

The Maine Bowhunter



FALL 2018

Official Newsletter of the Maine Bowhunters Association



MDIFW Deer Collaring Project

Findings from Nathan Bieber

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A Food Plot Update

Dedicated to the

Preservation of Bowhunting for over **50** years!



President's Report

with **DEANNA L. PAGE**

Sorry for the delay in getting your newsletter out to you. We have concentrated our effort on organizing the Membership Database. We can more easily keep track of

everyone's renewal date to be sure you are getting the most of your membership. We are now in the process of getting renewal notices out to those members who are due to renew. Please keep your eyes open for an email reminder, if you are able to renew online, that will save the MBA from mailing you a renewal letter via the Postal Service. Thanks to Beth Bellegarde for getting everyone who wasn't getting a magazine corrected so you will now be receiving Bowhunting World. If for any reason you feel you are not getting the magazine, please email us. The next magazine should be out by January 5th.

The Board has voted to distribute the 25% Banquet profit to several deserving groups who will use the money towards outdoor education here in Maine. If you know of any deserving group or organization who participates in outdoor education that would be a good candi-date for our 2019 donations, please contact us.

As always, we could use your help! We are headed into our busy time of year soon, we will be needing help to gather donations for the banquet, as we will need bodies in the MBA booth at the upcoming Sportsman's Shows....PLEASE reach out to us, we need you to make this organization work.

The MBA now has t-shirts and sweatshirts printed with our logo. See design below.

T-shirts will have front pocket logo and full back design-Price \$15(S-XL) add \$2 for 2X & 3X.

Crew neck sweatshirts will have both front & back logos-Price \$20(S-XL) and \$2 for 2X & 3X.

Hoodies (pocket logo only, solid or camo) – Prices will range from \$35-45 depending on style and color.

We ordered a certain amount of each size, so to reserve your shirts:

Please call me at **270-3400** or email me at **mainebowhunter68@gmail.com**.

Thank you so much for your membership,

Deanna L. Page
President





A Food Plot Update *with* John Hunt

I think it's pretty cool that I started this process without really knowing what the outcome would be. Those two small food plots ended up producing 3 deer for 3 different people in 3 days of hunting with a total of 4 sits! One person did 2 sits, and saw deer both times. The other 2 people killed deer first time in.

One was taken by my wife, Ruth; one was taken by a new bowhunter and MBA member, Truc Hyunh; and the other was taken by a youth hunter Torin Thoby I allowed to hunt there on youth day. ***It was definitely an experiment worth trying out.***

Have fun, and shoot straight.

John Hunt



MDIFW Deer Collaring Project

with **Nathan Bieber**

Overview

Since 2015, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) has been capturing white-tailed deer and fixing GPS collars to them to monitor their movements and survival rates. Our focus is on capturing does. From early January through early April, MDIFW researchers are in the field capturing deer in Wildlife Management Districts (WMDs) 1, 5, 6, and 17, with 2019 marking the first year that deer will be collared in WMD 5 (Figure 1). In conjunction with data on winter severity and information on local winter feeding practices, data from collared deer will be used to better understand factors influencing winter mortality of deer and help shape deer management in Maine in the future.

Researchers with MDIFW use a variety of tools and techniques to capture deer: clover traps, drop nets, rocket nets, darting, and aerial net-gunning. Clover traps are ground-based traps that use scents and baits to lure deer inside. Once inside, the deer may trigger a tripwire located over the bait, which closes the trap door trapping the deer inside. Drop nets and rocket nets use baits to lure deer within range of a large net, which is then dropped or propelled by rocket over the deer. Darting is a capture technique that utilizes a dart projector and a dart loaded with chemical immobilization drugs to immobilize deer. Aerial net-gunning is a technique that uses a helicopter to locate deer from the air and then a net is fired out over the deer from a net-gun located in the helicopter.

Once captured, all adult does are fitted with GPS collars and ear tags so that their fates and movements may be monitored over time. Though we have collared a small number of fawns, these deer are typically ear-tagged and released. Adult bucks are ear-tagged and released. If a deer is chemically immobilized during the capture process, additional measurements may be taken, which will characterize the physical condition of the animal at time of capture.

Each GPS collar is programmed to transmit 2 location data points each day at 12-hour intervals. These data are sent to tracking software allowing us to monitor deer movements day-to-day.

Additionally, if a collar remains motionless for an extended period (~4 hours), the collar will send out a “mortality signal” indicating that the animal has been motionless for an extended period and may be deceased. This mortality signal will prompt an automatic email and/or text message indicating a possible mortality. Researchers then try to locate the animal using its last known location and radio telemetry equipment, and they attempt to retrieve the collar and determine the cause of death.

Capture Results

To date, we have handled ~266 unique deer and placed GPS collars on ~149 of them (Figure 2). Observed mortality rates thus far have varied by WMD and by year, but thus far, mortality rates have generally been higher in the northern study sites (WMDs 1 and 6) than in our central Maine study site in WMD 17 (Table 1). Leading causes of death thus far by study site have included coyote predation and malnutrition in WMD 1, roadkill and hunter harvest in WMD 6, and roadkill, coyote predation, and hunter harvest in WMD 17.

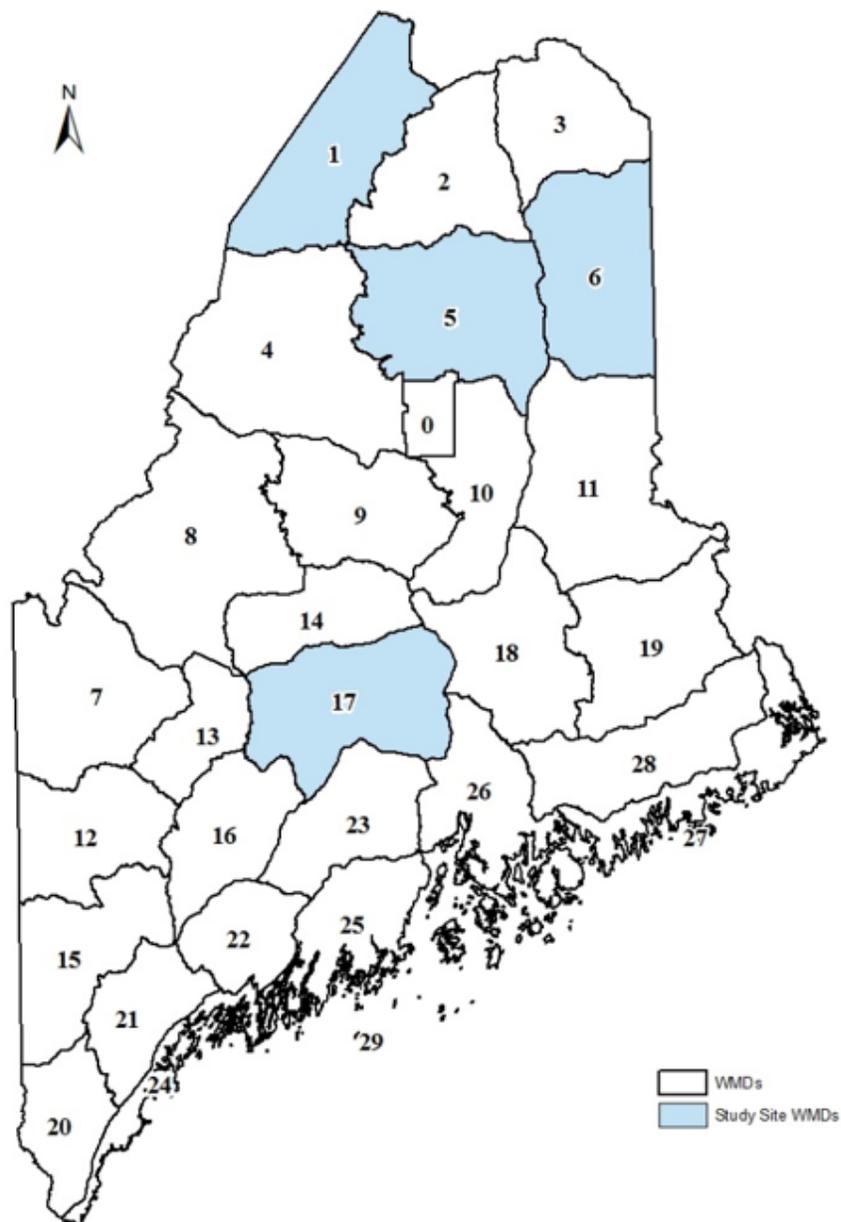


Figure 1. Wildlife Management Districts (WMDs) in Maine and WMDs currently serving as study sites for Maine’s deer winter mortality study.

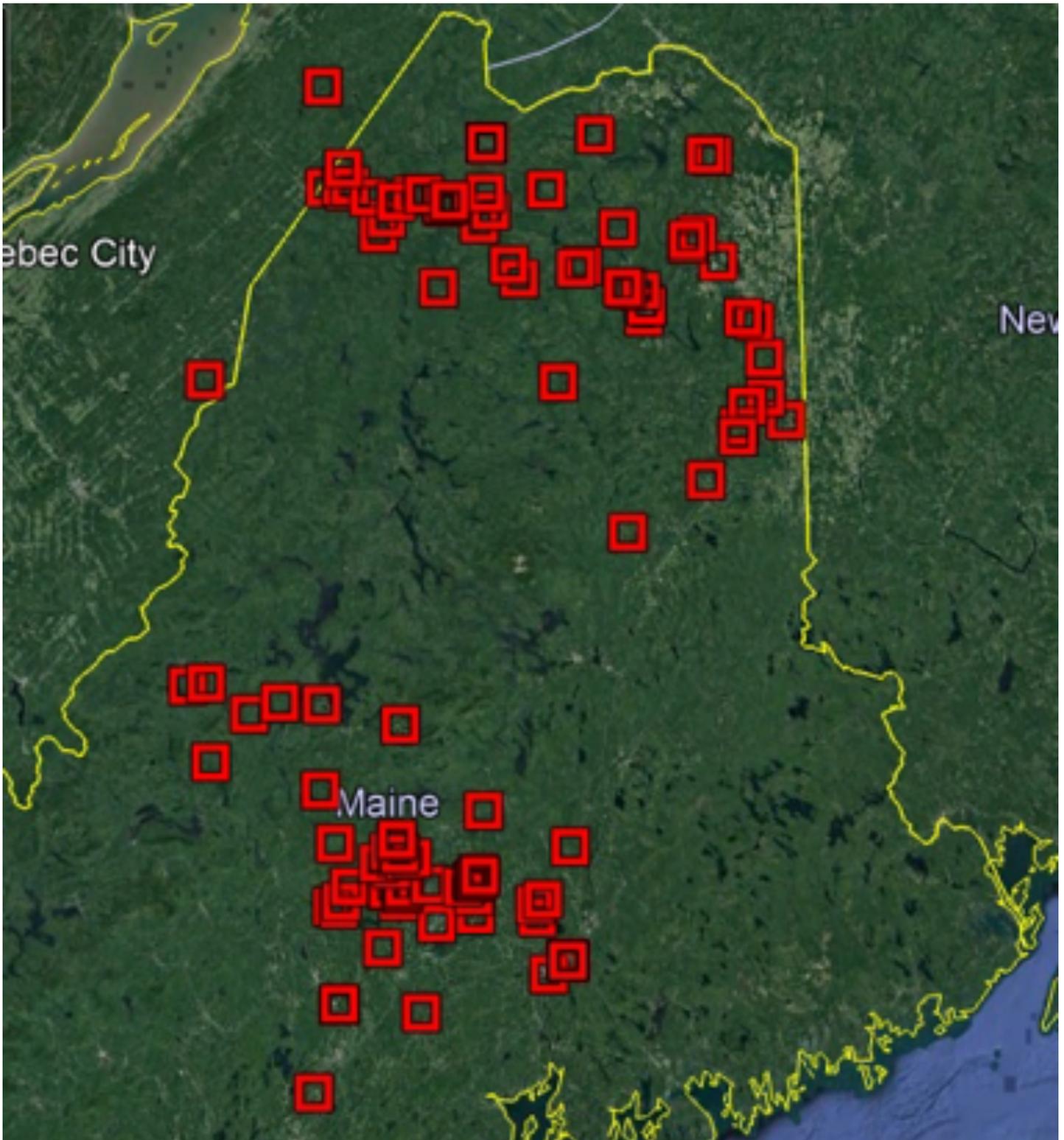


Figure 2. Locations of radio-marked deer captured as part of MDIFW's deer winter mortality study.

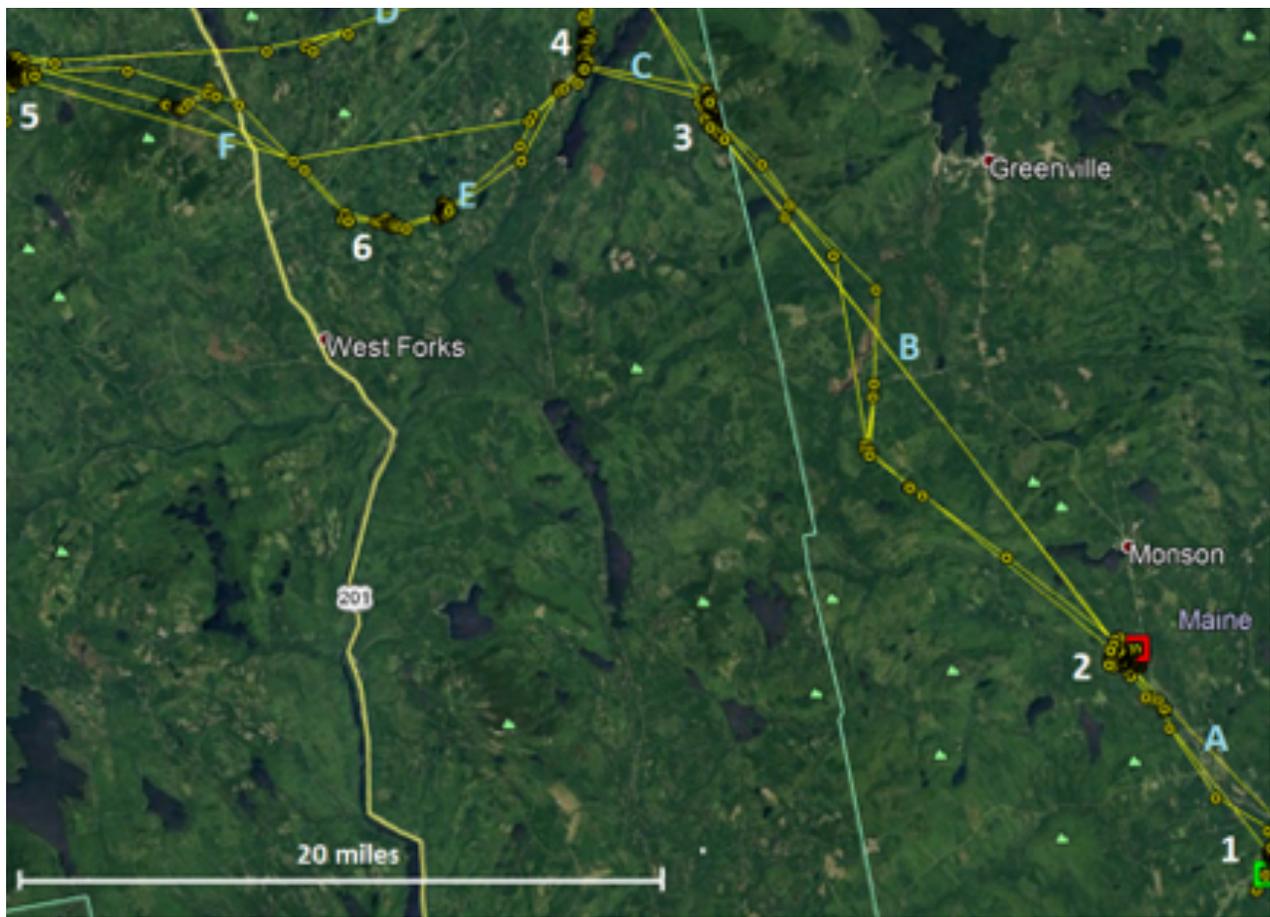
Movements

Many of our collared deer have exhibited significant seasonal movements between summer and winter home ranges. These movements sometimes exceed 30 miles (though are more commonly 5-15 miles), are made twice per year, and are more common in deer in the northern half of the state. Typically, these deer will spend their summers further north, often in areas that have been

recently logged or thinned, which allows young browse species to flourish and leaves downed tree tops to browse. The deer will then travel south in the fall in preparation for the winter, typically to a denser, softwoods-dominated area.

A Fascinating Case

Deer 14406 is one of the more interesting deer that we've encountered. It was captured in February of 2016 near the town of Parkman, and its life history was a unique one to watch unfold. Table 2 and Figure 3 below describe the movements of this deer. After over a year and a half on-air for our study, this deer met its end. It was shot in the hindquarters by a hunter. The deer then fled the area for ~0.6 miles, where it then bedded down for a couple of days. At some point, something caused the deer to flee from its bed. During the flight, the deer got its leg stuck under a tree root and broke the leg. Not long after, a bobcat or lynx discovered the stuck and injured animal and finished it off with a bite to the back of the head. A fascinating end to a deer that lived a fascinating and travel-filled life.



- The green square designates the location where the deer was captured.
- The red square designates the location where the deer died.
- The yellow circles with black centers are individual location data points.
- The large white numbers mark clusters of points, which were locations where the deer spent significant amounts of time.

Figure 3. Location data points for deer 14406, captured February 2016 near Parkman, Maine.

Table 1.

Winter mortality rates (%) have varied by winter and by Wildlife Management District (WMD) over the course of the MDIFW deer winter mortality study.

	WMD 1	n	WMD 6	n	WMD 17	n
2014-15					12.5%	16
2015-16					9.8%	51
2016-17	0.0%	11	14.6%	41	4.5%	44
2017-18	45.2%	31	14.3%	14	2.6%	38

Table 2.

The movement history of deer 14406, captured February 2016 near Parkman, Maine.

<u>Date Arrived</u>	<u>Date Left</u>	<u>Map Point</u>	<u>Events at Location</u>
2/3/2016	3/30/2016	1	Capture at this location.
3/31/2016	4/1/2016	A	Deer traveled route.
4/1/2016	6/1/2016	2	Deer remained at this location these dates.
6/1/2016	6/10/2016	B and D	Deer traveled route.
6/11/2016	8/30/2016	5	Deer remained at this location these dates.
8/31/2016	9/17/2016	F and E	Deer traveled route.
9/18/2016	11/1/2016	4	Deer remained at this location these dates.
11/1/2016	1/17/2016	3	Deer remained at this location these dates.
11/18/2016	11/27/2016	B	Deer traveled route.
11/28/2016	12/6/2016	2	Deer remained at this location these dates.
12/7/2016	12/11/2016	A	Deer traveled route.
12/12/2016	4/18/2017	1	Deer remained at this location these dates.
4/19/2017	4/20/2017	A	Deer traveled route.
4/21/2017	5/30/2017	2	Deer remained at this location these dates.
5/31/2017	6/2/2017	B	Deer traveled route.
6/3/2017	6/5/2017	C	Deer traveled route.
6/6/2017	6/7/2017	E and F	Deer traveled route.
6/8/2017	8/8/2017	5	Deer remained at this location these dates.
8/9/2017	10/2/2017	F and E	Deer traveled route with short stop in middle.
10/3/2017	10/11/2017	4	Deer remained at this location these dates.
10/12/2017	10/12/2017	C	Deer traveled route.
10/12/2017	11/7/2017	3	Deer remained at this location these dates.
11/8/2017	11/12/2017	B	Deer traveled route.
11/13/2017	11/14/2017	2	Deer remained at this location these dates.
11/14/2017	-	2	Deer wounded by hunter. See narrative.



A Trail Camera Souvenir

with **Randy Gaetano**

Even when you miss, you have a little something to keep.

I'm sure most of us enjoy using trail cameras. The benefits they provide are game-changing — whether it's knowledge of what deer are around, when they are moving, or even the unexpected critters they capture — every time we put a card into the computer it feels a little like Christmas. When late summer comes along, I usually can't wait to set up a few cameras to see who is around my favorite spots or if a new permission is worth exploring. I don't take trail cams too seriously because once fall comes around patterns quickly change from new foods coming into season or increased pressure, and I'm just as happy to be surprised by the deer I eventually see from the stand. It's all part of the fun of this year round pursuit. This season my wood spies provided something different. I was especially busy with a new job and it was the first time I didn't get a chance to put out a single camera in years. It didn't matter — it was still a fun season and I'm thankful for meat in the freezer. That said, I had a very close call with this buck in 2017 and hoped he was still around. I got pictures of him after that season when he dropped his antlers ... his cut ear being the tell-tale sign. Sure enough, I saw him in the middle of this October at 80 yards. I went back to that spot often but never saw him again. As the season was coming to a close, I found a pretty well-visited scrape and decided to try to get a photo of him atleast. I hung a camera on the scrape the last couple weeks of the season and hunted that spot a few more times. During my last sit of the season he showed up and gave me an opportunity! Unfortunately, I missed right over his back and it still stings a bit to think about that. When I put the card in the next day... there he was licking the branch two days prior. It's nice to have something to look at to remind me of the beauty I got close to, to know there is an exciting story that continues next year, and that there is always work to be done.

Randy Gaetano

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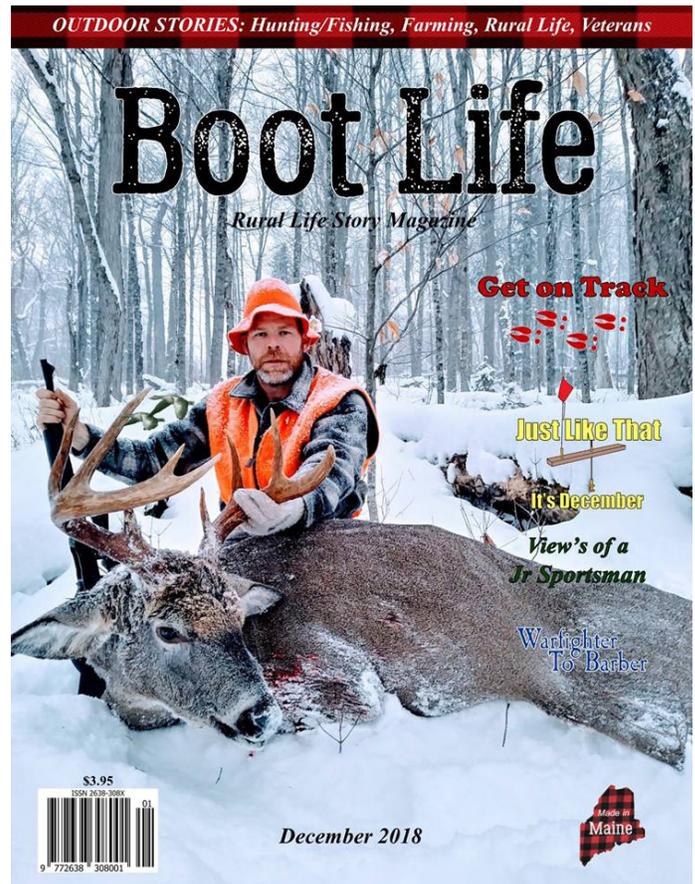
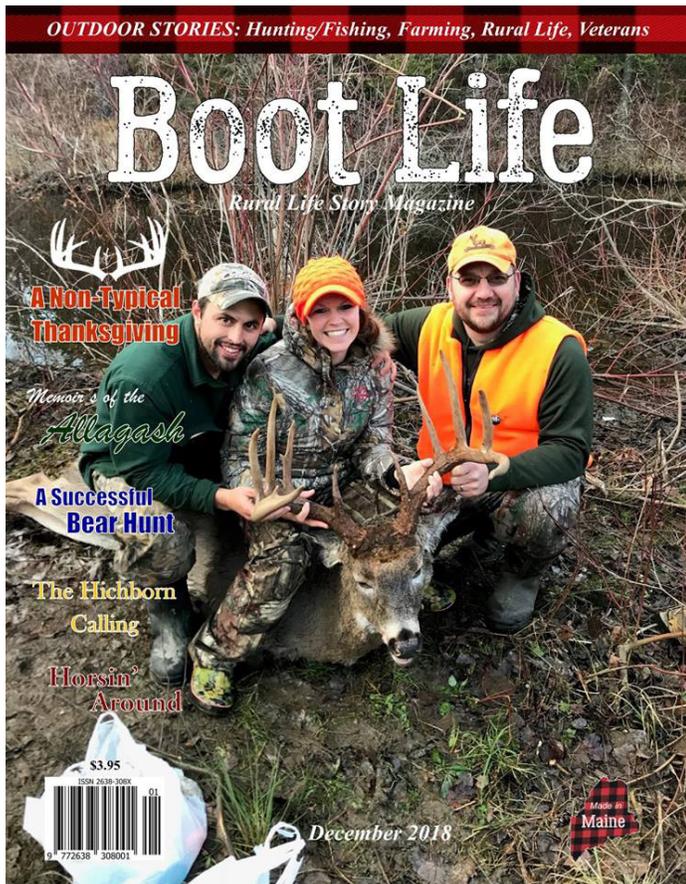
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We bring articles on things like:

- Excerpts celebrating our family run farms
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- Stories on time spent hunting, fishing and enjoying the beautiful outdoors
- Veterans sharing their stories of time spent "rebooting" rural style
- And much, much more...

Always non-political, unbiased and light hearted with friendly reminders to tend our souls and family. "From the heart" stories about the life we cherish ... the time spent in our boots living the rural lifestyle. **Boot Life** has given Maine Bowhunters Association an opportunity to be part of the magazine. Each month we will choose a woman and a man to write a short article to appear in the magazine. Every article goes to a wordsmith for editing and they would like a few photos to go with the story if at all possible! The only guide lines are it has to be a positive story (no bashing of other organizations or businesses) and ALWAYS non-political. The deadlines are the 15th of each month.

If you are in-terested in writing an article(s) , please submit your article and photos to Deanna at mainebowhunter68@gmail.com.

MBA Membership Application

Or join online at www.mainebowhunters.org.



New **Renewal**

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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

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