-4992  
[bfsonllc@gmail.com](mailto:bfsonllc@gmail.com)

#### Ronald Scardetta, DDS

632 Ridge Road  
Webster, NY 14580  
585-671-4420

### OUT OF STATE:

#### Cos Cob Archers

205 Bible Street  
Cos Cob, Ct. 06807  
203-625-9421  
[jeffcoscoarchers@gmail.com](mailto:jeffcoscoarchers@gmail.com)

#### John Rozas

216 Sky Hawk Trail  
East Stroudsburg, PA 18302  
917-428-7208  
[john.rozas85@gmail.com](mailto:john.rozas85@gmail.com)

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Or via e-mail:  
[NYBFULLDRAW@GMAIL.COM](mailto:NYBFULLDRAW@GMAIL.COM)



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# FULL DRAW

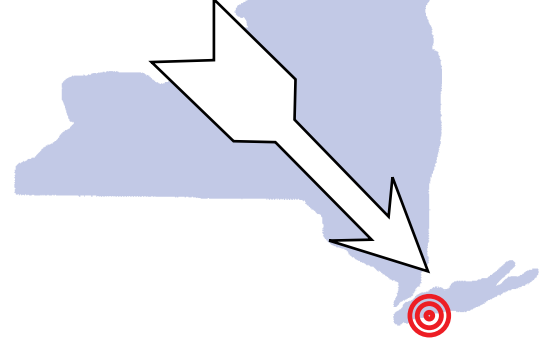
## REGION REPORTS

Greetings fellow members,  
With fall approaching I am sure everyone is getting ready for the upcoming archery season! Hopefully everyone has been shooting, watching any trail cameras and has done their scouting by now.

With some news to report for region 1, I will begin with mentioning a Sportsman's dinner. This dinner is being held by American Outdoor News to benefit SCI (Safari Club International) at The Crest Hollow Country Club here in Woodbury on 9/17. There will be open bar (you know its going to be a good

time), raffles, awards, hunting and fishing gear and more. Secondly, I want to mention Julia Romanchuk for consistently supporting archery and our up-and-coming hunters. On August 22ns they held a summer tournament for The Town of Shelter Island Youth Archery Program with students ranging from 9 to 18 years old. Great job Julia! If you haven't started shooting to prepare for this coming season, start slinging arrows! I wish everyone a safe and successful season, good luck fellow members.

## REGION 1 REPORT



Best regards,  
**Mike Farrugia**  
*Region 1 rep*  
[Mfarrugia47@gmail.com](mailto:Mfarrugia47@gmail.com)

## REGION 2 REPORT



Hello my fellow NYB Brethren.

With the Archery Season upon us, I am preaching yet again about ticks and safety. Ticks, as you've heard me say a thousand times before, are the only thing that I fear afield. They can carry 16 different bacteria that can lead to a whole host of damage to you and to your immune system. Not to mention, those can lead to other autoimmune diseases as well. Please prepare your clothing, and not just hunting clothing. Any clothing that you will wear while prepping your stand, prepping your yard, cutting wood, etc... They can be on your deer, or a mouse, and all others in between. They have even been found on snakes, between their scales. Check yourself every time you come in from outside. It is a National problem now, and unfortunately, NYS has seen an real upTICK on ticks.

Next up is personal safety. Let someone know where you will be hunting and set up a check-in time with a phone call or text. Check your climbers, hang ons, ladder stands, ladders, climbing sticks, ropes, carabineers, anchor points, and your FULL BODY safety harnesses. Be mindful of your broadheads, they should be razor sharp, and your knives, they too, should be razor sharp. Most bowhunting injuries are self inflicted.

Wear rubber gloves when field dressing. After field dressing, which should be ASAP, skin the animal and prop open its ribcage to facilitate cooling down of the carcass.

Lastly, be sure of your target and beyond. There's only one thing in the woods that looks like a deer, and that's a deer. Same goes for a turkey, a bear, or a squirrel, and a human being. Hopefully, your due diligence

will pay off, and you will put up some meat in the freezer.

Mentor a new hunter. Try to convince a non-hunter that meat, fish, and fowl aren't born in a Styrofoam tray wrapped in Saran Wrap.

Be safe.  
May God Bless America and all who defend her both home and abroad.

**Al Bottari**  
}}}}-----

It is September 1<sup>st</sup> as I write this. The mornings are getting cooler, I am seeing less spotted fawns and many deer are shedding their reddish summer coats. So here we go, another Southern Zone bow season is upon us! I hope everyone out there is prepared. See the informative article in this issue written by Putnam County Representative, John Sarlo.

As usual, the summer flew by. There were plenty of opportunities for fun and challenging 3D shooting. Besides the pretty much weekly Sunday 3D shoots throughout the clubs in the lower Hudson Valley (and Catskill) region, several significant events took place. As it does every last weekend in July, the Eastern Traditional Archery Rendezvous was held at the Sawmill Ski Center in Morris, PA. The registration table told me they had given out 923 campsite passes!! Area motels were once again booked. This event has seven challenging 3D courses over 4 days, plus loads of vendors and equipment deals. There were plenty of NYB (and PBS) members in attendance. I had the pleasure of shooting with my good friend, and this year's inductee into the Traditional Bowhunters Hall of Fame, Joel Riotto and his wonderful wife, Noreen. I also spent a little time with NYB founding members, Tom Weaver and Dale Walburger. Then, in early August, the NYB annual meeting and 3D rendezvous was hosted by Flashing Feathers Bowmen up in Region 7. They bent over backwoods to accommodate NYB (and feed us an awesome lunch). Yes, I know, I hear you; it's a long trip from here, but for nine years it was held in Sunny Hill in Greenville, basically in Region 3's backyard. I appreciate all of you who supported NYB when we were there, but most of you didn't attend our event when it was local!! It was only fair to move it further into Central NY, for a while at least. If anyone has an idea to host an NYB event around here,

give me a call. All you need is a club willing to participate.

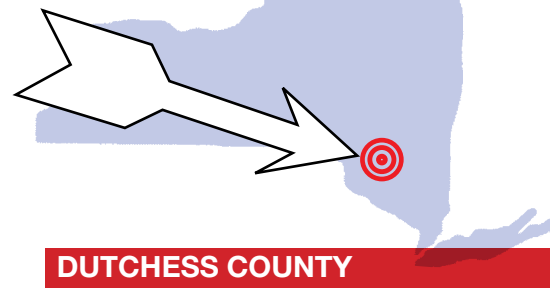
And finally, on the last weekend of August, I went up to Tupper Lake for their always fun, two day, "Mountain Challenge". The Tupper Lake Archers have been huge supporters of NYB for so many years, holding fund raisers, which has gone a long way in keeping NYB afloat. Some of us "downstaters" have made many friends with our Adirondack brothers and sisters, and I gladly make the 4 hour trip to shoot, eat, support TLA, and even get in some great mountain fishing, canoeing, paddleboarding, etc. Congrats to expert archer, Mike Savage who (once again) beat me in the Traditional Men's Class and took first place. It is my honor having him outshoot me, as Mike was one of a few guys who encouraged me to take up recurve archery a few years ago. Consider this event next year. All equipment & shooting styles are welcome, and what a great opportunity to combine an awesome mountain 3D shoot with an Adirondack vacation.

As you spend the many hours on stand this season, consider looking at your bows and arrows as something more than hunting implements. There is so much more you can do than hunt! You can enjoy year-round (or at least spring/summer) events joining similar minded people shooting challenging 3D target courses. Supporting clubs that support NYB is a great way to give back to our sport.

Please let me know of any milestones (first deer or first buck or a kids' first hunt, etc.) which may occur over the upcoming couple of months of bowhunting.

**Richard Kirschner**  
**Region 3 Rep / Board of Director /**  
**Past President**  
[bowrichny@aol.com](mailto:bowrichny@aol.com)  
**914 330 1419**

## REGION 3 REPORT



### DUTCHESS COUNTY

Greetings All,

Normally, I would be writing about the upcoming season and how much enjoyment it is to prepare for the hunt. Well, this year, my writing will be quite different. As most of you know, ETAR and the Tupper Lake Mountain Shoot are my favorite events of the summer. This year I didn't attend either. The reason was a tick bite I was unaware of.

During the middle of July, I was feeling very fatigued for much of the day. This was unusual but I just chalked it up to my aging body. The fatigue continued to get worse, and I began to run a fever. This progressed into sweat during the night that soaked through my clothing and bedding. The fever (102-103) did not let up so after a few nights, my wife informed me that either I went to the emergency room with her driving or she would call an ambulance. She took me to the hospital. Upon arrival, I was promptly given several blood tests. I was blessed to have an infectious disease doctor there and she recognized my symptoms as a tick-borne disease. The tests revealed I was anemic, dehydrated, septic and had been infected with babesiosis and Lyme disease. My red blood cells had been severely depleted by babesiosis. Within two hours after arrival, I was in critical care. I was immediately placed on IV antibiotics where I stayed for the next six days. During that time, I was awfully close to meeting my higher power. It has taken me a month to recover approximately seventy percent. All this from a tick bite that left no indication I was even bitten.





## ATTENTION ALL SPIKES!

# WIN FREE NYB MERCHANDISE AND OTHER COOL STUFF!

Send in your hunting memories, drawings, recipes, stories and photos for consideration for the next Spikes newsletter.

Photos should be in "Good Taste" with little or no blood showing, tongues tucked inside mouths, no tailgate shots, etc. Photos taken in a natural outdoor setting are best, otherwise try and position game so that homes, roads, etc. are not showing in the background. All submissions will be entered in our random drawing for the "Submission of the Quarter" prize. Winners will be notified by mail and announced in the next newsletter.

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



# KID'S CORNER

## FALL WORD SEARCH

H J N I F I P J K R F H R E T  
A D M B Z O R U E T F J E Y H  
L I U F T W O B M V R F W R A  
L Y T N B R O T E P A J O E N  
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ACORN

FOOTBALL

NOVEMBER

SEPTEMBER

APPLES

HALLOWEEN

OCTOBER

SUNFLOWER

AUTUMN

HARVEST

PUMPKIN

SWEATER

CANDY

HAYRIDE

RAKE

THANKSGIVING

CIDER

LEAVES

SCARECROW

TURKEY



## Seeing the World Through a Whitetail's Eyes

To hunt whitetails successfully, it helps to understand that a deer does not see the world the way we do. Its vision is designed primarily for detecting danger, movement, and predators—not for reading fine details. Understanding how a deer sees can make a major difference when choosing camouflage, moving into position, and deciding when to draw your bow.

### A Deer's Wide-Angle View

One of the most important advantages a whitetail has is its extremely wide field of vision. Because its eyes are positioned on the sides of its head, a deer can see approximately 300 degrees around itself without turning its head. This makes it difficult to approach a deer from the side or behind without being detected. There is, however, a small area directly behind the deer where its vision is limited. A deer also has a relatively narrow area of overlapping vision directly in front of it where it has better depth perception.

This wide field of view is one reason a deer can suddenly appear to "look right at you" even when you thought you were well hidden.

### Movement Is Your Biggest Enemy

Although deer can detect movement extremely well, they are not necessarily seeing every detail with perfect clarity. Their eyes are much better suited for detecting motion and changes in their surroundings. That means a hunter sitting motionless can often remain undetected even when a deer is looking in their direction. But a sudden movement, especially the movement of an arm while drawing a bow, can immediately catch the deer's attention.

### What Colors Can Deer See?

Whitetails do not see colors the same way humans do. Deer have dichromatic vision, meaning they have two types of color receptors rather than the three we have. They are particularly sensitive to blue and blue-green wavelengths but have difficulty distinguishing colors toward the red and orange end of the spectrum. To a deer, many colors that appear dramatically different to us may look much more similar. This is one reason traditional hunter orange can be less conspicuous to deer than it appears to a human observer.

However, color isn't the only consideration. Ultraviolet (UV) reflectance can also matter. Some modern detergents contain optical brighteners designed to make clothing appear brighter to humans. These chemicals can increase UV reflectance, potentially making clothing more noticeable to deer.

### Can Deer See Camouflage?

Deer can see camouflage but differently than many hunters assume. A deer isn't necessarily looking at your camouflage pattern and thinking, "That looks like a tree." Instead, the pattern helps break up the recognizable outline of the human body. The most important factors are often breaking up your silhouette, remaining still, and blending with the background.

### Deer and Low-Light Vision

Whitetails are particularly well adapted to seeing in low-light conditions. Their eyes contain a reflective layer called the *tapetum lucidum*, which helps increase the amount of available light reaching the retina. This is why deer eyes can appear to glow when illuminated by headlights or a flashlight. Their excellent low-light vision gives deer an advantage during dawn, dusk, and nighttime, the same periods when whitetails are often most active.

### The Bottom Line for Hunters

Think of a deer's vision as a highly effective early-warning system. It is built to detect movement and potential danger across a huge area, especially under low-light conditions. For the bowhunter, the lesson is simple:

Don't worry as much about looking perfect as you do about acting invisible.

Stay still. Break up your outline. Avoid unnecessary movement. Be especially careful when raising your bow. Use the terrain, trees, shadows, and vegetation to your advantage.

When you understand what a deer sees, you can become invisible to them, and that can be the difference between watching a mature buck walk away and watching him take those final steps into bow range.





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

Membership Includes:  
Spikes sticker and the NYB FullDraw 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): \_\_\_\_\_



In Dutchess County, and many other locations throughout the state, ticks are on the rise. My doctor informed me that we are ground zero for many different species. I remember when Lyme disease was the biggest fear for many hunters. The “new” ticks carry many more diseases. The Lone Star tick leaves the victim unable to eat meat or dairy for the remainder of their lives. There have been cases of this tick in NY. Extra precautions and after-hunt searches are more important than ever. I considered my “after woods routine” very thorough, but this still happened. I thought my experience would be a good thing to share prior to all of us going into the woods this fall.

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!

Anyone interested in shooting throughout the fall and winter, don't forget about Ti Yogi Bowmen in Hyde Park. They have a twenty-yard indoor (heated) range. Very reasonable membership fees, and a great bunch of archery (and hunting) enthusiasts.

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](mailto:ledrich@optonline.net)  
914-475-4190

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Greetings from Downstate! The season opener in Westchester County on Thursday October 1st is closing in quickly. In this issue, I'd like to make everyone aware of some Deer Management Programs in the County. The two I have personally participated in several years back are the Westchester County Adaptive Deer Management Program in the following County Parks: Ward Pound

Ridge Reservation, Lasdon Arboretum, Muscoot Farm, Bald Mountain. Hilltop Hanover, Mountain Lakes and the Angle Fly Preserve in Somers. The others I am aware of are Irvington Woods, Teatown, and The Rockefeller Estate. All of these programs are competitive, selective, highly-organized and monitored, but they can yield some nice deer.

I'd like to welcome a new member I recently recruited to New York Bowhunters: John Michellotti of Big Indian - a highly successful, domestic and international Big Game Bowhunter. John and his lovely wife founded and run the “Flag for Heroes” Foundation after the 911 Attacks. Thank you and Welcome aboard John!

**Matt “Mad Dog” Sweeney**  
Westchester County Rep  
[plumbing3c@gmail.com](mailto:plumbing3c@gmail.com)  
516-322-2881 (text or call anytime)

## PUTNAM COUNTY

Welcome back NY Bowhunters,

For New York's bowhunters, the countdown is on. As we enter October, the opening of deer bowhunting season (October 1) in the Southern Zone is upon us. For many hunters across the Hudson Valley, that first morning in the woods is one of the most anticipated days of the year. But the 2026–27 season is different from what many longtime hunters have become accustomed to. New York has made major changes to its deer-tag system, including a new “Earn-a-2nd-Buck” program. For bowhunters, understanding these changes before climbing into the stand could make a significant difference in how you approach the season. I've prepared a guideline of important considerations for all hunters to review, not just those in Putnam County, but throughout NY. This list is included as an article elsewhere in this volume of Full Draw for your information and enjoyment.

**See page 5.**  
But there is one last matter for Putnam

and other local NYB members; for those whom have hunted or would like to hunt in Fahnstock State Park; Don't forget to pick up your Fahnstock permit at the park office on route 301.

**John Sarlo**  
Putnam County Rep.  
[Archer2312@aol.com](mailto:Archer2312@aol.com)

## ROCKLAND COUNTY

Hello again Rockland bowhunters.

As I write this, Labor Day is about a week away. I've been shooting, but not as much as I should have by this point in the year. My 13-year-old, Matthew, beat me once again in our backyard archery games earlier today! Even though he kicked the tar out of me, I truly enjoyed the time together and smile on his face.

The National Hunting and Fishing Day event at Congers Lake Memorial Park will be on Sept 26th this year. Hopefully I will see you there helping teach the fun and excitement of archery to youths and adults alike and spread the word about the great things our organization does.

The new “earn a 2nd buck” program is rolling out this year. As I understand it, 3R is going to be unlimited antlerless tags. Also, for the early season lovers, you can use your 2nd buck tag (with reported doe harvest) in the early archery season and not have to wait for the start of the regular season.

I still haven't heard about any 3D shoots in Rockland but nearby counties always have something going on. It's a great way to keep your skills sharp and meet like-minded hunters

It saddens me to have to bring this topic back up from a few years ago. Once again, I have had my stands messed with. While shed hunting one of the properties I hunt this past spring, I found 2 of my ladder stands with the straps cut and steps missing. I used to think it was anti-hunters but later found out it was another hunter. It is

very disheartening to have to show my son that all hunters aren't following the rules, and would rather hurt another hunter's chances, then to just focus on their own hunt.

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

Nock'em dead"

>>>----->

**Curt Carney**

[ccarney8799@gmail.com](mailto:ccarney8799@gmail.com)

## ULSTER COUNTY

Hello Ulster County Bowhunters,

I know that you've all been getting ready for the 2026 season. There were several opportunities to practice on 3D courses in Ulster and surrounding counties during the months of August and September. You would have known about these as the schedule was published in the last issue of Full Draw. In addition to getting in your own practice, these clubs depend on participation for survival. Many of them support NYB, and it's nice for our members to reciprocate. The remaining events for this 3D season in our area are Highwood's Sportsmen's Club on September 27 and November 22nd and their Toys For Kids 3-D event on December 6.

If you are looking for some gear this year, check out KENCO in Kingston, just off the NY State Thruway. They have everything you need for the upcoming season. They also have a Bowhunting simulator for you to sharpen your skills on a rainy day!!

Good Luck this season!!

**Mike Ciavolino-Ulster County Rep**

Email: [mciavolino24@gmail.com](mailto:mciavolino24@gmail.com)

Cell ph (516) 388-4627

## ORANGE COUNTY

Greetings Members,  
I trust everyone had been hitting the archery range for the last few weeks. For me, shooting at 3D targets is the

best way to prepare for the upcoming season. The varying and unknown distances of targets will greatly improve your archery skills.

Hosting 3D shoots since 1998, Tri County Archers is a group of four sportsmen's clubs located in Orange and Ulster County. They host many shoots throughout the year which are open to the public. You can visit their website for upcoming shoots at [Tricountyarchers.com](http://Tricountyarchers.com).

Applications for the 2026 Harriman State Park Hunting Season are being accepted online. A random lottery issues 500 permits for the northern section of the park. The designated hunting area covers roughly 20,000 acres which is divided into four zones. This is another attempt at controlling the state's growing overpopulation of deer by significantly increasing the harvest of antlerless deer. There are no permit quotas in WMU's 3M and 3R, which have been designated as unlimited DMP zones for 2026. If you harvest a female deer in these zones, the permit is automatically replaced so you can keep hunting antlerless deer. Statewide "earn a 2nd buck" rules apply as you will only receive one antlered tag at the start of the season. To unlock a second buck tag, you must first harvest and report an antlerless deer. Statewide deer harvest totals for the 2025 season reached an estimated 227,032 white tailed deer, although specific county level breakdowns have not been fully itemized in the general statewide press release. This harvest is up 2% from the previous year. For the first time in modern history, the harvest of mature bucks aged 3.5 years or older (28.1%) equaled yearling bucks (28%). There were 0 positive cases of Chronic Wasting Disease out of 3050 deer tested.

Good luck to all as we soon begin the hunting season. Be safe and, as always, feel free to reach out and send me any items of interest to our members. May God Bless America and protect all our troops home and abroad.

Till next time ----->

**Chris Smith**

**Orange County Rep**

[bigblue9654@gmail.com](mailto:bigblue9654@gmail.com)

## SULLIVAN COUNTY

Another Fall hunting season has arrived. Hope everyone has gotten their bows and arrows all tuned up and spent some time shooting them. We have seen a number of bears in our area so there might have been some lucky hunters out there from the early season. Deer are always around but have moved into the woods to feed on acorns except where there are apple trees. There is a great crop of apples everywhere in this area, a good hint on where to hunt.

As I write this column in early September the bucks are getting ready to shed their velvet and the fawns are losing their spots with their winter coats growing in. Gotta love the deer in their dark winter coat!

The 3D shoots should be over when you read this so pound those targets in your back yard! The shoots I went to were sparse in attendance with the normal number of shooters being about 30, a far cry from the 40 or 50 in the past. I have noticed less interest in the clinics that I do in this area but the kids that do attend are really into the sport so I will do them as long as I am able.

Another annual rendezvous has come and gone. A great job by the Flashing Feathers Bowhunting Club running this event. An extra special event for me since I won the Black Widow bow, though I have to admit to stuffing quite a number of tickets into the bin! Will let you know how it turns out, delivery date is May 1, 2027.

It will be interesting on how the new DEC earn a second buck pans out. The harvest report by phone will be new for me this year. I'm old school so I may just use the paper tags. Hope there are some successful elk hunters out there! I miss the elk woods but the New Mexico draw has not been



kind to us again!

Congratulations to Joel Riotto for being inducted into the Traditional Bowhunters Hall of Fame, quite an honor and so well deserved!

Keep those broadheads sharp, pick a spot, and wear that safety harness Good Luck!

**Harry Walker**  
Region 3 Rep/Sullivan County Rep  
[bowbender@hvc.rr.com](mailto:bowbender@hvc.rr.com)  
845-794-6752

Greetings,

Well, here we go again with another deer season of changes regarding the taking of does to earn another buck tag. I wouldn't like to be an En Con officer trying to explain to hunters how this new regulation to show proof of a doe kill is going to happen without more manpower from the DEC. Taking a picture of a dead doe, bringing in the head or a tag from the butcher to one of only two or three officers in the whole county...? Really? Good luck with that.

The NYB Rendezvous at Flashing Feathers Bowhunters Club this year seemed to go well with good weather and a good turnout. The Suffolk County Archers shoot in late August also had a good turnout. We sold a few raf-

fle tickets for next year's shark fishing adventure and a few memberships. I would like to thank both clubs for their support of NYB.

OK, this year is going to be a real challenge for me after fifty years of hunting and taking my health for granted. This time it's going to be after a rotator cuff operation on my left shoulder and a possible tumor removal. The operation was performed the first week of September. My plan? Being right handed, I'm going to try shooting left-handed using a draw lock on a left handed bow releasing it with the finger of my left hand sticking out of my shoulder sling. Sounds like it should work, or should I pick up a crossbow ??? NOT LIKELY. After all the years of enjoying bow-hunting, I wouldn't infringe upon the season with a superior implement.

## REGION 4 REPORT

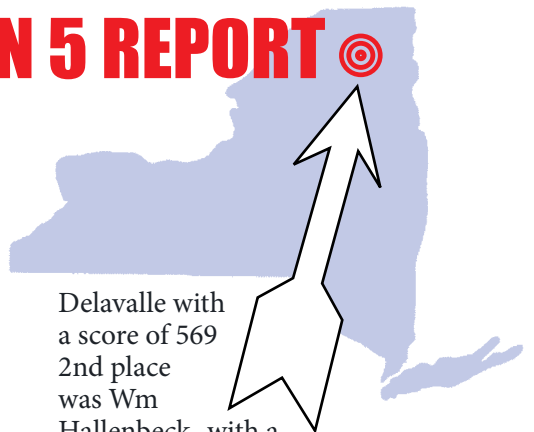


I hope everyone has a safe and successful season this year and if you cross paths with our editor, Cindy, let her know how good the new layout for Full Draw looks.

Take Care, I'll let you know how things work out for me.

**Ed Gorch**  
Region 4, Greene County Rep.  
[Oldbowman48@gmail.com](mailto:Oldbowman48@gmail.com)

## REGION 5 REPORT



Now that the Mt Challenge 32 is in the books, we would like to thank everyone who braved the damp weather. We had a total of 94 shooters which is down a little from last year a little but, considering the economy and kids getting ready to go back to school, we are happy with the numbers.



*Dad and daughter waiting to get her trophy at the awards and, by the smile on their faces, they had a good time.*

### Male Traditional winners were

1st MikeSavage with a score of 422  
2nd was NYB's own Rich Kirschner with a score of 415  
3rd was Sherm LaLonde with a score of 406

### Female Traditional

1st place with a score of 491 was Sue LaLonde  
2nd place was Becky Ryder with a 244

### Senior

1st place was Randy white with an impressive 543  
2nd place was Mark Ross with a 536  
3rd place was Stephen Hall with a 505

### MBR

1st place was Chad Charland with a 510  
2nd place was Brad McAdam with a 409  
3 place was Todd Bickford with a 376

### Male open

1st place was Kyle

Delavalle with a score of 569

2nd place was Wm Hallenbeck with a 540

3rd place was Lance Ruppert with a 538

### Male hunter

1st place was Josh Allen with a 592  
2nd place (ended up with a shoot off tie) went to Dakota Weinman  
3dr place went to Eric trudeau (both had a 560)

➔ the shoot off was a 40 yd shot at a woodchuck target with the 10 ring the size of a dime

**Female Hunter**

1st went to Kikia Eldridge with a 523  
2nd went to Sarah Allen with a 514  
3rd was Haleigh Grubb with a score of 397

**Youth**

1st place was Zane Stevenson with a score of 560  
2nd went to Tanner Grabo with a score of 534  
3rd went to Jackson Skeels with a score of 410

We finally got a little reprieve from the summer heat & humidity. Now when we get out to clear trails, scout, & mend tree stands, we can enjoy low 70° temps & less humidity. You've already been practicing for the October 1<sup>st</sup> opening day Bowhunting season. With any luck the late October weather will cool down enough to really enjoy the outdoors. Best of luck to you all.

Region 6 again held 2 July archery classes for the 'Summer Teen Program' at the Great Swamp Conservancy in Canastota. We had 17 students this year ages 13 – 17 year old. Many of the mostly girl class had never used a bow before.

**Cub**

1st went to Edie Fredenburg with a score of 442  
2nd went to Aston Cook with a score of 213  
3rd went to Penelope Cook with a score of 199

**Pee Wee**

1st place went to Beckham Connors with a score of 238  
2nd place was Roland Counter

with a score of 197

The Tupper Lake Archers would like to thank everyone for their support as well as our sponsors.

Happy hunting shoot straight and, most important, stay safe and have fun.

**Dave McMahon**

**Region 5 Rep**

[davemcmahon97@gmail.com](mailto:davemcmahon97@gmail.com)

## REGION 6 REPORT



bow hunting?  
Youth hunters are our future! Invest in the future. Take a youth hunting this Fall.

**Bill Snyder**

**Region #6 Rep.**

[bill4nyb@gmail.com](mailto:bill4nyb@gmail.com)

By most accounts, all had a grand old time. The program is open to Madison County residents only. Get your young archer signed up for next year for this free event. Congratulations to all.

There have been a couple of Bowhunting events in our Region this summer, but I haven't heard of very many. It is oftentimes difficult to get Bowhunters to attend 3D shoots & other group events, especially if they don't know of it. Let NYB help. Please send me a line if you hear of any so we can help promote local events.

Have you signed up a new Spikes member this year? Or mentor a youth for

## REGION 7 REPORT



new hunters cite as the reason that their road to success is a difficult one. I plan to be creative as I investigate access initiatives that other States are using successfully.

As I write this I am getting ready for my DIY archery Elk hunt in Colorado. I am hooked on bowhunting elk in the mountains and can't wait to be out there soon this September. I will hopefully have a good story with a picture to go with it for the next edition of Full Draw!

**Yours Truly,**

**Darren Moore**

[dnwmoore1@yahoo.com](mailto:dnwmoore1@yahoo.com)



Hi Everyone, I would like to introduce myself since this is my first report as your Region 7 Representative! I decided to get involved because I noticed the

need for a Region 7 rep and I had no excuses to not get involved more with the organization that I have been a member of for around 30 years. My kids are in college and, although I am a busy guy, I have always enjoyed adding a volunteer activity to my schedule to balance things out. In the past it was youth soccer or little league or our town's food pantry, but now I can focus on the sport I love and try to make a difference for someone else's journey of bowhunting!

I grew up in northern NY, but have been blessed to live in some of the best deer country in Cayuga county for the past 17 years. My trophy room is plenty full and I now enjoy taking my kids and my niece out bowhunting. I would much rather them shoot a nice buck instead of me.

For those of you out there in Region 7 thinking of joining our team, reach out to me if you want to apply to be a County Rep. It would be great to build back a NYB force in this region! One of my plans is to have an exhibitor table at local sportsman's shows, bow shoots and other events to boost membership and boost interest.

Part of my efforts to boost membership in the region will include the search for mentors and landowners willing to host new bowhunters. We all know that despite some areas of high deer numbers and great hunting, access is not easy and that is what the majority of

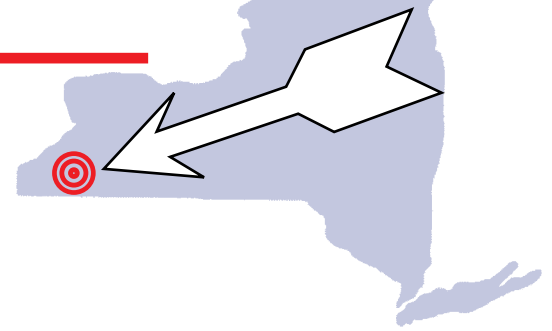


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**NO REPORT SUBMITTED**


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# REGION 9 REPORT



## 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 Director's 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](http://www.venisondonation.com).

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

Venison Donation Coalition  
Board of Directors  
3 East Pulteney Square  
Bath, N.Y. 14810

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## ATTENTION LIFE & BENEFACTOR MEMBERS

Once again, a big thank you to those who took part in last year's Life member fundraiser. It was a very successful and much needed program and helped keep NYB solvent for another year.

Although we suggested a donation of \$25, which would match the current annual membership donation, many of you generously gave more. We also heard a repeated suggestion that many dedicated "Lifers" would be willing to make an annual donation.

With this in mind, NYB is restructuring the current "Benefactor Membership" offering Life members who wish to do so, a way to continue supporting NYB. There will now be 4 levels of Benefactor Members.

### Bronze Level - \$25

This is basically saying, although I don't have to pay annual dues anymore, I'd like to at least match what those paying Regular dues contribute.

**Silver Level - \$50 • Gold Level - \$100 • Platinum - \$250 or more**

Once a Life member becomes a "Benefactor" there is no obligation to continue that the following year. Benefactors are obligated to remain at the level in which they were categorized. Each year, the member will be re-assigned a level, or return to their Life member status should they decide to no longer make an annual contribution and continue their membership as normal.

Furthermore, similar to the current "Booster" members whose names appear in each issue of Full Draw, all levels of Benefactor will be listed in Full Draw under the level they qualified for that year.

Should you choose to upgrade and appear as Benefactor for the 2027 calendar year, please submit your membership amount by December 31, 2026.

### How to sign up

Visit us at [Membership – New York Bowhunters, Inc.](#) or

Call the office at 585-229-7468

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JAMES EICHINGER  
ED GORCH  
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BOB LEDRICH  
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STEVEN PRINCIPE  
GARY SOCOLA  
HARRY WALKER III  
TIM JOENS

### SILVER

HENRY SHODDY  
RON PIONTKOWSKI

### GOLD

ANDREW KIRSCHNER  
STEVEN WILLARD  
PAUL WILLEY

### PLATINUM

RICHARD KIRSCHNER  
EDWARD FITZGERALD





NEW YORK BOWHUNTERS, INC.

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to participate





# TICKBORNE INFECTIONS ARE NOT “JUST LYME”

A single tick bite can expose someone to multiple infections at the same time — each capable of affecting different systems of the body and mimicking other diseases.



## BORRELIA (Lyme Disease)



### WHAT IT IS

Borrelia is technically classified as a bacteria—specifically a spiral-shaped spirochete. But it does not behave like what most people think of as a “simple bacterial infection.”

Research has shown Borrelia can:

- ✓ Change forms under stress
- ✓ Shift into dormant round-body states
- ✓ Form biofilm-like colonies
- ✓ Hide within tissues and cells
- ✓ Evade immune detection
- ✓ Affect the nervous system, joints, heart, brain, connective tissue, and immune system

### COMMON SYMPTOMS

- Migrating joint pain
- Fatigue
- Anxiety/panic
- Muscle twitching
- Heart palpitations
- Burning nerve pain
- Sleep disturbances
- Neck stiffness
- Brain fog
- Numbness/tingling
- Tremors
- Facial paralysis
- Vertigo

### COMMONLY MISDIAGNOSED AS

Fibromyalgia • Chronic Fatigue Syndrome  
Multiple Sclerosis • ALS • Parkinson's  
Anxiety disorder • Autoimmune disease  
Arthritis • Dementia • Psychiatric illness

## BARTONELLA



### WHAT IT IS

A stealth bacteria that attacks blood vessels, the nervous system, connective tissue, and immune system. Bartonella is increasingly being investigated for its role in severe neurological dysfunction.

### COMMON SYMPTOMS

- Burning feet
- Shin pain
- Muscle weakness
- Tremors
- Muscle twitching
- Neuropathy
- Anxiety/panic attacks
- Rage or mood swings
- Insomnia
- Enlarged lymph nodes
- Stretch-mark-like rashes
- Sensitivity to sound/light
- Chest pain
- Cognitive dysfunction

### COMMONLY MISDIAGNOSED AS

ALS • Multiple Sclerosis • Fibromyalgia  
Bipolar disorder • Schizophrenia  
ADHD • Panic disorder • Autoimmune disease • Small fiber neuropathy  
Psychiatric illness

## BABESIA (Parasite)



### WHAT IT IS

A malaria-like parasite that infects red blood cells and disrupts oxygen delivery throughout the body.

### COMMON SYMPTOMS

- Air hunger
- Night sweats
- Dizziness
- Head pressure
- Severe fatigue
- Racing heart
- Shortness of breath
- Chills
- Weakness
- Feeling unable to get enough oxygen

### COMMONLY MISDIAGNOSED AS

Anxiety/panic attacks • Long COVID  
POTS • Chronic Fatigue Syndrome  
Heart conditions • Asthma  
Sleep disorders

## EHRlichia



### WHAT IT IS

A bacteria that infects white blood cells and can rapidly trigger widespread inflammation throughout the body.

### COMMON SYMPTOMS

- High fever
- Severe headache
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Confusion
- Low white blood cells
- Elevated liver enzymes
- Rash (sometimes)

### COMMONLY MISDIAGNOSED AS

Viral illness • Flu • COVID  
Meningitis • Sepsis  
Autoimmune flare

## ANAPLASMA



### WHAT IT IS

A bacteria that infects immune cells and can cause significant inflammatory illness and immune dysfunction.

### COMMON SYMPTOMS

- Fever
- Chills
- Muscle pain
- Severe fatigue
- Headaches
- Nausea
- Confusion
- Elevated liver enzymes

### COMMONLY MISDIAGNOSED AS

Flu • Viral syndrome • COVID  
Chronic fatigue • Fibromyalgia

## RICKETTSIA (RMSF)



### WHAT IT IS

A bacteria that attacks blood vessel linings and can become life-threatening very quickly if not recognized early.

### COMMON SYMPTOMS

- High fever
- Severe headache
- Rash
- Confusion
- Muscle pain
- Abdominal pain
- Neurological symptoms
- Circulation problems

### COMMONLY MISDIAGNOSED AS

Viral infection • Meningitis  
Vasculitis • Autoimmune disease  
Sepsis

## POWASSAN VIRUS



### WHAT IT IS

A tickborne virus capable of causing severe brain inflammation and permanent neurological injury.

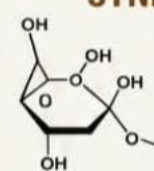
### COMMON SYMPTOMS

- Seizures
- Confusion
- Severe headaches
- Speech problems
- Loss of coordination
- Paralysis
- Encephalitis

### COMMONLY MISDIAGNOSED AS

Stroke • Viral meningitis  
Autoimmune encephalitis  
Multiple sclerosis • Psychiatric illness

## ALPHA-GAL SYNDROME

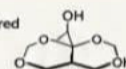


**THE TRIGGER:**  
Alpha-gal is a sugar molecule called galactose- $\alpha$ -1,3-galactose.

Galactose

### WHAT IT IS

An immune reaction triggered by the sugar molecule alpha-gal, often after a tick bite.



### COMMON SYMPTOMS

- Allergic reactions to red meat
- Hives • GI pain • Vomiting
- Diarrhea • Throat tightness
- Anaphylaxis
- Reactions to gelatin or mammal-derived products

### COMMONLY MISDIAGNOSED AS

Food poisoning • IBS • Anxiety attacks  
Idiopathic allergic reactions  
Histamine intolerance  
Mast Cell Activation Syndrome



### THE REALITY

Many people are not dealing with one infection. They are dealing with multiple infections attacking multiple systems of the body at the same time.



That is why so many people are labeled with dozens of diagnoses before the possibility of tickborne disease is ever fully investigated.

when **ALS/MS/TM** is Lyme.



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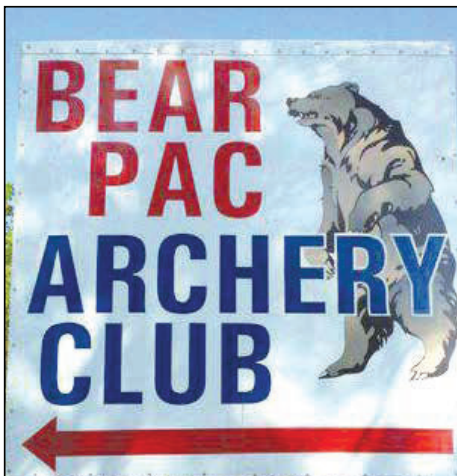
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For more information you can find us on FaceBook under Bear Pac Archery or you can contact Issac Thomas, bowfreak19@yahoo.com or Art Pellerin, ajpellerin@hotmail.com



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Membership expiration date

# MEMBER PHOTOS

**Doug Preisner  
with his Kansas Buck**

**Merritt Compton  
with his antelope**



**Tom Beckman scored this  
antelope with Mitchell  
Outfitting**



**Matts Bucket  
List Buck survived  
another season**