



After the long drive to western New York, Mike Ansara (Essex, Massachusetts), Sage Morrison (Andover), Laura Christy (Hudson, Massachusetts), Caleb Frantz (Andover), Connor Saunders (Warner), Andrew Duz (Budapest, Hungary), Jake Hubbard (Andover), Eli Clare (Los Angeles, California), Madison Powers (Andover), and Quint Long (Fort Collins, Colorado) all demonstrated tremendous skill within their age groups at the International Bow Hunters' World Championships in August.

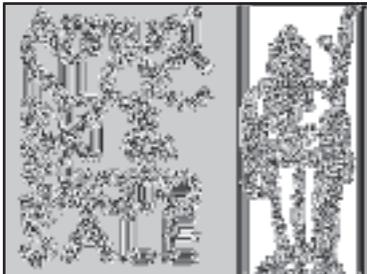
Proctor Academy Competes In World Championship

Proctor Academy press release

Proctor Academy's Field and Stream program traveled to Ellicottville, NY at Holiday Valley to compete in the International Bow Hunters' World Championships during the second week of August. Field and Stream program founder and director, Dave Kenney, organized the trip with the help of current Proctor Academy parents Joan and George Saunders of Warner, New Hampshire. Ten students, along with Kenney, competed in the three-day event, testing their archery skills

against archers from around the world. There were over 2000 bowhunters from 20 countries taking on over 400 3-D targets stationed around the facilities many trails. The event gave out over \$200,000 in cash and prizes to the participants.

The trip would not have been possible without the financial support of the Elkins Fish & Game Club and the Andover Fish & Game club. The team used the 3-D archery course at the Elkins club's range to practice before going to the event.



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Pine Hill Ski Club

Pine Hill Ski Club press release

Season events:

Wednesday, December 28: Bring a friend and both ski free. Sample our trails. No charge.

Saturday, January 7: Noon to 2 PM, Robb's Ski Hut opens for the season.

Saturday, January 21: Ski the Edge. Opens for season; ski par course of 10 km. Classic groomed. Interlinked circuit course. Record time on Speed Demon self time chart.

Saturday, January 28: Noon to 2 PM, Chili Chow Down at Robb's Hut.

Feel the heat! \$5 donation.

Saturday, February 4: Moonlight Guided Ski Tour, 7 to 8:30 PM. Free for members; \$15 non-members. Bring headlamp. We may have extras: call.

Saturday, February 18: Noon to 2 PM. Annual Blueberry Pancake Brunch at Robb's Ski Hut. \$5 donation.

Sunday, March 4: Noon, Senior Masters 5 km race for skiers over 60 years old. Five-year categories. Trail fee is entry. Call to pre-register by March 2. Classical race. 381-8685.

Details, conditions: PineHillSkiClub.com.



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were her hoophouse cherry tomatoes; a hoophouse is an unheated greenhouse that changes our local climate enough for tomatoes or other plants to grow.

Another thing she had great success with was using fish emulsion as her primary fertilizer. As an organic grower, Kat doesn't want to use any petroleum-based fertilizers like most conventional farms do. So she's limited to natural fertilizers.

Kat put up two more hoophouses this year, so she has four ready for next season. That will allow her to grow further into the fall. It's actually feasible to grow things all winter long.

In the summer her farm produces a full range of vegetables plus flowers, herbs, and eggs. She chooses to do a diverse array of products for a few reasons. She has a lot to give to her CSA customers, and from an ecological standpoint she's less vulnerable to a disease that comes along and wipes out her entire crop one year.

Kat grew up in Andover and went out west to college. She went to Washington State and then transferred down to Arizona.

Ragged View Farm

Mark Cowdrey runs Ragged View Farm. He bought it in January of 1999. He got started slowly and bought his first feeder pig the next spring. The first year they raised one, the next year two, the next year three. Four or five years later, they got their first sow, and since then they've had at least one sow; he plans on keeping three this winter.

Ragged View's bacon comes from sows that Mark doesn't want to breed anymore. Last spring, he sold all his baby pigs. He's sold sausage down at Kat Darling's farmstand; he's involved with Eric Johnson in making maple syrup, with about 125 taps at the farm.

Right now he doesn't have a sugarhouse at the farm, so he hauls it to Eric at the Tucker Mountain Maple Co-op. His plan is to build his own maple sugar shack at the farm soon.

He actually planned to do it this fall but there was some other work that needed to be done.

Mark has started to raise three beef cattle at the farm. He keeps Dexter cows and has a heifer due in another month. He's also got a yearling steer that he'll butcher this winter. He'll probably keep two cows so he always has two to four babies in various stages of growth.

In the winter, Mark offers sleigh rides on trails on the farm. In the summer, he uses the horses to cut hay. The hay is for the cows and the horses, and some for the pigs. They'll eat some of it, and he uses the rest for bedding.

Mark plans on breeding the pigs in December, and they'll farrow in the middle of April. The demand for Ragged View pork products the last two or three years has been "just incredible."

This year, Mark tried a few things differently. He spread wood ash on the fields to raise the pH and add potassium. He doesn't need to do that again for two or three years. The idea is if you can increase the amount of hay you produce, you're not spending money on hay. The wood ash came from Lancaster, New Hampshire, so it's pretty local.

A problem this year was a disease that attacked the roots of the garlic he sells. The disease gets in the soil, too, so the only thing Mark can really do to get rid of it is to buy new seed stock and move his garlic patch to a new location.

Next year, Mark plans on doing a little milking in the winter. If he likes it, he may get into the fluid milk business. This fall, he's planning on the construction of a sugarhouse, so that by 2013 he'll also be producing maple syrup.

Next year, he'll probably try to mow hay a little earlier. The last few years he's started around June 20. He would like to be finished with his first cut a little bit earlier, so he'll be able to get started on his second cut a little bit earlier. If he starts earlier, the first crop will be somewhat immature, but by the time he gets done, it'll be fine.

