



The Maine Bowhunter



The Official Newsletter of Maine Bowhunters Association

FALL 2015



Ruth Hunt Practicing Wildlife Management! Coyote and Deer With Bow

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Brad's Saga with Old Tom Continues, President's Report, Bill Valeau's Memorable Hunt, Jeff Hopkins Tips Over a Monster Buck, Stat Sheet.

President's Report



Here we are in our favorite time of year! I hope everyone has been out enjoying the great outdoors, I know I have! I am having a great season so far, and am hoping to continue with some bowhunting success before the end of the year. I will be writing a story of my own personal best bowhunting season for our Winter newsletter, so stay tuned!!

The MBA is continuing to roll our membership list over to a Quarterly renewal system. As we make this transition, you will get an email reminder (if we have your current email address) to renew your membership. A couple weeks after the emails go out, we will be sending a renewal reminder in the mail. We don't want you to miss out on

being a card carrying member that includes your 10% discount at most archery shops across the state. Your membership also gives you up to date notifications on last minute law changes pertaining to bowhunting in Maine, your quarterly newsletter delivered to your door, an annual subscription to Bowhunting World Magazine and the MBA standing up for bowhunters in the State of Maine. Your continued membership helps us to preserve and protect our sport, so please renew your membership and encourage your bowhunting friends to join as well.

Before we know it, our hunting seasons will be over for 2015. Please don't forget to turn in a stat sheet for your animals harvested with your bow. The stats are a useful tool for the MBA to use to show the effectiveness of bowhunting as a management tool. A stat sheet is included in this newsletter and is also available on our website. If you need one emailed to you, please contact me.

As we head for 2016, we will start to gear up for the Spring Sportsman's Show and look forward to talking to everyone that stops by our booth. If you want to put in some time chatting with fellow bowhunters, certainly feel free to contact me, or any of our Reps and we can put you on the volunteer list. The MBA operates on dedicated volunteers right from the Board, to Reps, to countless members who pitch in when they can to help. Any help is greatly appreciated from anyone willing to lend some time!

Please keep April 16, 2016 open so you attend our Annual Banquet at Jeff's Catering in Brewer again this year. Join us for some great food, prizes, and bowhunting fellowship. It's never too early to start working on gathering donations for the banquet, so if

you have anything to donate, or have time to collect anything from people or businesses willing to donate, PLEASE do!!

Thank you for your continued membership, please feel free to contact me directly with ideas, comments or suggestions regarding the Maine Bowhunters Association.

Deanna L. Page
President

Maine Bowhunters Association

We are extremely proud of our relationship with Sportsman's Alliance of Maine and our shared visions. To the left is a photo of MBA member Ken Scribner handing a \$1000 check from MBA to SAM representative Becky Morrell to help with their new outdoor archery range. We have also provided scholarship funds to Unity College.

You should all be proud that these are the things your membership does for bowhunting in Maine!



(Continued from Summer Issue)

If you remember from the first part of my story, Old Tom gave me a run for my money in the spring of 2007. A year and a half later, on November 5th 2008 the saga continues. I was deer hunting in Kansas on public hunting land about a mile from where my son-in law Steve and I were hunting for Old Tom. I was up in an ash tree in a shelter belt, with a creek running through it. It was 2PM, and I was watching a cut cornfield. At 3PM I saw a tom walking across the cornfield toward the shelter belt I was in. With a fall turkey tag in my knapsack, I thought "if he comes close enough I'll honk him." As he got closer, and I got a better look, I thought "this turkey looked very much like Old Tom." Old Tom had a long stringy beard, and when the bird got close enough I realized this IS Old Tom. Old Tom made it to the shelter belt and was eating grasshoppers. He got to within 18 yards and sent behind a large fallen dead tree. This gave me a chance to draw my bow, and the angle I was afforded allowed me to do it while sitting. When Old Tom cleared the deadfall, I took aim and let loose the arrow. I hit his wing butt, and the shot knocked him right off his feet, but he got back up and ran under my tree into some brush and limbs. I just couldn't get a clear shot at him, and he was very much alive. I lowered my bow and started down the tree with my API climber. I was just stepping out of my stand when Old Tom came running out of his hidey hole, and ran through the water filled creek. Keeping watch of him, I grabbed my bow and started running through the water. The chase was on! The creek had a sharp bend to the right, and he crossed it again. Old Tom went up a very steep bank toward a cut bean field. I went into the water, and started scrambling up the other side. I grabbed on an exposed root to pull myself up, and it snapped off in my hand. I fell into the water and started flopping around like a beached carp. I got my footing, grabbed a different root, and made it up the bank and into the bean field. I saw Old Tom in the bean field, nocked an arrow, shot and missed. I shot 2 more times. He was running each time I shot, and I only got feathers on the second shot. I picked up an arrow, hoping to save at least one sharp one for deer hunting. Old Tom finally stopped, turned around and looked at me. I took careful aim and this time finally hit him. It was a shot to the chest that put him down and out for good. I put my tag on him and toted him back to my stand while picking up my spent arrows. I placed him under some brush and went up the tree to deer hunt. At just after 5PM I had a six point come in with 2 does and a fawn. The six point was small, and it was early in my hunt, so I passed him up, but was more than willing to take one of the does if I got the opportunity. They started milling around, and I got mixed up as to which deer was which. I finally got a shot opportunity and put an arrow through the lungs of one of the deer. It went about 30 yards and crashed. I climbed down to fetch my doe. When I reached for a hind leg to drag it to dry ground I noticed it had male parts. The deer I shot was a button buck. I put an antlerless tag on it, dressed him out, and left him by the creek. I went back and got my bow stand, grabbed Old Tom and hiked back to my Volvo. I drove back to the State cabin where my cousin Leif and I were renting. I showed him Old Tom and told him my story with Old Tom and how long I had been after him. Leif said let's eat supper. I asked him if he wanted some exercise first. He asked if I had gotten a deer, and I told him about my great afternoon deer hunting too. We dragged the deer to my car and took it to my friend's barn to hang. What a hunt!

I tend to keep a daily log. It helps when retelling my stories and also helps with future hunts.



Audette's Sporting Goods
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October Afternoon

by Bill Valleau



It was about 5 o'clock in the afternoon on the opening day of the regular archery season. It was the first time I was hunting from this tree stand and my hopes were high. The stand was situated in the corner of a 35 acre field, lined with oak trees, apple trees and old growth pines. A large oak tree was 30 yards away from my stand and acorns littered the field. It was a beautiful fall afternoon with a slight breeze. The maple trees had started to turn to variations of reds and yellows, crows were calling back and forth and in the distance there were sounds of a deer rifle being sighted in. It was a great day to be in a deer stand with my bow.

As daylight was fading the sky became cloudy. The squirrels, chick-a-dees, and crows had retired for the day. The air was calm, then without hesitation, a mature doe walked into the field with a yearling doe following closely behind. I could see dark silhouettes moving in the far corner of the field, deer were coming out to feed. I watched the doe and yearling feed below the oak and work within 20 yards of my stand. I decided if the doe gave me a broadside shoot I was going to shoot.

The doe, without warning, blew and ran to the center of the field with the smaller deer bounding behind her. My shoot opportunity for the night was gone. I watched the deer, and they seemed to relax and resumed feeding. Out of the corner of my eye, a large brown object appeared to the left of my stand. It was a buck, not making a sound, it was watching the does. A hemlock was between me and the buck, but if it moved forward only 10 yards or so I would have a clear shot. I said to myself that this was my deer and as if it heard me, he moved and started to trot towards the big oak tree.



I pulled up my bow and came to full draw as the deer came into the shooting lane. I steadied my green 20 yard pin and shot. I heard the very distinct sound of an arrow and broad head hitting a deer. The buck bolted out of the field. I sat back, hung my bow on a branch, closed my eyes for a second to say, thank you; started to shake, took out my cell phone and called my wife. I waited an hour before tracking my deer. I was able to recover the deer quickly after following the blood trail for 60 yards. The buck was a 4 pointer, 150 pounds, well actually it was a two point because one of its antlers had been broken off, and probably when it was still in velvet.

When I think back to this October afternoon, I think what a perfect day it was to be in the woods with my bow. I hope all bow hunters get the opportunity to have their own memorable October afternoon.

L.L.Bean

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220Lb Bow Kill

Jeff Hopkins

"I hung my tree stand on Sept 23rd, and never had a chance to sit in it until yesterday Oct 21. Barely two hours after sitting down, and 20 minutes after sundown, I heard movement in three directions. The first to appear was a large doe, which came from my left, and proceeded to walk to the tree I was sitting in, and sniff it and the ground I walked in on!

As I admired it between my feet, I kept watch and spotted a second deer, which circled out in front of me, but was in too much brush to get a clear view. The third one finally appeared from where the doe came from, as I listened to a forth coming in from my right. The third deer finally cleared the apple trees and started toward me, as the doe did. At 15 yards, it turned to his left and went through some brush. As it cleared the brush, I drew back and waited for it to stop broadside. The arrow found it's mark at 22 yards, and about 100 yards later, I put my hands on a 10-pointer that dressed out at 220lbs! My biggest ever, and taken from the same tree that I took the 204lb 11-pointer from a couple years ago.



This picture wasn't staged. This is exactly how I found him as I walked up to him."

I couldn't believe that the doe, still at the base of my tree, didn't bust me before I could shoot, but she was good to me.

I'd like to thank MBA member Paul Craig and his brother Jim for helping me with this heavy drag!

A Family Owned & Operated Business Since 2002



Tom and Jess Hartford
Central Maine Archery, LLC
213 Washington Street
Auburn, Maine
207-783-3060



Where Archery Is NOT A Department, Archery Is At Our Center

MBA Stat Information

To be eligible for MBA big game awards you MUST, complete this form, have paid membership 30 days prior to harvest, submit certified weight slip, submit photo of harvested animal, and send to MBA, PO Box 5026, Augusta, ME 04332 before January 31.

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLE

Hunter Info:

Name _____
Address _____
City/State _____
Zip _____ Phone _____
email _____

Harvest info:

Date _____ Town/State _____ Time _____
Animals Position: Qtr. Away Broadside Qtr. Towards Heading Away
Distance of first shot: _____ Shots taken _____ Hits _____
Position of hits: _____ Penetration _____
Time waited before tracking _____ Recovery Distance _____
Time from first hit to recovery _____
Misc. Info: _____

Equipment Info:

Type of bow: Long Recurve Compound
Brand: _____ Draw Weight: _____

Turkey Scoring Formula:

Weight: _____ Beard: _____ L.Spur: _____ R.Spur: _____
Weight: _____ +2 X the beard length _____ +10 X length of each spur _____ Total _____

Game Info:

Animal Taken: _____ The following categories are eligible for a
Sex: _____ Weight: _____ certificate & a patch In State/Out of State
Antler Points: _____ buck doe, bear, moose & turkey.
License info: Please include \$5 for each animal
License Number: _____ **you want a patch for.**
IF&W tag number: _____

**PLEASE submit a stat sheet for EACH animal you harvest,
the info helps the MBA & IF&W.**

Photo Submitted

by

Tina Richard



Photo Submitted

By

Tina Richard



All Points
INSURANCE

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Mike & Amy Fitzpatrick, Ethan Robertson

PH. 989-8880 • FAX: 989-8881

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Education: Aidan Coffin, 837-8055
Membership /Supplies /Affiliations: John Hunt 278-5798
Webmaster: Paul St John, 310-8303 (cell)
Legislative Director: Travis Wood, 465-2160 (cell)
Editor: John Hunt 278-5798 Co-editor Dan Long 991-0810

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

Northeastern:

**Mike Fitzpatrick, 989-8808, Rodd Lougee, 557-4017 (cell),
Art Ward 943-2312, Brian Smith 240-2961**

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**Lou Provost, 532-6569, Julie Johnston, 731-7070,
Deanna Page 270-3400,
Travis Sutherland 403-0549**

South Central:

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**For information check our web site at:
www.mainebowhunters.org**

MBA Membership Application or join online at www.mainebowhunters.org

New Renewal

Date: _____

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Names of Family/Household Members: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ County: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: Very important. Print clearly: _____

Membership Dues: Family/household \$30 Affiliate Club/business \$95

Mail to: Maine Bowhunters Association, PO Box 5026, Augusta, ME 04332



**To all our Armed Forces
THANK YOU!
From everyone at the
Maine Bowhunters Association**



**Maine Bowhunters Association
PO Box 5026
Augusta, ME 04332**