

THE MAINE BOWHUNTER

MARCH 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



By Jerome Richard

How is everybody surviving the winter of 2010-2011? As of this writing I'm starting to get concerned about how the winter severity will affect the Maine deer herd as snow depths are quit deep in many parts of Maine. It's been great for snowmobiling, but not too good for the possible future of deer hunting. I just hope we get an early spring and we enjoy another summer like we had last year – long and hot.

MBA Annual Banquet

It's March and the Annual MBA Banquet will soon be here. The banquet is scheduled for Saturday, April 23, 2011 at the Calumet Club in Augusta with doors opening at 5:00pm and dinner at

6:00pm. We were very fortunate last year with the tremendous support from our pro archery shops and other donors. The MBA was able to send several kids to the Bryant Pond 4-H Camp & Learning Center thanks to the donations by the late Mark Peeler.

We are hoping for the same success this year too. It is a great time of the year with warm weather and just prior to the 2011 Spring Turkey Season. We welcome everyone to come and join in the celebration. Last year we auctioned off 8 youth bows with some as a package kit, so if you have a child that might be interested in archery, please bring them.

Some of the proceeds this year will go towards the MBA actively promoting and training teachers in Maine schools in the National Archery in the Schools Program in honor of Mark Peeler. The MBA believes we can help schools in Maine get started with NASP over the next several years

including help with grants to finance the schools purchase of a complete NASP set-up.

If you need banquet tickets, please call me at 314-2885.

2011 Sportsman's Show Schedule

Get ready, another year of the sportsman's shows is right around the corner and the MBA will be attending these shows plus bringing the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Youth Archery Shoot. Here is the listing of shows:

- Penobscot Fly Fishers – Cabin Fever Reliever, February 26 & 27, 2011 – Brewer Auditorium
- 73rd Annual Eastern Maine Sportsman's Show, March 11, 12, & 13, 2011 – University of Maine at Orono

(Continued on page 2)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 26th-27th— Penobscot Fly Fishers Cabin Fever Reliever, Brewer
- March 11-13th-Orono, 73rd Annual Eastern Maine Sportsmans Show
- March 18th-20th— Waterville, 7th Annual Pine State Sportsman's Show
- March 26th & 27th—Presque Isle, 13th Annual Presque Isle Fish & Game Club Sportsman's Show
- April 1st-3rd—Augusta, 31st Annual State of Maine Sportsman's Show
- April 23rd—Augusta at The Calumet Club, MBA Banquet

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PRESIDENTS REPORT	1
SMACK DOWN SHOOT	4
EASTERN SPORTS SHOW	5 & 7
KNOX COUNTY REPORT	6
LEGISLATIVE REPORT	8

(Continued from page 1)

7th Annual Pine Tree State Sportsman's Show, March 18, 19, & 20, 2011 – Sukee Ice Arena in Winslow

13th Annual Presque Isle Fish & Game Club Sportsman's Show, March 26 & 27, 2011 – University of Maine Presque Isle

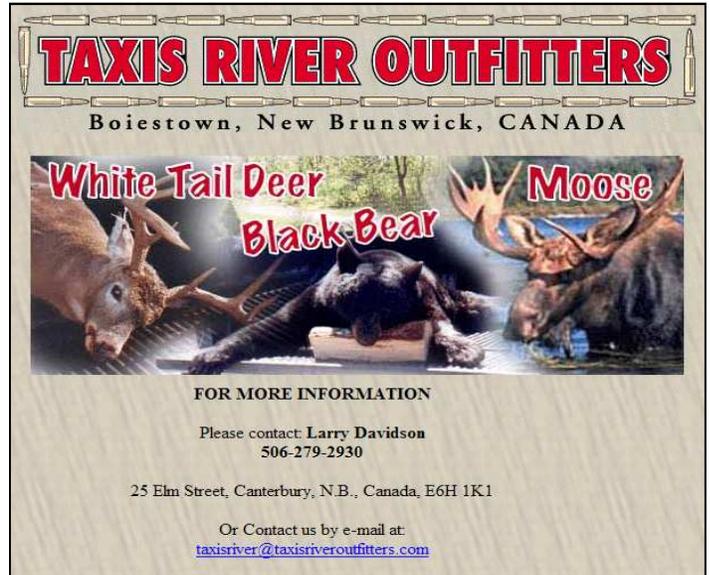
31st Annual State of Maine Sportsman's Show, April 1, 2, & 3, 2011 – Augusta Civic Center

Crossbow Legislation

It is sad to report that a few crossbow bills have been submitted through the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. I was shocked that people would submit bills adding hunting pressure on an already devastated Maine deer herd, but then I discovered who the individuals were that got our Maine legislators to sponsor the bills. Almost all were from southern Maine where deer numbers are still relatively stable. It comes down to self-centered greed

by individuals who have direct financial gain such as a local Maine archery sell representative from a crossbow manufacturer and a couple of southern Maine outdoor writers that have been paid by crossbow manufacturers to promote their agenda or pay for crossbow articles to be written. Their financial gain is the overriding factor that places the natural resources at risk. This is the kind of thing that created the Wildlife Alliance of Maine!

The bowhunters and the youth hunters have already given up hunting opportunities to help with the deer recovery effort. Many of you already know that in the past 3 years bowhunters in October and November can only harvest a buck in 18 of 29 Wildlife Management Districts. The last 2 years the Youth Day hunters could only harvest a buck on Youth Day in the same 18 of 29 WMD's. 62% of Maine's Wildlife Management Districts are bucks-only with zero any-deer permits available to anyone. Northern Maine has a deer population density estimated to be 2 deer per square



mile! Most of western, downeast, and some areas of central Maine are below the deer management objectives of IF&W of 20 deer per square mile!

Currently, no New England state allows crossbow hunting except for handicapped hunters which the Maine Bowhunters Association supports the handicap hunter.

In Ohio where crossbow hunting first started in the United States, the Ohio Department of Natural Resources reported that they

sold 624,908 hunting licenses in 2009 of which just over 100,000 of these were crossbow licenses (16%). The total reported deer harvest in Ohio in 2009 was 248,515 deer! Maine reportedly has about 175,000 licensed hunters. Using the same percentage of crossbow licenses to total licenses that means Maine could sell about 28,004 crossbow licenses (16%). MDIF&W reports there are approximately 14,000 bowhunting licenses sold each year.

So how is introducing ad-

(Continued on page 3)

MBA AFFILIATES

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

Kittery Trading Post
PO Box 904
Kittery, ME 03904
(207) 439 - 2700

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

Seven Islands Land Company
PO Box 1168
Bangor, ME 04402

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

PLEASE
SUPPORT
THE
AFFILIATES
THAT
SUPPORT
YOUR MBA!

(Continued from page 2)

ditional hunting pressure, by possibly tripling the number of hunters in October, going to help with the deer recovery? We need to be grateful for the hunting opportunities we currently have. If Maine hunters make a serious impact on the already low deer numbers then the fact is that the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife may have to cut everyone's hunting season including archery, firearms, and muzzle loading. That sounds like short term thinking with long lasting consequences. That will not help the future of hunting in Maine especially with youth hunters.

I will report to you in the next newsletter as the legislation progresses.

Northwoods Sporting Journal

In case you have not heard, the Maine Bowhunters Association has changed the free subscription that comes to every MBA member. The MBA will be moving to the Northwoods Sporting Journal starting with the January 2011 issue. As existing MBA memberships expire with the current Maine Sportsman subscription, all renewals will receive the Northwoods Sporting Journal. This change will also affect our MBA Lifetime members and the MBA will still cover the free subscription to the Northwoods Sporting Journal to our lifetime members.

In addition, several pro

archery shops have agreed to provide 10% discounts on archery equipment (some restrictions may apply) with a valid, current MBA membership identification card. We will continue to work with other archery shops to increase this list. Currently the list of archery shops that have agreed to the discount for MBA members are:

- Old Town Archery Center
 - Old Town
- Moosehead Trail Trading Post
 - Palmyra
- Alder Brook Archery
 - Corinna
- Audette's Hardware & Sporting Goods
 - Winthrop
- Central Maine Archery
 - Auburn
- Lakeside Archery
 - North Yarmouth

All MBA newsletters will be accessed through the MBA website for everyone to open and read. The MBA is no longer printing and mailing out the newsletter, but will have a full page in the Northwoods Sporting Journal to be used by the MBA for additional updates and information.

Also, in case you are not aware the Maine Bowhunters Association website has been redesigned and improved for our members to help with this transition. People can now

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access MBA newsletters in full color as far back as September 2007 to the present. Membership forms and stat sheets will be easy to access and download for your use. We would like people that have harvested big game animals with archery equipment to send us your digital game photos and we will enter the digital photo in the MBA photo gallery of the website also.

Election of Officers

___The Election of Officers will be held on Sunday, May 1st at 9:00am in Augusta at

the Buker Community Center. I will be stepping down as president of the MBA after 4 years at the helm. The MBA has accomplished a lot of things during that time and it is because of the great team of volunteers inside the MBA organization. I still plan on being very active in the MBA, but I would like to see someone else at the helm and give me a break. We have a lot of allies with other outdoor groups and the professional archery shops. If you are interested in being a part of this great team, please let me know.

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THE SMACK DOWN SHOOT

**BY
TINA
RICHARD**

On Saturday January 1, 2011, Jerome and I went to Auburn to watch the Smack Down Shoot held at the Central Maine Archery from 9:00am to 2:00pm. It was a Vegas 330 shoot where the X was worth 11 points. If there was a tie the shooters would do a 30 second shoot, the person closer to the x won. Another good thing about this shoot is it was a “money shoot”! Of course you had to be real good (the top three) to win any money!

There were 17 shooters (16 adults and 1 kid) from different places in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and one person from England. The word “amazing” describes most of these shooters and especially this one guy Dave Cousins. He is a pro and he is a machine when it comes to shooting his bow. Some of his friends refer to Dave as “The Freak” because of his string of consecutive times of scoring 330 points out of a possible

330. Jerome and I watched him shoot and he made it look so smooth. Through out the whole shoot Dave did not miss the X.

There were some pretty expensive bow set-ups, white, green, orange, and black with a lot of chrome. I was amazed at how long the arrows were. I would estimate that a typical target bow set-up cost in excess of \$3,000!

The winners were: first place – Dave Cousins of Maine with a perfect score of 330; second place – Rick Smith of Maine; and third place – William “Liam” Grimwood of England. Jerome and I were glad to go down to watch all the talent. We even met Steve Dunsmoor of Lakeside Archery who was shooting at this competition. Both Central Maine Archery and Lakeside Archery are very involved in getting people started in archery with the JOAD program.

For those interested in target archery and shooting form, Dave Cousins and William “Liam” Grimwood have produced an excellent DVD called “Shooting Form” from Bowstring Media. It covers a lot of shooting tips and points on equipment.



TOP PHOTO: SEVENTEEN SHOOTERS FOR THE SMACK DOWN SHOOT HELD IN MAINE MAINE

BOTTOM PHOTO: TOP THREE SHOOTERS, FIRST PLACE DAVE COUSINS (MIDDLE), SECOND PLACE RICK SMITH (LEFT), THIRD PLACE WILLIAM GRIMWOOD (RIGHT).



2011 EASTERN SPORTS AND OUTDOOR SHOW

BY JEROME RICHARD

My wife Tina and I took a trip with William "Bill" Page, retired Fire Chief for Waterville and Winslow Fire Departments, to the 2011 Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show in Harrisburg, PA. We spent four days working a booth with our good friends from Mainely Adventures Lodge from Houlton, ME. The show actually runs for nine days! I bet there were a lot of dead tired vendors at the end of that show.

Many of my friends had told us that this show was the largest on the east coast and how many buildings and vendors were at this show, but I was amazed at the size. I pulled out my smart phone to lock in the booth space for Mainely Adventure Lodge and the nearest men's restroom, after that I was all set! During breaks when our group took turns working the booth, Tina and I would

venture out to see all the vendors and outfitters. I know there were over 8,000 vendors at this show because our booth space was #8011 and we were not the last vendor in the numbering system by a long shot.

During my travels through the show I made plenty of contacts with some vendors and some actually gave us donations for the upcoming April 23rd Annual MBA Banquet. All the items donated were directly related to bow-hunting, so don't miss out on seeing these items at the banquet. We were able to network with a few groups especially the United Pennsylvania Bowhunters who we are hoping to work out some ideas on expanding NASP in Maine and fundraisers to help schools get into the program. We were also able to help some new vendors with sales repre-

sentatives in Maine as a way to get some new archery products introduced in Maine. It seems like Maine is located at the end of tunnel and we don't see some of these great products until later.

I'm not a big fan of going around seeing hunting celebrities, but I do have to say I went out of my way to see Ralph and Vicki Cianciarulo of Archer's Choice. I always like their bowhunting bear videos and I probably appreciated being around another short bow-hunter like Ralph! They did

say their Bear 'n Down video #10 will be coming out soon. When I'm on the tread mill during the winter, watching the videos is one way to keep my mind off the running and enjoying the bear hunting.

I have no clue how many guide services were represented at this show, but there was about 20 guide services from Maine. There were outfitters I believe from almost every state in union plus all of Canada, New Zealand, Argentina, probably every country in Africa. I guess if I win

(Continued on page 7)

FINS AND FURS ADVENTURES



Carroll & Lila Ware, owners of Fins and Furs Adventures now offer spectacular bow, rifle and black powder hunts for huge whitetails in western Kentucky. This world-class outfitter includes all amenities including a brand new

lodge, semi-private rooms, great food, knowledgeable guides and best of all, large numbers of whitetail bucks. Carroll hunted for three days in November, 2010 and saw (by actual count) 51 deer in three days!

We offer world-class whitetail hunting with bow, black powder, or center fire weapons on 5000 acres of exclusively-held property, available only to this outfitters hunters. This outfitter mandates an antler score of a minimum 130 Pope & Young score. This ensures a sensible management plan geared towards producing trophy hunting for world-class whitetails. For further information and literature about this world-class hunting experience, contact: **Fins and Furs Adventures**

Carroll & Lila Ware **Email:** finsandfursadventures@beeline-32 Greenwood Ave. online.net Skowhegan, ME 04976 207-474-5430 **WEB:** finsandfursadventures.com



Knox County Report By Bill Valleau NEW YEAR RESOLUTION

Each year, I look back over the previous hunting season and make a list of New Year resolutions. This is a list of things I plan to do to improve the upcoming hunting season. It's my hunting to do list for 2011.

Study Deer Year Round

Winter is a great time of year to learn and study deer. Snow reveals a lot of secrets. I enjoy following the packed snow deer trails, where I find deer beds, see the commonly traveled paths and if I am lucky I may find an antler. Shed hunting is a great late winter, early spring activity and is one of my favorite winter activities. It is true that deer patterns and movements are completely different in the winter than they are in the fall, but learning the major travel routes will aide in understanding the overall behavior of the deer.

Shoot Year Round

I have snow blown a shooting lane to my 3d target but when the temperatures struggle to reach 10 degrees it can be difficult to get much shooting done in the outdoors. Shooting indoors is a great option and luckily there are pro-shops in the Mid Coast area that have indoor

shooting ranges. Johnson's Sporting Goods in Rockland has a nice indoor range and an excellent pro-shop for all our archery needs. I spoke with Greg at Johnson's Sporting Goods and he said they are doing a lot of shooting on the weekends and tuning a lot of bows. Another great indoor shooting option is The Outdoor Sportsman, in Northport. They have a great indoor range and have an excellent shop for all archery needs. I plan on bringing my recurve to both of these ranges in the near future.

Use Trail Camera

Last year, I had my trail camera out for only five days, unfortunately, moisture got into the housing of my camera and it did not work properly the rest of the season. During the time my trail camera was out, I got photos of 5 different deer including one nice buck. So for the upcoming year I plan to utilize a trail camera prior to hunting season and during the season. Trail cameras can provide a wealth of information about the deer activity and can greatly increase success rate.

Introduce a Youth to Archery

Today, I was asked if I

could bring a friend's eleven year old daughter bow hunting. I felt honored to be asked. I believe that the future of bow hunting depends on our youth. The more young people that become interested in bow hunting, the better it is for the future of our sport. It will be great to share the excitement of bow hunting with a young person.

Have Fun

I have a recurve bow that I really enjoy shooting. Traditional archery and stick bows themselves seem elegant. The fine craftsmanship of a stick bow lures me to pick up my recurve each year and every year after loosing multiple arrows I put my recurve away. This year I have vowed to keep shooting my recurve until I am confident with it.

Last year, I took a couple weeks off work to hunt and when I had not seen a deer, I started to feel myself get nervous about rather or not I would get a deer. I allowed myself to become stressed about rather or not I would harvest a deer. I had taken time off work to relax and enjoy my favorite activity, bow hunting, but I was actually feeling stressed. On a cold windy afternoon, last November while I was hanging on the side of an oak tree, a small buck walked out. When I was kneeling beside my deer, I realized that being able to hunt and being in the woods is a great thing and when I got stressed or worried about getting a deer I was missing the point or reason we hunt. Enjoy being out there, in the woods, bow in hand, it's a great thing.



DRAWING BY TINA RICHARD

(Continued from page 5)

the Megabucks I have a pretty good idea where I would like to travel now. The taxidermy work we saw was quite impressive from a full mount Rhino, every big cat, a Kangaroo, shoulder mount of an elephant, Florida gators, all the way to every type of bear and deer on the planet.

Peter Brown and Scott Abbott were hard at work at their Extreme Dimension booth. I will have to say I was glad our booth was not located in the same building as all the vendors for game calls. Between all the duck and turkey calling going on in that one building a guy would have to be deaf after a nine day show. We did have a vendor beside our booth called "The Rattlebox" which was a really good invention for a bowhunter using a rattle call. They have some good video on their website if you are interested in rattle calling.

This show had everything from boats, ATV, RV's, trucks, contractors that specialize in building cabins and camps for individuals or

lodges. Many of the big retailers such as Cabela's and Bass Pro Shop were well represented at the show too. One building had nothing but archery equipment, but it seemed like every building Tina and I visited had at least one or more vendors with something to do with archery. We even watched some live trick shooting with a guy shooting 5 and 6 arrows at one time from one bow! This guy, I'm sure he is well known to somebody, was able to break 5 balloons at one time shooting 5 arrows from that one bow at about 20 yards. Maybe it was the guy or maybe it was because he was shooting a Mathews bow. I'll let you decide which one it was!

I want to especially thank Mainely Adventures Lodge for letting us have the opportunity to work with them. Every evening we went out with the crew, had a big meal, and most importantly had a fun time! It was an 11-hour drive each way, but anybody who knows Bill Page also knows that Bill is a huge amount of jokes to keep the drive entertaining to say the least.



TOP PHOTO: JEROME AND TINA WITH RICK AND VICKI CIANCIARULO

BOTTOM PHOTO: ONE OF MANY MOUNTS THAT WAS AT THE SHOW HELD IN HARRISBURG, PA



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Mike is an avid bowhunter with 30 plus years experience to help you become a better bowhunter. Please visit his shop for all your archery needs.




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 inherent 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.

