

THE MAINE BOWHUNTER

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MAINE BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

May/June/July 2012



FEATURED MBA SUPPORTER



Community Connection members of SAPPI that grant MBA money each year with their MBA award. From right: Steve Pinkham, Marie Rancort, Cheryl Gwadosky and Kelvin Brooks.



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This month's featured MBA supporter is SAPPI Fine Paper. Thanks for supporting the Maine Bowhunters Association !

FROM THE EDITOR

The MBA Banquet was a great success, it involved many days of work by a few people they deserve the respect from all members for their work. The President's Report by John Hunt covers the banquet in more detail, check it out. Members that received 2011 big game awards are as follows:

2011 Maine Big Game Awards

Whitetail buck– Jeff Hopkins, 11 point, 204 pounds

Whitetail doe– Brad Magoon, 145 pounds

Moose– Craig Smith– 5 point, 505 pounds

Black bear– John Bennett, 232 pounds

Turkey– Perry Hatch, 22.5 pounds

Bowhunter of the Year

Leif Dahlin

MBA Special Awards

Director of the Year– Deanna Page

Regional Representative of the Year– Val Marquez

Supporter of the Year– SAPPI Fine Paper North America

MBA President's Appreciation Awards

Russell Corson

Bill Valteau

Paul St. John

Tina Richard

Steve Gray

Special President's Appreciation Award

Jerome Richard

Congratulations to all those that received awards. Your MBA needs more member support, in particular, we need people to get involved. There are projects that members can volunteer for that does not involve a lot of work. At this time we are looking for additional Assistant Regional Reps to help in their areas; this job requires very little travel and work. For information call or e-mail John Hunt.

Val Marquez



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HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES AND ADS

The Maine Bowhunter welcomes submissions from all MBA members. If you've got something you would like to share with the MBA membership, send it along. We want to hear from you. Stories, photos, hot topics, even gripes are welcome. Try to keep stories to 500 words or less. Please note the following dates for submission of material.

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

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

Send material to: Val Marquez editor@mainebowhunters.org

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Eighth Page	1 7/8 X 2 ¼	\$60	\$50	\$300

“THE MAINE BOWHUNTER”
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 PUBLICATION OF THE MBA

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Presidents Report

May 2012

John H. Hunt Jr.

Phew! Our busiest time of year is finally behind us. For the past 2 months we've been preparing for and attending sportsman's shows throughout the state, and most recently it was our annual banquet. The sportsman shows went very well as usual. Our booth seems to get a lot of action. At most of the shows we have one of the very few booths that's kid oriented. There is almost always a constant line of kids waiting to shoot the youth bows, and their eyes light up when they do it. Jerome Richard will be including an article this month that will go into more detail about the sportsman's shows.

We also had another very successful banquet. It's a lot of hard work and stress, but everything seemed to come together great. We had some interesting speakers at the banquet this year. Suzanne Hamilton spoke about her tracking dogs. It's always nice to see Suzanne, and she provides a service to hunters that enhances our hunting ethics by increasing the number of deer recovered after being shot.

Commissioner Woodcock answered questions about Maine DIFW plans for the future, which primarily focused on deer management. David Trahan, Executive Director of SAM was one of our speaking guests. I have a lot of faith in David. I've always known him to be a man of integrity, and I am looking forward to Maine Bowhunters Association and SAM developing an outstanding relationship that will benefit all sportsmen and women. Dawn Brown spoke about her black bear rehabilitation efforts, as well as rehabilitating some other species. Her goal is to get these animals back out into the wild and live as wild animals, like they should. Hers is not a "Disney Creature" keep them as pets operation. Paul Jacques did an outstanding job again this year as our auctioneer. He brought on a lot of laughs with his good humored teasing of Jerome.

It was extremely heartening to see all of the support that our organization has from around the State. I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to L.L.Bean, Kittery Trading Post, Moosehead Trail Trading Post, Central Maine Archery, Old Town Archery Center, Sally Mountain Cabins, Extreme Dimensions Wildlife Calls, Old Town Trading Post, and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. It was also great chatting with the other officers, directors, and members of MBA. It's an excellent opportunity for members to discuss with the MBA leadership, issues related to bowhunting and the direction of Maine Bowhunters Association.

It was another fun, friendly, and overall outstanding experience. If you've never been to one of our banquets, you're really missing out on a great time.

We held our annual meeting and election of officers and directors on Sunday, May 20th at 9AM, at the Buker Community Center in Augusta. The results are listed elsewhere in the newsletter.

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Education Report

By Jerome Richard

2012 Sportsman's Shows

The Maine Bowhunters Association participated in four sportsman's show events this spring using the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) equipment. This was our fifth year attending these events in the spring with the archery equipment including the Penobscot Fly Fisher's Cabin Fever Reliever in Brewer, the 74th Annual Eastern Maine Sportsman's Show in Orono, the 14th Annual Presque Isle Fish and Game Club Sportsman's Show, and the 32nd Annual State of Maine Sportsman's Show in Augusta.

All the shows had plenty of kids that stopped by to shoot the Genesis bows and arrows that are used in the NASP archery program with the exception of the sportsman's show in Augusta. It's just my opinion, but the Augusta show has been steadily dropping in attendance and needs an immediate change of direction to save it. The MBA originally did not plan on attending this year's Augusta show due to the declining attendance, but we were persuaded to come at the last moment.

The formula for success for the good sportsman's shows has been a good mix of vendors specific to hunting, fishing, and the outdoors. But there has to be some hands-on youth activities included in this mix. Any show that does not value our youth should take a serious look at their event as I believe that is one of the primary reasons for the continued decline of the Augusta sportsman's show.

I can't understand how a show in Presque Isle located in a very low population density in northern Maine can have such an incredibly successful show with large crowds compared to the Augusta show located in central Maine with a very high population density plus the Augusta show is located just off I-95. I don't care where you are in Maine – kids are kids and if a show puts some focus on the kids, then the kids and the adults will come!

The Presque Isle show had a good mix of vendors all related to the outdoors from guides, ATV/snowmobile dealers, representative have many Maine outdoor organizations, and shops that cater to the outdoors person. However, they do a good job of attracting the youth and parents to their event with live animals, the MBA NASP youth archery, Crossman BB gun range, a trout pond for kids to fish, fly tying for kids, and the UMPI climbing wall.

Both the Presque Isle and Orono show do a great job of putting focus on the youth. Without kids to replace our aging seniors it will only be a matter of time that our outdoor hunting heritage will disappear.

The MBA attended the "Spring Sale" event at Audette's Hardware and Sporting Goods in Winthrop on April 14th and 15th and even they had a great turnout because they had a trout pond for the kids and they had kids

Continued on next page

shooting the Genesis bows. There was something at Audette's for both the kids and adults similar to what the Orono, Brewer, and Presque Isle show concentration on to draw the crowds.

We need to realize that the "Baby Boomers" are now seniors and there are fewer kids out there to take advantage of the outdoors. Then add on top of this that there are a lot of kids hooked on electronic gadgets such as computers, games, cell phones and the like which is a big distraction. Another contributing factor is comparing the family structure from the "Baby Boomers" to that of the current time. There are a lot of single parent households and the role model for outdoor activities may not exist in that family setting.

NASP Basic Archery Instructor Classes

The MBA has been busy the last six months with training several Maine teachers, three MBA members, and even three Girl Scout leaders as new NASP Basic Archery Instructors. Back on December 4, 2011, we traveled to Georgetown Central School to train 10 people and on April 7, 2012 we trained 18 people at Skowhegan High School.

Some of the teachers in attendance have either NASP or another form of archery equipment at their school. Others did not have any archery equipment, but are in the process of obtaining equipment. The great thing about the MBA promoting NASP in Maine is it is a way to protect our heritage and it is a way to help promote the sport of archery for our youth.

The 8-hour NASP BAI class covers many aspects of equipment maintenance, proper shooting form, and setting-up/running a safe archery range. It requires all new instructors to pass a 100 question written test with a minimum test score of 80 to become certified by NASP. As you can imagine, to the MBA we want to promote archery, not "arrow flinging"!

On June 9th, the MBA will be at Morse High School in Bath to help facilitate a local NASP archery tournament with Georgetown, Phippsburg, Brunswick, and Bath schools. There have been other schools in Maine including northern Maine that are starting their own regional NASP tournaments. Hopefully by this time next year many more schools will come together to compete!

July 1st NASP will begin to make available a third round of NASP equipment grants for both new schools getting into NASP and existing schools wanting to purchase more equipment. As usual, the MBA will provide free NASP BAI training up to 4 P.E. teachers per school that become new NASP schools that take advantage of the equipment grants. We are also looking at covering 50% of the training for P.E. teachers if they are not involved in NASP as long as they have an archery program or are trying to start an archery program.

The MBA would like to thank the Maine Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (MAHPERD) for their help in providing information to their members about NASP and the training available to their members for this archery program. We hope we can always be a resource for them in the future. Thank you.

A Change In Structure For The Maine Bowhunters Association

By
John Hun

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

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

Southern Region	York and Cumberland Counties
South Central Region	Androscoggin and Kennebec Counties
Western Region	Oxford, Franklin, and Somerset Counties
Southeastern Region	Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo Counties
Northeastern Region	Hancock, Washington, and Penobscot Counties
Northern Region	Piscataquis and Aroostook Counties

Officers and Directors Elected to Office during the May Annual MBA Meeting

These terms start June 1st of this year.

President	John Hunt	Statistics Director	Deanna Page
Vice President	Bill Valteau	Webmaster	Paul St John
Treasurer	Jerome Richard	Editor	Val Marquez
General Secretary	Steve Gray		
2nd Director at Large	Julie Johnson		



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Why You Should Participate in 3-D Archery Shoots!

We often hear people say “I am not that good of a shot at targets”, or “I do not feel comfortable shooting around other people”. Well, then, let’s get down to reasons why you should stop making these lame excuses and get out to as many 3-D shoots or 3-D ranges as you can! Some are even open all year long!

First, just shooting your bowhunting outfit is relaxing and have fun. People do not have to keep score or compete, because they are “just a bowhunter”, like you are! There are many 3-D shoots, where you do not have to “compete” against anyone else. You do not have to keep score! If you are going to a 3-D shoot “just for fun”, you can even shoot by yourself, or with family & friends if you want to...as long as you are not “competing” or keeping a serious score for purpose of getting an award/trophy! There are those who want to compete for score & trophy, but it may not be you!

Second, if you are shooting “just for fun”, then you can shoot from any distance you want. If you lose arrows, you need more practice judging distance, this means that you should to do more 3-D shooting for practice!



Debs First deer with her new bow!

We recommend you dress like you would for hunting and just count kill, wound or miss. Make believe you are stalking your target, shoot from whatever angle or distance you feel comfortable. You can even bring a hunting stool or folding chair and shoot from sitting position! The important thing is to experience a larger variety of shots and learn to judge distance more effectively! This will contribute to you becoming a better bow hunter!



Brad Magoon, shoots 3-D for fun!



Continued on next page

You, as a bowhunter, going to the 3-D shoot or commercial range, you will experience different targets, animals, lighting conditions, weather (oh yes, don't stay home if it is raining, get outside and shoot!). Many 3-D ranges have a wide variety of conditions, distances, vegetation, etc. The more the variety the better! And there is NO PRESSURE to score. Just be the best you can be and enjoy being outside in a place besides your back yard!

You might even get your spouse/family too shoot as well and you can show off or justify that new camo outfit or bow you just bought!. Archery is an ideal family sport that can and should be done all year long. If you make it a family "outing", maybe your spouse will decide to take up the sport of archery or even bowhunting, to do it with you.

An organized, 3-D "shoot" will usually have refreshments but if you go to a range at other times, you may be able to take a picnic lunch with you. The most important thing you can do is to get out there and participate; it cannot hurt and you just might enjoy shooting your bow more and even become a better bowhunter.



Editor's Note: Before my spring bear hunt I attended a local 3-D shoot and shot for fun; it gave me confidences when the bear stepped with shooting range. This article is written by Bob from Old Town Archery Center & Pro Shop.

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How to Get Your Deer Processed

By
John Hunt

Getting your deer processed properly can greatly enhance the enjoyment you get out of consuming it. Everyone has their own ideas on how to process their game, so the following recommendations are subjective, and based upon how my family prepares its venison. We really LOVE our venison when processed and prepared well. I'll follow this article up with some recipes based upon how we process our deer. It has taken a number of years and dozens of deer for us to get to this formula, and we continue to tweak it every year.

We used to process our deer ourselves. It saved money, but limited what we could do with it. We didn't have the grinder to make burger or sausage. Now we bring our deer in to a professional processor, and even have it vacuum sealed. Vacuum sealing really increases the freezer life. I think the extra money spent is worth it, as we enjoy our venison so much more when it's processed just the way we like it.

Inside backstraps: We cut out the small inside backstraps (inner dinner) ourselves, and eat them right away. These are the most tender, and unfortunately smallest portion of the deer. We usually have them for breakfast with eggs and toast, and simply pan fry them.

Loins: We always get our loins (backstraps) cut into small steaks. We simply pan fry these or make "chicken fried steak" with them. We absolutely love venison chicken fried steak and will have a recipe for this in a later article.

Front shoulders: Many people don't consider this a high quality cut, but the way my wife prepares it, it's one of our favorites. We have the meat removed from the shoulder and packaged as shoulder roasts. My wife cooks this in a way that the meat just falls apart because it's so tender, and it melts in your mouth. I'm starting to drool thinking about it. Yes, a recipe will follow in another article. For the rest of the deer you are now starting to get into some tougher cuts. However the next cut isn't too bad.

Sirloin: This is the front portion of the hind quarter, and is pretty tender when compared to the rest of the hind quarter. This can be cut out and turned into steaks. It's great for making sautéed steak tips, stir fries etc.

Everything else: Now we get into portions of the deer that are on the tough side. We like to have this divided into 3 categories: Stew meat, hot sausage, breakfast sausage. Depending upon your eating style the ratios can vary. We like about 5 or 6 packages of stew meat from each deer, as it's nice to have a hot venison stew in the middle of winter now and again. However, we get the majority of the meat turned into hot sausage. We find this is the most versatile meat from a deer. We use this to make spaghetti, pizza, and some other recipes. We have this put into one lb. vacuum sealed packages. We get the breakfast sausage placed in 1/2 lb packages, as there are only the 2 of us now, and we can't eat 1/2lb of sausage each in a setting. We like to mix our sausage meat with pork suet. It adds a little fat to make cooking easier, and also seems to reduce any gaminess. Note: Adding the pork suet along with the recipes we use, we don't find the venison to be gamey tasting at all. We love it! Notice that we don't have any burger made. I do find venison burger to taste somewhat gamey, but the sausage doesn't. When you truly enjoy your venison, you'll find yourself going to the freezer for it a lot.

An interesting little story: My wife and I eat venison A LOT! We rarely eat out, but one day I took her to a nice restaurant, and we ordered a nice expensive cut of prime rib. We started eating it and both looked up at each other thinking the same question. The question was "does this taste gamey to you?"

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2012 3-D Shoot Schedule

Open to public (IBO) 3-D Shoots for all experienced & new shooters:

Canadian shooters & teams are welcome at all events

Our 3-D Archery Course is OPEN every day for practice! Shooting Badge/pass & Parking Permits are available at Old Town Archery during business hours. Get a pass for any day you want to shoot! Practice at any distance you feel comfortable!

3-D Shoot Registration 8:00 AM to 10:00 AM For Competition (Award) classes...but you can come any-time just to shoot for fun! Wear clothes & shoes for being outdoors. These are hunting conditions & fun for the entire family!

Sunday April 15th

Saturday May 12TH

Saturday NIGHT May 20TH, (Smile, you'll have a blast!)

Registration 6:00 pm – Bonfires for marshmallows... etc!

Saturday June 2ND

Sunday July 8th

**Saturday & Sunday August 25TH & 26TH ...1st Annual
Canadian/American 3-D Championship! (“CAN-AM
3-D SHOOT”) (You can shoot either one or both days!)**

Both IBO Equipment Rules and fun (no rules & no awards) divisions....so all Beginners and all ages are welcome! Just come and have fun! Refreshments/food available! \$12 for Adults 16+, \$8 for 11-15 years and a family rate of just \$25 (parents with children) 10 years & under are FREE with a shooting adult. Card carrying MBA members and all active military personnel and the more mature shooters 70 years & up are only \$10 in non-award/fun division!

3-D Course is located just 1/3 mile off I-95, exit 197 (Old Town-Hudson) and there will be 3-D/Archery directional signs posted as to get off the exit!

Also:

SUNDAY AUGUST 26TH MAINE STATE TRADITIONAL ARCHERY CHAMPIONSHIP IN DURHAM, MAINE See details at www.mainetraditionalarchers.com



BATHURST, NEW BRUNSWICK SPRING BEAR BOWHUNT

By Val Marquez

My latest adventure was a spring black bear bowhunt in Bathurst, New Brunswick. Bathurst is situated in the northeast section of the province on the coast of Chaleur Bay. Once I arrived in Bathurst I meet Pierre Roy owner of “P.R. Guides and Outfitters” at a local Irving gas station and followed him to camp where I was introduced to Ron, Pierre’s partner.

The region we bear hunted was remote; in fact the bait I killed my bear was 40 miles from camp on logging roads. The area consists of logged off sections in a patch-work of heavily wooded forest of white birch, poplar and cedar. Alders are prevalent along the many brooks, streams and marshlands that dot the landscape.

Bear scat in the area was coal-black with no fiber in it what so ever, bear were in a transition between soft green growth and more sustaining food sources; great timing for the hunt. Bears were eating everything offered them which was an outfitter secret recipe.

My bowhunt started with an interesting, 40-mile, bumpy, drive to the stand site. Emotions spiked from excitement, anticipation too fear of wounding a bear. I do not fear black bear; but I do have a healthy respect towards them. My concern has more to do with the possibility of poor performance on my part then possible injury form a bear attack.

Continued on next page

P.R. Guides insists that bow hunters carry a shot gun for protection while hunting with them. During their pre-hunt briefing Pierre and Ron told of many aggressive encounters, both while they baited and with clients as well. The details of the encounters made me concede to their request and later the old 12-gage, single shot shotgun became a pleasant pacifier while baiting and hunting.

Highway to Heaven

The deeper into the internal of the province the more remote it became there were no signs of human influence other than forest industry activity and clear cuts; no power lines, homes, cell phone coverage or pavement only hundreds of miles of logging roads the ran anywhere from well-maintained to darn right scary to navigate. The only traffic was the occasional logging truck. My bait site was completely torn to pieces by bear activity and the treestand was more like an elevated hide on a waterhole in Africa; it was 12-feet high, built among dark cedar trees, about six feet square with rails and was completely brushed in. These tree blinds gave me confidence to draw without being seen and some wiggle room during the six hour waits. Seated there I marveled at the work involved with its construction and the fact that Ron and Pierre had made and maintained 51 of these over hundred miles of remote logging roads. My tree blind never made any sound during my set.

One hour into my wait a grouse began to drum, like an Indian on steroids, the bird drummed off and on, during my 3 hour hunt. Red squirrels ran about one scurried up one of the trees that supported my stand jumped from one rail onto my lap then to the other rail and down the other tree; this gave me quite the scare. The drumming and squirrel side show continued for hours then, as the sun touched the tops of the distant cedar trees he stepped out.

A coal black, large bear walked to the bait with only slight concern as to danger; he owned the bait and knew it. I set up in my chair and became excited it was a controlled excitement, bordering on shaking. Under my breath I kept telling myself not to mess this up. I then slowly removed the 72-pound Hoyt from the hook and began adjusting my body for a shot. Slowly I slid both feet under the chair to get into a position to stand all the while begging my 63-year old knees not to snap, crackle and pop loud enough to spook the beast below me.

The bear sniffed around the bait site checking things out then walked into the dark underbrush on the other side and disappeared. Then the beast appeared again, this time from behind me. He had circled and watched the bait site until he felt safe then reappeared. Again he walked to the bait lay in front of the bait barrel and began lapping grease from it.

The bear finely stood and I had an open shot at his heart/lungs as he lowered his head to retrieve a piece of bait. I drew and settled the pin on the vitals, squeezed the release and the arrow disappeared into the bear's side; he then charged off into thick alders. Soon I head the death moan and at that point I completely fell apart, knees began to shake and my heart pounded. My bear weight 304 pounds and had a 181/2-inch skull.



Hundreds of miles of wilderness, bear hunting was great. Check out the rare moose antler. (Photos by Val Marquez)

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



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