

THE MAINE BOWHUNTER

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MAINE BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

FALL ISSUE



NEW STATE RECORD WHITETAIL 183 P&Y!

See page four for details



President's Report

John Hunt

President's Report Fall Edition 2013

Our busy time of year has wound down, and not a whole lot has been going on. We're working on the following projects:

Next year's banquet. The banquet committee has been hard at work organizing for next year's banquet. Next year it will be at Jeff's Catering in Brewer on April 26. Some of our supporters have already provided us with donations, and we'll be putting some of the larger items up on the web site as they come in.

Fighting the bear referendum is going to be priority number one for us. Fortunately, SAM has an exceptional leader in David Trahan, and I'll be in constant contact and coordination with David. We want to display complete unity among sportsman's groups (no cracks in the seams). We also want to start a special fund raising campaign to help fight this upcoming legislation. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) has millions of dollars they plan on throwing in to this battle.

A new bowhunting law has passed the legislature this year. The 100 yard discharge law for firearms and crossbows was very intelligently rewritten by Representative Mike Shaw (a great friend of bowhunters). The prior law said you couldn't "discharge" these weapons within 100 yards of an occupied dwelling without permission. So, if you were standing 101 yards away and shot at a deer near someone's house, you were legal. If you were standing 99 yards away and shot at a deer in the opposite direction of the house, you were illegal. Representative Shaw changed the language from "discharge" to "path of the projectile." This made great sense, and we supported it. After public testimony had

ended and the bill went into work session, Representative Stephen Wood suggested archery equipment be added to the bill. He did this just 2 weeks after asking for crossbows to be removed from the law. Representative Shaw did a great job for bowhunters and all sportsmen on a number of bills this session, and we should be very thankful to him. You can form your own opinion of Representative Wood.

This new law may make things tougher in expanded archery zones as well practicing in your own back yard. We bowhunters should place a high priority on the concerns of landowners and their neighbors, but I see this law as causing some real problems. Hopefully the bow and arrow part of this law will be removed for next year.

I'd like to end my president's report with a special thank you to Tom and Jess Hartford at Central Maine Archery. They have been providing free Maine Bowhunter Association memberships with each bow that they sell. The concept is being very well received. Their bows are selling great, and our membership is growing. Be sure to visit their outstanding shop in Auburn.

John Hunt

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Letter to The Editor

My Dad and I won a Youth Turkey hunt at Hillside Guide Service and Game Ranch, in Aurora. Once we got there we were introduced to the guides. Our guide's name was Wade. After we were introduced we toured the game ranch and saw red stag and fallow deer. There were buffalo and boar too but we didn't see any. For dinner we were served wild boar! It tasted amazing! After dinner my Dad and I played cards and shot some pool. We went to bed early that night.

When we woke up it was 2:30am. We dressed in all camo for the hunt. We ate pancakes, sausage, and eggs at 3:30am for breakfast. After that we left to go hunting. We reached our blind at 4:30am. We sat down and waited until 4:58am, sunrise. Right before sunrise we heard our first turkey not too far away. Our guide called to the turkey, but he never came out. After a few hours we went to another spot. We didn't see anything there either, so we kept driving around. We then walked around on a burnt blueberry field (there were hundreds of acres). I learned that the turkeys like to eat the bugs on the blueberry bushes. Our guide saw a big Tom far off in the distance, but it wouldn't follow his calls. We could only hunt until noon so our time in the woods was over. After that we went back to the lodge and had lunch.

Even though we didn't get a turkey, it was one of the best experiences of my life. I got to spend the whole day with my Dad and enjoyed a beautiful day in the outdoors. Thank you to our guide, Wade and Hillside Guide Service and Game Ranch!

Jake and Dad Mike Lana, Hermon, ME.

A Safety Harness Can Save Your Life

By Tina Richard

More hunters are killed or seriously injured from treestand accidents than from accidental shootings in the field. Treestand accidents are a serious problem within the bowhunting community. The entire bowhunting community is affected when a bowhunter loses his or her life or the use of their limbs during a treestand mishap.

Most of us know someone who has fallen and been seriously injured-or worse. Studies show only 50% of treestand hunters wear a safety harness. Many wear outdated safety "belts" which have been shown to cause serious injury and even death. Studies indicate that between 10-30% of all treestand users will fall sometime in their hunting careers; many more will experience a "near miss". Even so, most hunters embrace the "it can't happen to me" attitude which almost guarantees that an incident will happen to them. In Maine we have had several hunters paralyzed due to falls from treestands in just the last decade.

I always wear a safety harness when I hunt from a treestand. My safety harness reminds me of my fly fishing vest. It has many pockets so I don't need to bring a fanny pack or a knapsack. These pockets hold my hunting license, deer calls, camera, binoculars and haul line. The harness is also reversible; one side is camo the other blaze orange it works while bowhunt during firearm season. If you hunt from a treestand I highly recommend that you wear a full body safety harness for your own safety and your loved ones. **A safety harness will save your life!**



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A Friend's Perspective of a Non-Typical Event

by Dan Long

Maine's new bowhunting State record for non-typical whitetail deer was harvested December 4, 2012 by Lance Farrar of Milford, ME. The massive 12-point animal including a hefty drop tine was scored by Registered Maine Master Guide Toby Montgomery, an official scorer for Maine Antler & Skull Trophy Club (MASTC), Pope & Young Club (P&Y), and Boone & Crockett Club (B&C).

For MASTC, P&Y, and B&C Lance received a big game award and broke the State of Maine MASTC whitetail deer non-typical category, scoring 183-0/8 compared to the previous record of 181 2/8 which was a 15 Point buck harvested By Bill Gardner in 2005. Lance was presented with an award at the MASTC banquet April 27, 2013 in Augusta with other hunters who made exceptional harvests in the state of Maine.

The story behind this deer screams determination, diligence, professionalism, angry birds, disappointment, and teamwork all wrapped into one unforgettable hunt.

Bowhunting, whether in rural or urban areas usually requires we identify potential areas to hunt, and then identify and approach the landowner for permission. This process naturally puts the spotlight on the bowhunter and on bowhunting in general. Lance used town websites, assessor's parcel maps, on-line aerial imagery, face-to-face discussions, and on-site investigations to assess properties to hunt, and to determine if these areas being considered held deer and contained food, bedding, and/or travel routes to focus on for stand placement.

He did a fantastic job of not only conducting himself professionally

through the process of identifying and contacting landowners, but has represented the bowhunting community in an exceptional manner to the landowners, the Town Managers he encountered, Assessors, the Director of Public Works, Police, and to other bowhunters throughout this process.

With a parcel or two secured and stands in place, Lance was excited about the potential to see and harvest deer. He sat motionless for hours and at times found entertainment playing angry birds on his smart phone to pass the time. While distracted from hunting by angry birds, a squirrel rustled the leaves behind Lance as he remained focused on the game. To his surprise, what he at first thought was a squirrel peeked around a tree from 10-feet away with it's 30-inch wide rack to see if the coast was clear to continue down his regular trail. With the deer on his left, and bow hanging on his right he swore to never play angry birds again as the deer walked away obstructed by brush and standing timber.

Now, with the real game-on, Lance was determined to spend hours if not days in his stand for another chance encounter with this deer that looked like he belonged on a Realtree Roadtrips TV show in front of Blake Shelton at full draw. Days went by and hours logged in the stand produced nothing but squirrels and an occasional doe. Patience, determination, diligence; some of the traits that are a part of Lance's personality from a lifetime of military service and countless overseas missions in times of war were his source of focus.

After weeks of effort with the hope of a visit to his stand by this deer, whose image walking away was burned into Lance's memory, a big deer appeared in the failing light. Lance thought, "Could this be him? –

What if this is a "nice" deer, but not THE deer? Will I take him?!" The questions swirling through his mind were soon answered as the deer came into full view with his majestic rack and horse-sized body. Calm and prepared from the weeks of mental preparation for this moment, Lance let the arrow fly. With the release of his arrow the deer turned slightly and the arrow's entrance location was now in question. A considerable wait before exiting the tree stand because of his question about shot placement left Lance wondering if he had connected in the best way possible to ensure a humane kill and a happy ending to the hunt.

Lance made a few phone calls and climbed down from his tree stand and exited from his safety harness. Blood could not be found! Lance replayed the shot in his mind and with friends helping, replayed the deer's movement on the ground from the time of the shot to where he disappeared from sight with his tail down, a sign of a mortally hit animal. The search continued and little blood was found but expectations remained high. Day-two, producing no deer resulted in disappointment however; Lance and his friends helping to recover this animal remained dedicated to assist Lance in the mission. Day-three involved a number of people working in a coordinated fashion and included the deer being located about 300-yards from the stand.

The test of how we conduct ourselves in the face of opposition or some type of roadblock tells us a lot about our character. This can be opposition to obtaining permission to hunt, or failure of being able to locate a downed animal in a reasonable amount of time. What we do when nobody is watching is how we can judge ourselves.

Mid Coast Gem by Bill Valleau

As I approached the ravine, I spotted a good sized brown bear standing broad side, its front legs leaning on a stump. The canopy of tree branches above cast shadows on my shooting lane. I slowly positioned my bow, blinked my eyes a few times to help focus on the dark target. I pulled the string back on my Gail Martin recurve, found my anchor point and watched as my bright red feathers struck the shoulder of the oversized bruin. I did a quick fist pump in celebration and turned to my friend and hunting partner, Rodd Lougee (MBA Treasurer). Just prior to me, he had hit the bear squarely in the 10 ring. When walking to the bear target, we spoke of what a great summer Sunday afternoon it made, shooting at various species of animals while walking a beautiful property.

During the spring, summer and even into the fall there's a 3D course in Mid Coast Maine that is a real treasure and well worth a visit. The "Outdoor Sportsman", in Northport Maine on Route 1, has a fully equipped Archery Shop with the highest quality archery gear on the market. The folks at Outdoor Sportsman are extremely helpful and Charlie Herriker, the archery shop manager, has a wealth of knowledge and is a true expert when it comes to helping archers with all their needs. The "Outdoor Sportsman" has a great indoor range that helps to ensure we are able to keep shooting through the winter months.

The 3D course I described is on the property where the store is located. When you arrive at the store, you simply check inside, and for a very reasonable fee your adventure begins. The course leads through beautiful woods with rock walls and large oaks trees. The well kept tote roads make for easy walking between targets. The course has many shooting situations, from turkeys in brush to large Caribou in an open area. There are approximately 30 targets and each target placement is well thought out and designed to offer a different shooting scenario. The "Outdoor Sportsman" has picnic tables to gather at and discuss your successes or have a snack before calling it a day. I hope to see you on the range.

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For information check our web site at:

www.mainebowhunters.org

“Cedar Mill Farm and Cabins, a review...”

by Deanna Page



At the 2013 MBA banquet I bid on & won a overnight stay at Cedar Mill Farm & Cabins in Athens. This stay was graciously donated by the owners Mike & Terri Stasiowski to the MBA for us to raise money at our banquet.

I wanted to share my experience with MBA members. I would like to encourage anyone who is looking for a quiet, clean, enjoyable getaway to try Cedar Mill Farm. They cater to hunters, fisherman, ATV & snowmobile owners, basically anyone who enjoys the outdoors. The farm is located in Athens, within minutes of Skowhegan, not far from the Waterville and Newport areas.

The cabins are clean, cozy and quiet for relaxing and getting away. The main lodge is Mike & Terri's home, spacious, comfortable and decorated with wildlife. Terri does a wonderful job of making everyone feel like family. Meals are prepared for guests right at the main lodge, whether it's breakfast, lunch or dinner, you won't leave hungry!

If you are planning a getaway or a hunting trip, check them out at www.cedarmillfarmandcabins.com or give them a call (207)654-2195. Let's support those businesses that support the Maine Bowhunters Association.

2014 Annual Banquet

April 26, 2014 at Jeff's Catering in Brewer

Door Prizes, Raffles, Contests, Guest Speakers, MBA Efforts Updates, Food, Vendors, and FUN!

Making Kids Into Great Hunters

By Tina Richard

Here is tips that will help kids enjoy bow-hunting. These pointers come from “It takes a hunter to make a hunter”.

-Help new hunters prepare. Get them excited by including them while planning hunts, scouting, setting up blinds, and sighting in their equipment. Help them fine tune their hunting skills.

-Make sure they have adequate and proper fitting clothes for the weather.

-Make sure the equipment is appropriate for their size and skill level.

-Hunting from a blind gives them freedom of movement. Consider packing toys, games, books, etc. to keep them occupied.

-You should take foods and drinks; even better a pack full of candy bars, trail mix and jerky. A special warm drink such as hot chocolate can be a treat and can also extend your time in the blind by keeping them warm.

-Don't be pushy and shame the kids into going with you. If they want to be out there, then they will have fun, and you'll see the enjoyment growing in them. The more fun the kids have the better.

-Do not focus solely on killing an animal. Instead, stress enjoyment of the hunt and the great outdoors.

-You shouldn't walk too far, hunt close to your vehicle. If they have a long walk then they will loose interest and may not go with you again.

-You need to keep hunts to a reasonable length of time and take reasonable breaks. If you insist that they stay in a treestand during freezing weather with strong winds, it will likely be the last time they goes hunting.

- You must share the whole experience. Give kids an opportunity to experience nature. Have them help clean and take the animal from the woods. Kids need to learn that there is more to hunting than sitting in a blind and using a weapon. They need to see what happens after the hunt, too.

Remember it's always your responsibility to keep them safe!

Nature's Treats

By Julie Johnston

It used to drive me crazy wondering which mushrooms were edible and which were poisonous. I spend hours on the internet looking and reading about Mushrooms. I have taken hundreds of photos studying shapes, colors, and the areas where they grow.

In this article I will write about three of my favorites, the Chanterelle, Lobster and the Oyster. Extreme caution must be used when picking mushrooms. When researching a new mushroom I spend a lot of time taking pictures, and studying my books. I have never eaten a new mushroom without having it checked by at least two people.



My favorite is the Chanterelle (*Cantharellus cibarius*), it has a golden yellow color. A fairly common mushroom depending on the amount of rain we get during the summer months. Look for them in shady areas around trees covered with moss, also along the edges of old roadways and hiking trails. In 2011, I found an overabundance of them and dehydrate a large amount. Which I then ground into a fine powder which is ideal because the powder can be sprinkled into soups, sauces, steaks and burgers. This mushroom is also delicious prepared in a stir-fry or on homemade pizza.



The above picture is a Lobster Mushroom (*Hypomyces lactifluorum*),

it's color is a dark orange comparable to a cooked lobster. This is a tasty one that actually grows on another mushroom changing the whole makeup of the original mushroom. Usually found in August and September sometimes into October depending on the weather. The texture is tougher than most mushrooms.

If you find one of these mushrooms look around, there are usually more. These mushrooms seem to grow around clumps of dirt and rocks making them difficult to clean. This mushroom when cooked has a bit of a peppery taste.



The above picture is of a Oyster Mushrooms (*Pleurotus ostreatus*), another great tasting mushroom, that grows well in the fall. They are typically found on dead or dying deciduous trees. Oysters are fan shaped and will grow in a shelf like formation often overlapping each other. The mushroom is usually white or almond in color with gills running down the cap and stem. These mushrooms have a pleasant anise smell. Found usually in late August into the latter part of September. I have even been lucky enough to find some during rifle season. Although frozen I have picked a couple handfuls, slowly thawing and eating them later for supper.

Again I would like to caution you to become very familiar with mushroom identification before you attempt to eat them. It's important to find a couple of reliable contacts in your area that can help you. Also make sure that you clean them well they can harbor small insects in their flesh and gills. Go easy on the first ones you eat to make sure that they don't bother you. Some people are allergic to certain types of Mushrooms.

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