

THE MAINE BOWHUNTER

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MAINE BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

NOVEMBER 2011



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President's Report
NASP Grants Available

Food Plots In
Maine?

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Thanks for supporting the Maine Bowhunters Association !

ABOUT THE COVER

This month's cover illustrating a successful MBA member is courtesy of:

MBA Life Member

Harry Vanderweide

Harry killed this warthog in Namibia a few years ago. He hit the boar perfectly at 20 yards while shooting from a pit blind that faced a water hole. The hog went a hundred yards.

Harry said, "Wart hogs are a real bowhunting challenge at water holes because they come in so quickly, drink and depart fast. When a good shot angle is presented you need to come to full draw and release quickly." Congratulations on a fine trophy Harry.

Want to have your picture considered for the cover of The Maine Bowhunter? If you are part of the general membership we wish to thank-you for your support and offer to consider your hunting photo for the next cover! High resolution images only please.

E-mail them to: valdoris@metrocast.net.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT



President's Report

Dan Long, President

I hope you are having a successful fall 2011 hunting season! November and early December is a great time to take advantage of Maine's expanded archery season. Colder weather can sometimes lead bowhunters to switch gears, put on bulky clothing, pick up their deer rifle, and head to their favorite woods for the rifle season. This time of year is really a great time to take advantage of Maine's

expanded archery areas! Modified deer patterns at this time of year due to weather, changing food crops, and additional hunting pressure in rifle hunting areas can be a benefit to the bowhunter re-exploring the expanded archery areas. Grab your bow and spend some quality time close to nature and enjoy your personal contribution to an effective means of wildlife conservation.

Youth Education and Involvement -Grants Available

The MBA has used the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) approach to encourage youth participation at sportsman shows, outdoor events, and at expos throughout the State. This safe and effective program helps to correctly introduce kids to the sport of archery resulting in continued participation. The MBA's Education Director Jerome Richard has been tasked by the State to imple-

ment this program at schools across the State. If you know teachers or schools that may be interested in hearing about sources of funding and free instruction to teachers, please direct them to the MBA's Jerome Richard at 314-2885 so they can take advantage of this great program.

Landowner/Land User of the Year Awards Ceremony

October 18 the IF&W Landowners and Sportsman Relations Advisory Board and the Maine Snowmobile Association hosted the annual Landowner/Land User awards ceremony. I attended the event with the MBA's VP & Legislative Director John Hunt, and Public Relations Director Scott Abbott. We were happy to meet Mark Latti, who has been named IF&W's new Recreational Access and Landowner Rela-

tions Coordinator. Our friends at the Penobscot County Conservation Association (PCCA) and Maine Warden Service Captain Dan Scott were also a pleasure to speak with. Many other attendees made for a wonderful evening, meal, and awards ceremony. Congratulations and Thank-You to all of the awards recipients!

Landowner relations are a very important part of the MBA mission. Without the generosity of the private landowner we would find it very difficult to enjoy the things we love to do in the outdoors, including but not limited to bowhunting. We shall continue to hold these efforts in high regard and your efforts to respect land and build positive relationships with landowners has lasting legacy.

Thoughts of Spring?

Yes, I realize we are all planning to put fresh gas in our sleds, dust off our skis, look over our traps, and are begin-

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THAT
SUPPORT
YOUR MBA!

(Continued from page 5)

ning to move our warm clothes to the front of the closet! I am also looking ahead to the MBA spring banquet and can't help but get a little excited as we have already been receiving commitments of donations for the auctions, raffles, and games held during the banquet. Donations are our life's blood and they are what fund our legislative efforts to ensure we remain a strong voice in Augusta. These donations are also what fund our efforts to introduce kids to the sport of archery and support bowhunter education. Donations in the form of non-bowhunting and bowhunting related items and especially items of interest to the ladies are always appreciated! If you know of a business or skilled craftsperson that creates jewelry, knives, clothes, or can provide gift certificates, discount certificates, etc., please encourage them to consider a donation to the MBA for our banquet to support the efforts of this great organization! Our Donations Director is Keith Dirago and he can be reached at 751-7942.

**Protecting and Advancing
Maine's Heritage of Bowhunting**

As the MBA continues to protect the privileges we enjoy today, and to develop new opportunities for tomorrow we ask for your support in the form of yearly membership. You take pride in the skills you have developed as a bowhunter. You look forward to the bowhunt-

ing season and the thought of stalking, outwitting, and overcoming the awesome defense capabilities of the big game animals that Maine has to offer, especially with the short-range restrictions of a bow.

Please help to defend Maine's bowhunting heritage by visiting the MBA website and adding yourself or your family to our membership.

WWW.MAINEBOWHUNTERS.ORG

Existing MBA members: Do we have your up-to-date contact information? If you have not received recent e-mail correspondence from the MBA, then chances are we may not have a valid e-mail address for you. If you have changed your address or e-mail please e-mail: pstjohn@roadrunner.com with your updated contact information so we may include you when communicating to the membership. Thanks for support!"

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.

ASK FIRST!

Landowners deserve that courtesy.



L.L.Bean

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Lessons Learned

by Bill Valleau

Although I have not filled my deer tag yet, this season has already been one of my most successful ones yet. This will probably surprise those closest to me, like my wife and hunting friends, based on the actual events of the season so far. All of it really based on just one event.

I was hunting from a stand where I have previously taken deer, but this year had only seen a few does and those were all just shy of legal hunting hours. The field I watch is lined with oak trees, but different from years prior, there were no acorns. This particular morning was calm and my entertainment was a group of crows harassing a pair of hawks. Since I was already distracted and the morning seemed to be dragging, I hung up my bow and took out my cell phone. I began sending text messages, checking and sending e-mails and completely took myself out of the game. At that point, I was not focused on seeing deer, the position of my bow, or even the tag I hadn't filled yet.

Then it happened, a 6 pointer entered the field and was headed directly my way. The instant adrenalin and flash of excitement turned suddenly into panic. I was not prepared. How was I going to reach up and get my bow without startling my target? In slow motion, I reached up while maintaining my eyes on the goal that was now only 40 yards away and still coming. I wrapped my hand around the grip and pulled it down to my chest. The buck froze; 15 yards away and we were in a stare down. Since it was head on to me, I did not have a shot at that point. I pulled back coming to full draw, and it happened. The buck turned broadside, I found my green pin in the sight, placed it behind the shoulder and released.

The second I let go I thought something felt strange, something was different from the endless number of times I had shot in practice. The buck bounded up the hill, unharmed. I had missed. My arrow went under the deer at 15 yards? I was confused, the adrenalin turning to pure disappointment. I wanted to call the deer back

for a do over. In a final "salt in the wound" move, the buck paused, glanced back and fled out of sight. My first reaction was to get to my phone to send my wife a message to report I had just missed a 6 pointer. I climbed out of my stand, retrieved my clean arrow, and lumbered back to my truck defeated.

Later that day, I played the morning's events over in my mind repeatedly. I realized how foolish I had been. While cell phones are a safety necessity, I should not have been using it to fill what I had deemed to be "dead time". I was not prepared for a deer to walk out, and most certainly was not thinking about how important it was to monitor my surroundings. When I hung up my bow in the tree in front of me, I was actually throwing in the towel. As far as that awkward feeling I had when I shot, further analysis showed that my peep sight was not correctly coming around. I actually couldn't see through it at all. Did I miss this buck at a mere 15 yards because I was in such an unprepared state that I just found the green pin without using my peep sight? I should have drew my bow when I first climbed into my stand and could have made the necessary adjustment instead of checking my e-mail.

As a good friend of mine once told me, bow hunting is very personal. We work year round, hours of practicing, tune our bows, read about bow hunting, watch bow hunting shows and scout for deer. When we miss, it is not just hard, the feeling of defeat or lost opportunity seems to linger much more than if we had used a gun and missed. Every time we make mistakes, we can learn valuable lessons if we choose to. The lessons will be experiences that will make us and fellow bow hunters successful in future hunts.

Bill Valleau
184 Magog RD
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The MBA Needs Your Help With Harvest Records

by Deanna Page

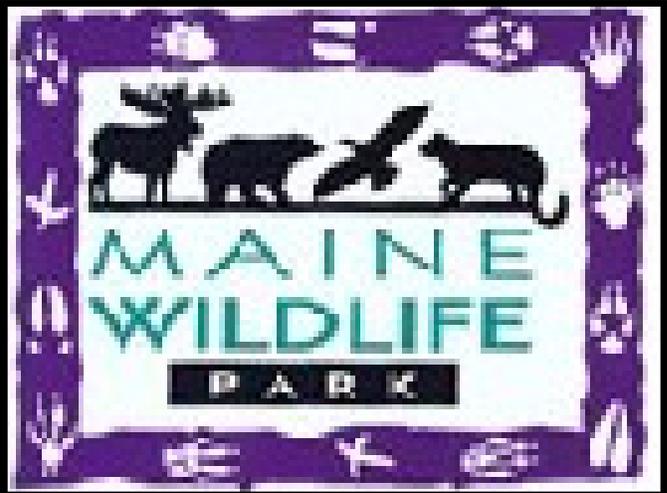
As the MBA Statistics Director I want to remind you to get your stats sheets filled out and turned in. The MBA needs ALL members to fill out a stat sheet for every animal you harvest with your bow. The stats help the MBA to get an idea on harvest success, type of equipment used, average shot distance, recovery distance. They are also used by IF&W as well to show the benefits of bowhunting in managing game animal populations.

Please help do your part by filling out a stat sheet for each animal you harvest. Also, just as important, PLEASE get a nice harvest photo of you and your animal for the album and slide show at the banquet. I think having a slide show during the banquet, and also showing harvest photos when members receive their awards and patch add a nice touch to the banquet.

As a side note, at the November meeting we will be discussing new patch designs for the next banquet. I will be presenting full color designs for these patches. Please attend the meeting and help decide what the best choices are.

Email me photos and statistics sheets at:
statistics@mainebowhunters.org.

Editor's Note: MBA Statistics Forms are located on our web page; look under, Related Links, MBA Interests.



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The Food Plot Culmination

by

John H. Hunt

The Environmental- ist Hunter

In one of my earlier articles I addressed food plots. I discussed their benefits, how to make one, and how to make it environmentally friendly. My wife and I made a food plot this year, and I thought I would share that experience with you.

Step 1. Took about 6 weeks of almost all of our spare time. We made this food plot out of an area of standing forest and actually started when there was still a couple of feet of snow in the woods. The first step was to get the trees cut and out of the woods for next years firewood. We decided to make the food plot about 1/4 acre in size, and put it on the back end of our property. We placed it as far as possible from our house and the road (about 350 yards away), and on the edge of some dark softwood growth. We wanted to put it in a place that would make deer as comfortable as

possible to enter. As I stated in an earlier article, it's good to avoid cutting cedars, as the deer depend so much on those in the winter, so we cut in an area that was primarily hardwoods, and killed two birds with one stone by harvesting about 5 cord of hardwood. I also made it in somewhat of an irregular shape, so as to provide more "edge" area. This first step took a long time, because of the fairly long haul to twitch the trees out. We also limbed the trees and burned all of the limbs on location. That adds a lot of work to the job, but keeps a nice neat area.

Step 2. Took about 2 days. After clearing out the area I needed to get it stumped out, so I hired someone with a backhoe to do that work. We had to locate areas where he could dig deep holes to put the stumps in and bury them after he had pulled them up with the backhoe. We also needed to bring in a couple loads of stone to make a decent road bed to get in and out, as it got pretty muddy in some areas while twitching out the wood, and

my tractor was starting to bottom out on me.

Step 3. Took about 2-3 days. After the area was stumped it was still pretty rough, with plenty of rocks in it. Fortunately, the guy who stumped the area out let me borrow his box scraper. I made many passes over the area to scarify out as many rock as I could, intermittently going around with my tractor and filling up the bucket with rocks to get them out of the planting site. Then I scraped it fairly smooth.

Step 4. took about 8 hours, broken up into 3 days. After determining my soil was way too acidic, I bought and spread lime to bring the pH up. After about a week I bought and spread fertilizer. Finally I planted seed. I thought a lot about what to plant there. When bow hunting, I try to set up in an area near multiple food sources, as I know deer will favor different food sources at different times, so "variety" was the key word. I planted a variety of different kinds of clover, some chicory, turnips and sugar beets. At this point, other than a supplemental fertiliz-

ing, our food plot was complete. Then we got to watch it grow. The cost of our food plot wasn't as bad as I thought, but the labor was more intense than expected. It cost us about \$1200.00 for stumping and road work, and about \$300 for lime fertilizer and seed. However, we did get 7 cord of hardwood out of it, and the cost in future years to maintain it will be much less. Next year we plan on putting in a couple of apple trees to add more variety.

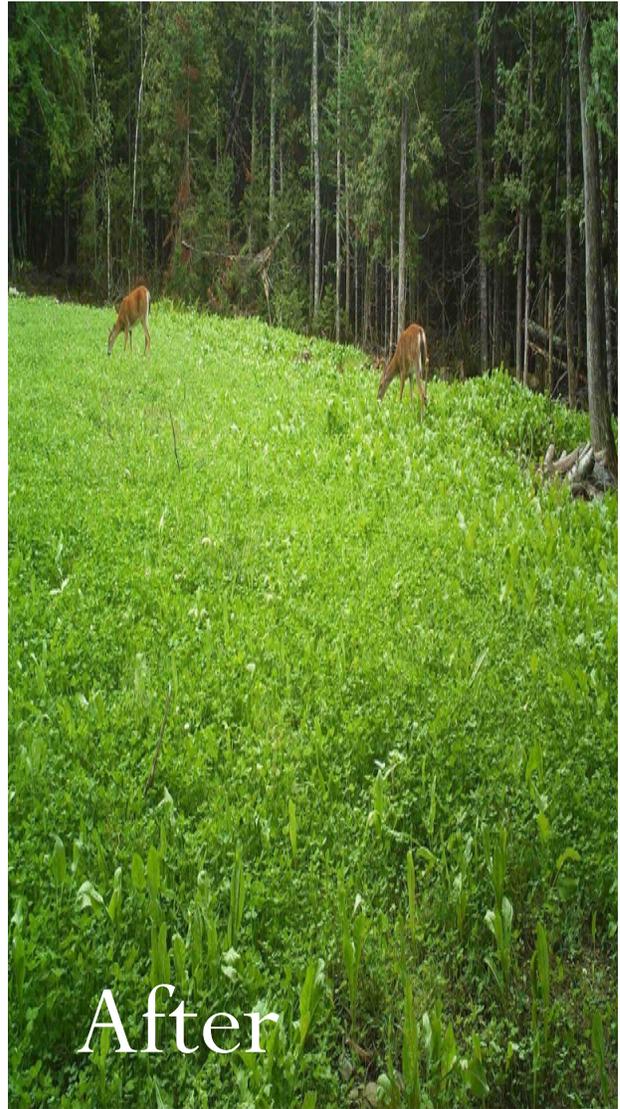
It's really rewarding to see the landscape change as you work on your food plot, and to see it green up nicely. It's also cool to put your trail camera out and see deer coming in to feed in it. Making a food plot adds a whole new dimension to deer hunting, and improves the habitat for the wildlife. Best of all, of course, was the culmination of the project when my wife shot a nice doe out of it the second day of archery season!

(Continued on page 10)

John's 2011 Food Plot Project



Before



After



Results



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Legislative Report

By Jerome Richard

While the state legislative session is over until January 2012 there are still a lot of things happening that affect hunting in Maine. This year I represented the Maine Bowhunters Association on the Pickering Commission. This group is made up of various groups from IF&W, members of the Maine Legislature, SAM, MBA, large landowner groups, and other outdoor user groups. The Pickering Commission, which is hosted by the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine and is a part of the SAM bylaws, reviews the Maine hunting laws, rules, and publications to try to reduce, eliminate, or clarify existing laws and rules.

Here are some of the recommendations made by the Pickering Commission.

The original definition of deer driving in Maine will return. There was confusion in the past about 3 people could conduct a deer drive, but it has never been legal to drive deer in Maine since 1972. Deer driving is extremely unsafe and has led to many fatalities with some just recently.

There were recommendations concerning treestands especially as it relates to unauthorized hunters using someone's treestand. The recommendation would be that no one could use another hunter's treestand without written permission being on the hunter at the time.

There were recommendations on outdoor education classes concerning hunter safety, bowhunter safety, and crossbow hunter safety classes. Recommendations includ-

ed the use of Internet classes, but the individual would still have to attend a one-day class and written test to prove the individual could safely handle the hunting equipment and other aspects of hunting.

There were recommendations about the current Hunter Safety Affidavit because it has been abused. The recommendation would include making it clear the affidavit would be checked by IF&W and violation of the affidavit would be a Class D Crime along with the specific penalty and fines listed in the law book and on the affidavit.

Currently there is a loophole that allows people to hunt the firearms season without the need of taking a Bowhunter Safety Education Class. The recommendation is that if a person wants to hunt with archery equipment at anytime, they must have taken a Bowhunter Safety Education Class.

The any-deer permit lottery system is being recommended for some changes including the landowner permit system which has been abuse by hunters claiming land they do not own. In the future the landowner applying for a landowner permit will have to document the property and that landowner will only be allowed one permit per property including any other family members. One permit for one parcel of land.

The subject of eliminating tagging and registering of any wild game was discussed and quickly defeated by an overall majority of the Pickering Commission because it takes away from some of the tools by Game Wardens to stop poaching.

The law book needs to be updated in regards to possession limits on turkeys and bears since now it is possi-

ble to have 3 turkeys per season and 2 bear per season.

The issue of revocation of licenses was discussed and IF&W is working with the Maine Attorney General's Office to make it possible that if an individual reaches a certain number of violations then they would become a felony which the individual would lose the right to possess firearms.

The Pickering Commission also looked at ways to simplify the current number of hunting licenses, but it did not appear there was a final decision at this time. Currently, Maine's hunting license system is similar to what other states do such as you pay for each species of game animal that you want to hunt. If you hunt more, then you pay more.

There was a recommendation on the length of hunting experience by a hunter to supervise a youth hunter and an apprentice hunter. As we have seen in the past 2 years, Maine has had youth and apprentice hunters shoot themselves because they were not under direct supervision of a responsible experienced hunter.

These are only part of the recommendations that the Pickering Commission has discussed. At this time, these recommendations will go to the Board of Directors at SAM before final approve and release of the recommendations. This whole process started back in March of 2011 and many meetings were held to come to these recommendations. I would like to think that we did a good job of keeping safety first, fighting illegal hunting, and protecting the natural resources of Maine.



Perry Hatch took this photo on his western hunt this year. Check his “Going West part III” article on page 16 to learn more about western hunting opportunities.

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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Newsletter Issue	Submissions Due
January	December 1
March	February 1
May	April 1
July	June 1
September	August 1
November	October 1



By Jerome Richard
MBA Education Directory

Education Report

By Jerome Richard

As mentioned in the previous newsletter the Maine Bowhunters Association has picked up the state wide coordination of the National Archery in the Schools Program from Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Over the past month or so we re-established contact with the original 11 pilot schools that first got involved in NASP in the spring of 2006 plus the other schools that MDIF&W and the MBA later got involved in NASP. Most of the schools are still going strong and some have competitive shoots with other schools using the NASP equipment.

The MBA is currently distributing six \$1,000.00 NASP equipment grants to any new school that wants to join the program, plus the MBA will cover the \$40 Basic Archery Instructor packet for up to 4 teachers per school that takes advantage of the equipment grants. Also, the MBA provide the one day, 8-hour training of the new instructors at no cost to the teachers or the school. No prior archery experience is required of the teachers.

Recently, I attend the Trapper's Rendezvous in Sidney, ME on Saturday, September 17th. During the Trapper's annual business meeting Skip Trask who is the lobbyist for the Maine Trapper's Association and the Maine Professional Guides Association reported a very interest, but dangerous trend spreading thru many state game agencies throughout the United States. To try to summaries, many state game agencies are being overtaken by non-hunters and anti-hunters with their own agenda of what wildlife management and conservation is about. Groups such as PETA and HSUS continue to say they want to help these state agencies

fight poaching which is good, but at the same time want to push their hidden agenda of shutting down hunting.

It's time for all hunters and fishermen to be aware of this growing trend in wildlife agencies. Recently, George Smith, former Executive Director for SAM, sent out an e-mail which I received asking many outdoor groups about ideas to reverse the declining number of new hunters and fishermen. I think that question needs to be extended to every game department in the United States. What is your game department doing to answer that question? What programs do the state game departments promote? Are the programs the state game departments promoting hunting related or are they more about general wildlife education with no emphasis on hunting or consumptive uses. Remember, hunters and fishermen (consumptive users) pay the bills to run the state game agencies, not the non-hunters and anti-hunters (non-consumptive users).

Are your state game departments increasingly shedding programs related to hunting and fishing by either eliminating them or transferring these programs to outside hunting organizations or game clubs? What are your game departments promoting at sportsman's shows that really introduce our youth and young people to hunting and fishing? Will game departments collapse due to apathy towards hunting and fishing, or will they reemerge with new funding from a more non-consumptive source that is against hunting and fishing?



All Points
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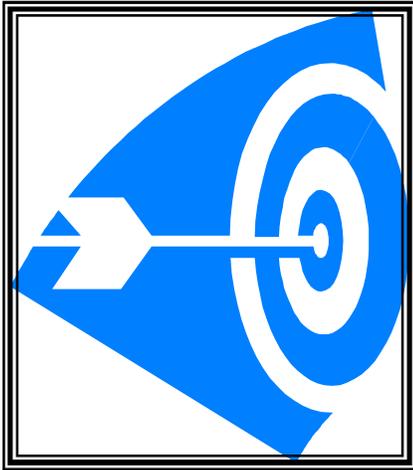
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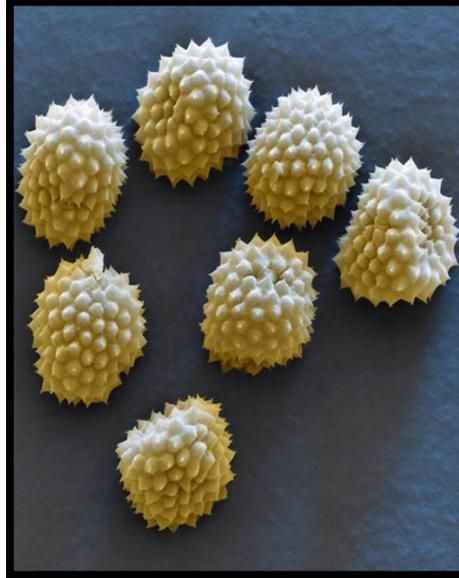
Notes from an “Old Bow Hunter”

Proper Cleaning and Care of Your Bow String & Cables

Good bow string & cables can be costly to replace. In addition, keeping them in good shape is vitally important for your safety and your bow's performance. Today's compound bows have a lot of energy that is carried in the strings & cables. Modern string materials are tougher but not indestructible. Too many bow hunters have had the experience of finding a damaged or broken string just a few days before that long awaited week off or expensive bow hunting trip!

Improper waxing or too seldom waxing your string will contribute to both dryness and premature wear. This can lead to shorter string life and possible string failure. Most bowhunters do not realize the importance of properly cleaning the bow string and cables several times during the year. The problem is that pollen and dirt act as abrasives and these particles work their way between string fibers. Have you ever looked at pollen under a microscope? Pollen grains are very hard and often sharp. The Pollen grains, (Yup, the same ones that irritate your allergies) drift about in the air and stick to your nicely waxed strings. When you shoot, Pollen & dirt become the

abrasives on and work their way to the inside of your string and cables, cutting or wearing the fibers a little with each shot! This will cause string & cables to appear “Fuzzy”...even though you wax your string regularly. See the close-up photo of ragweed pollen below.



Pollen under a microscope.

In recent years, several companies have come marketed “string care kits” and “string cleaning” solutions (i.e. Winner's Choice & Scorpion Venom) that every bowhunter should regularly use. These cleaning solutions are odorless and will remove much of the old wax on the surface and the hitch-hiking pollen & dirt particles before they work into and abrade the string fibers. Then the string can be re-waxed, rubbing the wax with a piece of leather or rubber so that the warmth of friction helps the wax penetrate the string. Scorpion Venom has a “Polymeric String Fluid” that is perfect for this job. It seems to penetrate between string fibers and soak into most strings that are not excessively waxed. It is a thin version of their “Polymeric String Wax” and they are chemically compatible and a perfect match for today's modern string materials. Other brands work just as well. Also be sure to keep your string loop waxed to reduce wear as well!

The type of string wax does make a difference. The common “White tube with red cap” is fine for most strings & cables, but more modern formulas have been developed

and will give better protection to modern strings used on many bows today.

Too much wax buildup can be detrimental as well. It gives more wax for abrasive particles to attach and the weight of the excess wax can slow down the performance of the bow. Too much wax can also be really messy. Excessive wax can be physically removed by wrapping a piece of serving thread (fine fishing line works too) around the string and cable. Pulling the thread along the string or cable will remove excessive wax. Then, it is best to use the string cleaning methods described above.

Traditional recurve and longbow strings should be treated the same way, but they do not have the same degree of wear from high energy string/fiber friction. The common materials are Dacron and fast flight...and may be either standard construction or “Flemish twist” and usually only 12-20 Strands. These strings should be cleaned and waxed as well, but it is slightly less critical. Traditional strings are easier & much less expensive to replace.

Anyone who has ever witnessed a string or cable break on a compound bow knows the importance of string condition and proper care. Safety is the primary concern, but economics and loss of hunting opportunity are always important to you, the bowhunter as well. Please be safe, enjoy the sport and be successful too!

Editor's note: Thank you Bob from Old Town Archery Center & Pro Shop for this very informative article. Please check out their ad in this publication.

SAGADAHOC COUNTY REPORT



Aidan Coffin Sagadahoc County Representative

Hope everyone has had the chance to go out and hunt. We are very fortunate in Sagadahoc county to have some towns that have expanded archery zones, so we can get out there and get an early start. We are also fortunate to have such great hunting in our county. Judging by the deer tagging station, looks like we are off to a great start.

For those of you who are new to bow hunting: don't get discouraged, get outdoors, and experience the hunt. The more you go, the better hunter you will become. You will see some deer that you can't get a shot at or you may miss a few, but you are always learning something new. Mistakes will happen. It is a hard, skillful and rewarding sport. Man vs. nature. No one can predict the outcome, which is what makes it so much fun. Even when the animal never comes out and presents itself. That's why it's called hunting and not shooting. So remember, it's not who can get the most deer or the biggest buck, it's enjoying nature, the outdoors, and having fun. So get out there and experience the thrill!

I hope everyone has a memorable, safe, and successful season. Dream big!

Aidan Coffin
Sagadahoc County Rep



Cora Coffin dressed up for Halloween standing next to Aidan's deer.



GOING WEST PART III

By Perry Hatch

So now you have talked to your hunting partner and have agreed to make a trip west. We have figured that a two week trip can be done for about \$1200 each. All things considered a very cheap two week vacation. Now where are you going to go?

ARIZONA

Arizona is a great place to archery hunt. Most archery deer tags can be bought over the counter. Unless you are very lucky an elk tag will take several years to draw. The season for deer runs during August and September but is also open during January right in the middle of the rut! The January season is also open with javelina making a great combo hunt. Javelina tags are on a draw basis but a lot of the units will have left over tags for sale. Hunting will probably be spot and stalk or sitting in a treestand or ground blind over a water tank. The cost is about \$350 for a license and deer tag.

NEW MEXICO

Another great place for deer, elk, and javelina. Archery deer season runs in September and for two weeks in January for some units. Elk can be a difficult draw. New Mexico changed the draw system this spring and the odds of a DIY hunter drawing a tag have been lowered by probably 40%. There is also a system in place that allows a hunter to skip the drawing and simply buy a tag from a landowner. As you can guess this can get real pricey. It may take several years with the new system in place to really figure out what the cost and odds will be. When it's all said and done I'm guessing it will be very poor odds and a hefty price tag.

UTAH

Another great state for deer and elk. Elk are again a very difficult draw and as in New Mexico a new system will be in place for deer tags. The odds will be hard to figure for a few years but they do give bonus points for not drawing which will help your odds in the future.

COLORADO

Here is a state every hunter should go to! While deer tags are on a draw basis and go to the applicants with the most points many units have tags left over every year. Like every western state that I'm aware of tags are drawn for a unit and NOT the whole state meaning some units can be drawn every year while others may take many years to draw. Deer tags are about \$325. My first archery mule deer was shot here over a water tank. While some units have limited elk tags many can be bought over the counter. These same units may also have an extra cow tag that can be bought giving the hunter two

elk tags. While hunting pressure can be high in these units a little hiking can find that magic spot. I found such a spot a few years ago while rifle deer hunting. I returned in 2010 and missed a 6X7 and called in two 4X3s to 25 yards before getting busted. Two locals had found "my" spot and we have become friends. They both tag bulls in the "spot" this fall including a 6X6. Most hunting will be during September.

WYOMING

Ah yes...my home away from home. I returned last week from 30 days of hunting here. This year was a rifle hunt but I had a great time taking a Shiras bull moose, a bull elk, and an antelope buck. All tags are issued through a drawing but with some planning can be drawn on a regular basis. Wyoming is one state that doesn't separate archery tags from rifle tags. This can be a bonus for some hunters who want to try archery hunting during the separate archery season but still come back later to try the rifle if they choose. Most archery seasons will run during September with antelope seasons opening in August. It can be a complicated place to apply so if you are interested please feel free to drop me an email. Antelope tags start at about \$275, deer about \$325, and elk about \$650 that also includes a fishing license.....and yes I throw in the fly rod every year and have a great time fishing. Wolves are expanding here and you will find plenty of grizzly bears in the NW section so use caution.

IDAHO

My first western hunt was here. While Idaho tends to be one of the more costly states for the nonresident it is still a great place to go. And while deer and elk herds are hurting from the wolf reintroduction there are still plenty of places to go. Most deer and elk tags are issued on a quota basis and sold on a first come first served deal starting in December for the following year. Several years ago elk tags would be gone in a week and deer tags in a month but have no fear as over the past several years the quota has not sold out meaning you don't have to buy your tags in December as they will probably not sell out at all.

MONTANA

Again big changes here last year in the draw system. You can apply for either a deer tag, elk tag, or a combo tag good for deer and elk. With the changes odds improved to almost 50-50 for the deer or elk tags but the combo tag was a 100% draw last year with 3,000 tags left over. Montana is probably the most complicated state to hunt but the hunting is great. Again the SW corner is hurting from wolves and grizzly bear but the animals are still there.

There are other western states that offer the "flatlander" a chance at antelope, elk, and mule deer but these are the most popular. You owe it to yourself to make just one trip. I convinced one of my brothers of this and he just came back from his 8th trip over the past few years. So use extreme caution...hunting the west can be very addictive!! Have a great season and feel free to drop me a line any time. perry-hatch@dishmail.net



TINA'S REPORT

My First Bear with a Bow

By Tina Richard

Jerome and I went on vacation for a bear hunt up at Mainely Adventures Lodge in Houlton, ME during the fourth week of the bear season. We got to the lodge at noon and hung out with Pam Ward the owner until the rest of the hunters from New York showed up in the afternoon. That evening we had a great feast of lobsters, steamers, steaks, baked potatoes, veggies, bake beans, and to top it all off with a great dessert. After dinner we settled around the camp fire and got to know one another.

Monday morning we woke up early for a hearty breakfast and hung out until we went out that afternoon for our hunt. My site was awesome; it was in some hard woods. I saw two big bears come into my site after legal hunting time, so I just watched them until it got dark. I heard them

come in making all kinds of noise and I thought it was a moose until I saw the first bear at the bait barrel. The bears were good size, one weighed 300 lbs. and the other weighed 250 lbs. I got a little nervous because I was only 18 yards from the bait barrel and about 12 feet off the ground. I could hear them blowing, snorting and snapping their teeth as they fought at the bait barrel. I was worried that they would come up my ladder stand. My guide came and got me around 7:30 pm. and I was glad to get out of there! The guide was nervous because one bear was still at the bait and finally took off only a few yards away.

Tuesday afternoon I went out and a smaller bear came into my site twice, but the bear did not present a shot. I said to myself you will be back tomorrow and earlier. I did not see the other two larger bears that came in on Monday.

Wednesday afternoon I went back out and the smaller bear came back earlier. I watched him for ten minutes washing his face, scratching his nose and eating the bait. I kept saying to myself present me with a broadside shot and the bear did! I set my pin where it belonged and the job was done at 6:00 pm. I was so excited that I shot my first bear with my new bow that I had to calm myself down before calling my guide to let him know I got one. I used my Mathew Passion which was set at 40

lbs. with a Beman 500 ICS Hunter carbon arrow tipped with a 75 grain G-5 Montec broadhead. All that I know about bowhunting, I learned from my husband Jerome and for that I want to say, "Thanks honey!!!"

I had a great hunt and out of nine hunters that was there, seven out of nine harvested bears. I was the only one out of all the hunters for that lodge this season got a bear with a bow!!! Pam was a great cook and fed us well, I think I gained a bunch of weight but it was worth it. If anyone would like to go on a bear hunt I would highly recommend Mainely Adventures Lodge, they will treat you well and the accommodations were excellent.



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Tina Richard with her Maine bear.



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2011 BOW: Becoming an Outdoors Woman

By Tina Richard

September 16-18, 2011 was another great weekend for Becoming an Outdoors Woman, there was sixty five ladies that attended. There was many events the ladies could try such as Learning to Look, Learning to See, Forest Ecology, Firearms and Range Safety, Introduction to Canoeing, Wild Edibles, Outdoor Survival, Campfire Cuisine, Wood Crafts, Introduction to Kayaking, Firearms Use and Marksmanship, Introduction to Fly Casting, Introduction to GPS, Landscaping for Wildlife, Skeet Shooting, Bucks and Does, Ropes Course, Birding in Maine, Self Defense for Women, Knot Tying, Fly Tying, Primitive Skills, Introduction to Map and Compass, Fishing in Maine, Basic Camping Skills, Introduction to Archery and Introduction to Muzzleloaders.

This was my third year doing the introduction to Archery which is my passion with the help of Mary Szwec. I love to pass on the sport whether it's target shooting or hunting which definitely is a skill and an art. Friday afternoon I had seven ladies I taught and they all fell in love with archery. They kept shooting and shooting and challenged themselves as well as their peers to see who could shoot better!! I even had a few ladies I taught last year come back this year because they really enjoyed it and had two great instructors! Saturday morning I had five ladies and they fell in love with archery and all they

wanted to do was shoot until the event ended. Archery is a very relaxing and safe sport, can't get and better than that.

Saturday afternoon I didn't have any ladies to teach so I learned how to tie a fly with Nancy Taylor. Many of you might know her as well as her husband Don; they are usually at some of the Sportsman Shows teaching folks how to tie flies. I tied a Black Nose Dace and it came out great, I am artistic so I was very picky that it was perfect in my eyes! Nancy was a great instructor and she was very patient with us as we went through each step. Fly tying is an art and very relaxing as well, I think I found another hobby I like.

For any woman out there that would love to try a weekend like this you could get a hold of me or e-mail Emily.Maccabe@maine.gov. Once you try it once, you will want to come back and learn more skills because you can't do everything in one weekend. I highly recommend BOW and you will meet some great ladies!



Cumberland County Report By Val Marquez

Cumberland County bowhunters have great archery shops available to them. Each archery shop has a full line of bows and gear to suit every bowhunters needs.

Winter is a slow time for archery shops so this is an excellent time to have archery gear tuned or replace strings and cables, etc. Also you should consider repairing or re-fleching arrows. Or how about ordering a dozen custom fletched arrow of your own design. Most pro shops can provide them.

Many local shops hold winter indoor leagues and shoots. Their indoor ranges are generally open to rent out for a small fee, as well. This is also a good time to enlist a pro to receive some shooting lessons. The improvements developed now with pay dividends during next years archery seasons.

Cumberland County offer a diverse environment, we have everything from malls to remote forest lands. We have the two largest outdoor retailers in the world, L.L.Bean and Cabela's at our back door. Both offer many outdoor activities and seminars to enjoy and improve your outdoor experiences.



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