



The Maine Bowhunter

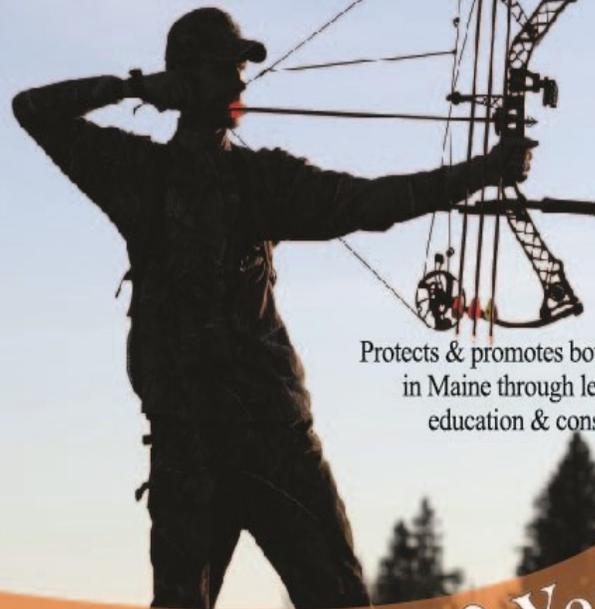


The Official Newsletter of Maine Bowhunters Association

Fall 2016



MAINE BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION



Protects & promotes bowhunting in Maine through legislation, education & conservation.



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Inside This Edition

President's Report from Deanna Page, Public Land Bowhunting, Introducing a New Director (Kristin Trenholm), Introducing an MBA Affiliate Archery Shop



President's Report Fall 2016

By

Deanna Page

The air is getting that crisp feel, and our hunter instincts are kicking in! I hope everyone gets an opportunity to get out and do some bowhunting, or hunting in general this fall. Don't forget, as part of your membership benefits and service to our sport, please fill out a Stat sheet for each animal you harvest with your bow. At our Annual Banquet in April, we give certificates for each animal harvested (based on stat sheets turned in). If you are lucky enough to have harvested the largest animal in your category, you will receive a nice plaque. So please, send in those stat sheets!

We will be facing the November election before we know it. Regarding Question 3 on Maine's ballot, the MBA has decided to take a stance of Opposition. Our official statement is: "The Maine Bowhunters Association is "dedicated to the preservation of bowhunting in Maine." We also feel that we need to stand beside our fellow outdoorsman and gun owners by standing in opposition to Question 3 – Universal Background Check. Vote NO on 3!"

This October 5 marks the official 50th anniversary of the formation of the Maine Bowhunters Association. Over the winter we will be preparing for a celebration at our Annual Banquet on April 15, 2017, so save the date to join us for a great evening at Jeff's Catering in Brewer.

We are gearing up for a membership push as well. We feel every bowhunter in the state should be a card carrying member of the MBA. If your fellow bowhunting friends aren't members, please encourage them to join. Let's work together as a group to become a strong group that works together to preserve and promote bowhunting in Maine. It's our heritage, we need memberships to protect the future of our sport!

Public Land Hunting

By

John Hunt



My wife and I have recently started hunting out of the state of Maine. We could choose to hunt at ranches/private land where deer are managed for “quality.” However, we believe that sort of hunt takes something away from the hunt, not to mention the high costs associated with this type of a hunt. We have decided to hunt on public land. We love public land!

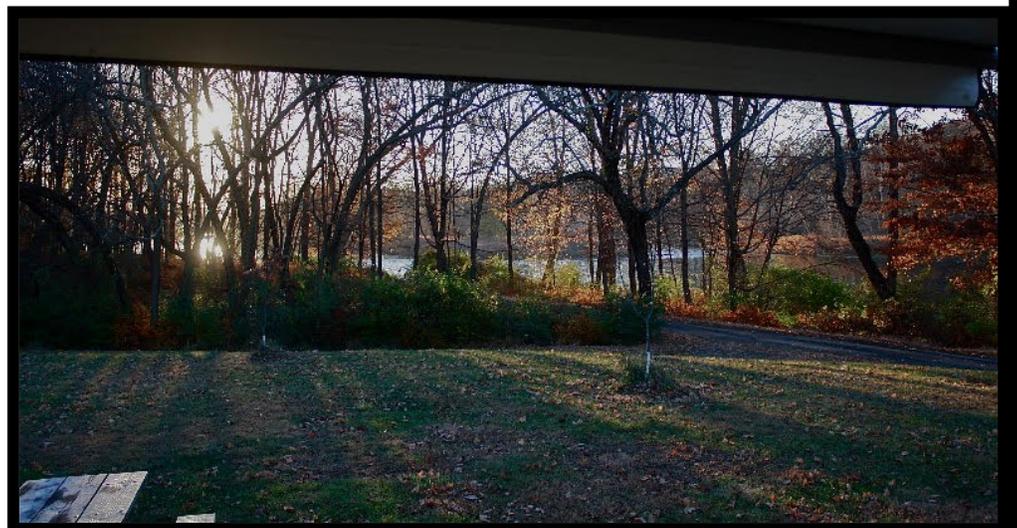
Unfortunately, Maine has very little public land available to hunters, compared to many other states. According to a recent survey, Maine has about 4.8% of its land available to public hunting access. There are a number of states out west that have more than 50% of the land available for public hunting access. However, even here in the East there are States that have a reasonable amount of public land available to hunters. Our next door neighbor, NH, has about 17.3%. New Jersey has about 15.7%. Pennsylvania has about 14.6%. New York has over 12%. Michigan has over 20%. All of these states are within a day or 2 drive from Maine. Most of these states also have very liberal bag limits, because they have deer numbers far in excess of Maine deer numbers. Also, don’t think the deer in these states are small. If that’s what you think, I recommend you check the Boone and Crockett and Pope and Young record books.

There are a number of different types of public land to investigate. Here is a short list of common types of public lands that allow hunting in most situations. National forests, State forests, State Parks, BLM lands, Wildlife Management Areas, and National Recreation Areas. Often there are also municipal lands available, such as county parks and town lands. Do your research, and you may be surprised at how much is available to you out there. Many of these lands also have camp sites available.

In many national forests you can get a campsite for your camper for as little as \$10-\$15/night. If you have a “golden pass,” you can cut that price in half. Golden passes are available to disabled veterans and those over age 62. These campsites usually offer vault toilets and water. Sometimes they offer even more amenities, sometimes less. Add a campsite shower facility, and you may have to pay around \$25/night.

In many places you can “dry

camp” for no cost at all. At these sites you usually only have a fire ring. Another very common benefit to hunting public land is the beauty of these lands. Most were put aside for all to enjoy because they have exceptionally special characteristics. If you want to take a day off from hunting and just hike or drive around, you’ll usually have some real beauty to behold. Get you Google Earth app out any you’ll be able to easily find these unique national treasures.



View from camper at a public land campsite.

Without cutting too many corners, but being reasonably frugal, 2 people can experience a couple weeks of quality deer hunting for about \$1500. That's including gas, campsite costs, food, hunting licenses, everything. Yes, that's \$750/person for 2 weeks.

Some people don't like public land hunting because they say it's too crowded. We have seen some places where that is true (One piece of public land we hunted was flooded with crossbow hunters.), but we have seen other places where there is very little hunting pressure. If you're willing to hike in a mile or so, you can get away from the crowds in most areas. In some areas we don't have to go far at all to get away. This is especially true during archery season. Speaking of out of state archery seasons.....they occur DURING THE RUT! Most states with quality deer hunting do not allow firearm hunting during the major phases of the rut. A great benefit of this is that in these states deer behave like deer. What I mean by that is that you actually get to see rutting behavior like bucks chasing does, making scrapes, freshening licking branches, etc. Rutting activity like this in Maine occurs primarily at night because of our heavy gun hunting pressure during all phases of the rut. I saw no less than 5 instances of this type of rutting activity on my last 9 day bow hunt out of state. It's a very satisfying part of the hunt to see this sort of activity. These later archery seasons also allow you to enjoy bowhunting in Maine, and then head out of state for more of what you love. In most of these states you also tend to feel less pressure to harvest a deer when you see one, because you know the chances are pretty high that you'll be seeing more deer. It leads to a very enjoyable hunting experience.

I hope this article is helpful to those of you who want to start "stretching out" your hunting experiences, and to do so at a reasonable cost.



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Our New Membership Director

Kristin Trenholm



My name is Kristin Trenholm and I'm your new membership director! I'm 23 and I grew up in the Sugarloaf region of Western Maine. I am an avid hunter and bowhunter, my favorite species to hunt are deer but I also like to hunt partridge and am getting into turkeys. I'm also very excited to go on my first bear hunt next year! I just took my Maine Guide course and am hoping to be a licensed hunting guide by the spring. I am also going to be getting into trapping this winter with my dad. I'll be starting out with muskrat but would eventually like to do mink, martin and fox. What I hope to bring to the Maine Bowhunters Association is a continuation of fighting for the privilege to bowhunt in Maine which I think starts with getting more young people like myself involved in organizations such as this. It is organizations like these that make bowhunting in Maine possible. I would also really like to see more women get involved, the best way to continue to learn new things is by surrounding yourself with like-minded people who are passionate about the things you are. The Maine Bowhunters Association crew has been so welcoming to me and I am honored to now be the new membership director. I won't let you down!

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Names of Family/Household Members: _____

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



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