

THE MAINE BOWHUNTER

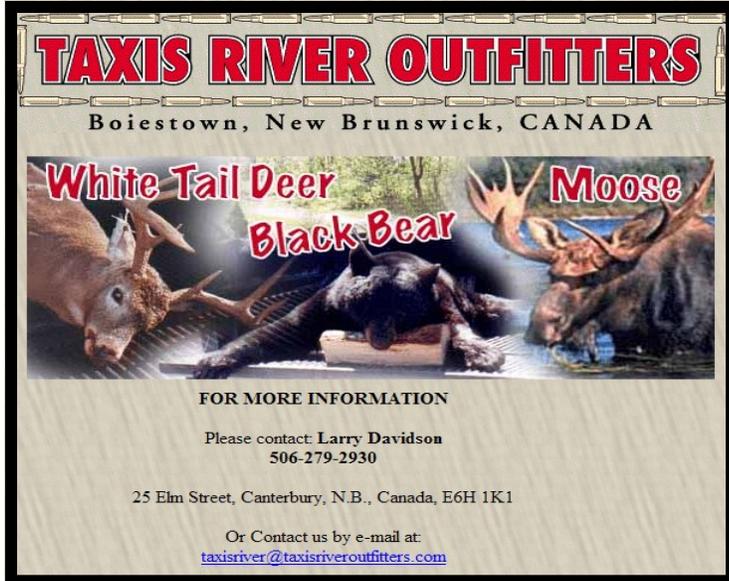
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MAINE BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

March 2012



Spring is a great time to scout and search for shed antlers

FEATURED MBA SUPPORTER



This month's featured MBA supporter is Taxis River Outfitters located in New Brunswick, Canada.

Thanks for supporting the Maine Bowhunters Association !

From the Editor

We have made changes to the newsletter; first we removed redundant information like the officers and Regional Representatives because they can be found on the MBA web site. Next we cut the newsletter's size, somewhat, this decision was made in reaction to comments from our members with dial-up computer services. It simply took hours for the newsletter to download on to their computers. We also offer a text only version on the web for those folks as well. In this issue we have included the new MBA award patches for your review, Deanna Page, MBA 1st Director at Large has been working hard on this project and the new patches are top notch.

As always we are open too comments from our members about the content of the newsletter and look forward to photos and articles from you, the membership. As editor I am looking for more human interest, how to, technical and where to articles— Members don't need to kill something to submit an article.

I plan to attend the MBA Banquet on April 21 and look forward to meeting you all there.

Val Marquez

Editor

New MBA Award Patches





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

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

Send material to: Val Marquez 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

“THE MAINE BOWHUNTER”
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Newsletter Issue	Submissions Due
January	December 1
March	February 1
May	April 1
July	June 1
September	August 1
November	October 1

President's Report

It's Time for You to Help Maine Bowhunters Association

A very busy season is upon us, and in this month's report I'd like to ask all members to become more active in Maine Bowhunters Association. The MBA does so much, but a great deal of the work is done by a handful of individuals. In the next few weeks we have a number of sportsmen's shows, including the Cabin Fever Reliever, Presque Isle show, Orono Show, and the Augusta show.

On top of that we have our annual banquet coming up. Each of these shows requires people to man our booth and youth shooting range for the entire weekend. It would be nice to have enough people to allow those who are there the entire time to take a shift off. The banquet also requires a great deal of planning and organization.

We are also constantly involved with legislative issues and the work associated with that. We have representation on multiple state level committees and sportsmen's groups. We have many archery shops that we maintain cooperative relationships with. We maintain an active web site. We publish a periodic newsletter. We work actively with young people through the NASP program. We maintain MBA harvest statistics. All of these things take time, and it is a lot to ask of very few individuals.

It's also important for an organization to develop "new blood." As time goes on, some of the hard working individuals we have now will eventually step down from their responsibilities. I'm asking you to step up to the plate and give us a hand. Contact your regional representative and let them know that you're ready to take a more active role in our OUTSTANDING organization.

John Hunt

President: Maine Bowhunters Association

Legislative Report

By Jerome Richard

Even though this year is the “short” legislative session, there are still a lot of discussions in Augusta about what to do with the current Maine deer problem plus funding issues for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. I’m just hoping we get past talking and get into action which will produce positive results. All talk and no action will produce nothing, and action in the form of the wrong direction isn’t good either. I believe Maine is at a critical time of “make or break” with the deer population, resident hunter support, and non-resident hunter numbers. I worry the continue increase in license fees with less deer in the field will just ultimately lead to consolidation of MDIF&W into another agency, less hunters, and less economic income to the state from the loss of resident and non-resident hunters.

MDIF&W is working on ideas, but lack funding to support the work. SAM is also working on ideas which will require money. Most outdoor groups that could offer support for these efforts are hurting financially. I hoping all the outdoor partners can come together and work in the same direction to resolve the deer problem.

While there are efforts to address the deer population, we are also facing issues in the state house dealing with landowner relations which are also important. This is still a work in progress and will require funding too.

One thing missing in all the discussions by all the groups involved is controlling current and future deer hunting opportunities. Many of the meetings I have attended in the past year or so, I have heard every excuse for the deer problem from severe winters, coyotes, bears, turkeys, lack of habitat, vehicle collisions, you name it, but I never hear hunters say their hunting opportunities may be contributing to the problem and I’m not talking about illegal hunting.

Despite all the known deer problems I’m willing to bet the 2013 legislative session will see bill sponsors introducing some form of expanded deer hunting opportunities while blaming others for the condition of the deer herd! If it wasn’t so serious it would be funny. Please mark my words and then watch what comes out during the next legislative session.



Education Report

By Jerome Richard

It's that time of year again where the MBA has the chance to introduce kids and adults to archery at this year's sportsman's shows. The MBA has already attended the Cabin Fever Reliever which was very successful and the show had TV coverage from Bangor's Channel 5 TV. We have been using the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) equipment as a tool to let people try archery equipment to see if it is something they might want to pursue. Please pass along to family and friends that might be interested in trying some archery equipment to attend some of the upcoming events listed below:

- 32nd Annual State of Maine Sportsman's Show – Augusta – March 30 to April 1
- Penobscot County Conservation Association – Family Day – Brewer – June 2
- Maine Wildlife Park – Gray – August 4

It is also that time of year where volunteers from MDIF&W start offering Bowhunter Safety Education Courses, so if you know someone looking for a class, please tell them to visit the MDIF&W website www.mefishwildlife.com for courses in your area. I really suggest that people sign-up early and not wait to the fall because these classes fill up fast and become harder to find the closer we get to the archery season. The volunteer instructors give up their time with no pay and are usually avid bowhunters. As we get closer to the fall many instructors stop offering classes by the bear season so they can participate in the bear hunt and the Expanded Archery Zones.

The MBA has completed another successful season of promoting NASP in Maine and completing training of new instructors for both Maine school teachers and MBA members. We have just started our 6th year with NASP and we are waiting to hear about another round of NASP equipment grants that we can offer to Maine schools. As always the MBA will continue to offer free training to Maine teachers who accept the NASP equipment grants and also to MBA members that get involved in the program.

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A Change In Structure For The Maine Bowhunters Association

By
John Hunt

In a recent meeting the membership of Maine Bowhunters Association voted unanimously to change its structure. We voted to change from 17 "County Representatives" to "Regional Representatives." There are 6 regions in this new structure. Each region will have a varying number of representatives based upon the demographics and current needs of the Maine Bowhunters Association. This change still provides the structure that is so essential to an organization like ours, while at the same time provides us with the flexibility that we need.

In this process we are also asking the regional representatives to team up and "task share." Instead of a county representative performing all of the tasks required of a representative, the new regional representative structure will allow a few people to divide the work up. The new structure is outlined below. If you have an interest to step up and be a regional representative, please contact your local representative, the First Director at Large, or me. My email is huntfish@tdstelme.net.

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South Central Region
Western Region
Southeastern Region
Northeastern Region
Northern Region

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Androscoggin and Kennebec Counties
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Hancock, Washington, and Penobscot Counties
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My Rainy Day Deer Hunt

By Tina Richard

On October 1, 2011 I woke up and it was raining, I asked Jerome what he thought I should do about hunting and he suggested that I go because the deer would be moving with the weather change. I called my friend that had given me permission and asked her what she thought since she knew where my treestand was and she said definitely go because the wind would be in my favor! So I took a shower around 1:00 pm and got dressed and drove to Unity, ME which takes about forty five minutes. I got there and put the rest of my gear on and walked to my treestand and got all settled in by 2:30 pm.

It started raining and I thought to myself what have I gotten myself into because it was only supposed to be showers. The weather was bearable but to keep dry and stay warm I thought of what I was going to write for my bear story. While sitting there I heard this awful screeching sound and thought what is that, I knew it was not a red squirrel or a blue jay. I tried not to move too much but I turned to see what it was and it was a hawk. I have seen hawks in the past, in fact the day before while I was hunting one flew by me just a few inches from the side of my head and I saw its belly. They are amazing birds to watch, a couple years ago while hunting in that same area I watched a hawk land next to me in another tree spread out its talons and fly away.

I said to myself if I see a deer I hope I can pull back my bow because I was pretty wet and so was my equipment. About 3:30 pm the rain started to subside and all you could hear was the rain drops falling from the leaves on the trees. If a deer came in I would have not heard it because everything was soaked. At 4:30 pm I looked to my left and saw a deer standing there at 5 yards. I stood up and let the deer present me a broadside shot, pulled back my bow so slick and put my pin on a spot and my hunt was over at 4:40pm. I watched the deer turn to run but it dropped at my treestand and expired. I was so thrilled with the shot; I have never seen a deer die at my treestand. I waited 15 minutes and got out of my treestand and walked to my truck. My friend's neighbor was not home so I drove to my friends which was around the corner.

I called and left a message on Jerome's voicemail that I got a deer and then made a few more calls to my close friends. I also called the landowner and there was no answer but she called me back. She asked me if I got anything and I told her the story; she was thrilled. She told me to stay put that they were on their way home and would help me with the deer. They got home in about 30 minutes, changed their clothes and the fun began. I have had a very successful year and I can't wait for what's in store for next year.

Southeast Region Report

By Aidan Coffin

During the long Maine Winter, it's cold, snowy, and dark at 5:30 and bowhunting season is over unless you want to hunt for coyote's over bait, which is something I like to do on warmer nights. So instead of sitting home counting the days 'til spring being a couch potato, you can get out and do some pre-season, scouting for new hunting areas by using topographical maps, or my favorite, go to the your town office and get property tax maps that you can use to locate prospective hunting spots. You can get the name and address of the property owners from the tax maps in order to get their permission to scout or hunt their property. It's better to get permission now than to be asked to leave later.

It's good to get out there to see where the game trails are to give you a perspective on where the game are and how many there may be. I like to put my game camera up to see what survived the previous hunting season. Also, keep an eye open for shed antlers, which has become a popular sport in itself; people are even training their dogs to find them. There is a dog training scent called Rack Wax made by Dokken's that seems to work well. Most bucks drop their antlers in January and February.

Another way to get through the winter is to fine tune your hunting and shooting skills by visiting your local archery shops. Most have shooting ranges, leagues to join, and tournaments to sign up for. Sitting in on sportsman show seminars is another great way to get some tips.

Let Mother Nature take her course and spring will be here before we know it!



A well trained hound can locate sheds and add to enjoyment of the outing, as well.

**TO ALL OUR ARMED FORCES
THANK YOU!**
FROM EVERYONE AT THE
MAINE BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION



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