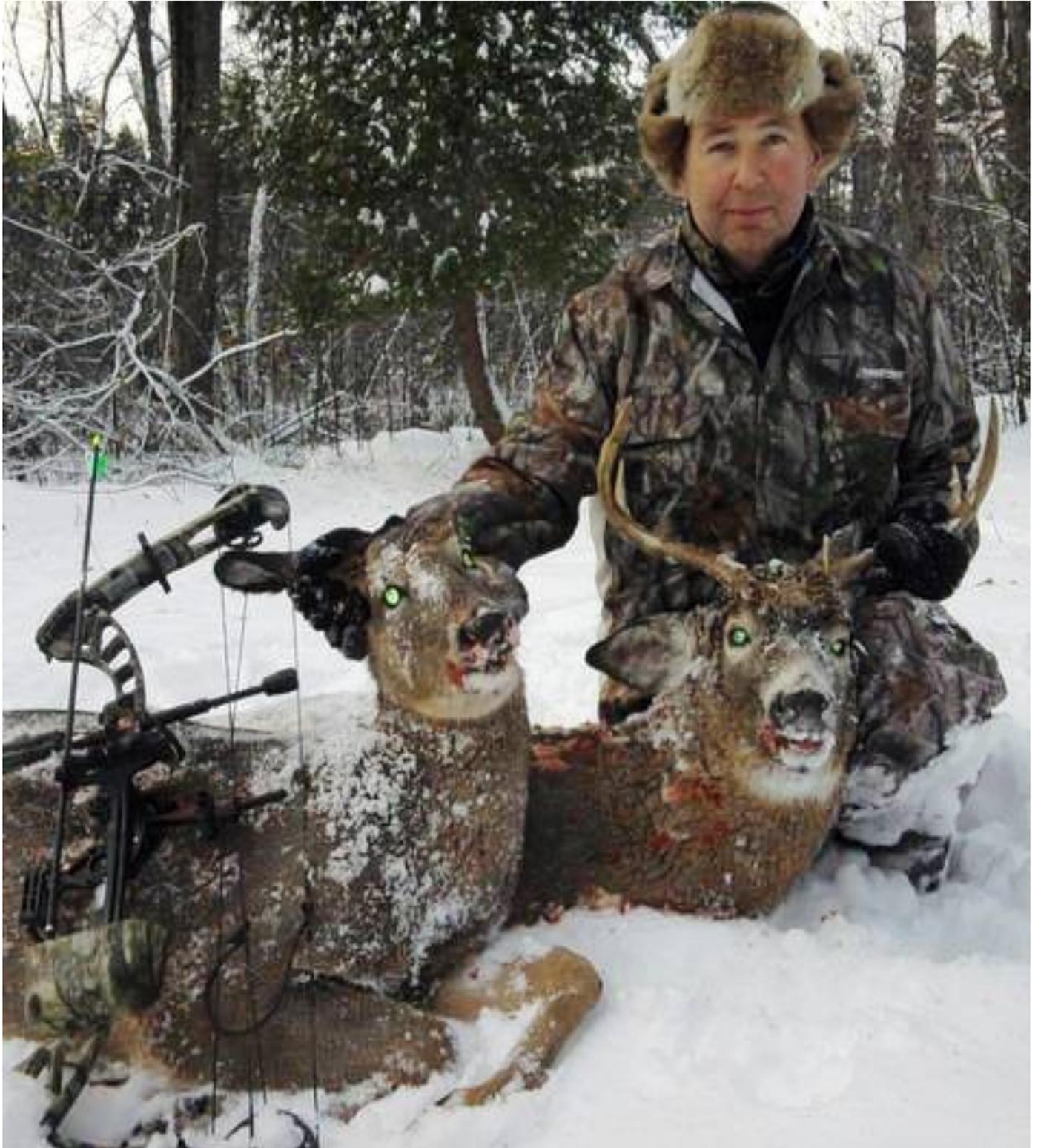


THE MAINE BOWHUNTER

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MAINE BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

JANUARY 2012



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ABOUT THE COVER

This month's cover illustrating a successful MBA member is courtesy of:

Lance Farrar

Lance killed these deer on thanksgiving day, the seven-point buck was 185 lbs. and the doe provided great meat. Lance used a PSE Brute and Rage 3-blade broad heads. Congratulation to Lance on his double on deer. This hunt took place in a expanded archery zone where archers have an opportunity to kill a doe and buck.

Want to have your picture considered for the cover of The Maine Bowhunter? If you are part of the general membership we wish to thank-you for your support and offer to consider your hunting photo for the next cover! High resolution images only please.

E-mail them to: valdoris@metrocast.net.

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Photo Tips

From the Editor, Val Marquez

This photo shows respect towards the deer. The bucks eyes were white because of reflections from the camers flash; however, I used photo edit on my PC to color them, a good tip for MBA members.

The photo was taken with a Sony Cyber-shot (5.1 mega pixels) camera that was placed on a small tripod that I carry in my pack. There are some mistakes with this photo; one being, the subjects are centered. The photo would be improved if it was composed with the "rule of thirds". Read my text for the other issues.

The first step to quality photos is to become totally familiar with the camera, the owners manual and some practice will ensure good photos in the wild. Also, consider a basic photography book or go on line to learn basic skills. This column deals with the hands on aspect of setting up and composure along with some tips.

Always show respect for the game you have killed by placing its tongue back into its mouth, clean blood from around the month and wound area. A great tip is to carry some fishing line and tie the jaw to keep the mouth shut preventing the tongue from falling out. Photos of an archer and his trophy must be taken with some consideration; the photos should document and show a great animal.

Include photos with you and the game interacting. Do close up photos of yourself admiring the game this shows respect and admiration for the animal. You should think about what you want the viewer to feel not just what they see. With a little forethought you can control how people feel when they view the photo. Good pictures tell a story and generate feelings.

Once the archer cleans and prepares the trophy than they can compose the photo. Try to take photos at ground level looking eye to eye with the game animal. Generally it's best to set behind the animal and stay low make yourself as small as possible, try to keep your legs and feet out of sight. Wear camouflage gloves or keep your hands out of the picture. Bare hands in a photo are distracting (see my hands it the above photo). Place deer legs under its body or out of sight.

Photos of bear should always include the legs and paws. You should spread paws as wide as possible and expose the claws. Try to make the bear large by placing it over a stump with its head and front legs draped over. You should line up the paws with the head this will keep the two main points of the photo in focus.

I see many photos with bows lying over an animal which is fine as long as the bow doesn't overpower the photo. The professionals do this to support their sponsors on outdoor television and in national press which isn't a concern for most MBA members. Discreetly placing the bow, quiver and arrows behind the animal with just one limb showing keeps attention on the animal and not gear. Colored fletching showing is good as long as it's not overpowering the animal.

Taxidermy is great but archers should also take photos of the hunting experience and game they kill. These photos will be viewed by their families for generations.

Val Marquez,

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Many changes have taken place in our organization since the release of our last newsletter. Most notably Dan Long has stepped down as President of Maine Bowhunters Association, and I have now taken over that role. Val Marquez took over the Cumberland County Representative position and is also our interim editor. He brings with him many years of experience with our organization, and his input will be extremely valuable to us. Jeff Hopkins stepped down as 1st Director at Large, but still plans on helping us out as much as he can at sportsman's shows, the MBA banquet, etc. Through these changes, the Maine Bowhunters Association continues to move forward with it's mission.

Next month we'll be asking our members to approve a change from County Representatives to Regional Representatives. It has been under discussion for a long time, and we believe this approach will help us better serve our membership.

We have many important events coming up in the near future, including sportsman's shows, and our annual banquet at the Calumet Club in Augusta. If you have never been to one of our banquets you really don't know what you're missing. We usually have a tremendous showing at these, with the hall filled right up. Our auction is a

great way to pick up some great gear at low prices, not to mention helping keep our organization fiscally sound. We usually have excellent guest speakers, and awards, and special presentations. The worst thing about the banquet, is that it seems to end way too soon.

I've always been proud to be a member of the Maine Bowhunters Association. Partially because of our important mission, and partially because of the outstanding leadership the organization has. I will do my best, with the help of everyone, to keep our organization going in the right direction.

John Hunt

President Maine Bowhunters Association

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The Stand

by Bill Valleau

The Stand

by Bill Valleau

My very first season bow hunting I had permission to hunt an old farm property. It was primarily an apple orchard in times past, but it also had big oak trees, small fields, and a mix of soft woods. The landowner was a bird hunter who graciously allowed me to hunt in the mornings only as he spent every October afternoon in October harvesting grouse.

A few days before the opening of archery season, I scouted the property and found deer trails zigzagging through the apples trees. There was so much deer sign it was just a matter of finding the right tree to hang my stand. After much contemplation, I brought my stand to rest on a white pine on the edge of a grove thick with pine and fir. This tree was only 13 yards from an apple tree loaded with low hanging apples. I was extremely confident with my set up, and opening day could not come soon enough.

When that day arrived, I walked to my stand in the dark and waited until 10am before climbing down without seeing anything. For the next couple days I was not able to hunt because of my work schedule. When I was finally able to get back into my stand, it was one of those cold October mornings that made my bow hand numb. I was not going to let the cold get to me and leave my stand. Knowing that I only had the mornings to hunt, I was going to be patient. When the morning sun started to warm the air, I stood up to stretch my back, check my watch, and get my blood flowing. It was 9:00am. Then, coming through a sapling covered knoll, I saw the head of a deer moving toward me. My heart stopped, my legs and knees trembled and in order to gain my composure, I conceded that the deer was probably going

to veer off the trail before it reached the apple tree. If it did come in, I would shoot only if I had a clear broadside shot. The deer came straight to the apple tree without as much as a pause and stopped, 13 yards away, standing broadside. She stretched up to reach an apple, and I shot. Waiting an hour before following the blood trail, I found the deer 60 yards from the apple tree.

This was the first deer I shot with a bow and the only season I was able to hunt from this location. Shortly after the hunting season, the landowner had his property cut. The apple orchard, big oaks, the pine tree where I hung my tree stand were all cut down. The land was logged throughout the winter and I was not able to get into the property until spring. In speaking with the landowner, he told me that his property was going to be the site of his daughter's new home and construction was due to be completed by the fall.

I am sure most hunters, if not all, have similar stories of losing favorite hunting spots to logging, land being posted, or development. I do sometimes wish I had gotten the chance to hunt from my stand a few more times, but it was the experience of my very first year bow hunting in such an incredible spot that made the difference. Every fall since that first season, I continue to search for areas that compare to my first stand.

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ASK FIRST!!

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Legislative Report

By Jerome Richard

Landowner relations has been a big topic for many years in Maine between landowners, land users, and government agencies. A few years ago I was appointed to the Landowners Sportsman's Relation Advisory Board by the Governor's Office and IF&W to represent the MBA at these meetings. At first I didn't know what the group did or who would be attending, but as I found out it is a very broad based group of people from organizations like Maine Farm Bureau, Maine Forest Products Council, Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine, Seven Islands Land Company, Maine Tree Farm Committee, Central Maine Power, ATV Maine, Maine Snowmobile Association, Maine Trapper's Association, Maine Professional Guides Association, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, The Nature Conservancy, Maine Department of Conservation, Maine Warden Service, and IF&W Recreational Safety.

Much of the discussions seem to be centered on problem-solving issues caused by illegal dumping and illegal activities by outdoor users – not just hunters. As with anything, most of the problems are created by a very small number people that affect everyone else. It has been reported by a recent study that the economic impact to Maine by all outdoor users (hunters, fishermen, ATV, snowmobiles, bird watchers, whitewater rafting, hikers, campers, etc.) is over \$1 billion annually to Maine.

On Tuesday, December 13, 2011, I attended two different meetings on landowner relations. The first was a special meeting called by Tom Doak of SWOAM titled "Landowner Relations Conference" in the morning at the SAM Headquarters in Augusta on the results of a 3-year study in cooperation with the University of Maine and SWOAM. The meeting was facilitated by Harry Vanderweide, George Smith, Tom Doak, and David Trahan the new executive director for SAM. The results of the 3-year study were presented by Jessica Leahy, PhD from the University of Maine. I had participated in some of the study for the MBA during the focus group for land users, but in all the study used about 10 focus groups.

Dr. Leahy presented her finding in a PowerPoint presentation which was very informative. She listed the top 5 problems in severity as:

1. Hunters ignoring signs
2. Litter from hunters
3. ATV riders ignoring signs
4. Vandalism from hunters
5. Loss of personal safety from hunters

The frequency of these problems were listed as:

1. ATV riders ignoring signs
2. Litter from hunters
3. Illegal construction by ATV riders
4. Equipment/building damage from ATV riders
5. Loss of personal safety from hunters

The top 5 programs recommended by landowners to prevent future posting included:

1. ATV Training
2. K thru 12 Ethics
3. Respect Public Service Announcements (PSA)
4. Ethics Media Campaign
5. No Landowner Liability when Landowners Charge Fees

One thing became clear that no one glaring problem and solution existed. The solutions depended on who you asked depending on the focus group. Most landowners actually surveyed agree paying for the access wasn't a good option, but their main interest was showing respect for the land and landowner was more important. The survey also showed that it was not people from out of state who are doing most of the posting of land.

There are wide spread problems throughout the state and the problem are many. The solutions recommended by some of the focus groups included many good options, but some were believed to be bad ideas depending on the group makeup.

The facilitators for the meeting made it clear that something had to be done to keep landowners happy to continue with the access that may resident and non-resident users enjoy include license and registration fee increases to support new landowner relations initiatives. That suggestion did not go over well for the many people in attendance. As Don Kleiner, executive director for the Maine Professional Guides Association pointed out, many of the outdoor user groups including the MBA helped to fight to get landowners the Landowner Liability Law, the Tree Growth Tax law, and the Milk Price Supports plus many of us went along with their "No Sunday Hunting" stance to keep access open to hunters, and now we are being asked for even more.

I spoke at both the morning and afternoon sessions in response to some of the proposals that it seems like everyone is missing the point. The landowner groups are coming back to the land user groups that are by far and large dedicated volunteers and law abiding people, and asking them to make up for the illegal activities by a small minority of people. Instead, our problems center on law enforcement and the judicial systems lack of commitment and leadership to pass mandatory large fines that cannot be reduced. I have heard the same excuses since Commissioner Lee Perry that it seems to be OK to raise license fees, but do nothing to raise fines and penalties on illegal activities.

If this issue spins out of control and posting increases rapidly, no one will come out a winner. Remember the \$1 billion of economic impact brought to Maine by outdoor users? When that starts to decrease, then all the services provided by state and local governments will have to change, and many small businesses will feel the impact, too. Then someone will have to make up for those losses, and then the support by outdoor user groups to continue with tree growth tax, milk supports, and other benefits will quickly erode. IF&W will loss more revenues and then the merger into a super agency will be a sure thing. So hopefully calmer heads will prevail and no one will create a knee jerk reaction.

In the afternoon meeting it was the members of the Landowners Sportsman's Relations Advisory Board that met and we heard more feedback from the morning meeting from Tom Doak. To boil it down, it seemed like we heard more the same from the morning meeting. The one thing that was made clear from Mark Latti, the new Landowner Relations Director for IF&W, is that they don't have a budget, they don't know the financial impact to everyone's licenses and registrations, and they have not come up with details on a landowner relations program that the money would support. Basically, we got a lot of people wondering what is going on.

I just hope the cart isn't being put before the horse. Landowner relations could suffer from lack of direction by all involved and going after the wrong problem. I work in the private sector and I can assure you money is not the solution to every problem – it smart people working together. I believe pain is a great motivator and it is time the law breakers finally pay for their transgressions.



The MBA is working to get kids involved in the sport of archery. The photo is the MBA/NASP shooting booth at a local sportsman show. (see Tina's article on page 15)

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MBA member Stan Skolfield with his 170-pound buck he killed on November 16.

HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES AND ADS

The Maine Bowhunter welcomes submissions from all MBA members. If you've got something you would like to share with the MBA membership, send it along. We want to hear from you. Stories, photos, hot topics, even gripes are welcome. Try to keep stories to 500 words or less. Please note the following dates for submission of material.

The Maine Bowhunter is a web-based newsletter provided to the committed members of the Maine Bowhunters Association every other month, six times per year.

Ad rates are for camera-ready copy; some assistance in designing ads can also be provided at our discretion. Submissions by e-mail or on disk are preferred in either MS Word or Adobe .pdf format.

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| Newsletter Issue | Submissions Due |
|------------------|-----------------|
| January | December 1 |
| March | February 1 |
| May | April 1 |
| July | June 1 |
| September | August 1 |
| November | October 1 |

Education Report

By Jerome Richard

The Maine Bowhunters Association completed another National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Basic Archery Instructor class on Sunday, December 3rd at Georgetown Central School. This time we had 10 new instructors trained including school teachers and MBA members which required each new instructor to attend an 8-hour course, demonstrate knowledge of running a safe archery range, and successful passing a 100 question test with a minimal test score of 80 or better.



Top Row (L-R): Allen Goodrich, Pete McDaniel, Randy Cyr, Meg McDiarmid, Pamela Williams, Aidan Coffin, Debra MacBride, and Bill Valleau

Bottom Row (L-R): Tina Richard, Levi Cyr, Catherine Winchel, Jerome Richard, and Pete Lamarre

MBA members Bill Valleau, Aiden Coffin, and Levi Cyr became some of our newest NASP BAI graduates. Some of you may have met Levi and his father Randy Cyr at the L.L. Bean Discovery School in Freeport. Levi travels the globe competing in target archery and has won many world companionships.

The MBA will be planning another NASP BAI class for March 3rd or 4th, 2012 in the central Maine area. If you would like to take advantage of this training, please contact Jerome Richard at 314-2885 for more information. This is a great outreach program to get both kids and adults introduced to archery and bowhunting where we can teach the basic shooting skills to be successful in the future.

We still have a three \$1,000 NASP Equipment Grants available to schools in Maine plus I still have access to one \$1,500 Equipment Grant from Pope & Young Club for any school interested in getting involved in the National Archery in the Schools Program. I have a deadline date of the end of March 2012 to use these grants. Also, the MBA will cover the cost of BAI training for up to 4 teachers per school that take advantage of the equipment grants. If you are interested, please contact Jerome Richard at 314-2885 for more information.



How to Get Kids into Archery

By Tina Richard

As a bowhunter and a mentor there is a burning desire inside me to pass along my passion for archery and the outdoors to kids. I want them to be successful and with that it requires a certain amount of knowledge, patience and commitment from all parties involved. Teaching them the basics of archery and how to be successful at it, is something you can do the moment they pick up a bow and arrow. All it takes are good fundamentals, the right equipment and an environment to success. Combine these three elements and you are well on your way to teaching kids a skill they will enjoy for the rest of their life.

Step One- Establishing Eye Dominance

You first need to conduct a very important, yet often overlooked test. The purpose of this test is to determine the kid's most dominant eye. This is a vital step for accurate shooting since the bowstring should be directly in front of the dominant eye. Most parents or mentors mistakenly assume that the kid's dominant eyes will coincide with their dominant hands that aren't always the case. Therefore, eye dominance should be established before any decisions are made regarding equipment. The easiest way to do that is with the following method:

- . Have the kids extend both hands forward, placing them together to form a small triangle between the thumbs and the first knuckle on the index fingers.
- . With both eyes open, have the kids look through the triangle and center on a particular object, such as your nose.
- . Next, have the kids close their left eyes. If the object stays centered in the triangle, the kids are right- eye dominant. If the triangle appears to move off of the object,

making it no longer visible, then the kid is left- eye dominant.

- . To further validate your findings, have the kids perform the test again. Only this time have the kids close their right eyes first. If the object remains in view, the kids are left- eye dominant. If the object is no longer visible, the kids are right- eye dominant.

Step Two- Proper Draw Length and Draw Weight

One of the most important aspects to consider when setting up kids with their first bow is to make sure they are comfortable. Remember, the act of shooting a bow is completely new to them, so it is important that the bow itself doesn't hinder their enjoyment. This usually occurs by forcing them to shoot a bow that is either too long for them (draw length) or too difficult to pull back comfortably (draw weight); sometimes even both. When it comes to correct draw weight, focus on comfort. If the kids struggles to full draw, or if they must use erratic drawing motions to do so, then the poundage is too high. Lowering the poundage will allow the kids to draw the bow back in a smoother, relaxed manner.

Step Three- Setting the Stage for Success

It is always important that the kids are successful in archery. In order to set the stage for success, begin with the proper bow accessories and end with an emphasis on fun-not results. The name of the game is kids want to have fun. If shooting the bow isn't fun, they won't want to do it...no matter how badly we might want them to. To keep the fun level high, you must first set them up for success with the proper bow and accessories. Then you must create a shooting environment that focuses more on having fun, such activities such as Tic-Tac-Toe, Balloons and the list goes on. As long as they are safe and the kids enjoy them, you can make up your own games. You can even get the kids involved in the creation process.

Conclusion

Archery is a wonderful sport. It teaches and encourages hand-eye coordination, discipline, patience, confidence and focus. When taken to the next level as a bow-hunter, the kids will learn to respect the outdoors and all of God's creation that inhabit it. What better life-skill is there to pass down to the next generation? Give a kid the gift of archery and you will know the answer to that question.

Ladies Night

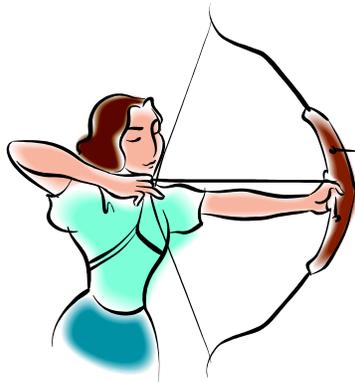
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OLD TOWN ARCHERY TECH TIPS

We know how you feel. You have always picked up your bow a few weeks before the archery season begins, take a few shots a couple of times a week and you are still grouping well and hitting arrows at 20 or 30 yards...and you've usually been able to shoot you deer, fill your freezer and then "hang up" your bow until next year.

So why should you shoot your bow after the archery season is over, indoors or outside on a nice day, throughout the winter and the rest of the year? You certainly don't have too. But here are a few reasons to consider:

1. You will maintain shooting muscle tone & muscle memory by shooting at least once a week. This is really important if you become an all year bow hunter, small game such as partridge, rabbits and coyotes all year long! Even spring woodchucks are fun and very good eating as well!
2. You might actually enjoy shooting with other bow hunters, friendship, tell stories about the deer you "could have taken but.....whatever!
3. You may also set good example for any younger hunters in the family or others you might know...and the time spent shooting with younger person is always priceless...just imagine what, you the successful hunter, could teach a future member of the MBA!
4. Trying to get your spouse to have an interest in archery? Well, don't talk about hunting, just set an example and show your spouse that the money you spent on the new bow was justified...because you use it all year! Then perhaps your spouse could be interested in just target shooting and join with you in some of the fun!
5. So you have "no time?" Do you need to relax more? Then no more excuses! Recreational archery has been proven to reduce tension, stress, blood pressure and other ailments....OK, so you should consider not watching the Boob Tube for a hour or so at least once a week, and pick up your bow...even if you only shoot 7-10 yards in the basement or garage...or better yet, drive to the nearest indoor or outdoor range and spend some quality time with your family or friends!

Whatever you do, archery year round will make you a better bowhunter...yes, your good shooting will get even better. So when that dream elk, caribou, or other out of state hunting trip becomes a reality and you have to shoot further distances than you have been used to... you will be physically & mentally ready!



An Alaskan Tale (where life is tough and humor is dark):

The day after his wife disappeared in a kayaking accident, an Anchorage man answered his door to find two grim-faced Alaska State Troopers. "We're sorry Mr. Wilkens, but we have some information about your wife," said one trooper.

"Tell me! Did you find her?" Wilkens shouted.

The troopers looked at each other. One said, "We have some bad news, some good news, and some really great news. Which do you want to hear first?"

Fearing the worst, an ashen Mr. Wilkens said, "Give me the bad news first."

The trooper said, "I'm sorry to tell you, sir, but this morning we found your wife's body in Kachemak Bay."

"Oh no!" exclaimed Wilkens. Swallowing hard, he asked, "What's the good news?"

The trooper continued, "When we pulled her up, she had a dozen 25 pound king crabs and 6 good-size Dungeness crabs clinging to her, and we feel you are entitled to a share in the catch."

Stunned, Mr. Wilkens demanded, "If that's the good news, what's the great news?"

The trooper said, "We're going to pull her up again tomorrow."



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Art by Tina Richard



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FROM EVERYONE AT THE
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The Maine Bowhunters Association thanks all men and woman that have served in our Armed Forces. We thank the Soldiers who are serving in the War on Terrorism who selflessly risk their lives each day to make the world a safer place.