

# THE MAINE BOWHUNTER

MAY 2008

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT



By Jerome Richard

I hope everyone has their turkey picked out for this spring turkey season. The month of March and most of the month of April has been very busy with all kinds of MBA activities and now it's time to scout for some turkeys. I am still excited about the future of the Maine Bowhunters Association after what I have experienced this past winter. The MBA is entering a whole new level and we have the ability to choose whether we step up to the challenge. An organization like ours requires a certain amount of volunteer time and effort to be successful year after year. What ever the group decides I promise to lead the best that I can and never ask anyone to do something that I would not do myself. The good news, with the MBA, is that after all the work we get to enjoy the fruits of our labor such as bowhunting spring turkeys, then maybe going after a bear later on, then the possibility of several deer and a fall turkey, and if you're really lucky a moose hunt with all this

happening inside the great state of Maine.

#### BANQUET

The MBA Banquet was an incredible success with just over 135 people in attendance. There were many more banquet tickets that were sold prior to the banquet, but due to the expected weather that night, several people did not attend including our Aroostook County Rep, Lou Provost who was hit with about 17" of snow in Houlton! Lou has been a great asset for the MBA in Aroostook County and helped us at the Presque Isle sportsman's show. It has not been confirmed yet, but this banquet may have been the second largest banquet that the MBA has held.

We passed out over 50 game awards for deer, bear, turkey, and even wild boar. Paul St. John had his trophy full

bear mount at the banquet which was a 420 lb. spring bear from Canada. I think most people would agree that Paul's bear would weigh over 600 lbs. in the fall. It was huge! Several archery shops were in attendance, including Old Town Archery Shop, Fast Flight, L.L. Bean, and Moosehead Trail Trading Post. IF&W Deputy Commissioner Paul Jacques did the honors of running our auction during this years banquet. We introduced Emily Jones from IF&W, who is the State Coordinator for NASP for the public school systems. George Smith, the executive director of SAM, attended the banquet, and even gave a short speech on the successes of the MBA and our need to support our MBA lobbyist Don Kleiner. I felt this was a great time of fellowship and time to celebrate the growth in unity, not only inside

*(Continued on page 2)*



Banquet attendees willing to venture out on a cold weather day.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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.

MAINE NWTF STATE CHAPTER GLOBSTERFEST AUGUSTA 17<sup>TH</sup> IN NEWPORT AT THE MILLENIUM.

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Brian Smith trying out one of Old Town Archery's bows.

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the MBA, but with other hunting organizations such as the Maine NWTf, Maine Traditional Archers, Maine Christian Bowhunters, and the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine who had members in attendance.

In case you missed the banquet the MBA Bowhunter of the Year was John Dupal, MBA Supporter of the Year was Bob Wengrzynek, and MBA County Representative was Dan Long. In a surprise turn of events done in

complete secrecy to me, the MBA directors lead me to believe that we had chosen Paul St. John as MBA Director of the Year, but they conspired to turn the tables to announce Jerome Richard as MBA Director of the Year. The board of directors definitely caught me by surprise, but I do have to say that it helped to show me that I'm surrounded by a great team of people who work hard, do their jobs without pay, and believe in the vision of the Maine Bowhunters Association.

As most of you know, no one in the MBA is paid except for the lobbyist position. I felt early on that my success as a leader was dependent on the people who surrounded me both inside and outside the MBA. There was never a more fitting time for me to recognize some of these people than at the banquet. Some of the people that I wanted to personally thank at the banquet included Pete Lamarre for pushing NASP with the MBA and being a great armor bearer to me, Lori Weaver for editing and producing the MBA newsletter, Bob Lang and Dick Geletka for their years of support at the Wells BLIP hunt and NASP, Robb Cotiaux for his undying dedication to the Harley-Davidson raffle and NASP, Keith Dirago who turned over every stone to find donations, Bob Walker of Moosehead Trail Trading Post who personally sold generator raffle tickets, Harley-Davidson raffle tickets, MBA banquet tickets, provided donations, took the NASP training, and sold MBA memberships and he isn't a County Representative, and finally my wife Tina Richard who was kind enough to

let me serve the MBA last year, helped me put on six bowhunter safety classes, worked 12 NASP events with me last year, and even became the MBA Treasurer. I also want to recognize Paul St. John our MBA computer guru who has done an outstanding job with solving some of our MBA membership problems and Butch Tripp that has put in five years as the MBA secretary and helped organize and coordinate our banquet with the Calumet Club the last two years. Again, thank you for supporting me and the MBA.

### **SPORTSMAN SHOWS – YOUTH ARCHERY SHOOT**

By the time you receive this newsletter the MBA will have attended three sportsman's shows where the MBA put on indoor youth archery shoots. This year we ran a 3-day event at the Orono sportsman's show, the 3-day show in Augusta, and the 2-day event at Presque Isle. These shows have been a tremendous success to reach the youth of Maine, by introducing them to archery, and to generate funds for future MBA projects. Since the MBA purchased

## **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!**

the NASP equipment and the word has gotten around, we have received an unbelievable amount of requests to put on youth archery events, which I believe has given the MBA a great public relations success plus generated revenue for our organization. This past year, nearly every event was written up in the newspaper, or other media forms after the event occurred. Recently, the newspapers, television, radio, and organizers have been advertising that the "Maine Bowhunters Association" will be running a youth archery event far in advance of the upcoming event.

The youth archery shoots have been a blessing, but the equipment has brought unexpected issues to which the board of directors had to address last year. We received requests for the equipment at bowhunter safety education and loaning equipment to outside organizations which is against the MBA policy due to liability and training. The NASP equipment is a large investment and as such will only be used to promote the MBA and generate revenue for the MBA using only certified and registered NASP instructors of the MBA. This equipment can

expose us to liability issues outside the control of the MBA and the equipment does require some amount of maintenance such as strings and arrows, as well as, who is liable for damages and theft/loss of equipment.

Some of you may remember the archery tragedy at an Oxford County summer camp, which is proof enough that only trained, certified NASP instructors using specific safe range guidelines of NASP, by MBA members at approved MBA events are needed. More details can be obtained by attending an MBA meeting and asking for the published guidelines on the equipment.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

As of this writing Sunday, April 20, 2008 at 9:00am at the Augusta City Center, the MBA will have been holding the election of new officers. We hope that you were able to attend this meeting. We really want to know what our members want and this was 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 was a great opportunity to let me know if you want me to stay on for another year. Recently, we have received many



Bowhunter of the year John Dupal at the banquet.

people offering to step up to fill positions.

There is a big need to redouble our efforts in the area of the County Representatives in the hopes of building a better relationship with our local pro archery shops throughout Maine. I'm such a strong believer that the County Reps position is one of the most important positions in the MBA that I still hold the Somerset County Reps position and work with the pro archery shop in that county. The MBA needs to be an asset to our members, but we also need to be an asset to our local archery shops, target shooters, IF&W, and to the youth that will be entering the sport. In order to promote and protect bowhunting in Maine it requires some effort by a few dedicated volunteers.

In 2008, I would like to have one County Rep to cover no more than 2 pro archery shops in order to develop and build that relationship. According to my list of authorized pro archery shops, there are six authorized pro archery shops just in Cumberland County, which is a huge task for just one county rep to cover. Robb Cotiaux and I discussed this situation and felt it would be good to have three Cumberland County

Reps to cover this area. There is a similar situation in Androscoggin County also.

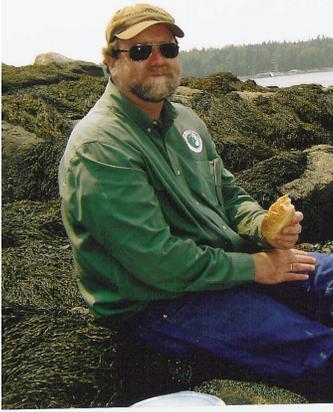
### **HARLEY-DAVIDSON RAFFLE**

The 2008 Harley-Davidson 883 Sportster will have been raffled off on April 15. The four annual sportsman's shows (Orono, Wilton, Augusta, and Presque Isle) were a great resource to sell the raffle tickets for both the MBA and the NWTF. Our goal was to sell 1,300 raffle tickets with the first 400 raffle tickets need to pay for the Harley-Davidson 883 Sportster. We did not reach our goal of selling the 1,300 raffle tickets, but as of this writing the drawing for the Harley will proceed on April 15! This raffle has been going on for 6 months and there have been a lot of dedicated MBA and NWTF members who have worked hard to make this a successful project to support our lobbying effort in Augusta. The person who sold the winning raffle ticket will receive \$400 for their effort. Not a bad pay day for a little work, right?



Hannah Manufacturing (out of Augusta) engraving display.

## Legislative Report



By Don Kleiner

First, I would like to say it is a pleasure to represent the Maine Bowhunters Association at the Legislature and to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. You all need to know that bowhunters are thought of as the highest quality of hunter. We are well respected by everyone from legislators to landowner groups. That simply could not happen without all of you acting in a responsible and ethical manner every time you're out in the woods. Thank you, the results are showing!

As you might imagine last winter has been very difficult for deer and indeed moose throughout much of the state. Record snowfall without an extended thaw through the entire winter has had a tremendous impact. As I write this, I have not seen the exact figures but I have had discussions with biologists that would indicate winterkill of as much as 25% of the population. As the weather is starting to ease, the deer are coming out in droves from the woods into the roads and the number of deer killed by cars is very high. The bottom line is that we should expect that many WMD's will have no any deer permits next fall and that the overall number will be significantly down statewide.

I also expect that the Department will be implementing the recommendation of the task force on the Northern and Eastern Maine Deer Herd that calls for all seasons to be bucks only in districts where there are no any deer permits (as I wrote in the last issue of the newsletter), including the October archery season and youth day. Combined with the winter we are just coming out of, with a significant drop in any deer permits throughout the state, I expect that this will have a significant impact on the season next October. Big changes are coming that will impact many of us. Like some of you that I have talked with this spring, I am willing to sacrifice to ensure the future of our deer herd.

As I write this the legislative session is not yet over but should be soon. We were able to overcome the effort to merge the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife with the other natural resource agencies. The Natural Resource Network, that your MBA belongs to led the charge. We had a press conference in the Hall of Flags and had a great turnout of individuals from farmers, commercial fishermen, hunters, and trappers. Not one voice was in favor of the merger. The upshot of the conversation was that a task force will be formed to study ways of improving the efficiency of these agencies and any resulting savings will go back to the agency for use in their programs. I do not know who will be serving as part of the task force at this moment, but we have assurances that many of the members of the Natural Resource Network will be participants in the effort along with the commis-

sioners of the impacted agencies. The task force will be required to submit a report by the end of November. I expect that there will be meetings through the summer.

One other thing that I know is being discussed, is an increase in license fees for hunting and fishing licenses. Two things have happened that have impacted the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Budget. First, costs went up significantly, just like yours and mine, primarily driven by the cost of gasoline and heating fuel. In fact, this winter wardens have been significantly restricted in the number of miles that they are allowed to drive. Luckily there has been plenty of snow so that snowmachines were able to fill in nicely. I expect though that as spring comes, the effects of that restriction will become obvious. Secondly, because of the overall shortfall in the state budget, the money that had come to the Department, has been mostly taken away. In stark terms, when things get tight, it is not possible to keep funding the fish and wildlife of this state when schools and our poorest citizens also need more money. Since the operating money at the Department is held, as low as possible, and has been for years. When that general fund money is taken away, the choice is either to significantly reduce the staff of the Department or ask the hunters and anglers to pay more. As a result, I expect that we will all be asked to pay more for our hunting and fishing licenses next January to raise enough money to keep the Department going, at somewhere near the current level. The saddest part to me is that we as hunters, fishermen, and folks who care about wildlife have not been able to make fish and wild-

life funding a real state priority and secure better funding. We have made a significant effort but we have fallen far short of the goal.

I have also been meeting with members of your MBA committee to look for possible changes on expanded archery zone. We have received a number of suggestions from members and I hope to have a report ready for the Board of Directors at the next meeting and suggestions for the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to review by that time. As you can see, it has been too busy this winter and I am looking forward to warmer weather and getting back to guiding fishing trips.

## 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.

## “What are my membership dues supporting?”

Dan Long, Penobscot County Representative

During the winter season, I try to practice at least one day per week at the local archery shop to make sure my skills are honed, or at least don't get so far away from me that it takes me weeks to get proficient again. This off-season is a great time to shoot in a relaxed manner. No rush to get equipment problems solved before the next big hunt, and very little delay due to backed up work on the bench if you need something fixed or want to try out that new accessory or bow. Casual conversations often yield talk about secret hot spots verified by past successes. The video techno-hunt lanes are about as close as it gets to the real thing during the off-season and is great fun with a friend.

I always try to find out if the folks I'm talking to or shooting with are members of the MBA. Responses from those who are not members usually include, "Naw, it's twenty-five bucks and I just don't get involved that much." or, "I can't support an organization that failed to uphold my interests on a particular legislative item X number of years ago.", or some I think want others to do all the work while they reap the benefits.

I've been a member of the MBA for quite a few years. A subscriber and supporter of all the great things I heard the MBA was doing that benefit my interests. I was never informed enough to actually get involved other than writing a rare letter to the governor, representative and or senator. I had confidence that the issues were being taken care of by those in place at the MBA. Years later I have

learned that I was correct in thinking my membership dues were actually making a difference. Those dues support two major areas of interest:

One: Membership dues are what pay for a legislative representative to be a spokesperson for The Maine Bowhunters Association. This is a paid position. Your representative spends countless hours each week, actively participating in meetings which can include but are certainly not limited to the Natural Resource Network, Inland Fisheries & Wildlife, providing testimony, for the MBA on the Plum Creek plan for example, contributing to the Deer Task Force and Moose Working Group, Maine Forest Products Council, on and on followed by summarizing his efforts and identifying bills and proposals that could negatively impact our interests. Essentially keeping everyone in the MBA informed so we can take action when necessary to protect our interests, and make our voice heard. Get involved in the MBA and you have access to information at a time when you can make your voice heard and help direct the MBA's position on various issues. Otherwise, you won't know the whole story, only the outcome. The MBA legislative representative is Don Kleiner. He is highly respected at IF&W and the State House and we are very lucky to have him working with us.

Two: Membership dues support the MBA efforts to educate and involve youth in the sport of archery. As the MBA President has stated, involving

youth in the sport of archery is going to teach them about the sport, connect them with the outdoors, build passion for proper management of our outdoor resources, align their future votes with that interest, and hopefully become members of the MBA. Jerome Richard, President for the MBA and Pete Lamarre, Vice President, are leaders with vision. You will find them at every MBA youth related event, leading by example and motivating us all. If you fail to find them at an event, it is most likely because there are conflicting dates for multiple events -trust me, they are working for you. As we all know, for these folks to be successful, they must surround themselves with capable people. Their support team, are the MBA Directors and County Representatives. Members who have agreed to take on some of the responsibility of the group to help insure its success. These are unselfish, archers and bowhunters who are passionate about their sport, contributing many hours and dollars out of their own pockets to make our mission successful. Please note that the President, V.P., Directors and County Reps are all VOLUNTEER positions.

For these folks like Don, Jerome, Pete, and all the other Officers and County Representatives to be successful we must have the support of a large membership. Membership at the very

least is the means by which the MBA mission will remain strong. Being active or offering assistance at an event is a great way to get involved, share the load, and make events successful and fun for everyone. I invite you attend a monthly meeting to see what is being talked about for issues in the legislature, hunting related topics in your town, and what's coming up for events you may want to attend or help out with. Visit the MBA website for the dates, times, and locations. If you do not or can not attend, but have questions or input on any topic, your County Representative's e-mail address is listed in this news letter. It's there for you to use!

If you are not a member, perhaps knowing what your membership dues would support, and understanding how much this organization does for not only bowhunters, but all outdoor enthusiasts, you will consider joining now. If you are already a member, please verify your membership is up to date, and educate a friend to the benefits of being part of the MBA team. It's important to ensure the opportunity remains there for us, our children and grandchildren.

### 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

## Mac Tips



By Mac Dudley

Franklin County Rep., NAA & NFAA Level II Instructor/Coach

As the summer begins and youth camps are chiming with the sound of children enjoying the great outdoors, I thought I would take this opportunity to give some tips and/or reminders about safety and orientation for archery classes that will be given to beginner archers.

The most important part of safety and orientation is "early participation, early success". Youth campers who sign up for an archery program come to the archery range to shoot. Get them shooting as soon as possible. Early success is accomplished by making sure the archers are close enough to the target to hit it every time. Start your archers close to the target, no more than 5 yards maximum. Your goal for your archers is for the archer to hit the target or target butt. Missed arrows can be prevented by this method.

The archers will be eager to learn more, be more successful, have more fun and most important, and build self-esteem if they hit the target. When archers miss the target, they get discouraged

quickly. Shooting time is wasted retrieving the arrows, and arrows are damaged or lost. Kids searching for lost arrows add an additional element of danger and safety issues. In my nine years of coaching and instructing, I have found most success is also accomplished by starting beginner archers out by shooting a blank bale. This allows the archer to focus on form and not a bull's-eye. Shooting at a blank bale also encourages early success as the archer gets the confidence by hitting the target no matter where the arrow lies on the target. The fact that they actually hit a target brings about positive reinforcements. Using a bull's-eye or another style of focused point target forces the archer to hit the target dead center. Missing the bull's-eye or not hitting the target dead center discourages archers that may not have the natural knack of the sport and the archer tends to lose interest in the sport quickly. Once archers become comfortable with shooting a blank bale the instructor can increase the challenge by adding large paper game targets, such as tic-tac-toe, the alphabet game etc. Or by moving them further from the target.

Safety is of the utmost importance. Make sure to cover all of the Archery Range Rules and Procedures. Go over the importance of proper shoes and clothing, including tying long hair back, and the issues with necklaces or for the Boy Scout, neckerchiefs and pins getting caught up in the string of the bow when releasing the arrow. Explain the importance of safety equipment and safe handling of equipment including the use of arm guards or finger tabs and keeping arrows pointed in a safe direction or towards the ground. Explain that bows and arrows are weapons not toys and stress the importance of being sure of your target and what is beyond. Instructors

should repeat rules several times throughout the course of the class to remind and implant key elements of safety until it becomes second nature such as the rule to "keep your arrows in your quiver until I have blown the whistle or give the command to begin shooting". That rule should be stated for each shooting round. (I do recommend the instructor/s control handing out and retrieving the arrows, depending on age, for the first day at least). Always enforce every rule 100% and explain each rule or procedure when needed. Keep rules brief and simple when the archers first come to the range. They will not remember if you have a long list of rules. Also, many procedures will not make sense to the young archers until they have begun the activity. Rules and procedures will be more memorable in practice so when you are handing out the arrows, instruct them to keep their arrows in their quivers until they are at the shooting line and hear the command to begin shooting. Explain how to retrieve arrows only after they have shot, and are ready to retrieve them. Save information your first time archers do not need to know when shooting their first arrow for a later time. Create a positive atmosphere for your archers. Speak clearly and keep control of your archers. Keep all of your words and sentences positive. With kids especially, keep the words "Don't" and "Never" out of your vocabulary. Keeping instruction safe, simple and fun is the key to success with youth.

### MAC'S INSTRUCTION TIPS.

I wanted to review issues with eye dominance that seems to get confused by new instructors. Eye dominance issues can sometimes be the root cause that will help you solve problems with beginner archers. Which hand the young archer uses to hold the bow is critical to success. As you may or may not know, for archers, holding the bow in either the right or

the left hand is determined by eye dominance not by the hand they use to write. Checking eye dominance is quick and easy. You can check eye dominance one of two ways. One way is to have the archer form a small triangle with their hands by holding palms out flat and crossing the fingertips at the top of a formed triangle and crossing the thumbs at the bottom. Together, the hands form a small triangle. Have the archer hold their arms out straight, have them look through the triangle focusing on an object or your nose. Keeping the arms and the triangle steady, have them close one eye then the other and ask them which eye keeps the object in view through their triangle. If the archer is focusing on your nose, you as the instructor will be able to tell exactly which eye is the dominant eye because you will see that eye through their triangle. Another method is to have the archer keep focused on the object keeping both eyes open while they slowly draw the triangle they have formed with their hands to their eye from the extended arm position. The archers will automatically move the triangle over his or her dominant eye. For those of you who will be teaching young archers, you need to keep in mind that eye dominance changes in a child as much as every other week up to 8 years of age. So, it is important to do frequent re-checks or have the child use both eyes and allow the child to pick the bow he or she will be most comfortable shooting. At this age and younger, what hand they write with is what bow they'll most likely choose. Hope this is of some use. Good luck, have fun and happy camping.

## Long Live the Sport!

By Dan Long

Penobscot County Representative

Bowhunting is a great sport; A way to connect with the outdoors and nature. Bowhunting is not a sport independent of the sport of target archery. If you are reading this, chances are pretty good that you love some aspect of the sport of archery. Not just bowhunting, but anything archery related. I would also guess that these feelings stem from many childhood experiences including using a home-made stick bow, to your first recurve that Mom and/or Dad bought for you to play out back. Perhaps a friend introduced you to archery at the local indoor or outdoor range. Where ever your connection began, it is a place where we need to take our youth today, to introduce them to the outdoors and this sport we love. For a child, experiencing the outdoors with a parent(s), will create a memorable bond, and sentiments for the wild that will stay with these youths forever. At the time of reading this, you are facing spring time. Take a youth turkey hunting, or to the local archery shop indoor or outdoor range to experience the fun of shooting a bow. There is much to be learned in the outdoors by just walking through the trails of your local archery 3D range. Explain the various tree species, and animal tracks. It's all about a connection with the outdoors.

This past February and March the Cabin Fever Reliever in Brewer and Orono 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Sportsman Shows were well attended. The Augusta, Wilton, and Presque Isle Shows were preparing to take place at the time of this writing.

The Cabin Fever Reliever event in Brewer successfully promoted traditional Maine outdoor activities and crafts through demonstration and education. There were too many exhibitors to mention them all, but to give you an idea, they included Maine Conservation School, Jewell Bird Carving, Central Maine Navigation, Becoming an Outdoor Woman, Penobscot Fly Fishers, Maine Trappers Association, Maine Archery Association/Abenaki Archers Club, and of course, the Maine Bowhunters Association. There were presentations on training your hunting dog, becoming a Maine Guide, fly and bass fishing, rabbit hunting, using a GPS unit, and more. Young or old, experienced or novice, boy or girl, there was much to be learned by everyone. Kids and adults learned how to tie a fly, and how to call in a turkey among other things.

The Orono show provided some wonderful displays and demonstrations covering every outdoor activity that you could possibly want to experience. Among other things, a great benefit resulting from this show includes college scholarships for outdoor and wildlife programs, and contributions to youth conservation camps both provided by the Penobscot County Conservation Association. The MBA received a first place ribbon for the 2008 Sportsman Show "Best Active Exhibitor". Anyone walking in the northeast corner of the field house could confirm by the applause for encouragement and success that the archery shoot was a fantastic event.

Whether at the Brewer or Orono show, one of the highlights for the kids and adults was learning how to shoot a bow.

The Maine Bowhunters Association provided National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) Certified Basic Archery Instructors to educate and guide youth in how to properly and safely shoot a bow. Participants ranged from 4 or 5 years old to adults. Some had shot previously and had their own target or hunting bow at home, while others had never picked up a bow before. One thing they all had in common was they had fun shooting a bow. Learning to shoot the safe and correct way ensures success and enjoyment. Archery teaches that with proper instruction, positive reinforcement, practice, and a positive attitude that many things can be accomplished. Pride, confidence, and self esteem are some of the benefits of learning through proper instruction and demonstration. These young people have the best chance for success in continuing to participate and support archery related activities.

Keep your eyes and ears open for the Brewer Cabin Fever Reliever event and the various other Sportsman Shows next year. It's a great way to get psyched for spring, learn something new, and meet some great people. Please make a personal goal to involve a young person or a friend in the sport of archery, and participate in one of the outdoor events in your area, supporting the youth involvement and education efforts by the Maine Bowhunters Association. Make that introduction and connection to youth with the outdoors. They won't forget it. When you see their enthusiasm and excitement neither will you

## Up Coming NASP Youth Shoots

**Boy Scouts of America Camporee** in Rumford, ME.  
Saturday May 17th

**Cabela's** in Scarborough, ME.  
Saturday and Sunday May 17-18th and May 24-25th

**Royal Rangers, Shooter's Weekend** in Holderness, NH.  
Friday, Saturday and Sunday May 30th to June 1st

**Camp POSTCARD** in Winthrop, ME.  
Wednesday through Sunday, June 11th to 15th

**Royal Rangers, Summer Pow-Wow** in Effingham, NH.  
Thursday through Sunday, August 14th to 17th

**NWTF Globsterfest** in Newport, ME.  
Sunday, August 17th

**Trapper's Weekend** in Sidney, ME.  
Friday through Sunday, September 5th to 7th

**Boy Scouts of America Jamboree** in Raymond, ME.  
Saturday October 4th



## News from Franklin County

By Mac Dudley

Members of the Wintering Deer Yard Habitat Committee and other local volunteer's received training from our MDIF&W Regional Biologists for conducting deer surveys under restrictive winter conditions. Since then, we conducted five separate surveys to date. Our findings show that despite apparently good natural wintering habitat locally in the Oquossoc area, deer are currently highly concentrated in wooded areas near homes where the residents feed the deer. Naturally, these residential areas are adjacent to busy roads.

We also see signs of over-browsing in these small areas. We saw virtually no deer tracks or sign in much of the survey area. We did see extensive coyote tracks as they appear to roam toward the areas of deer concentration. Road kills have been common in the areas where the surveys were conducted, especially this year with deep snow and high plow berms along the roads. In my mind, there appears to be at least qualitative evidence that the few deer that feeding may save is offset by increased mortality from road collisions.

Snow depths locally (1500' above sea level) remain at 35 inches. Total snow fall for the year in Rangeley has been 180+ inches. The average sinking depth for the deer in our survey lines near the feeding areas (and we have 6 feeders in less than a 1 mile radius) is 16-22 inches. I'm

sure that this measurement will be consistent with a higher winter mortality rate as in past years with similar higher snow depths.

Multiple casual feeders in the area are not helping the situation. I don't believe that the number and distance between supplemental feeding stations is taken into consideration nor is the added road kill & predation as a consequence of feeding factored into the % of winter mortality. Alternatively, the deer trails we see near the feeding sites are well established and extensive despite the snow fall and standing snow depths.

We will also have volunteers conducting deer winter mortality survey's during April. The volunteer's will be photographing any deer carcass that they discover, they will noting any presence of coyotes, and they will also be examining any femur bones that may be found ( if available). The volunteers will look at and photograph the color of the bone marrow in these femur bones. This will provide information as to the health of the deer prior to death.

All data collected through these surveys will be provided to MDIF&W Wildlife Biologist's. We hope that our effort will provide information about the health of the herd in Rangeley and information about the availability of good local winter deer habitat. We hope that these data will also help organizations and citizens in their efforts to protect our local deer herd and our local habitat available to the deer.

## MBA COUNTY REPS

REMEMBER, THESE NAMES AND THE CONTACT INFORMATION IS LISTED FOR YOU. SEND YOUR COUNTY REP YOUR THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING BOWHUNTING RELATED. YOUR COUNTY REP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RESPONDING TO YOU AND/OR BRINGING YOUR QUESTIONS/ISSUES UP AT THE NEXT MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING.

### Androscoggin

Mike Moreau  
(207) 782-4777  
micamo@hotmail.com

### Aroostook

Lou Provost  
(207)532-3569  
aloisprovost@msn.com

### Cumberland

Robert Cotiaux  
91 Tufts Road  
New Gloucester, ME 04260  
(207) 926-5392

### Franklin

Mac Dudley  
PO Box 407  
Oquossoc, ME 04964-0407  
(207)864-5919  
fletchdudley@core.com

### Hancock

Dan Long  
140 Veazie Street  
Old Town, ME 04468  
(207)991-0810  
Dan.long@roadrunner.com

### Kennebec

Butch Tripp  
(207)582-7775  
crittergeter@roadrunner.com

### Oxford

Lori Weaver  
14 Dam Rd  
Errol, NH 03579  
(207)486-3254  
bowwhuntt@yahoo.com

### Penobscot

Dan Long  
140 Veazie Street  
Old Town, ME 04468  
(207)991-0810  
Dan.long@roadrunner.com

### Piscataquis

Deanna Page  
184 Cambridge Road  
Dexter, ME 04930  
(207)924-3400  
dlpage@midmaine.com

### Sagadahoc

Bryan R. Champagne  
1185 Maine Rd  
Phippsburg, ME 04562  
(207)389-2120  
btbc@suscom.maine.net

### Somerset

Jerome Richard  
995 Hinckley Road  
Clinton, ME 04927  
(207) 426-2082  
Jerome.Richard@sappi.com

### Waldo

Lee Smith  
Brooks, ME 04921  
leesmith@hughes.net

### Washington

Brian Smith  
P.O. Box 444  
East Machias, ME 04630  
(207) 255-4508  
bowhunter@mgemaine.com

### York

Steven P Gray  
18 Elm Drive  
York, ME 03909  
(207)363-6863  
spgray853@verizon.net

### Knox

Mark Peeler  
(207) 832-7225  
sparkysss@acadia.net

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## The Bow Doctor's Tech Tips

By Chas LaVersa

Byron Furgeson wrote the book "Become The Arrow". You may have seen him on TV shooting an aspirin right out of the air with his longbow. I can't promise to make you that accurate, and I certainly can't turn anybody into an arrow, but I can help you understand how and why an arrow works correctly.

Arrow spine may be the most important factor! Many people cut their arrows to be about an inch in front of their rest at full draw without realizing that they may have just ruined any chance of excellent accuracy from those arrows! The fastest way to stiffen the spine of an arrow is to cut it shorter. Think about that for a moment, every inch you cut off makes the arrow stiffer. Most arrows are 32 inches at full length. How many inches can you cut off before they are too stiff for your draw weight, draw length, and cam type? An inch in front of your rest may turn out to be just right, but more often people have no idea! Unless you do know, you could be throwing \$100 into the trash! Even more unfortunate is the fact that many stores don't know either! Some will just cut them to any length you want. The correct information is available, almost all pro shops have an arrow chart that gives you a starting point and better shops have computer programs that give you very good information. Also, there are tests to do which will tell you exactly how long your arrows should be. Using these tools correctly is critical to your accuracy, especially when you want to shoot broadheads.

There is another whole can of worms! (No, we aren't talking about bowfishing,...yet!) Broadheads act as small wings on the

front of your arrows and can steer the arrow as effectively as or more effectively than fletchings. Therefore, it is imperative that your broadheads are of good design, in perfect repair, and mounted perfectly straight on the arrow. Let me repeat, broadheads must be perfectly aligned with the arrow shaft. I did not say blades with fletchings, although there is good reason to do that as well, which I will discuss later. How can you tell? Spin test them. You can buy or make a spin tester for your arrows that allows the shaft to spin freely on bearings and will show up any wobble from misalignment. The smallest amount will prevent that particular arrow from flying where you want it to! Just by adjusting this one factor you can be sure to make much smaller groups with your broadhead equipped arrows. We adjust this by loosening the glue holding the insert in, making sure the arrow is cut off square, and repositioning the insert. Most arrows can be made to spin perfectly with good quality heads.

Now to aligning blades to fletchings, I have seen arrows with these components not aligned fly perfectly, however, I have also seen benefit to doing it. It depends on a number of factors which you may not be able to test well. So I am in favor of opting to do it. Let me make up a scenario for you. If your rig, or technique, has a small tendency to, say, make the front of the arrow dip slightly at the release, then the blades on each arrow will steer slightly differently right off the rest depending on their position. By making sure they are all in the same position at release, as they are when aligned to the

same position as the fletchings, you have a much better chance of all the arrows ending up in the same place on the target. Not a big drama but worth doing just in case. How? When we reposition the insert for spin alignment, we make sure to turn it to the correct orientation as well.

Chas LaVersa works as a bow technician at The Old Town Archery Center in Old Town, ME. Please send your questions and comments to [chaslav-ersa@yahoo.com](mailto:chaslav-ersa@yahoo.com)! Good shooting and great hunting!

Chas LaVersa and the Old Town Archery Center are hosting NFAA Master Coach and author of the archery bible

"Idiot Proof Archery" Bernie Pelerite for a 3 day shooter's seminar. It will be Friday evening, all day Saturday, and most of Sunday on May 30, 31, and June 1 at the Old Town Archery Center in Old Town. This will include personal coaching so seating is very limited. Openings are still available. Call 207-827-9489 for a reservation.



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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  
Phone: 207-486-3254  
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

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Jerome Richard  
 (207) 426-2082  
 president@mainebowhunters.org

**Vice President**

Pete LaMarre  
 (207) 443-2706  
 vicepresident@mainebowhunters.org

**Treasurer**

Tina Richard  
 (207)426-2082  
 treasurer@mainebowhunters.org

**Secretary:**

Butch Tripp  
 (207) 582-7775  
 secretary@mainebowhunters.org

**1st Director at Large**

Jeff Hopkins  
 (207) 525-3240  
 director1@mainebowhunters.org

**2nd Director at Large**

Robert Christensen-Lang  
 (207) 252-5166  
 director2@mainebowhunters.org

**Legislative Representative**

Don Kliener  
 (207)785-4496  
 legislative@mainebowhunters.org

**Social Director:**

Scott Abbott  
 (207)947-4597  
 social@mainebowhunters.org

**Donations**

Keith Dirago  
 (207) 751-7942  
 donations@mainebowhunters.org

**Statistics:**

John Wardwell  
 (207) 445-2908  
 statistics@mainebowhunters.org

**Education**

Bryan Champagne  
 (207) 386-2120  
 education@mainebowhunters.org

**Membership/Supplies/  
 Affiliations**

Paul St. John  
 (207) 693-8233  
 membership@mainebowhunters.org

**Webmaster**

Paul St. John  
 (207) 693-8233  
 webmaster@mainebowhunters.org

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- Marge White (personal donation)
- National Bowhunter Education Foundation
- Moosehead Trail Trading Post
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Pete LaMarre and the MBA organization giving thanks to Tina and Jerome Richard, at the Banquet.

## 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.

