

# THE MAINE BOWHUNTER

MARCH 2008

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT



By Jerome Richard

I hope everyone has been enjoying the winter and staying warm. The good news is spring is just around the corner and it will be Spring Turkey Season again! Also, there are plenty of activities that the MBA will be participating in starting in March which will give members and non-members an opportunity to get out and fellowship with others.

#### BANQUET

The 2008 MBA Banquet will be held on Saturday, March 8 at the Calumet Club in Augusta with doors opening at 5:00pm. I can guarantee that this banquet will be larger and more exciting than some of the past banquets. The MBA has had a very successful year and several archery shops and vendors have joined forces with us to make this a great opportunity to pick up a deal on archery equipment including bidding on bows! But we also have many non-hunting items coming to the banquet. I have received tons of stat sheets this year for bear, deer, turkeys, boar, and other game taken with a bow which indicates to me that we had a lot of successful bowhunters this

last year. Give me a call at 426-2082 if you need tickets.

#### SPORTSMAN SHOWS - YOUTH ARCHERY SHOOT

The MBA will be running an indoor youth archery shoot at three of the sportsman's shows starting with the Orono show at UMO on March 14-16, then the Augusta show at the Augusta Civic Center on March 28-30, and finally the Presque Isle show at UMPI on April 5 and 6. This will be a great opportunity to introduce kids and adults to archery. The youth archery shoot is modeled after the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) using the Genesis compound bows. If you know anyone who has thought about taking up archery, but never had the chance to experience the fun of shooting a bow, then bring them to one of the sportsman's shows.

#### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

On Sunday, April 20, 2008 at 9:00am at the Augusta City Center, the MBA will have election of new officers. We really want to know what our members want and this is a good opportunity to voice your opinion and vote. Personally, I have had a great time being president this last year and the April meeting is your opportunity to let me know if you want me to stay on for another year.

#### HARLEY-DAVIDSON RAFFLE

The 2008 Harley-Davidson 883 Sportster will be raffled off on April 15. We have the raffle listed on the MBA website and the website HarleyDavidsonRaffles.com which we sold tickets to people as far away as Alaska, many southern states, and all of New England. Robb Cotiaux and I will have to flip a coin to see who gets the pleasure of delivering the Harley-Davidson if someone from Alaska or the southeast gets drawn in the raffle. If you are interested in purchasing raffle tickets, please call Robb Cotiaux or me. We have limited this raffle to 1,300 tickets.

#### EXPANDED ARCHERY OPPORTUNITIES

Inside this issue Harry Vanderweide has an article asking people to help him identify areas to be proposed for new or increased expanded zone archery. We know there are more opportunities where "no firearms" hunting is located and could lead to incorporating into a possible expanded zone. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife want to hear from us, so your voice does count.

I hope to see you at the banquet!

### UPCOMING EVENTS

SATURDAY MARCH 8TH 2008  
MBA BANQUET AT LE CALUMET CLUB IN AUGUSTA.

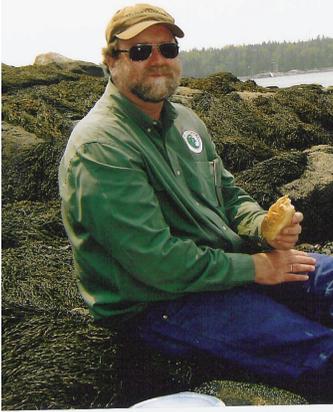
SUNDAY APRIL 20TH 2008  
ANNUAL MBA ELECTIONS AT THE AUGUSTA CITY CENTER. OPEN POSITIONS PRESIDENT, VICE PRESIDENT, TREASURER, SECRETARY, 2ND DIRECTOR AT LARGE, SOCIAL DIRECTOR AND MEMBERSHIP/SUPPLIES/AFFILIATIONS.

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## Legislative Report: Opposition to Natural Resource Agencies Merger



By Don Kleiner

One of the things I do as your lobbyist is to present ideas to various legislative committees. Here is what I said on your behalf at the hearing on combining the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife with the other natural resource agencies in late January. By the time you read this, I hope that we have prevented it from happening. This is the first time that the Natural Resource Network, a group that your MBA belongs to, that represents farmers, forestry folks, hunters, fisherman, and snowmobilers, has really had to work together on an issue we all oppose.

My name is Don Kleiner I live in Union. I work as a Registered Maine Guide, but today I am here representing the Maine Bowhunters Association and the Maine Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation.

We believe that the wildlife of our great state is one of our most important assets. Indeed the Brookings report, that generated so much interest simply restated what we firmly believe; our Natural Resources, especially our fish and wildlife, are the foundation not only of our economy today, but also the growth that we will see in the near future. These resources contribute not only to my personal income, but also serve to attract the businesses that our children will work in tomorrow.

To give you a sense of the impact currently delivered by these resources, I quote from a survey done by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. This is a national survey taken every five years asking questions about participation in various outdoor activities and spending levels. The results are then made available by state. Full disclosure here, there are problems with some of the methodology of this survey, but it has been done every five years for quite some

time and it does provide valuable insight at a broad scale.

In the most recent survey the results show that hunting and fishing in this state generates \$581 million and creates 8,800 jobs that pay workers \$222 million, or on average \$25,000 per person per year. (If you include wildlife watching, that \$581 million figure creeps over \$1 billion.) Hunting and fishing support more jobs in our state than the University of Maine, one of our state's largest employers (8,800 jobs vs. 8,000).

The economic stimulus of hunting and fishing equates to an astounding \$1.6 million a day being pumped into the state's economy.

Clearly these resources are a significant part of our current economy and our identity as a state, what are we doing to support them? If you take all of the natural resource agencies and compare their combined budgets to the entire state budget you will find that our cash outlay on Agriculture, Marine Resources, Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Conservation comes to under three percent of the total. That's right only 3 percent.

If we are to actually move our economy ahead in the coming years,

we will need to be carefully managing our Natural Resources, and I would argue that relegating that task to a bureau in a large agency or two, will produce less satisfactory results than we get today. Please do not think for a minute that we are satisfied with the status quo at Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Indeed there is much more to do and better ways of doing it. There is already a plan, provided by a report on the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, done by the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. That report suggests dozens of ways, at little cost, to improve the Department's operations. We have failed to deliver the effort required to implement those changes and the MAT report collects dust on a shelf, while little has changed operationally.

The Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife is required to get 18% of its budget from the state general fund. That has never happened, and now we are looking to take some of my license dollars and use them to help fund the overhead of another program.

I ask that you carefully examine the supposed success of the recent

*(Continued on page 3)*

### MBA affiliates

Blood Finder of NH  
396 River Road  
Weare, NH 03281  
<http://www.bloodfinderofnh.com>

Central Maine Archery, LLC, PO  
Box 1297  
Auburn, ME 04211-1297, (207)  
345-9503  
<http://www.centralmainearchery.com>

Coalition to Preserve  
PO Box 1297  
Auburn, ME (207)345-9503  
<http://www.preservegrowme.org>

Fins and Furs Adventures, 32  
Greenwood Skowhegan, ME 04976 (207)474-  
5430  
<http://www.finsandfursadventures.com>

Hunter's Golden Retriever  
PO Box 1370  
Bucksport, ME 04416  
<http://huntersgoldenretriever.com>

The Old Town Archery Shop,  
300 Main St. Old Town, ME  
04468 (207)827-9489  
<http://www.oldtownarcheryshop.com>

Outdoor Sportsman  
1044 Atlantic Highway  
Northport, ME 04849  
(207)338-4141  
<http://www.maineoutdoorsportsman.com>

Seven Islands Land Company  
PO Box 1168  
Bangor, ME 04402

PLEASE  
SUPPORT  
THE  
AFFILIATES  
THAT  
SUPPORT  
YOUR  
MBA!

*(Continued from page 2)*

consolidation of the financial services of these agencies. Take the time to ask a program manager, who does not have any idea how much has currently been spent out of a budget line or the balance in a dedicated account. Or perhaps, you should ask a vendor who has been carrying an overdue balance for the state of Maine for more than 90 days. To me, not accomplishing basic business functions, does not indicate success but rather failure.

I encourage you to carefully identify the savings that the existing service center has produced; I am guessing that we have simply shifted those costs from one budget to another. Which raises concern for me, because of the dedicated federal dollars that each of these agencies receives. Let's be very careful not to siphon dedicated natural resource funding into some other aspect of state government.

Finally, I believe that combining these agencies will further dilute the focus on our important resources by reducing their level of importance in state government, and at this legislature at a time when the situation demands increasing attention. Given the critical importance of our natural resources to our future; the loss of focus from state government that consolidation will bring; and the lack of success the most recent effort has yielded. I urge you to simply take this flawed idea out of the budget bill.

Thank you.

## LAST BLIP REPORT

Robert Christensen-Lang  
Blip Coordinator

The Wells Reserve Hunt is over. For six years BLIP hunters have worked hard to lower the deer population on the Wells Reserve and Drake's Island. Scott Lindsey (Regional Biologist) believes the deer population is lower than expected. In order to confirm this a final deer count and a fly over will be done this winter.

If the count comes out as we expect, there will not be a need for a hunt in this area next year. Scott and Paul Dest have credited this in part to the BLIP program. If at any point in the future the deer population goes back up, we can automatically start the hunt up again, without going through the rule making process. Any future hunts held there, will be by BLIP members only.

I have attached a letter sent to me by Paul Dest of The Wells Reserve for all members to read.

Other areas have contacted Paul on the BLIP program and how effective it was at the Wells Reserve.

Thank you for all of your support.

## Letter From Paul Dest

The Wells Reserve  
342 Laudholm Farm Road  
Wells, Maine 04080

To whom it may concern:

Since it was founded in 1986, the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve had been grappling with the issue of deer overpopulation on its site and on neighboring properties. With our partners – the Town of Wells, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge – we examined a number of methods and options to reduce deer numbers. We settled on a controlled archer hunt. In December 2002, the first hunt occurred, the first time this property had experienced hunting since it became a state-designated wildlife sanctuary over 50 years ago. Every year since, an archer hunt has occurred on the Reserve and on adjacent National Wildlife Refuge land and on private property.

The Bowhunter Landowner Information Program of the Maine Bowhunter's Association has been crucial to our success, in particular Robert Lang, who has dedicated an enormous amount of time and energy assisting the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in the hunt's coordination.

I cannot speak highly enough of BLIP and the Department. The hunt has been well coordinated and executed. The leaders of BLIP have gone out of their way to meet my needs and that of other landowners. The hunters BLIP has recruited and trained have been top-notch.

The partnership among BLIP, the Department, and the Reserve – and assistance the individuals involved in these two organizations have provided me – is truly appreciated. I look forward to our continued collaboration.

Sincerely,  
Paul M. Dest  
Reserve Manager



## 2008 MBA Banquet

**Come and enjoy an evening of celebration and fellowship with other**

**MBA members. Awards, prizes, and auctions throughout the evening.**

**Date:** Saturday, March 8, 2008

**Time:** 5:00pm Social, 6:30 Dinner

**Location:** Le Calumet Club in Augusta

**Cost:** \$25 Individual, \$45 Couple

**Contact for Tickets:** Jerome Richard at 426-2082 or any MBA Officer or County Representative.

## Three Generation Bear Season

By Tony Wardwell

The Wardwell Family has had fun and success bear hunting for years. It started as usual this past July with the great anticipation of our yearly bear hunt. The bait sites we have are on private land downeast, some 80 miles from Home. With three of us hunting this year, we are maintaining 5 sites, baiting them twice weekly.

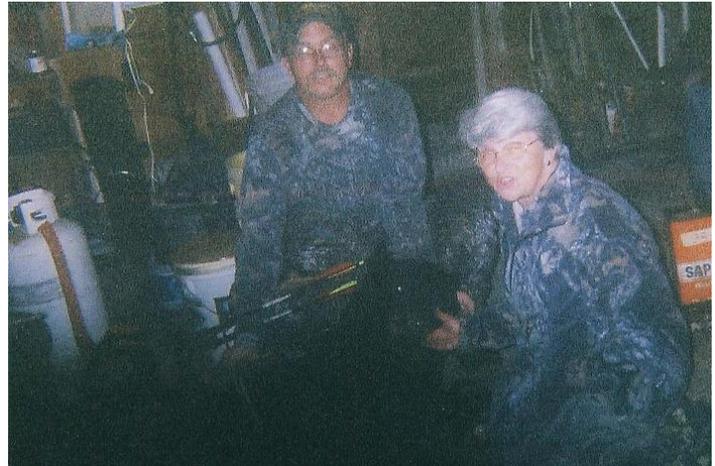
We had a seasoned veteran of three years helping us bait again this year, my grandson, 6 year old Chad Grant. He would go both times weekly, Wednesdays with John and Elaine Wardwell, their great grandson, and on Saturdays with my wife Donna and I. For six years of age he has such a wealth of knowledge when it comes to the routine we follow. In four years, the bear better watch out, as he is a good shot with leis bow also!

So, the three hunters started out with me hunting opening day August 27th. Mom and Dad came to camp on the night of the 27th. I had no luck that night. The next morning Dad and I went to bait, while Mom made breakfast and they were all hit

again and the timers indicated it may be a good day for all of us. We headed out one by one to our sites, at 11:00 a.m. on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Dad dropped me off and headed to his site at noon. We all experienced a windy time in our stands until 5:00 p.m., when it subsided. At 6:00 p.m. a nice bear raced into the bait and at 13 yards offered me a perfect broadside shot for my Hoyt bow, a pass through!! I heard the bear fall 30 yards away but there were other bear around me, so I climbed down from my stand to go and get help.

Upon reaching Mom and Dad's truck, I found Mom there smiling from ear to ear. I knew, but asked why she was out so early? All she said was, "I shot number 13 no more jinx!", it has been a few years since she even had a shot at a bear, stuck on 12 bear shot with her Hoyt bow. She asked me the same question as to why I was out so early, I said "I shot a nice bear at 6:00 p.m.!!"

Dad arrived and even though he saw nothing, he was pumped about our double down bear. So, we went to recover my bear first then Mom's.



Tony Wardwell and Elaine Wardwell with their 90 lbs bear.

We were back at carte by 9:00 p.m. with two bear, mine a 2081b. Sow and Mom's a 901b sow also. I made a call to my grandson who was so excited, like he was there and I guess with ALL his help baiting, he was there helping again!

So the picture of the two of us with our bows and the bear, is hanging in his bedroom. Due to the modern era in disposable cameras the picture of Mom and I is VERY dark but the memories are CLEAR!

The next time Dad went out he saw a bear but he had no shot! So none of us went without seeing a bear which is amazing!

Happy Hunting,  
Tony Wardwell



Chad Grant and Tony Wardwell with their 208 lbs bear.

## MOVING?

Don't forget to notify us if your address changes. We get mail back from too many of our members' former addresses with a "no forwarding address" stamp on it. We have lost a few life members this year because they haven't notified us of the change.

BLIP members please check your information in the BLIP listing on our website. Updates to spelling errors, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses should to be sent to Director at large Jeff Hopkins.

### MBA BIG GAME STATISTICS SHEET

To be eligible for MBA big game awards you Must, complete this form, have paid membership 30 days prior to harvest, submit a certified weight slip (heart and liver included), submit photo of harvested animal, **\$5 if you wish to receive shoulder patch** and send to MBA, P.O Box 5026, Augusta, ME 04332 before January 31.

The following categories are eligible for a certificate and a patch (patches are \$5):

- In state---- Buck, Doe, Bear, Moose and Turkey
- Out of state---Buck, Doe, Bear, Moose and Turkey
- Plus out of state -- Caribou and Pronghorn

Miscellaneous categories receive a certificate only.

Please Print

#### Hunter Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Yrs Bowhunted: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Harvest Information:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

At time of first shot the animal was:

Laying Standing Walking Running

Animals position relative to the hunter:

Qtr. Towards Broadside Qtr. Away Heading Away

Distance of First Shot: \_\_\_\_\_

Total of shots Taken: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Hits: \_\_\_\_\_

Position of Hits: \_\_\_\_\_

Penetration: \_\_\_\_\_

Time Waited Before Tracking: \_\_\_\_\_

Recovery Distance: \_\_\_\_\_

Time From First Hit To Recovery: \_\_\_\_\_

Misc.infoHunting Information:

Town/Country: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Providence: \_\_\_\_\_

Method: Stand Blind Still Stalk

Lure: Bait Decoy Rattle Call None

Cover Scent: Fox Skunk Other None

Weather: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Equipment Information:

Type of Bow: Long Recurve Compound

Brand of Bow: \_\_\_\_\_

Draw Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Sights: YES/NO

Type of Arrow: Wood Aluminum Glass Carbon

Arrow Length: \_\_\_\_\_ Overdraw: YES/NO

Fletching: Feathers Vanes

If Stand Used, Type: Ladder Strap on Climber Sling Permanent

Type of Camo Used: Forest Mossy Oak Advantage Snow Treebark Fluorescent Other \_\_\_\_\_

#### Turkey Scoring Formula:

Weight \_\_\_\_\_ Beard \_\_\_\_\_ L.Spur \_\_\_\_\_ R.Spur \_\_\_\_\_

Weight (in pounds) \_\_\_\_\_ +2 x Beard Length \_\_\_\_\_ +10 x Length of Each Spur \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

#### Game Information:

Animal Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight Verified: \_\_\_\_\_

(signature of Witness)

### MBA Online

Don't Forget to check out our website for all the latest news. To enter our Members Only section use the following:

**Username:** maillist

**Password:** mbaonline

## BLIP Annual Dues



By Paul St. John

MBA Membership Director

Because the Wells hunt was such a great success at reducing the deer population in the area, the hunt will not be happening in 2008. Since the Wells hunt was the only Blip hunt and no other Blip hunts are currently scheduled for 2008, there will be no membership dues required for the 2008 season. The MBA is currently working on other possible Blip hunts and the Wells hunt may occur again in the future, but until then the MBA will not request any dues from their Blip members. When the next Blip hunt is available, the dues will be requested when the first Blip application of the season is submitted. If the member doesn't wish to participate in the future Blip hunt, the dues will still be owed. This is to help cover the cost of the mailing and putting on the Blip hunt. If the member does not pay the membership dues, after two Blip applications submissions, they will be removed from the Blip membership list. At this time the MBA member would have to retake the Blip course, to be reinstated into the program. If you should have any question regarding the process, please do not hesitate to email me at [pstjohn@roadrunner.com](mailto:pstjohn@roadrunner.com).



## Patience, Persistence or Procrastination

By Pete Lamarre,

Vice President Maine Bowhunters

It's December 8<sup>th</sup> 2007, the last day of muzzle loading and expanded archery season, and I have a choice to make, do I hunt with my bow or muzzleloader. I have spent the last few hours at the gym, showering there and mistakenly using one of those scented showering gels. I arrive home and review my options, drive to Bowdoinham (zone 22) and hunt with my muzzleloader where I have the option of taking an antlerless deer via my permit, or simply sitting in one of the stands that I have put up behind my house in zone 24. My "any deer" permit is not valid in zone 24, so if I hunt with my muzzleloader, I'm restricted to an antlered deer, however via expanded archery rules, I can take a deer of either sex (permits in hand) with my bow. The decision was actually a fairly easy one, bowhunting behind my home would not entail any driving, hunting with bow and arrow is always my preferred method, and I had fresh deer tracks right in my back yard. Changing into my winter cammies, I prepare for about a two hour sit in a ladder stand overlooking a few apple trees. I had mixed a spray bottle of my "Secret Weapon" formula (commercial attractant Trail's End #307 and water), but managed to forget it on the kitchen table for my wife to admire when she arrived home from work.

At about 2:30 PM, I find myself walking to my stand with bow in hand, full body harness on, wearing a camo/hunter orange vest for safety purposes. Upon arriving at my hunting site, I check two different stands that I have in the same immediate area; one is a 15' ladder stand on a pine tree at the edge of a very small clearing with a few apple trees within 25 yards. Although there is extensive deer sign at this site, I can't resist the temptation to check my hang-on stand about forty yards away where I have taken several deer in the past, including my first ever bow shot deer. This stand is about half way down an embank-

ment behind the above mentioned clearing, it is about 20' up in a hardwood tree, I access it via an attached climbing stick, and also use a safety rope with the sliding prussic knot, thus I'm attached to a fall restraint system the entire time while climbing up, sitting and climbing down. I notice a fresh pawing in the snow where I had created a mock scrape two weeks prior, there are two apple trees within bow range at this more densely wooded site, but for whatever reason, I decided not to negotiate the 20' climbing stick this afternoon and instead elected to simply return to the ladder stand.

The quick and simple trip up the ladder stand, clipping my harnesses tether strap to my previously installed anchor strap and pulling my bow up with my haul line was quickly accomplished. I did notice however, that from the walking and climbing, I was now perspiring, and the scented shower gel had no similarity in odor to "Doe In Heat" urine. I settled into the ladder stand for what now would be something less than a 90 minute sit. It wasn't long before I realized that all the water I had consumed earlier at the gym had not been expired via perspiration. If you have ever seen the commercial on TV that have actors rushing to the bathroom with the phrase being sung "Gotta Go, Gotta Go, Gotta Go Right Now" well I could now qualify as the poster child

for that ad. Not being one to drag a pee bottle around with me, and having no desire to hike a hundred yards to relieve myself, and realizing today would be the last time until next September that I would be sitting in this stand, why not just make a cute design in the snow from 15 feet up. I can now attest to the fact that it is nearly impossible to write your initials in the snow by urinating from a 15 foot Tree stand.

Now comes the more interesting part of my hunt, with only about 30 minutes left, I'm debating if I should just call it a day, I decide to give it another 15 minutes and bail. I had been occasionally calling with a can style call, and a tube style call, I often wonder when I see deer, if they came to me because of my use of a call, or in spite of my use of a call. In any event, my peripheral vision alerts me to a dark object to my left that is contrasting with the white snow. I slowly turn my head just far enough to the left to verify the approach of a deer on the little used snowmobile/atv trail. I quickly notice that the deer does in fact have antlers, fortunately I did purchase both my one antlered deer permit along with an antlerless permit for the expanded archery hunt.



Pete Lamarre with his 4 point buck.

As I watch the approaching deer, I notice that he is muzzling into the snow for fallen apples that are now semi-frozen apple mush. I am also aware that he is practically walking in my boot prints where I had checked out the hang-on stand earlier. As I survey and analyze my situation, I become acutely aware that this would be an ideal opportunity to use my muzzleloader, a deer (with antlers) quartering toward me at 25 yards with his head down in the snow. Watching the deer for a few minutes, I realize he is in no hurry to close the gap between the apple tree in front of my stand where I would have a 20 yard broadside or slight quartering away shot. A deer's nose is always its best defense; remember that scented shower gel, and the poor penmanship in the snow, well my white-tailed visitor starts lifting his head sniffing the air. By now, my heart beat is getting up there and adrenaline is certainly flowing. The deer never blew or bolted, but simply made it a point to look around and continue checking the wind more frequently once he returned to feeding. Suddenly the deer moves forward far enough that his body is exposed, his view of me is obstructed by some pine bows, and he is about 18 yards away. I determine that the shot angle is still quartering to me (not an acceptable bow shot), and my chance of getting busted are pretty good if I move. Finally the deer makes a left turn and starts walking into a grove of adult pines, probably headed right over to the apple trees by my hang-on stand. Knowing that I do not have a clone sitting in that stand, my Star Trek transporter is not available to beam me over to that stand, I have only one hope left, a small shooting window into the pines that appears to be in the deer's path. As the deer is closely approaching the shooting lane, I come to full draw with my Hoyt Pro-Tec currently set at 65 lb. I concentrate on my 20 yard pin, and as the deer steps into my sight picture, I settle the pin behind the deer's shoulder and released the arrow. For those of you who have not tried the Luminox product, I suggest purchasing a "one pack" for about ten dollars and experimenting with it. In this case, I'm witness to a tracer like flight of

my arrow, my sense of sound is aware of that welcome "thuck" of an arrow making a solid hit on a deer. I can see the luminoc glowing bright red from the deer's right side, the arrow is well imbedded and now bouncing away down hill through the grove of pines as the deer flees.

I normally instruct my bowhunting students to wait a full thirty minutes before even moving from their stand, although the snow muffled much of the sound of the deer's flight, I was able to hear enough of it's travel to know it had fled in a north easterly direction and out of the grove of pines. After just a few minutes, I decided to lower my bow and at least examine the area where the buck had been standing. As I approached the area, it was obvious that the broadhead (Rage 3 blade mechanical 100 gr. with 1.5 inch cutting diameter) had done it's job. There was a heavy spray of blood on the snow, and it was appearing on both sides of the deer's tracks (see attached photos courtesy of MBA member Chuck Rommell). I felt that using the available remaining daylight for tracking would be prudent, and given the voluminous amount of blood being expelled, it would not be a very long track. I found myself following much of the same ground that a deer I had arrowed years ago had used. The volume of blood spray remained copious and very easy to follow. After a few minutes I found where the deer had gone over a fallen tree, it was obvious the deer had difficulty and dragged snow off the horizontal log. Soon I came upon my arrow; the Easton Full Metal Jacket 400 (carbon interior, aluminum exterior with Blazer vanes) was undamaged with blood from stem to stern. Traveling another ten yards or so, the deer, a four point crotch horn was laying motionless in a crawling position. Knowing more than one hunter, who has been gored or kicked by a seriously wounded deer, I followed the teachings of the National Bowhunter Education Foundation, I stood back and watched for signs of respiration, the deer did not appear to be breathing. I approached and nudged the deer's haunches with no reaction from the deer; lastly I touched the bucks'

open eye with a length of stick and again got no reaction. Satisfied the deer was dead; I attached my transportation tag and began the task of field dressing. I was able to determine that the deer had been hit lower than I had expected, later analysis with a range finder determined that I had made a 26 yard shot. The arrow tip had penetrated the body cavity, striking the deer on the right side and exiting on the left side striking the inside flesh of the left leg, thus a slight quartering away shot angle at the time of release. It should be noted that the Rage brand of broad heads are advertised with a "SlipCam" method of opening thus creating a large entry wound, the broadhead certainly functioned as advertised on this occasion. The arrow had been imbedded for nearly the entire blood trail, later paced off as 150 yards, dropping out only about ten yards from where the deer finally expired.

Remember the trip to the gym, the perspiring after walking to and climbing into the stand, I was now looking at about a ¼ mile drag, mostly uphill and in the snow. The landowner where I was hunting basically gives me free reign to hunt, snowmobile or atv on his land. I have a Ski-Doo Skandic SUV snowmobile that is ideal for just this sort of thing. I called home on my cell phone to let my wife know that I had gotten a deer, apparently she had not gotten home yet to find the spray bottle of deer scent on the kitchen table, you should have heard the comments the time I left that spray bottle on the back porch and her 4 year old grandson had gotten a hold of it and sprayed himself. I simply left a message on the recorder, and dragged the deer a short distance back to the clearing where my ladder stand was. I hiked home with my bow; the wife was now home but had not checked messages. I gave her the good news, for some reason, she does share the same level of enthusiasm for bowhunting that I have. Slipping back outside without a word being mentioned about deer scent being left on the table, I was free to execute my plan for retrieving my latest trophy, later weighed in at a whopping 89 pounds. I soon rediscovered that covered snowmo-

bile trailers are great, unless they are covered with heavy wet snow. I also rediscovered that batteries tend to go flat during the off season. After much grunting, cussing, more grunting and some rope pulling, my snowmobile was running, and I had the large plastic ice fishing tote sled attached, and I was in business. Just a few non laborious minutes later, and I was loading my deer, tote sled and all into the back of my truck for the trip to Johnson's Sporting Good's in Brunswick for registration. I have found that those ice fishing tote sleds even drag well on leaves etc. and are great for dragging out both deer and bear. Another similar tote is the rescue pulk, commonly used by ski patrols and mountain rescue teams, they are a bit pricey, but tend to be lower silhouette and easier to drag in thick woods. A deer or bear is much easier to load into the back of a truck when they are laying in or on a rigid surface, I keep a section of plywood on the bed of my truck, and pull it out as a sliding ramp when I am alone and need to load a deer or bear.

The question to be answered is this, harvesting a deer in the last half hour of a three month hunting season is an example of which of the following?

- A. Persistence
- B. Patience
- C. Procrastination
- D. Pure Luck

What ever you decide is acceptable to me, because the final outcome was truly:

- A. Enjoyable
- B. Excitable
- C. Educational (got to practice writing my initials)
- D. Every thing a bowhunter could ask for.

## TASK FORCE ON THE NORTHERN AND EASTERN MAINE DEER HERD

By Don Kleiner

The Task Force on the Northern and Eastern Maine Deer Herd gave its final report and recommendations to the Legislative Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in late January. Below, are a summary of the report and a list of the recommendations that may affect bowhunters. Many of those will require changes in the laws or rules surrounding deer in those parts of the state.

Deer populations in northern and eastern Maine are very low; in many areas, the deer population is less than 5 deer/square mile. In fact in large areas we are looking at populations as low as one deer per square mile. This is compared with deer densities of between 15-20 deer/square mile in central and southern Maine. Such population densities are below long-term population goals for deer in northern and eastern Maine; they are also greatly below the desires and expectations of deer hunters, guides and outfitters, business owners located in Maine's rural areas, and those who enjoy watching deer. The public is frustrated by low deer numbers, and it is demanding an upturn in the population.

There are several inter-related factors that are likely causing low deer numbers in northern and eastern Maine. These include: the diminished quality of many deer wintering areas, predation [by both coyote and black bear], illegal hunting, and the impact of legal doe harvest during the regular archery deer season and the youth deer hunting day. Low deer populations in northern and eastern Maine are problems that have been intensifying for more than fifteen years. In 1993, the Department convened a committee to review options that would result in an increase in the Downeast deer population.

In response to the public's intense interest and concern for the condition and future of the deer herd in eastern and northern Maine, Com-

missioner Martin, established the Northern and Eastern Maine Deer Task Force last April. The Commissioner charged the group to: 1] characterize the status and condition of the deer population in northern and eastern Maine; 2] review ways to enhance deer wintering habitat in northern and eastern Maine; 3] review coyote management policies; and 4] submit "workable" recommendations to him for his consideration.

The Northern and Eastern Maine Deer Task Force consisted of 11 members:

Matt Libby, chair Maine Professional Guides Association

Gene Dumont, co-chair Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, Wildlife Management Section Supervisor (Retired during the process)

Tom Doak Small Woodland Owners' Association of Maine

Don Dudley Maine Trapper's Association

Rich Hoppe Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, regional biologist, Ashland

Lee Kantar Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, deer biologist

Gerry Lavigne Sportsman's Alliance of Maine

Tom Schaeffer Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, regional biologist, Jonesboro

Brian Smith Maine Bowhunters Association (Don Kleiner took over in the fall)

Sally Stockwell Maine Audubon Society

Pat Strauch Maine Forest Products Council

Throughout the first session of the 123rd Legislature, legislators considered public frustration with low deer numbers and about coyote predation on deer. The Legislative Committee prepared a Resolve directing the Department "To Create an Effective Coyote Control Program." This Resolve directed the Commissioner to review the Department's existing

*(Continued on page 11)*

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VACANT

## MBA Supports The Salvation Army

By Dan Long

The MBA's 2007 Christmas Benefit Shoot held December 9, 2007 yielded a total in excess of \$425 for The Salvation Army. We wish to thank those folks who pledged or donated money, and those who participated in the event. The Old Town Archery Center & Pro-Shop once again showed their immeasurable support for the MBA by hosting the event, undertaking some of the advertising, and even making a special donation of \$40 to support the MBA's mission to educate and involve youth in the sport of archery, and to protect and expand our bowhunting opportunities in this great State.

The Christmas Benefit Shoot also included drawing the winning raffle ticket for the Yamaha Gas Generator provided by CMD Powersystems,

Inc. in Hermon. The lucky winner of the drawing was Tim Fitzgerald of Levant. Congratulations Tim! The proceeds from the Generator Raffle benefited the MBA with a total intake breaking the \$ 8 0 0 m a r k !

Please stop by CMD Powersystems, Inc. located at Cold Brook Industrial Park in Hermon for your generator sales, service, and installation needs. Stop by Old Town Archery Center & Pro-Shop and see Bob, Sue, Chas, and Rachel for excellent quality products and outstanding service.

A very sincere THANK YOU to these businesses and individuals for their support of the Maine Bowhunters Association!

## 2008 Sportsman Shows

This year the Maine Bowhunters Association will be attending the following shows. Please stop by the MBA booth and check on the raffle and auction items. The MBA is also holding youth archery shoots at all of the events (sponsored by National Archery in the Schools Program NASP), so make sure to bring your kids along for the sportsman shows.

**Orono Show:** Friday March 14th to Sunday March 16th. Youth shoot will be 5 shots for one dollar.

**Augusta Show:** Friday March 28th to Sunday March 30th. Youth shoot will be 5 shots for one dollar.

**Presque Isle Show:** Saturday April 5th and Sunday April 6th. Youth shoot will be free.



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## 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 inserted into the Maine Sportsman and sent 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.

Send material to: Lori Weaver editor@mainebowhunters.org

Ad Size	Dimensions	Single Issue	6 Issues Per Issue Price	6 issue Price Paid in Advance
Full Page	7 ½ X 9	\$275	\$200	\$1200
Half Page	7 ½ X 4 ½	\$150	\$120	\$720
Quarter Page	3 ¾ X 4 ½	\$80	\$75	\$450
Eighth Page	1 7/8 X 2 ¼	\$60	\$50	\$300

### OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MAINE BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Lori Weaver/Paul St.John Editor  
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E-mail: editor@mainebowhunters.org

Www.mainebowhunters.org

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

## MBA Membership Application

New  Renewal

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Type:  Individual \$25  Family \$35  Individual Life \$350

Individual 65+ with proof of age \$20  Couple 65+ with proof of age \$30

Club or Business Affiliation \$95  Corporate Membership \$250  Patron \$250  V.I.P. \$1000

Mail to: Maine Sportsman, PO Box 910, Yarmouth, ME 04096

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*(Continued from page 8)*

coyote control program and establish methods of controlling the coyote population and to set goals to manage the coyote populations; it also required that the Commissioner report his findings and recommendations to the Legislative Committee by December 30, 2007.

The working group met eight times over the course of the spring, summer, and fall of 2007, investing more than 30 hours in discussing the factors likely contributing to low deer numbers and developing a series of recommendations designed to rebuild deer populations. The first meetings were dedicated to "fact-finding." Much of this information concerned four broad areas:

- The Department's deer population estimate and its deer population goals / objectives;
- The impacts of coyote and bear predation on deer, the role of predator control to protect deer, and the effectiveness of predator control in rebuilding a deer population;
- The influence of the diminished quality of many deer wintering areas, cooperative deer wintering area management versus land-use zoning, the role of deer wintering areas in rebuilding a deer population, and the observation that many deer wintering areas are currently not used by overwintering deer; and
- The impact of illegal hunting and of legal doe harvest during the regular archery deer season and the youth deer hunting day in contributing to low deer numbers.

The report makes a long list of recommendations to the legislative committee. Those that will most directly impact bowhunters are listed below. I think that the one limiting the taking of does by any means will be the most difficult for us to live with, but given the dire straits we find ourselves in, we must be prepared to take some drastic action.

- MDIFW increase its efforts to educate the public about reasons not to feed deer
- especially in areas with a high incidence of road mortality.
- MDIFW, sportsmen, landowners, and the Maine Legislature explore the feasibility/desirability and methods for offering positive incentives to encourage landowners to manage for DWA habitat on their lands
- The Department will establish a Deer Predation Working Group to review and update the current coyote control policy. The working group will include representatives from the Department, Maine Trappers Association (MTA), Maine Professional Guides Association (MPGA), Maine Audubon, Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM), University of Maine (UMO), MFPC, and SWOAM.

•The Department will evaluate the need and consequences of reducing the bear population in northern and eastern Maine to allow the deer population to recover [reduced

*(Continued on page 12)*

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fawn predation] and consider accomplishing this by increasing the length of the bear season [Requires agency rule-making], increasing the bear bag limit [Requires legislation], reinstating the spring bear hunt [Requires legislation] with a "cub law," or other strategies appropriate to achieve the desired population reduction Any decision must be integrated with the work of the species planning work group also recommended in the report.

•When a Wildlife Management District (WMD) in northern or eastern Maine is designated as 'bucks-only' for the regular firearms deer hunting season, this bucks-only provision should also apply to all other deer hunting seasons in that WMD [Requires legislation].

•If through time, the collective recommendations contained in this report are not achieving an increase in deer numbers, MDIFW should consider

a.other hunting-related options to reduce deer harvests in northern and eastern Maine while still retaining opportunity; such might include

road systems closure, trophy hunting programs, etc. [Requires agency rulemaking],

b.b. reducing the length of the deer hunting seasons in northern and eastern Maine[Requires agency rule-making], and lastly,

c.c. closing northern and eastern Maine to all deer hunting [Requires agency rule-making].

d.Filling existing Warden Service district vacancies.

e.Increasing Warden Service surveillance of deer hunters.

If you would like to see more of the report including the minutes of each meeting, the entire report is available online at [http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/surveys\\_reports/pdfs/ne\\_deerreport.pdf](http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/surveys_reports/pdfs/ne_deerreport.pdf). Be forewarned though, the report is 174 pages long. We will see what progress can be made in implementing these strategies and if they are successful in restarting the deer herd in Northern and Eastern Maine.

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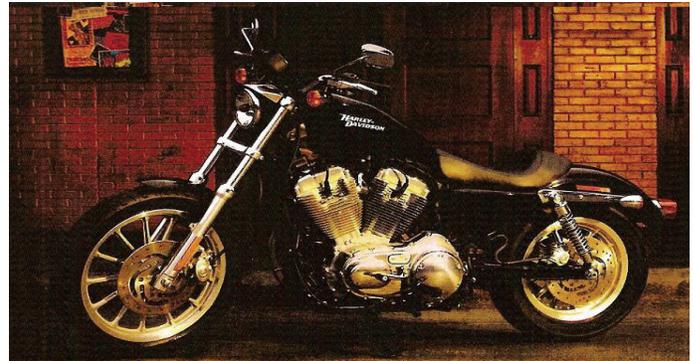
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## The Maine Bowhunters Association is organized and shall be operated:

To provide a State-wide organization within which people through individual memberships, with a common interest in bow-hunting, may recognize and have means of furthering their interests.

The Maine Bowhunters Association shall recognize ALL vertical bows as acceptable under the definition of bows provided by the International Bowhunter Education Program, which reads: "one that is hand held, hand drawn, and released with nothing attached to the bow that will allow the bow to be mechanically held in a drawn or cocked position." The Maine Bowhunters Association shall not recognize the crossbow under this definition and shall oppose attempts to make the crossbow acceptable for use in bow hunting only seasons.

To foster a spirit of sportsman-like fellowship among all bowhunters.

To initiate or support selected activities and programs intended, or expected, to emphasize the responsibilities inherit in any proper use of the bow and arrow and to protect such continued use and possession on the part of citizens of good repute.

To strive toward upgrading the sport of bowhunting through education, training, demonstration, dissemination of information, and related activities.

To encourage by education, training, and demonstration, the support of appropriate legislation or other activities, a high level of sportsmanship and ethics in any use of the bow and arrow in activities related to the interests of the association.

To educate archers to the fact that bowhunting is a sport of separate from and not to be confused with the sport of target/field archery.

To further the purpose of this association by means of education, demonstration, or other appropriate activities directed to the recognition and protection of the rights of others, insofar as they relate to property rights, and enjoyment and use of property, and the enforcement of laws and regulations.

