



The Maine Bowhunter



The Official Newsletter of Maine Bowhunters Association

Spring 2015

Maine Bowhunters Association 2015 Annual Banquet

at JEFF'S CATERING & Event Center, Brewer, ME
take exit 5 off I-395 in Brewer

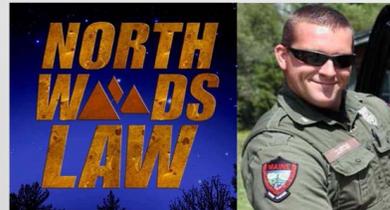
Date: Saturday April 18, 2015 Time: Doors Open 5 pm

Get ties by April 10 for Early-Bird Contest:
1 Night for 2 at Sally Mountain Cabins, Jackman

25% of banquet proceeds donated to **Outdoor Education in Maine**



2015 Special Guest Speaker:



Warden Alan Curtis

Visit www.mainebowhunters.org to get your Tickets now!
Single Ticket \$30 Couples \$55
Captains Table (8 tickets & entry into Special Drawing) \$230

MBA banquet sponsored by our many individual and business supporters!

Prizes
Silent & Live Auctions
Contests Games

To donate auction items please contact Deanna Page at 270-3400 Vendor table space available!

Inside This Edition

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President's Report Spring 2015

by Deanna Page



Spring may have "sprung" on the calendar, but Mother Nature sure has had different plans for us. Let's hope all this snow melts soon so the animals can move around better!

There are a number of things I want to update you on. First thing is the legislative session. We have given testimony on several bills. They are as follows:

LD 275, HP 193: "Removal of Crossbows from the 100 Yard Discharge Law." MBA is taking a position against this bill for the purpose of hunting, but do not oppose it for practice if safety measures are included. We recommend "path of the projectile" language to improve safe target practice set up in areas of high human population density. We have concerns of safety in areas of high human population. In comparison to vertical bows,

crossbows are locked and loaded, ready to be fired without having to draw back. A crossbow hunter is much more likely to hunt from the ground than a tree stand, causing the projectile to travel horizontally. A bowhunter is more likely to hunt from a tree stand because they have to draw the bow before firing it, making themselves easier to be detected by a deer. Therefore, an arrow is more often being shot in a more vertical direction, limiting its likely distance of travel. We are also aware of problems of "road hunting" with crossbows in some coastal towns.

LD 400, HP 266 "Hunters 70 & Older using crossbows". MBA is taking a neither for nor against position. We believe the small number of individuals taking advantage of this is have a negligible impact on the resource, and a negligible impact on the quality of the current bowhunting experience during archery only season on deer. We do want to make it clear however, that this in no way changes our position of being opposed to crossbows during archery only season on deer, and hope no one uses this legislation in the future as leverage to introduce further bills that would include crossbows in archery only season on deer. We place the resource first, and do not want more "legislation of opportunity" to diminish a very limited resource or to diminish the quality of opportunities we already have. We do agree that individuals with legitimate disabilities should also be allowed to use crossbows during archery only season on deer.

LD 479 HP318 "Sunday Hunting" MBA is taking a position against this bill. We recognize how unfair it is to many hunters who work 6 days a week, and don't have a chance to hunt, and are not opposed to Sunday hunting if many other things are in place. We do, however, believe a bill such as this cannot stand alone without considering the impacts it would have. Our resource is extremely limited. If passed, this would exacerbate efforts to improve both deer quantities, and buck quality. By adding Sunday hunting we would be adding many days of hunting pressure on an already diminished resource. The majority of the pressure would occur during open firearms season. when young bucks are most vulnerable to hunting pressure. There is an outcry among many sportsmen about the lack of "quality" deer, and the preponderance of young bucks shot. We need to realize, any additional opportunities for hunting deer in Maine will reduce the quality of opportunities we already have. Many landowners and landowner groups are opposed to Sunday hunting. We believe the hunting community in Maine is dependent upon quality relationships with landowners, as the vast majority of huntable land is privately owned. Sunday hunting should be vetted through landowners, and hunters should possibly be willing to sacrifice something in return for Sunday hunting. The impact on non-hunters should also be considered. Many non-hunters supported the hunting community when it came to the "Bear Referendum." It could be argued that we would not have won without their support. Again, if we can't offer this non-consumptive user group something in return for Sunday hunting, it simply makes hunters appear greedy, when the majority isn't. Bills like this also divide the hunting community when we should be standing together. The anti-hunting enemy is at our doorstep. The hunters in favor of this bill are not the enemies, nor are those opposed. We all share very common core beliefs, and know who our real enemies are.

David Trahan & SAM have 5 bills that are designed to help prevent anti hunting groups from coming to Maine and buying their way on the ballot as we saw with the bear referendum. Please go to Sportsman's Alliance of Maine website to keep informed. I cannot stress enough that all Maine's outdoor groups need to stand together. We may differ on some minor issues, but protecting our heritage is something we all have in common. United we stand, divided we fall. Please support SAM by joining; your membership dollars help them defend our heritage.

Our banquet is April 18th it's not too late to donate to the banquet. Just give me a call. The banquet is at Jeff's Catering in Brewer, doors open at 5pm. We have some great items coming in from our wonderful supporters all over Maine and beyond. Come join the fun and play some games, bid on some auction items and enjoy a great meal. Our guest speaker is Warden Alan Curtis of North Woods Law. Tickets can be purchased on our website www.mainebowhunters.org. Single tickets are \$30, Couples are \$55 and a Captain's Table of 8 is \$230. A Captain's table will get you into a special drawing for a framed whitetail print by Jack Paluh, gather your friends to fill a table!!

Notice: Our annual meeting and election is at 9am, May 3, at the Community Center in Augusta.

Apple Pie

By

Brad Magoon

Back when my dad was alive, he was spraying our large apple orchard which he has since passed on to me and my son. The tractor ran out of gas as he was pulling the sprayer uphill. My father had to walk back home through the orchard. Well, the sun had just set, and deer had come into the orchard to feed. When my dad got home he was talking about how he could almost touch the deer as he walked by them. When I went to bed that night I was laying there thinking about what he had said. All of a sudden it dawned on me. It had to be the apple spray on his clothes. They had gotten used to that smell!

The next day I went out to the apple sprayer that my dad had moved into the barnyard. Using the apple sprayer drain faucet, I filled a spray bottle with this magical cover scent. Then I got my archery gear and went to the orchard for an afternoon sit. Before climbing the poplar tree, I sprayed my clothes down with the apple spray, "real good." Just as the sun was setting, a doe and two fawns came right by me at 10 yds. This stuff was working! About 5 minutes later a nice



10 pt. buck came walking in at 10 yards with the breeze blowing right toward him. He never smelled me. I stood up to get ready to shoot, and started feeling very dizzy. Back then I only used a waist strap, and I was shooting with a finger glove. I tried to draw back, and didn't have any strength. I had to let back down. The buck was still just standing there. I tried again and just could not pull back the string. I tried a few more times, but it was all in vain. The buck just stood there watching the other deer in the orchard. When I finally sat down he walked out to the other deer. It was time to get down and go home, but I realized I was too dizzy to climb down. It finally dawned on me that it had to be the spray. I took all of my clothes off except for my underwear and threw them down on the ground. Then I took some deep breaths, and in about 5 minutes I felt OK to climb down. Even though it was only about 40degrees out, I left my clothes right there and walked home.

When I got in the house, my mother and father asked me why I didn't have my hunting clothes on. I told them about the apple spray. My father asked me if I took it out of the drain. I said yes. He told me that the mix settles on the bottom and you get a very strong mix there. They laughed pretty hard at me. Then when I told them about the buck and not being able to draw my bow, they laughed even harder.

My mother asked me if I learned anything. You know how moms want you to learn from your life experiences. To that I said. Yes!..... I'll drop the poundage! She just shook her head and went back to making her apple pie!



Man Cave

By

Perry Hatch

Do you have one? Do you want one? My journey for my Man Cave started several years ago.

When my wife and I moved into our newly constructed house several years ago we had two extra bedrooms. She claimed one for her library and I claimed the other as my room. Then child #1 arrived and I lost my room. I moved my "stuff" into the library. Then it happened again and child #2 arrived



and the library was also gone.

While I display antelope, mule deer, and bighorn sheep mounts in the living room I had a lot of stuff that needed to go someplace. I needed a Man Cave.

I cleaned the corner of the unfinished basement and built a 12 by 16 room. I keep a dehumidifier running in the room to make sure it stays dry. I added a gun safe, clothes cabinet, desk, cabinets, shelves, and a work area for my reloading tools. Several mounts are on the wall as well as pictures and plaques from the past. The shelves hold ground blinds, packs, sleeping bags etc. I keep tents and other gear in a nonworking chest freezer outside of the room in case a mouse finds his way into the house. In the freezer the tents have a double layer of protection.

The Man Cave has become a great place to reload ammo, study maps for future hunts, use exercise equipment, and a couple times a year the boys and I throw down sleeping pads with sleeping bags and do an overnight Man Cave campout.



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Solitude Part I

By
Dan Long



Looking back to my younger days as a rifle hunter, my most desirable hunting areas have always been well away from the road, in fact, way deep in the swamps where deer are “driven” due to the hunting pressure during the regular firearm season. I remember taking up to two hours of sneaking through the woods to get to where I felt deer would run when under pressure. This meant starting out well before daybreak with a small head lamp to get into to my tree stand where I could see out over the eight-foot high thick brush that covered the ground in the swamp. Even with this effort, I was still often discouraged by other hunters making their way through the swamp in search of a buck hiding out. That hunting pressure that I experienced was one of the greatest reasons for my turning primarily to bow hunting many years ago.

With a bow, I could have nearly all the woods to myself, and because the deer have not been pressured it’s far more exciting to hunt, knowing that you have a good chance to see more than just a tail after day break and well before sundown. It’s also a great challenge to “pattern” deer as they move from their summer feeding habits to fall areas.

The thrill of taking a big deer with a bow and the increased number of deer has drawn me to expanded archery areas that are somewhat closer to home than the big woods of firearms season. However, there is a trade-off. The expanded archery areas attract many hunters for the same reason. Before this last hunting season I was beginning to feel that I was back into the same situation that discouraged me during rifle season; too many hunters in the woods! By chance, and thanks to a few good friends I happened upon a solution to this high hunter density problem in the fall-winter of 2014.

Work had me tied to my desk for the early bow season and rifle season. I was convinced that this year I would not hunt and thought I seriously must take a hard look at my priorities.

(Continued on next page)

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(Continued from previous page)

In early December a good friend offered to have me use his tree stand which was set up on a parcel where he and I had hunted for 5 or 6 years in the expanded archery area and coincidentally, he had taken a buck a few weeks back. I talked to the land owner and made sure that I wouldn't be intruding on their December plans and had the green light.

I had shot a few times during the season, and I was confident that if given the opportunity I could hit the target. What I had not planned on, was the extreme temperatures! The first day off from work was Tuesday December 9 and looking at the weather the night before, it was forecast to be in the teens! I didn't know if I would be able to pull my bow in temperatures that cold, but what I really desired was to get into the woods and have some time to myself anyway, so I was going.

I grabbed my downhill skiing polyester/lycra base layers, regular long underwear, and down long underwear along with a wool and a down vest and wind stopper pants and jacket. I was going to wear it all! I was careful not to restrict my arm movement with too many clothes, and the wool and down vest worked very well. Tuesday morning it was 18 degrees and as I hung my fanny pack, empty milk jug, and thermos of coffee in the tree in the dark I knew I was crazy but I was smiling.

Sound really travels in cold weather and I could hear ducks in a part of the river that was still open. I made sure I could pull my bow back, and sit and stand and draw without making noise and sat back down. A fox walked by before daylight at 10 yards. It didn't take long for the stress of work to melt away—or maybe it froze and fell off! I was having a ball, not feeling pressured to get something done, and the grey squirrels were entertaining to watch as they ran back and forth with large nuts in their mouths. I pulled my bow back every hour or so just to make sure I would be able to, without too much struggle in the cold and I had no problem at all. I sat for five and a half hours not seeing any deer. After changing in my vehicle (that's another story) I tried to get caught up at work until heading home to hit the sack early after a long day.

{To Be Continued in our Next Issue}

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**To all our Armed Forces
THANK YOU!
From everyone at the
Maine Bowhunters Association**



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