

# THE MAINE BOWHUNTER

MARCH 2010

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT



By Jerome Richard

Did anyone in Maine experience summBy the time you receive this newsletter we will be about 30 days away from spring and time to break out the shorts and the Coppertone! Yea, right! Maybe this year we will have a warm, dryer summer than last year. I'm trying to figure out this global warming thing that Al Gore is talking about.

Remember in the last newsletter I mentioned that Tina and I were asked by IF&W to travel up to Madawaska to teach a bunch of teachers to become Basic Archery Instructors for NASP. I said "sure, we will go". Man, I forgot just how far Madawaska was from Clinton. It was about 5 hours one way, but we had a great time with our contact Tom Gerard that teaches at Madawaska High School. I'm proud of the commitment by these teach-

ers and how they raised the funds to purchase a complete NASP package which is just over a \$3,000 investment. Congratulations!

#### Annual MBA Banquet

The annual MBA Banquet will be held on April 24, 2010 at the Calumet Club in Augusta with the doors opening at 5:00pm.

Thanks to Paul St. John our MBA web master, he has made it possible to purchase banquet tickets through our website using PayPal. He has also made it possible, not too long ago, to purchase an MBA membership using PayPal too. This year the "Early Bird" prize for people purchasing their banquet tickets before April 16<sup>th</sup> will be a free night stay for two people at Sally Mountain Cabins in Jackman, ME! If you have never been to the annual banquet it is a great time with a super dinner (buffet style), so come hungry. After a long winter I can assure you the fellowship will be terrific. Again, we are going to have a photo contest so you can enter your favorite photo in different categories. One thing I can say is that we are expecting to see a lot of other hunting and outdoor organiza-

tions at this banquet along with some pro archery shops.

For those interested in the auctions we will have items of interest for men, women, and children. Personally I have tried to assemble some items for the kids including several youth bows since the kids are our future in our hunting heritage. Ladies, I promise whether you're interested in hunting or non-hunting items we have not forgotten about you.

#### 2010 Sportsmen's Shows

By the time you receive this newsletter the MBA will have started the sportsman's shows where we promote the sport of archery and bowhunting using the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP). We will start with the 2-day Cabin Fever Reliever on February 27 & 28, followed by the Orono show on March 12-14, the Presque Isle show on March 27 & 28, and the Augusta show on April 2-4. Please bring the kids and anyone else that might want to try experiencing shooting a bow. We have had pre-schoolers to great-grandparents come out and shoot the bows. I guarantee we have

*(Continued on page 2)*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

March 12-14th-Orono, 72nd Annual Eastern Maine Sportsmans Show

March 19th-21st—Wilton, 6th Annual Pine State Sportsman's Show

March 27th & 28th—Presque Isle, 12th Annual Presque Isle Fish & Game Club Sportsman's Show

April 2nd-4th—Augusta, 30th Annual State of Maine Sportsman's Show

April 24th—Augusta at The Calumet Club, MBA Banquet

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRES. MESSAGE	1-2
VP REPORT	3
WHY BE A BLIP HUNTER	3-4
INCREASE IN WOMEN IN ARCHERY	4-5
LEGISLATIVE REPORT	6,8
BANQUET	7
BIG GAME SHEET	9
MAINE '09 SLAM	11
BOWHUNTER NOMINATION SHEET	12

# L.L.Bean

GUARANTEED. You Have Our Word.®

(Continued from page 1)

one for you to use! I encourage everyone to come out and bring the kids.

### **The Passing of a Good Friend**

It's with great sadness that I report the passing of a good friend, fellow bowhunter, and long term MBA member Mark Peeler. I really got to know Mark at the 2006 Wells Reserve BLIP hunt. Then, when I first became president of the MBA in 2007, Mark really saved my bacon by stepping up to assist me especially as I was trying to navigate my way through my first year as president. It's amazing how our friends can be here one minute apparently healthy and then the next they face a life threatening illness.

Mark was part of the team that organized and scouted the Marsh Island BLIP in 2008 prior to the event. Mark had dinner with Pete Lamarre, Wayne Plummer, and I the night before the start on the 2008 Marsh Island BLIP and we noticed that Mark was experiencing some very worrisome symptoms during dinner, but he assured us that even though he didn't feel too good, he was OK. I thought he had the flu and was experiencing the symptoms just prior to a heart attack. The next morning on December 1, 2008 Mark headed out to his assigned

treestand and not too soon after settling into his treestand he experienced a very bad dizzy spell and he decided to remove himself from the hunt and head to a hospital.

A few days later he was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin lymphoma, but was assured by doctors of a good chance of recovery with the usual cancer treatment. Needless to say things did not turn out that way and sadly Mark passed away on December 9, 2009 almost one year to the day that he was diagnosed with cancer. He was a very young 51 years old. Mark and I had our final conversation on December 1, 2009 and I still didn't want to believe the end might be near. Mark left behind the love of his life Katie. The MBA has lost a great man and a great asset.

Mark has made a great donation to the MBA in his final wishes and we plan on carrying those wishes out for him at the annual banquet. His extremely generous donation to the MBA will make it possible to assist several kids to attend a summer camp. We are still working these details out and we will be ready by the banquet. Remember, Mark would want us to celebrate the good times and focus on the kids – so let's go to the banquet and have a great time by honoring Mark's wishes!



**Mark Peeler with his 2009 Spring Turkey taken with his bow.**



## **TRADING POST**

Guns, Ammo, Archery  
Fishing, Boating, Camping  
Buy • Sell • Trade • Pawn

428 Oxbow Road • Palmyra, Maine 04965  
207-368-5313 or 1-800-240-9431

Bob Walker

Mon.- Sat. 8:30-6:00  
Sunday 9:00-3:00

## **MBA AFFILIATES**

### **Seven Islands Land Company**

PO Box 1168  
Bangor, ME 04402

### **Central Maine Archery, LLC,**

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

### **LL Bean**

95 Main Street  
Freeport, ME 04032  
(207)865-1082  
<http://www.llbean.com>

### **The Old Town Archery Shop,**

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

### **Wicked Whitetail Taxidermy**

191 Plymouth Road  
Etna, ME 04434  
(207)269-4731

PLEASE  
SUPPORT  
THE  
AFFILIATES  
THAT  
SUPPORT  
YOUR MBA!



**Vice President's Report  
By Dan Long**

I hope this March 2010 issue of The Maine Bowhunter finds you warm and looking forward to spring! Through the past couple of winter months your MBA has been working to plan a festive 2010 spring banquet. This organization has a great bunch of volunteers working hard to plan an entertaining time and good food so please take advantage of the opportunity to share in the fun! We are all looking forward to listening to our President and guests speak, and participating in the photo contests, games, raffles and auction. We want you there with us as family and friends so bring your spouses and kids and come enjoy the

party!

As I have stated previously, those of you who have hobbies where you craft some sort of product, please consider making a donation to the MBA for our banquet auction. If you have a business where items for men/woman/children are for sale, the MBA is a great non-profit organization to donate to, to support our continued efforts to educate the public on bowhunting, introduce youth to the sport, and to fight for more bowhunting opportunities in Augusta.

There are so many events planned for this spring I can't begin to tell you about them all. Check out the various events in the newsletter and don't forget to check the MBA website for more information on upcoming events and all sorts of information that will interest you.

Get yourself in shape to shoot by practicing regularly and have your local archery shop look your equipment over so you can start off and continue through the season with safe, effective equipment.

**Why I am a Blip Hunter  
By John Hunt Jr.**

I've been a BLIP hunter for some time now, and am proud to be part of that group. I think I became a BLIP hunter for reasons quite different than most, and have to go back in time some to really clarify that decision.

I've deer hunted in Maine for close to 30 years now, and I love it. I am already counting the days to next archery season. Even though I have always loved hunting, I actually quit hunting for a couple of years. I did this out of embarrassment. Yes, I was embarrassed. I wasn't embarrassed about being a hunter. I was embarrassed about being associated with other Maine hunters. As politically incorrect as this may seem to some of you, it's true. The behaviors I witnessed, and heard other hunters talk about embarrassed me. I still hear those things today, and just have to shake my head and walk away. I heard, and still hear hunters talk about shooting deer illegally. They do it openly, and with no shame, like they have every right to do so. They shoot does, even though they don't have an any-deer permit, and have friends or,

even worse, family members tag them. They shoot deer over the infamous "pine apples". The stories go on. You've heard them too, I'm sure. No matter how you "candy coat" this behavior, it is poaching and game theft. A good friend of mine, knew of my decision to quit hunting, and through much discussion, convinced me to hunt again. I'm glad he did, as I was able to introduce my son to hunting, and watch him grow into an excellent, effective, and ethical hunter.

For many years, I only hunted by myself, or with my wife and son. Then, as a member of the Maine Bowhunters Association, I became aware of the BLIP program. My decision to join was based upon the hope that I would find other hunters who shared a common ethic. I wanted to regain faith in Maine hunters, and thought the BLIP program would be the best place to do so. My quest was successful.

*(Continued on page 4)*



Russel Corson utilizing the NASP program at the Winter Sportsmans Show in Auburn, Maine

**Old Town Archery Center  
and Pro Shop**

300 Main St. Old Town, ME. 04468  
1-888-827-9489  
www.oldtownarcheryshop.com

**Your Archery Pro-Shop**  
12 20 30 yard indoor shooting lanes  
**3-D Course and TECHNO-VIDEO HUNTING**

Call or Visit **Today**  
Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday Noon til 8:00

Since becoming a member, I have met a number of other hunters I am proud to be associated with. The individual hunters on the past BLIP hunt on Marsh Island were an outstanding group of hunters, with a high level of hunting skills, and a very strong ethic. Every effort was made to make sure no deer were lost to wounding, and very few were. Of those that were lost, the hunters that shot the deer searched for them for days, and felt absolutely terrible about not finding them. Of the deer that were harvested, most were given away to needy families. Most of the hunters were willing to assist others on the hunt, and give up their productive stands to those who were not having luck. These are just a few of the reasons I am proud to be associated with such a great group of hunters.

The leadership of Maine Bowhunters Association is also something to be proud of. The work they put into promoting the sport of bowhunting is difficult even to imagine. Our president Jerome Richard and his wife Tina are an extremely valuable asset to the Maine Bowhunters Association, and their workload is daunting to say the least. I am proud to know them, hunt with

them, and call them my friends. The same can be said of Dan Long. His skills and efforts made the Marsh Island BLIP hunt possible, and successful. We are so fortunate to have him, and the skills and dedication that he brings. My friend Jeff Hopkins also deserves thanks for all of his efforts. The time he put in, meeting with MDIFW personnel, and meeting with the citizens and officials of the towns involved with BLIP hunts was also instrumental in making the hunts possible and successful. He has been involved with this effort for many years now. It's great to see his efforts finally come to fruition.

If you are a bowhunter in Maine, and are not a member of the Maine Bowhunters Association, I strongly urge you to become one now. This organization has done so much for us hunters and our sport, such as youth archery programs, bowhunter safety, BLIP hunts, expanded zone archery hunting, legislative activities, and promoting local professional archery shops. The list goes on and on. Be proud of your sport, and get involved with a group of people who make it simply outstanding!



**Shelley O'Connell with her first  
bow harvest 102lb Doe**

## Increasing Number of Women Enjoy Archery



By Tina Richard

As I travel around Maine with Jerome, I see a lot of ladies that are getting into the sport of archery. I have talked with several pro archery shops and they have said that women are making a larger impact to the sport every year. Depending on which section of Maine, between 10-20% of total sales are to women now! One reason is so they can do things with their husband, boyfriend, or their kids. Many of the pro archery shops believe that women naturally appeal to archery because they listen and adapt to the shooting stance quicker. Their eye coordination is excellent and they focus better. An increasing amount of new bow sales are to women and for good reason. Manufacturers have decided that it's not just a "guy thing" any more. Bows are offered by many manufacturers to fit the smaller framed, more delicate female with shorter draw lengths.

Women do not need a heavy draw weight bow. I shoot a bow with a maximum draw weight of 40 lbs. and have taken two deer. The first deer I shot with the bow was set at 38 lbs. and the second deer the bow was set at 40 lbs. Each time I had a complete pass through with my ar-

row. The technology of the bows today are faster, smoother, and the bow does most of the work due to the higher kinetic energy produced. The ladies just need to concentrate on shooting form. The most important thing for anyone getting into archery to remember is, if the bow does not fit, you will never be able to shoot the bow accurately. Always seek the advice from a trained professional at a pro archery shop to determine your proper draw length. A lot of well-meaning friends usually know enough to get you in trouble. Remember, this is an investment that you want to be successful and enjoy for the long run instead of being frustrated.

Some women have got hooked to the sport through NASP or JOAD through a mentor, or by a friend. I know several ladies that got hooked by going to BOW: Becoming an Outdoors Woman in Maine that I volunteered my time teaching archery to women this last fall. I got into the sport through my husband and I love it! I remember when Jerome bought my bow in the spring of 2000. I took it home and shot it a few times before I said, "When can I take the Bowhunter Safety Course?" and he signed me up, in fact he was the instructor. When I got into hunting I did not think I could do it, but when I shot my first deer I was hooked. I would rather go bowhunting over firearms hunting any day! I am proud to be called a bowhunter and I may not get anything every year, but being in the great outdoors away from the hustle and bustle of every day life is my quiet time away from it all.

I have met many ladies that have taken the Bowhunter Safety Course that Jerome and I teach in the Kennebec and Somerset

*(Continued on page 5)*

*(Continued from page 4)*

County area. Later on we have heard back from a few who have been successful in hunting big game. Not everybody intends to become a bowhunter and may have even started in archery as a competitive target shooter who later got into bowhunting big game animals.

I met Shelley O'Connell of Waterville, when she took one of our bowhunter safety classes. She wanted to get involved so she could enjoy hunting with her two teenage boys. While she was at the class she met three other ladies she did not know and they quickly became friends. As that friendship developed they actually formed a women's league at The Sportsman's BARR which grew to 10 ladies. This league helped them to develop and support each other while practicing together. Shelley offered some good advice when getting started – find a good pro archery shop and get fitted to a bow properly. She also shared another secret - she started her archery experience with

that bowhunter safety class when she was 38 years old with no prior hunting experience in her family. She says don't let age hold you back. A year after that bowhunter safety class Shelley harvested her first deer with her bow! Congratulations!

The ladies have many practice opportunities year-round with 3-D target shooting through the spring, summer, and fall; and indoor target shooting in the winter at many of the pro archery shops. There are even Women's Archery Leagues at many of the pro archery shops, too. The Sportsman's BARR hosts the women's league every Wednesday night at 6:00 pm with the 2009-2010 Bowhunter & Women's League Rules as follows.

1. 2009-2010 Women's League will use a handicap system for scoring this year.
2. Entry fees this year are \$10.00 per shoot.
3. Winning competitors will receive a \$50.00 First Place and \$25.00 Second Place Gift Certificates.
4. To be eligible for the prizes, each competitor must shoot at least 8 weeks in the

- league.
5. Handicaps will be calculated after 3 weeks of shooting and final scores will be based on the 8 scores combined.
6. Running totals will be posted weekly.

For more information you can go to the web site [www.sportsmansbarr.com](http://www.sportsmansbarr.com) or

call 588-0888. Another place that has a women's league is Old Town Archery Center that meets on Thursday nights from 6:00-8:00 pm. For information you can call them at 827-9489. I would love to see more women get into the sport and if you have any questions please e-mail me at [quartermaster84@hotmail.com](mailto:quartermaster84@hotmail.com) or call me at 426-2082.



**Tina Richard**  
at the  
**winter sportsmans**  
**show in Auburn,**  
**Maine.**

**MBA DIRECTORS**

**President**

Jerome Richard  
(207) 426-2082  
[president@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:president@mainebowhunters.org)

**Vice President**

Dan Long  
(207) 991-0810  
[vicepresident@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:vicepresident@mainebowhunters.org)

**Treasurer**

Tina Richard  
(207)426-2082  
[treasurer@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:treasurer@mainebowhunters.org)

**Secretary:**

Deanna Page  
(207) 270-3400  
[secretary@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:secretary@mainebowhunters.org)

**1st Director at Large**

Jeff Hopkins  
(207) 525-3240  
[director1@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:director1@mainebowhunters.org)

**2nd Director at Large**

Bob Christensen-Lang  
(207)252-5166  
[director2@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:director2@mainebowhunters.org)

**Legislative Representative**

Vacant  
[legislative@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:legislative@mainebowhunters.org)

**Social Director:**

Scott Abbott  
(207)356-6523  
[social@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:social@mainebowhunters.org)

**Donations**

Keith Dirago  
(207) 751-7942  
[donations@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:donations@mainebowhunters.org)

**Statistics:**

Deanna Page  
(207) 270-3400  
[statistics@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:statistics@mainebowhunters.org)

**Education**

Pete LaMarre  
(207) 443-2706  
[education@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:education@mainebowhunters.org)

**Membership/Supplies/  
Affiliations**

Paul St. John  
(207) 310-8303  
[membership@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:membership@mainebowhunters.org)

**Webmaster**

Paul St. John  
(207) 310-8303  
[webmaster@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:webmaster@mainebowhunters.org)



**Jess Hartford with her first bow harvest**  
**180lb, 10 pt. Buck**

## An Overview of the Current Deer Situation in Maine Legislative Report By Jerome Richard

The article written below is not in anyway trying to come up with a quick fix on the decline of deer in Maine due to the past two severe winters of 2007-08 and 2008-09. Northern Maine has been on a decline for decades, while downeast has been stagnant, and the rest of the state has been a poor year in general. The article is meant to bring up some points and create some constructive discussion. Since this past fall there have been all kinds of solutions generated by different people and user groups to the current problem, but there are no quick fixes. It may take a one or two decades to get the deer population and density back to the pre-2007 levels. Some of the points below are based on facts that must be taken into account before anyone makes suggestions on solutions. Many of these points were suggested by others as the problem and/or solution, but I thought it might be worth sharing with the membership.

1. Maine has the most liberal firearms season in New England, with 4 weeks of firearms season plus 2 weeks of muzzle-loading season in some areas, plus 4 weeks of archery season. There have been pursuits by hunting groups to extend, move, and even add Sunday hunting on top of the already established deer season which would deeply impact the deer herd. Not too long ago there were attempts by other hunting groups to extend another 2 weeks of muzzle-loading into the last 2 weeks of the archery season, but that was defeated.

Is the hunting season too long in Maine? What is the driver for keeping the length of the hunting season?

2. Maine firearms season occurs during the rut (mating season) for deer which leads to additional hunting success. Hunting the rut has always been a successful time for Maine hunters. Should the hunting season be moved to stay out of this time period?
3. It has been proposed by some groups in the very recent past to delay the firearms season by one to two weeks in hopes of having snow on the ground which would still leave the rut inside the firearms hunting season and also cause many hunters to key in on the deer yards when the deer start to migrate to the deer yards late in the season. Again, should the timing of the hunt be moved to benefit the deer more than the hunter?
4. The initial reason for the Superpack license was for one stop shopping for all your hunting licenses, but a hunting organization lobbied to make a change to create a \$200 raffle ticket for extra chances to shoot more deer. Maybe this chance for bonus deer is not favorable due to the current conditions?
5. The any-deer permitting system was developed in 2000 with the start of a Wildlife Management District system (WMD's) by controlling the number of does harvested per year in those WMD's. Prior

to the 2008 hunting season bowhunters were allowed to harvest either-sex in any WMD during the October Archery Season plus the Youth Day hunters were allowed to harvest either-sex on Youth Day too. But starting in the 2008 hunting season, bowhunters could not harvest a doe during October in 18 of the 29 WMD's. That meant 62% of the WMD's were bucks-only for all hunters. Then in the 2009 hunting season the archery season was limited another year plus during the Youth Day hunt they were limited to bucks-only in the same 18 of 29 WMD's. This occurred due to the winter of 2007 and 2008. Maybe we should stay on this path until deer populations recover?

6. A Maine legislator introduced a bill in 2006 to allow hunters the ability to harvest one deer with archery equipment and one deer with a firearm. This legislation was totally absent of any scientific or biological data to support this decision. Luckily, this bill did not make it out of the Joint Standing Committee of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
7. The winter of 2007-08 and 2008-09 had a very serious impact on the deer herd especially in Northern, Eastern, and Western Maine. This was not the first time that deer population levels and distribution have been impacted by severe winters. Past historical

data can be found as far back as publications from Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Game, titled "Deer in Maine" by Chester F. Banasiak, Game Division Bulletin #6, January 1961 during Commissioner Roland H. Cobb's time. Recently, Lee Kantar the head deer biologist with IF&W discussed these bad winters and how other states were impacted too. Lee stated that 3 of the 10 worst winters on record happened in the last 60 years. The worst winter in 60 years was 1971, then 1963, the third worst winter was 2008 and 2009 was 9<sup>th</sup> place. If you look at the worst 2 back-to-back winters then 71-72 was the worst and 08-09 was tied for second. He also mentioned that the upper mid-west of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan saw a 20 to 30% decline in deer harvest in 2009. Also, Quebec and northern New Brunswick have seen a 30% decline in deer harvest in 2009, so it isn't just a Maine issue. Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has shown in the past that they can manage the deer herd successfully such as the goals and objectives to raise the number of deer from 1985 to 1999. In their 10 best districts during that time they managed to rise from about 80,000 deer in those 10 districts to 200,000

*(Continued on page 8)*



# 2010 Annual Banquet

*Hosted by the*

## Maine Bowhunters Association



***Plenty of fun, food, raffles, and vendors!***

Date: **Saturday April 24, 2010**  
 Time: **Doors Open 5 pm**  
 Place: **Calumet Club**  
**334 West River Rd**  
**Augusta. ME**

Get your tickets by April 16 to be entered into the Early-Bird raffle for a chance to win a **FREE Night for Two-People at Beautiful SALLY MOUNTAIN CABINS in Jackman, Maine!**

Visit [www.mainebowhunters.org](http://www.mainebowhunters.org) to order your tickets now! **Single Ticket \$25 Couples \$45**

- His and Her Door Prizes: Free entry with the purchase of your banquet ticket.
- 50/50 Raffle
- Chinese Raffle
- Card Game Raffle
- Photo Contest (no cost to enter): Members and non-members bring your favorite photos for display in the following categories:
  - ⊙ Outdoor Fun or Wildlife (live animals) Photo
  - ⊙ Harvest Photo
  - ⊙ Trail Camera Photo

To donate auction items please contact Jerome Richard at 426-2082  
 Proceeds benefit MBA youth efforts and legislative efforts which benefit all outdoor enthusiasts.



**Join us for a great time!**  
*Join us for a great time!*

For Directions Please Go To: [www.calumetclub.com](http://www.calumetclub.com)

(Continued from page 6)

deer total in those same 10 districts by 1999 before the public and hunters pushed to lower the deer density down to 15-20 deer per square mile. Did we overharvest a little because of hunter pressure to create “hunting opportunities” and then suffer the consequences of 2 bad winters too?

8. There has been a big focus on predation by bears and coyotes in the spring on deer fawns, but bobcats have an impact on spring deer fawns, as well as, winter deer predation, too. Maine used to have a wolf population, but deer still thrived. Other states and Canada have large populations of coyotes, but their impact is not well understood. Again, during a severe winter the coyotes, bobcats, and lynx will have some impact especially when these predators can't get to snowshoe hare or other food sources.
9. Some people have made statements that the turkey population is having a direct impact on the deer herd, because they compete for some of the same food sources, yet they have no biological evidence of that impact. Even turkeys were formally native to Maine in the not too recent past (early 1900's). The mast crop is not always produced every year, so how can turkeys be blamed when the mast crop of acorns is not produced? Once spring arrives how much of their daily diet of turkeys are

worms and insects, not acorns, beechnuts, or berries?

10. There have been many discussions about the number of deer yards, the size of the deer yards, and the quality of browse in the deer yard. “Yarding” behavior is different from southern Maine to northern Maine, and from urban to rural areas. Many hunters have expressed that the state of Maine should purchase and manage these deer yards, but who is going to pay for this huge investment – the hunter with higher hunting license fees and higher tagging fees? If additional pressure is put on the landowner to invest more in managing deer yards that could start the development of access fees by the landowners to offset his financial losses. The landowner also has the possibility of posting all his/her property which will actually restore the deer population faster, but eliminate hunting opportunities. Hunters and the State may be successful at putting a lot of burden on the private landowner to manage the public resource such as deer, but that same landowner has absolutely no obligation to allow the hunter or anyone else on their property. Remember there are no free rides, if you want something, then someone has to pay and it is usually the user group.
11. The original concept of the Expanded Archery Zones was limited to 2 does per archer in certain designated areas, but has slowly changed to 1 buck

and 2 does to the most recent 1 buck and unlimited does in the past few years. Are these areas being abused by unethical hunters harvesting deer outside the expanded archery zone and if so, what would be the probable impact especially as related to the doe population? Do some areas require more harvesting of deer than a 2 deer limit, and if so are there other ways to accomplish those goals to target specific problem areas?

12. Has increased road access by hunters had an impact on the deer harvest compared to the amount of roadways and number of vehicles that can gain access to more inaccessible places as in the 50's and 60's? Has technology given hunters more of an edge in deer harvest with ATV's, GPS, scents and lures, electronic calls, trail cameras, special food plots, better clothing, and hunting “weapons”? The deer basically haven't changed, but the hunter has gained a lot of advantages that have offset or replaced some knowledge and skill of past traditional hunters. Did this give Maine deer hunting a false sense of hunter success when deer reproduction was starting to be impacted by increased hunter success rates over a long period of time? Maine Antler & Skull Trophy Club (MASTC) has data showing the annual number of bucks harvested that weighed 200# and over has been decreasing for the last several years.

13. Some have suggested a point restriction of 3 points on one side for bucks. This has been very controversial depending on the hunter or the user group. What worked in other states like Vermont was based on a totally separate set of circumstances and nothing like what Maine is dealing with at this time. Most Maine hunters are “meat hunters” where rack size is not an issue as long as it is legally harvested. What impact will this have on youth hunters? Others like the guides may prefer the point restrictions because their out-of-state (non-resident) hunters come to Maine “hoping” to bag a trophy buck over 200# with a lot of points. If a point restriction system were instituted in Maine, would it have a very negative impact on resident hunters for a few years waiting around on the deer population to make up for the level (sufficient number for a quality hunt per number of licensed hunters) of bucks to meet the requirements of a legal take? Who makes up for the loss of hunting licenses during that time? This also feeds into the debate on whether the point restrictions favor Maine hunters or Maine guide services, which isn't good for any of us. If it is true that coyotes really do have a big impact on deer population, then coyotes have basically one more year to get the deer a hunter had to pass up to meet the point restriction. Also, if a hunter mistak-

(Continued on page 10)

**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 and **\$5 if you wish to receive the patch** to MBA, P.O Box 5026, Augusta, ME 04332 before January 31.

The following categories are eligible for a certificate and a patch:

- 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)

If Antlers Present, Total Points: \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued from page 8)

enly shoots a buck that he thought met the point restrict limit, but did not, then what happens? Will the hunter just leave the deer to rot in the woods or call it in to the Warden Service for a possible fine and loss of the deer?

14. Poaching has had a huge impact on deer populations throughout Maine. Most recently a group of 8 people were arrested in Aroostook county for night hunting, harvesting antlerless deer, hunting out of season, fishing violations, and illegal drug charges that added up to over 125 violations. Not too long ago a poaching ring was arrested in the Belgrade area and was found to have illegally killed more deer in one season than all the deer legally tagged at the local tagging station that same year. In 2007 four poachers were caught using a crossbow to illegally shoot 17 deer in one night on Drakes Island. Recently an editorial in a Maine hunting magazine suggested cutting the number of Maine Wardens in half. How is that going to help protect the natural resources of Maine and prevent or investigate poaching violations? If anything the fines and jail time should be far more severe for poaching.

Some hunters and user groups who have voiced action to be taken to solve the deer issues have some responsibility in their own outcome in why they didn't see deer or see as many deer which generated the following

questions. But remember buying a hunting license does not guarantee that a hunter is going to get a deer. If every hunter who buys a Maine hunting license had a 100% success rate of harvesting a deer, there would not be any deer left in Maine in less than 2 years!

Questions for the Hunter:

1. How many hunters, both resident and non-resident, actually spend time pre-season scouting or even post-season scouting? Or was it just road scouting or glassing open fields or just going on blind luck like "cutting a track" in the snow and hoping for the best? Sometimes the habitat has changed since last year due to mast crop, development, timber harvesting, flooding by beavers, past hunting pressure/harvest, etc. so scouting can be very productive and at least let the hunter know if it is worth the effort in that particular area.
2. How many hunters enter the hunting season, actually being proficient with their archery or firearms equipment, before they enter the woods? How many hunters have actually taken a shot, missed, and later claimed to their friends they didn't see anything all day?
3. What method of hunting did the deer hunter rely on such as treestand, blind, still hunting, road hunting or even the illegal deer drive method? Each method has its advantages and disadvantages especially when deer density may be low or deer go nocturnal due to hunting pressure. Too much or too little hunting pressure on a parcel of land

can have a big impact on each method of hunting to move deer around or cause them to go nocturnal.

4. How much hunter effort is expended during the deer hunting season both in number of days and hours per day? What are their real expectations that hunting season? Is the hunter limiting his take to a trophy buck only which has a direct impact to the hunter's success?
5. How many hunting areas and the size of the hunting area does the hunter have available? Having a limited area compounded by maybe poor food source yielding low carrying capacity will not produce much of anything.
6. Does the hunter even know what the available food source is for that year and deer travel paths? Is it a morning or evening trail, or even worse a nocturnal trail?
7. How tolerant is the hunter to unethical hunters or poaching? Are you a good ambassador for ethical hunting and fair chase with zero tolerance for game violations? The impact of illegal game harvest in Maine is huge when compared to the number of deer in the state. One breeding doe is capable of producing an off spring impact of over 40 deer in 7 years, so poaching does have an impact for future generations.

As you can tell from above, there are no silver bullets to fix the sudden decline in the number of deer in Maine, but we should not jump into knee jerk reactions to try to solve the

problem. Despite what some hunters might think, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has done a great job of managing the deer population in this state especially with the political pressure by some user groups that lobby for short term "hunting opportunities" that can lead to long term problems later. It is up to every hunter (or should I say "user group") to help with the solution to this problem. MDIF&W had nothing to do with creating two bad winters back-to-back. Whatever the solutions maybe, they should be based on sound biological data and not on doing something for the sake of doing something even if it is wrong. Why pay for a professional biologist with master's degrees and doctoral degrees, and yet leave the policy making to the political connected user groups with no credentials and only opinions? Just because you can pressure someone into seeing something your way does not make it right.

Until things do get better, we hunters may have to do without some of the gains in hunting opportunities as part of the solution. The real bottom line in the near future is that this situation is going to separate the "men from the boys" if you are driven by the need to harvest a deer in the Maine woods. We may have to stop pointing fingers or placing blame, and start looking at our own abilities. Each hunter's ability to be successful will be tested and I'm sure there will be a lot of people who will become better hunters on the other side when deer populations return.

## My Maine 2009 Slam By Deanna Page



When the year 2009 rolled around, hunting prospects weren't looking good. After two years of bad winters, the deer herd had been hit hard, even in Central Maine where I live. Little did I know that I would still have my best hunting year to date.

It all started in May, when I was able to call in and shoot another nice Maine tom turkey, 18 lbs, 8 ¼ inch beard and ¾ inch spurs. I was able to harvest him down behind my house in a spot that as a kid my mother would take my brother and me on picnics. Little did we know then that we would someday have wild turkeys to hunt there.

I had already planned to hunt bear in 2009. After I video taped my sister-in-law shooting her first bear in 2008, I decided that was something I would like to try. I decided to do the bear bait myself. So when August rolled around my brother helped me set-up three bait sites. I tended the bait sites every night after work, after a week I started getting hits on one of the sites. The other two did not get hit, so after two weeks I pulled them and concentrated on the active bait. I was getting trail camera photos every night. I was going to try to take my first bear with my bow. I had my first bear

encounter on the first Friday night of the hunt, three years to the day my brother took his first bear at that same spot.

With my bow in hand, the 200 lb. bear came towards the bait and stopped facing me at 15 yards. With no shot opportunity, I could only watch as it then turned and walked off the same way it came in. Bears aren't stupid, it knew something was different, or did it hear my heart beating? I'll never know. I had accomplished a great feat however. I have a great fear of bears, yet I was able to bait a bear to within 15 yards and I survived! But so did that bear. I was able to fill my tag on someone else's bait with only 1 ½ hours of the season left. My 7mm Mag put the 120 lb. bear down no problem.

Now it was on to the moose hunt. My family and friends and I had already done some camping/scouting trips in our zone. There was a huge bull in the area I was hoping to get a chance at. I also took my bow on this trip, hoping for the opportunity to shoot the moose with my bow. We hunted hard Monday and only saw one bull I could have shot with my rifle, but he was not a Monday moose in my book. It had turned out to be cold and windy so we weren't having much luck calling moose.

Tuesday morning we did get a response from a bull and I was hoping for a chance to let an arrow fly. No such luck, the bull stayed in the woods and never came closer than 75-100 yards. That afternoon with a half hour of shooting light left, we encountered the second bull I would pass up. We got to within 60 yards of him, but I still wanted to hold out for a bigger bull even though he was over 600 lbs. and

had a wide rack, he had no palms so I passed him up. That night before going to sleep, I told myself, if I saw that bull again I shouldn't pass him up a second time. Better to get a nice moose than to come home with nothing, especially since it wasn't my permit. I was lucky enough to have friends that listed me as sub-permittee and allowed me the chance to shoot my first moose after waiting 29 years for my own name to be drawn with no luck.

As the third morning of the hunt dawned, I was still hoping for a chance to take a

bull with my bow, but it wasn't in the cards. We tried calling in a couple of areas with no luck, so we moved to a different area. At the end of a woods road, we found some fresh tracks in the now softening mud. It looked like a couple moose had milled around fighting or breeding. We set up and did some calling, after a few minutes, we heard a stick snap, then we got a response. It was from an ugly cow that wanted us to leave "her" bull alone. My brother worked his way around them hoping the cow would pull her bull away from the other "cow" and bring him into view for me. My brother was able to get close enough to see the moose in the

woods. He came back out to let us know there were three moose, the cow, a small bull, and the wide racked seven point I had passed up the night before. Well, with my fate sealed, we decided to work our way towards them. Three of us were able to get within 75 yards of the three moose. With my 7mm Mag in hand, I debated whether to shoot this bull or not. Do I take the chance of wasting my friend's tag just to try for a bigger moose, or do I use this chance of a lifetime to take my first moose? BANG. He wasn't the monster bull we all dream of, but it was my first moose, 634 lbs., 7 points, 41 inch spread. A lot of memories and a big Thank You for the opportunity!

Now the pressure was on, with my turkey, bear and moose down, I had to get a deer at a time when our deer herd is in a population slump! Luckily for me, I'm a bowhunter and have the opportunity to take part in the special seasons to help control the deer population in areas that are closed to rifle hunting. In October I was able to take a 120 lb. doe with my bow, thus completing my Maine Slam or Royal Crown as MASTC calls it. As for my chance to complete another Maine Slam, I hope one day to get to do it with my bow!



Deanna's Doe

# Maine Bowhunters Association Bowhunter of the Year Nomination Form

MBA membership is asked to nominate candidates for Bowhunter of the Year award.

This award will be given to one MBA member that has been in good standing for the past 12 months and recognizes "success" and may, but does not have to be, in the form of a harvested animal. This success may be in the form of taking an exceptional animal, or the sum of various species taken, or success in the form of a particularly difficult achievement relating to a bowhunting experience. All aspects of these "successes" will be considered. Fair chase will be considered. The totality of the circumstances will be considered including the individual's experience, handicaps, advantages, the difficulty of the hunt and the overall attitude of the candidate." Ethics will play a large role in the award. The award will be presented at the MBA Annual Banquet April 24, 2010.

Please check one: \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ Female Age: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Bowhunter Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Bowhunter Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Nominator Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a separate sheet describing in detail the reason that this candidate should receive the award. Description must include date of experience.

Forms must be returned to Dan Long, 13 Beech Ridge Drive, Hermon, ME 04401 no later than March 17, 2010 to be considered. Equal information may be e-mailed to [dan.long01@gmail.com](mailto:dan.long01@gmail.com) in place of mailing. Voting will take place at the March MBA Regular Monthly Business Meeting in Augusta. Please check the MBA website if you wish to attend and participate in the voting.

[www.mainebowhunters.org](http://www.mainebowhunters.org)



WWW.info@sportsmansbarr.com

At CMA, archery is not a department, it's at our center!

Tom Hartford  
Jess Hartford



Full Service  
Lane & Bow  
Rentals

cmarcher@roadrunner.com  
30 Belgrade Avenue

www.centralmainearchery.com  
Auburn, ME 04210

(207) 783-3060