

THE MAINE BOWHUNTER

MAY 2009

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



By Jerome Richard

By the time you read this newsletter, the 2009 Spring Turkey Season will be started and all the snow should be gone! Did I hear an "Amen!" out there? I know my wife Tina and I are looking forward to chasing some Toms with our archery equipment. I'm not looking forward to climbing out of bed at 3:00am, but I don't go turkey hunting unless I have roasted the turkeys the night before the hunt. I hate the early mornings, but I like the idea of harvesting a turkey and making it to work before starting time without burning up vacation time. What ever you do this season, please be safe. This is the first spring turkey season without a split season, so there will be more hunters sharing the same amount of space compared to years past.

2009 MBA Banquet

Don't forget that the annual MBA banquet is Saturday, April 25th at the Calumet Club in Augusta. The doors open at

5:00pm and we have a great social time before the dinner starts. We will have raffles, games, door prizes, and a photo contest among other activities. We are selling raffle tickets on an Extreme Dimension Wireless Game Call system courtesy of Peter Brown of Extreme Dimension, and we are selling raffle tickets on the new 2009 Hoyt Superhawk Michael Waddell "Bone Collector" Edition courtesy of Moosehead Trail Trading Post, along with a 10% discount on what ever it takes to outfit the bow. I have a guarantee that the bow will be fitted for any size individual that wins the bow. These are just some of the items that will be available including other adult and youth bows, hunting trips, and many more. We will have the IF&W Deputy Commission Paul Jacques as our auctioneer for the night also. I promise it will be a good time and great food. It will also give you a chance to catch up with me and express your views and concerns to me especially since the election of officers is a week away from the banquet and it will help us chart the course for the MBA next year. If you have any questions or need directions to the banquet, please give me a call at 314-2885.

L.L. Bean

At the time of this writing the MBA has not attended the upcoming April 17th thru April 20th L.L. Bean Spring Sport Expo, but the MBA will be there to support one of our greatest supporters for the MBA. The MBA has been to several of the Fall Hunting Expos in the past, but now L.L. Bean is starting a Spring Sport Expo this year which is coming out just in time for Spring Turkey Season! I hope our members will stop in the Hunting & Fishing Store at L.L. Bean in Freeport. The MBA will have a booth set up near the archery equipment. Make sure you check out the big fish tank and the new café across from the archery shop. My wife Tina will probably be hanging out at the fish tank with a coffee in hand!

Marsh Island BLIP

Please mark your calendar for Sunday, June 7 for the next MBA BLIP class. This class along with the prerequisites are required to be considered for any of the MBA BLIP as a deer deprivation tool. Hopefully some of you read the fantastic write up in the Penobscot Times (March 26th issue) of the Old Town and Orono town meetings where Mark Caron,

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UPCOMING EVENTS

MBA Banquet - April 25, 2009 - Calumet Club, Augusta

MBA Election of Officers - May 3, 2009 - Augusta City Center

MBA BLIP Course - June 7, 2009 at 8:00am—Old Town Archery Center

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IF&W Regional Biologist, praised the BLIP program and would only support a controlled hunt on Marsh Island using members of BLIP. This program has been used successfully at Cape Elizabeth, Georgetown, Wells, and now Marsh Island. If you are interested in this program and want to know more please go to the MBA website and click on Bowhunters/Landowners Information Program and make sure that you meet the qualifications before signing up for the class. If you do meet the qualification and want to take the BLIP class, please call me at 426-2082 to sign-up for the class on June 7th.

2009 Sportsman's Shows

All of the sportsman's show will be over for 2009 and the MBA will have completed another year of promoting archery with the NASP Youth Archery Event when you receive this newsletter. The MBA attended the Cabin Fever Reliever in Brewer on February 28th and March 1st to do a youth archery shoot at this event supported by Bob Wengrzynek of Old Town Archery Center. Approximately 140 kids participated in that

shoot over two days. On March 13th thru March 15th the MBA attended the 71st Annual Eastern Maine Sportsman's Show at the University of Maine sponsored by the Penobscot County Conservation Association where we estimated close to 600 kids came thru the youth archery shoot. On March 28th and March 29th the MBA travelled all the way to the University of Maine at Presque Isle to attend the 11th Annual Presque Isle Fish & Game Club Sportsman's Show where about 250 kids learned how to shoot the Genesis bow at the youth archery shoot. The final show of the spring was the 29th Annual State of Maine Sportsman's Show at the Augusta Civic Center held from April 3rd to April 5th, which had approximately 450 kids at the show.

You never know who you will meet at these shows. We even had Miss Maine at the Orono show and the MBA taught her how to shoot a bow and she did great! We also had Junior Miss Easton at the Presque Isle show. We met many of the IF&W Wardens and Wildlife Biologists that have helped us over the past several years at these events. Many of our archery shop supporters such as L.L. Bean, Old Town Archery Center, Moosehead Trail Trading Post, Sports-

man's BARR, and others stopped in to help or make donations to the cause of promoting archery throughout the state of Maine. The NASP Youth Archery Events have given the MBA something to help promote archery and help promote our valuable pro archery shops. The NASP events have been a catalysis for archery and provide some synergies for IF&W, the legislature, the pro archery shops, and the MBA. While I was at last year's Presque Isle show, Glenn Daigle of Uncle Buck's Archery Shop was asked numerous times if he carried the Genesis bow that we used at the show. Well, this year Glenn brought several Genesis packages that included the arrows, quivers, and arm guard and he sold 13 of those Genesis packages. So I know the MBA is having an impact.

I encourage everyone in the MBA membership to get involved in these shows. It is a great public relations avenue for the MBA to build working relationships with other outdoor organizations and to get the kids involved into something like archery and away from the TV and computer for awhile. Our efforts leave a lasting impact on some of these kids. When they become old enough to vote we may have influenced them

enough to help them decide that correct wildlife management tools still exist with the hunters. Many of these kids may never become bowhunters or firearms hunters, but they get a better understanding of the tools of hunting so they will not be so easily swayed by the anti-hunting groups.

Election of Officers

On Sunday, May 3rd at 9:00am at the Augusta City Center (located beside Ft. Western on the Kennebec River) the MBA will be having the "Election of Officers". It's your chance to let us know what you think and help decide the direction of the MBA. If you guys want me to stay on or "give me the boot", please attend and help us set the direction for the MBA. We want the MBA to be driven with a team effort and not by a small core group of officers. It is a chance for people to ask questions about the accomplishments of the past year and help set goals for the year to come. We have had a couple of really successful years and despite the weak economy the MBA is extremely healthy, but I hope there are others out there who want to push to a higher level and set bigger goals. Please join us in

MBA AFFILIATES

Bowstring Guide Service
248 Berrys Mill Road
West Bath, ME 04530
(207)443-2706

Seven Islands Land Company
PO Box 1168
Bangor, ME 04402

D&G Archery
1412 Tatnic Road
Wells, ME 04090
(207)676-9954

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!

BLIP Success

Jeff Hopkins
1st Director

The MBA's BLIP program is continuing to have great successes, even in the off-season. The Old Town city council met on March 19th to discuss the deer reduction effort conducted by MBA BLIP members in December 2008, and to discuss the proposed changes we have offered for the 2009 season. The council overwhelmingly approved the proposal for 2009. IF&W biologist Mark Caron did an extraordinary job in supporting not only the MBA, but bow hunters and bow hunting in general. Our president, Jerome Richard was on hand to speak about the BLIP program to the council members and take their questions. There were many other bow hunters in attendance at this meeting, although none had to speak in support of the proposal. There was NO opposition in attendance, although it was advertised that it would be there. Hopefully this is a sign that they realize we (bow hunters) have done such a great job with this program, that their complaints would be rather meaningless. Mark Caron, then went to the Orono town council to discuss opening areas of their town, and also received the needed support. As of this writing, there is another meeting set with the Orono town council that Mark Caron, as well as reps from the MBA, will be attending in order to answer questions about what we do, and how we do it. Once this is complete, the next step is for the IF&W rule-making committee to review the proposal, and hopefully to set it in motion.

Last years reduction effort took place in December, during

the first two weeks of the month. We saw everything Maine had to offer for weather during those two weeks. We had some sun and calm, but we also had some extreme cold and wind, with snow, rain, and ice, all in between, just to make it interesting. In spite of Mother Nature's harshness, there were BLIP participants out there every single day. That says a lot about the dedication to make that effort a success.

The timing was late-season due to the delays in the rule-making process. Then we had to have enough time *beyond* that date, to map out the areas, get all of the participants together for a meeting, conduct a proficiency test, assign areas, and set tree stands. Hopefully, we will have a bit more breathing room this coming season. But after two weather-related council meeting cancellations, and a season proposal set two months ahead of last years effort, we are seeing the time pass by very fast.

This coming year, we have proposed a three-week season, beginning the first three full weeks of October. This should allow the participants at the Old Town Municipal airport parcels to see more deer. This area had a lot of active usage in October of last year, when I first toured the parcels with Mark Caron and Alan Starr of IF&W, along with fellow MBA member Mark Peeler. But when December rolled in, it was obvious that the deer had vacated the areas along the river, as the food sources had diminished in those parcels. An October season should offer a lot more animals in that area. The Penny Road parcel had plenty of deer, but few doe sightings, especially during the first week. With an abundance of bucks, and

a post-rut time frame, the does were absolutely on edge in this parcel, and were much more leery of people. An October season should see more relaxed does in that area, and hopefully an increase in the harvest numbers all around.

The BLIP program is doing very well for the MBA, but I want you all to understand that you don't have to be a BLIP member in order to benefit from the BLIP program. In fact, you don't even have to be an MBA member, or even a bow hunter when you get right down to it. We, as hunters, gain respect and credibility from the non-hunting public, when there are positive stories in the media about any form of hunting. Lets take BLIP out of the discussion for a moment, and MBA too for that matter, and think about this. **Bow hunters.....** went to Marsh Island this past December, an area that has not allowed hunting for several generations, and proved that bow hunting is safe and effective! Do you see the importance of that? Do you understand, *really* understand, how big a step that was for the hunting community. **Hunters** all over the country benefit from a success like this, just like we benefit from a positive story in Oklahoma or wherever, but this one was here in our state. Getting positive publicity in the media, with radio, television, and print coverage, is such a huge step for us all. The more this happens, the easier it is to gain access to land to hunt. That is where the successes of the MBA and the BLIP program can benefit you, whether you are a member of the program or not.

This program was always designed to have a two-fold use. One as a specialized tool for our

Dept. of IF&W to utilize as they have in areas such as Marsh Island, Wells, Georgetown, etc. And two, as a credential for the individual to use in promoting themselves, when discussing their background with a landowner, when trying to gain hunting access permission.

One more thing about Marsh Island. There would not have been *any* hunting on the island at all, if it were not for the BLIP program. IF&W had proposed the inclusion of Marsh Island to the Expanded Zone, about two years ago. There was some opposition against it, but the councils voted to allow IF&W to proceed with it. The MBA was on-hand at numerous council meetings in Old Town and Orono to support that proposed inclusion, and it was all but a done deal until the University of Maine, the largest landowner on the island, had enough influence with the governor to halt the inclusion of the island to the expanded zone. They insisted that any hunt should be a tightly controlled hunt. They felt that with an open hunt, they would have to post and patrol their boundary lines, which was an expense they did not wish to take on.

Our president, Jerome Richard, our Secretary, Dan Long, our 2nd Director, Nate Fenderson, and myself, met in Augusta on January 11th, to discuss the BLIP program. We discussed ways to improve the program for the future, and other areas that worked just fine, and need to be left alone. We have come up with a few changes and additions to some of the requirements for becoming a BLIP member. Most are technicalities from our perspective, but are also considered

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safeguards for the participants and the integrity of the program. We will make sure that a copy of the updated rules and guidelines are sent to all BLIP members, when we send you the application for the upcoming deer reduction efforts. It will also be posted in our web site, and incorporated into the pamphlets in the next printing, and into all upcoming classes.

Probably the most drastic change is the harvest requirement that must be met. We have changed the language requiring "one big game animal or turkey with a bow, in Maine, within the past four years" to "two deer, with a bow, in Maine, within the past five years". Although the possibility of the BLIP program being utilized for game other than deer is there, we realize that it is very slim compared to it being used for deer reduction. Therefore qualifying with a turkey in order to take part in a deer reduction effort, really didn't make sense. Turkey hunting, bear hunting, and moose hunting are all so much different from deer hunting.

The harvest requirement was originally put in the program requirements by Lee Perry, former Commissioner of IF&W, who helped the MBA to put this program together. So when we wanted to make this change, we went back to IF&W with the idea, and received their blessings. They fully understood our thoughts, and welcomed the pro-active approach to fine-tuning our program.

We will also standardize the proficiency test statewide, so that participants in Wells will perform the same tests as those at Marsh Island, and anywhere else we happen to go. Equipment documentation will be

done during the test. The participants will not be able to replace their equipment before or during the reduction effort.

We are also at this time, working on some type of insurance policy for the participants, plus the directors. In this sue-happy society we live in, (that's my opinion, not necessarily the opinion of the MBA board of directors) I think it is best that we cover ourselves, as well as the landowner(s) in case someone gets hurt by a participant, or as a participant. The municipalities and individual landowners are always concerned these days about someone getting hurt on their property. This should help ease their concerns. Also, with this being an organized effort by IF&W and the MBA, we may be leaving ourselves vulnerable if someone gets hurt, or offended in some way, and might attempt legal action for some type of compensation. It's a shame that our times have brought us to this, but it is what it is, and we must deal with it. So far, I guess we can consider ourselves fortunate to have not needed coverage, but it is now time to get it in place. More details to come as we get them.

Please don't hesitate to contact any of us with your thoughts on the BLIP program, or any aspect of bow hunting. That's why we are here. Have a great summer, and get plenty of practice shooting your bow.

I hope to see you all at your annual banquet in Augusta on the 25th of April, and at the MBA's annual meeting on May 3rd at the City Center Building in Augusta. This is for the annual election of officers, and for the directors whose terms are up. This is *your* chance to help decide the direction the MBA takes this coming year.

"Hunter and Landowner Relations"



By Deanna Page

Are you a hunter who hunts exclusively on your own land? If so, you are very lucky to have the property and wildlife at your disposal. I am a bowhunter, and I love to hunt the expanded zones. The IF&W has a "Cautionary note to expanded zone hunters: Nearly all land in the expanded zones is privately owned. IF&W strongly urges all hunters to obtain landowner permission. Please hunt ethically. Your behavior while afield may well determine the future of these hunts."

I, for one, make sure to get landowner permission on all the land I hunt, do you? It is not that difficult to contact a landowner to discuss the possibility of hunting their land. Almost all of the landowners I have talked with, have been great. If the landowners are not hunters themselves, they at least realize the important role that hunters play in controlling the herd to prevent overpopulation that can lead to disease and starvation. Over the years I have had landowners say no for many reasons: they hunt there, they don't like hunting, some one else is already hunting there, a couple has turned me

down due to previous bad experiences with allowing hunting on their land. The reasons given were: one had not been asked for permission, but someone was hunting there and trimming trees and cutting fence. The other landowner had to deal with hunters fighting over stand locations and who was there first. I can understand why they no longer allow access to their land. If you are one of the people who hunt without permission, or fight with fellow hunters, it's time to grow up and take responsibility. We all need to show respect and gratitude to landowners who allow us access to their land. A little effort on the hunter's part will go a long way to ensure access and good landowner/hunter relations for everyone. Please make the effort!

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.

YORK COUNTY REPORT

By Steve Gray

York County Report

Spring is upon us in York County. The deer have come out of the woods seeking new sources of food. Five visited just this morning. One of the youngsters showed their curiosity about my practice deer located at the edge of the trees.

Skunks wander the neighborhood seeking their own grubfest.

Woodchucks are checking out garden beds for new shoots. Our first wood chuck citing was momentarily mistaken for a visit from a frisky puppy.

I hope that you have continued to practice during the winter. I have enjoyed my visits to D&G Archery on Tatnic Rd in Wells. Dick Geletka serviced my bow, watched me shoot and offered expert advice to help me be a better archer.

The York Fish & Game Association will soon see action on their 3D hunting course. Over 25 large and small game opportunities are in place with plans for an expansion.

There will be 3D shoots coming up before you know it. Bow Hunting is big in York County. Stay tuned for more.

As I write this, I am looking forward to the Maine Sportsman Show in Augusta April 4, 5, 6. As you read this, we will be fondly remembering the hundreds of smiling young faces at our youth archery shooting range and many hundreds of sportsmen & sportswomen that we had the opportunity to visit with at the show.

The Environmentalist Hunter Food Plots/Habitat Improvement

By John H. Hunt Jr.

B.S. Environmental Science

The popularity of food plots in Maine has increased dramatically over the past few years. And why not? We've all seen the hunting shows where deer pile into those lush green magnets of highly desirable browse. Yes, they are effective at bringing deer into your area, aid in antler growth, and even help pack on a few more pounds to the deer you may shoot in the fall. In this article I'll point out a few things to consider when putting in a food plot, and will also discuss an alternative to the standard food plot.

Food plots

There are some disadvantages to food plots. They can be extremely expensive and labor intensive to create and maintain. Consider first that most of the high quality agricultural land in Maine is already being used to grow crops. If you own a wood lot in Maine, it is very likely marginal, at best, for creating a food plot. Now consider, that to create a food plot out of the raw woods that you have, will require cutting of trees, stumping the area out and smoothing it down, tilling it, adding copious quantities of lime and fertilizer, seeding it down, possibly spraying it with insecticide, etc. For most situations, it will probably cost many thousands of dollars, and many hard days of labor to create an acre of food plot on your property. If, after weighing things out, you

still decide to create one, there are a few things you should consider. Make sure that it is not close to running water. When fertilizer gets into water the nitrogen and phosphorous feed algae, causing blooms that can decrease the amount of oxygen available to fish and other desirable aquatic species. It would be a shame to put all that time and money into producing higher quality hunting, while at the same time decreasing the quality of trout fishing in a local stream. Also avoid putting your food plot in an area where you will have to cut cedar trees to create it. Avoid cutting cedars in any situation, whenever possible. Cedars provide deer with food and cover during the most critical times of the year. Even if the branches of the cedars are high in the air, and out of reach of the deer, cedars still provide them with food throughout the winter. This food arrives to the deer through "leaf litter." I highly recommend that you take a walk in a cedar grove after a windy day in the winter. You will be amazed by the amounts of cedar leaves that have been blown down. Also, when the snow starts to melt in the spring, any cedar litter that got covered up by the snow starts to become available to the deer, as they break out of their yarding areas. Cedars also provide deer with a windbreak, allowing the deer to more easily maintain their body temperatures during some bitter cold winter days. Whenever you cut cedars, you're removing critical browse and cover for many decades to come. Another consideration for your food plot is its size and shape. More small food plots are better than one large one. Irregular shapes are

also better than a rectangle or square. Why?? Because, small irregular plots create more "edge." Edge ecosystems provide much greater biodiversity than either a forest or a field. Deer are creatures of "the edge." I also recommend leaving an "edge zone" all the way around the cultivated portion of your food plot. Allow this area to grow up in the secondary growth of brush and small trees. This will provide deer with that all important edge ecosystem. There are more advantages including other species will also benefit. Isn't it nice when you spend a day on stand not seeing deer, to see other creatures? This edge ecosystem will draw in many other species of birds and animals to provide you with that enjoyment. Another advantage is that it will make the deer more comfortable about coming into the food plot, because of the cover that it will provide them. When the edge growth gets too tall to be of benefit, you can easily regenerate it by brush hogging it down and allowing it to grow back again. It could easily be argued that this "edge" you have created and maintained is of greater value than the food plot itself, as it provides food and cover during a much longer season than your food plot does.

The Alternative

The alternative to food plots is simply the creation of wood lot openings. These openings allow sunlight to come through and start the process of terrestrial succession that creates the secondary growth and edge ecosystems that deer so thrive on.

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Remember the same considerations as food plots: Avoid cutting cedars, make many small and irregular openings, and trim out the edges every 5 - 10 yrs. to keep succession going. These forest openings are much less costly and labor intensive than food plots. Another thing to consider when creating forest openings and food plots is the time of year that you cut the trees. By cutting the trees in the winter, you will be providing temporary high quality browse for the deer during a time that it's critical for them. (We'll discuss feeding deer in another article.) Also, since you'll be avoiding the wet conifer growth areas, you'll most likely be cutting hardwoods, and may be providing yourself with next year's supply of firewood.

Always remember that those of us who hunt in a safe, legal, ethical, and responsible manner are the true environmentalists.

By Chaz LaVersa

The sun painted cloudy highlights through the midnight blues in the predawn sky as I rushed to the top side of the field near the high pine silhouettes. Booming gobbles made me desperate to acquire the shadows of the woods before I was detected by the sharp eyes roosted to my left. Unaware of whether I had achieved my goal shear faith pushed me quickly into the brush and down the slope to an old skidder trail to search for just the right ambush spot. The pressure of a late arrival caused me to hastily act.

Gobbles rained on the forest floor under mixed pines and oaks and then they quickly changed. Panic almost overcame me as I recognized the undeniable reality, he had now flown down just over one hundred yards away. My gentle three note tree call focused his lust on my position like a laser. I stood my single gray headed decoy in a depression to my right and ran uphill

Take That Tom

fifteen yards to a likely pine.. It leaned slightly to the right and instantly felt like an old friend as I draped my piece of camouflage off to it's left side and clothes pinned the mesh to handy branches joyful that the tree seemed as committed as I was to this hunt. The twenty plus pound Tom made his way eagerly into view between brush and tree trunks for brief glimpses as I tried to keep my heart from pounding through the thin mesh camo. His gawky Jake sidekick would have sent me into convulsions of laughter had I not been so intent on making this plan work in spite of all the reasons it already had to fail.

Closer they came and Tom finally spotted his first morning lover as I peered through the mesh at what was now only twelve yards. I thought he would freak as a low breeze rotated the hen on her stilty leg to face them. This only added realism and I said an instant prayer of thanks as he began to fan out! I drew kneeling behind the wide pine as smoothly as a slow river

and then leaned right till I could just clear the trunk. He was in full glorious strut broadside to me going directly to "his" sweet hen giving me a totally clear lane. Again I had to quiet my pounding heart sure he would hear it through several layers of camo clothes which did not stop the chill crawling up my spine. I thanked God and the stars and anything else that occurred to me may be involved in my tremendous luck this early morning.

My anchor was secure, my sight picture framed, and the world was mine to rejoice in as I let that arrow fly. Except, I missed! I am, to this day, confused as to how the certain achievement of my first bow turkey could have dissolved even more rapidly than those two desperados disappeared into that forest! It was PERFECT!! I felt as if I were reading the success story of some famous turkey hunting author in any one of dozens of magazines all the way up to... my forlorn reality. I had just dubbed a perfect shot. Once more I had to eat an archery turkey tag sandwich and cry in my soup. I still want to throw down my hat and kick the dirt! I am still painfully plagued by the eyelid movie of that arrow fluffing back a hand full of feathers as it pounded home in the dirt! Maybe it just made my next turkey hunt all the sweeter. Maybe, maybe it is just why we call it hunting. God am I glad future hunts didn't continue on this path! Not all of them anyway! I really hope your turkey hunting is as much fun as this one was no matter how many times you get a tag sandwich!

Mac's Bow E-Z Rabbit Abruzzie

By Mac Dudley

2-4 rabbits cut into pieces

1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil

1 lg. red pepper chopped

1 tablespoon minced garlic

4 sprigs of green onion, chopped

(Regular onion maybe used)

1 tablespoon of crushed rosemary

1 -2 cups white wine

1 small container of cherry tomatoes cut in half

1 small can of sliced black olives

Season rabbit pieces with garlic salt & pepper and 1/2 cup white wine. Let sit in the refrigerator for a couple of hours or all day if preferred, when ready brown in olive oil, garlic, chopped red pepper, rosemary and chopped onion(if using a regular onion.) When brown add the rest of the white wine, cut cherry tomatoes, black olives and chopped sprigs of green onion. Serve over angel hair pasta or egg noodle. Serves 4-6.

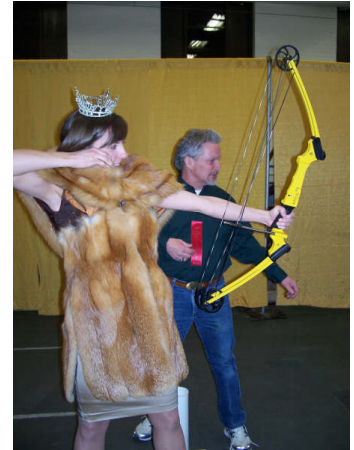
Photos From This Year NASP Shoots



Peng Cheng at the target with his great shots



Dan Long and Tina Richard working kids at the Cabin Fever Reliever



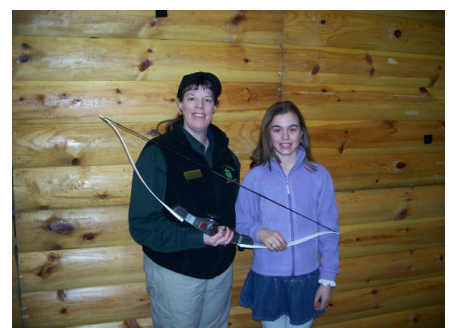
Jerome Richard with Miss Maine 2008...Adrienne Watkinson



Tina Richard working with a young lady at the Prsque Isle Sportsman Show



Jerome and Tina Richard, Mac Dudley, Lori Weaver, Lou Provost, and Robb Co-tiaux



Tina Richard with Breanna Lawson, the young lady that won the raffle for the youth bow



Mac Dudley checking the young ladies dominant eye



Tina Richard working with a young lady at the Orono Sportsman Show



Russel Corson working with a young lady at the Cabin Fever Reliever

MBA History Corner



By Jerome Richard

Many of you may remember Terri and Berta Estes of Winslow, ME. This couple was extremely active in and around the MBA from doing youth archery shoots, being on the board of the MBA, and as volunteer bowhunter safety instructors. They are also lifetime members of the MBA and documented an extensive history of the MBA in both video and print.

I know of Terri and Berta through friends in the Somerset Bowhunters and even purchased a "bug suit" from them back in 2003, when I was heading to Canada for a spring bear hunt. My wife, Tina, and I had the pleasure of meeting Terri and Berta at their house long ago and spent about 3 hours talking about the MBA. What impressed me were all the bowhunting artifacts that the Estes had accumulated over the decades of work around bowhunting. They are a wealth of information of bowhunting information and history.

Terri and Berta were instrumental in the formation of the Expanded Archery Zones by mapping all the areas. The MBA has been very fortunate to have many talented members such as the Estes who have the talent and the dedication to give to the MBA. Some of you may remember the MBA banquet that was held in the mid-90's where they helped organize the banquet, documented all the past MBA presidents and officers, and recognized 6 of the original founders of the MBA at that banquet.

When I was elected president of the MBA in 2007, Gene Lagomarsino turned over a lot of MBA materials and documentation to me. When I opened all the boxes and files I found a ton of great information about the history of the MBA, but what I also discovered, was how much time and effort Terri and Berta had put into assembling all the past MBA newsletters and all the other historical documentation on the MBA. I know I have probably missed writing some of their accomplishments in the MBA. Chances are that they have forgotten more about the MBA than what I will ever learn. This couple is a great asset to the MBA.

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

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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.

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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: _____

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

MBA Membership Application

New Renewal

Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

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

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

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

Mail to: **Maine Bowhunters Association, PO Box 5026, Augusta, ME 04330**

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Bow Tech Talk



By Chas LaVersa

A HEAD SHOT on a turkey is one of my favorites. The proposition is simple, hit 'em clean or miss them clean! Many hunters are afraid to attempt the shot because the head seems small and it moves a lot. That is true! However, shooting from a blind can afford you a very close shot with little chance of missing and a little patience will almost always expose a window where the "dumb" bird stays still. Also, in reality, the head and neck are not any smaller than the vitals of the bird and a whole lot easier to find. The fact is that most any injury to the turk's head and neck is debilitating while completely deadly shots to the body can still allow that bird to get up and fly away before expiring, presenting a sometimes impossible tracking job. If you have ever lost a bird that way you will most certainly consider the head shot.

I am not in favor of turning down bows for turks. Ample draw weight won't hurt you in any way on head shots and we need all the energy we can muster for body shots. Those layered feathers are surprisingly good at deflecting ar-

rows. The heavy quills stacked upon each other absorb impact extremely well. An arrow hitting them is like you jumping up and down on a pile of boughs lying on the ground. They will crush and rebound without ever letting you touch the ground. Remember also, this is a bird, a very light target that can actually be pushed out of the way when your arrow hits it.

All these factors combined make this one tough animal to take home which is why I like the head shot. This brings us to gear selection. Any good broadhead, fixed or mechanical, will do the job. While my favorite deer head is a mech, I prefer fixed heads for turkeys. If you take the time to make a large diameter head like the Guillotine or the Bull-head fly well, it is a great choice for head shots on turks.

These bigheads give you an enormous advantage. With a broadhead width of several inches and a target width of several more, a shooter could actually be off center two inches or more either way and still deliver a killing shot. The nice part is they usually fall where shot because any slice to the throat or head is deadly. There literally is no fat, or muscle, or even feathers that protect this vital area.

Like any other broadhead, these bigheads must spin perfectly. You must use an arrow that is around four inches longer to make sure those dagger-like blades stay well away from your bowhand fingers. A longer arrow requires a heavier spine to make sure it

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still matches your bow. Don't be stingy here. You would not hesitate to buy a different gun or ammo for a different game. I recommend three arrows with 5" feathers or vanes with plenty of helical and retune your rest and sight using these arrows with field points at first and then the real thing as a final check. Retuning your rest is way easier than most people think. First you MUST be getting groups with FPs and BHs. If those groups are not in the same place THEN you retune the rest by simply moving the rest towards the FP group in small increments. When they all hit the same point of impact (POI) then resight in so that your pin covers the spot where the arrows actually hit. Be aware that some few bows will not respond to this and that means you will have to tune for best flight with whatever you will actually hunt with, no shortcuts, sorry! I bought a cheap pillow from WalMart for three bucks and stuffed it loosely into a small

cardboard box as a bighead target. A paper turkey head target face completed things. It easily gave me eight shots at ten and fifteen yards with no damage to the heads and I was good to go. Carefully resharpen razor-sharp as necessary.

Now we need to get the turks in close. I have had great success with ground blinds. I started with a simple piece of camo burlap clothespinned to a tree and branches. I drew behind cover and leaned out slowly to shoot. I now own a small tent city of commercial ground blinds and my favorite is the cheapest one I could find! Set up is quick and silent. Whenever I use a decoy I like to hide them in a depression behind a log or something! That is right. If a Tom can see your decoy from afar he will often hang up and demand the hen come to him. When the hen sounds close but he has not made eye contact he will continue to come in. If there is a large group together, the Jakes often come running to a decoy, discover

something is fishy and leave, which makes the big Toms leary. If I set up right where they will come to strut and play anyway I will use no decoys. They will come in slower and more relaxed offering better opportunities for headshots.

Taxidermists use plastic heads anyway! Stay cool, calm, (don't lose your head!) and make the shot! Good eating!

Chas LaVersa is a consultant to Old Town Archery Shop in Old Town, ME. And can be reached at chaslaversa@yahoo.com.

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The Maine Bowhunters Association is organized and shall be operated:

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

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

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

To initiate or support selected activities and programs intended, or expected, to emphasize the responsibilities 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.

