



The Maine Bowhunter



Dedicated to the Preservation of Bowhunting for over 50 years!

The Official Newsletter of Maine Bowhunters Association

Spring 2018



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Cover Photo Credit: Tina Richard



President's Report

By Deanna L. Page



If you missed the banquet on April 21st, you missed a great time! If you were able to attend, THANK YOU, I hope you enjoyed it and were able to take home some nice items from a game, raffle or auction!

I would like to Thank the Banquet committee for your dedication over the past five years to transforming our banquet into a great night and fundraising event. We have worked to create some fun games and raffles to bring a little excitement to those of you who come to enjoy a great evening. Without all of you, this would not be possible.

Each year the Officers and Reps of the MBA form a Banquet Committee to gather donations from all of our awesome Sponsors who really make this all come together. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our wonderful supporters from the multi-million dollar companies, to the small Mom & Pop stores and individuals from across the state and beyond.

In the past five banquets, we have raised a total of \$37,001.81, with this year's banquet putting us at nearly \$44,000 raised!! Over \$10,000 (with another \$1700 from this year) of this went directly to outdoor education in Maine (sending kids to outdoor summer camps, supplying equipment to several education programs, etc). We were also fortunate enough to donate \$15,000 to help defeat the 2014 Bear Referendum.

To continue making this a success, we need your help going forward. Please consider giving a few hours of your time to help at Sportsman's Shows, to help at future banquets, become an MBA Rep or Officer. The workload is much easier when it is shared among many. We had a few people step up after last year's banquet, and it has been a huge help to the organization. PLEASE consider offering us some of your time, we can't stress this enough.

We would love to have anyone willing to give some time of their own become involved. This organization is the group that protects, promotes and preserves our bowhunting tradition in Maine, we need input from bowhunters across the state, just like yourself....let your ideas be heard! Contact myself at mainebowhunter68@gmail.com, or

Thank you so much for your membership,
Deanna L. Page
President, Maine Bowhunters Association



Big Game Award Winners:
Josh Dykstra– Largest Buck
Ken Kain– Largest Bear
Brad Magoon– Largest Doe
Mike Petruk– Largest Turkey



Our Auctioneer Paul Jacques reading the Winning Door Prize Numbers.



Our Great Unity Archers who help us at Sportsman's Shows & the banquet.

From the Desk of Our Deer Biologist

Maine Deer Winter Mortality Study

By

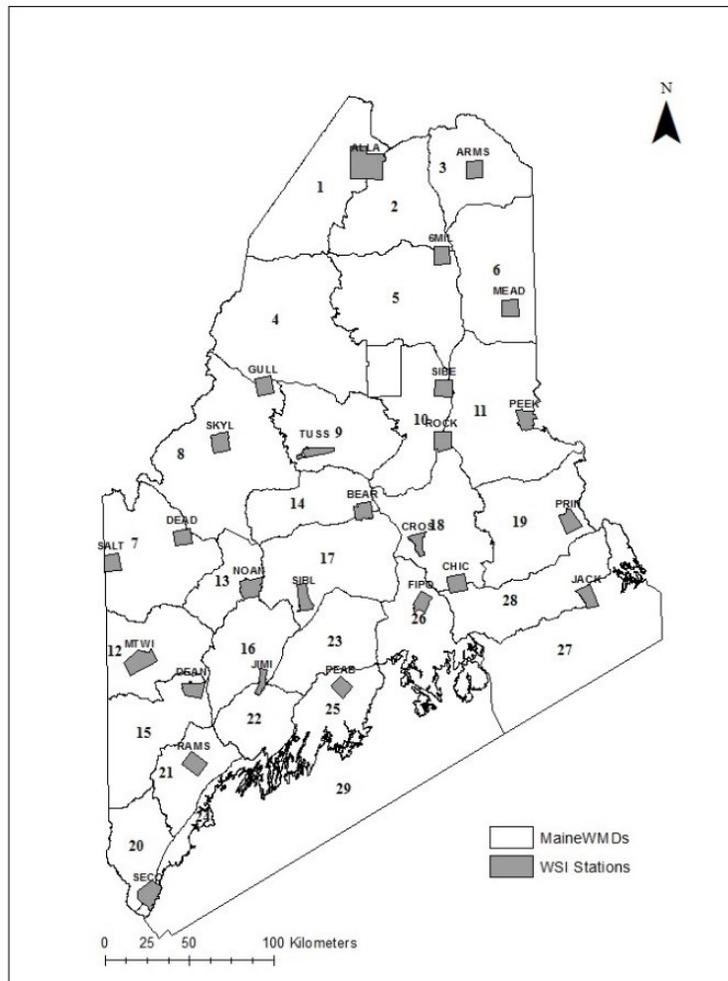
Nathan Bieber Lead Deer Biologist MDIFW



Since the early 1970's, Maine has used the winter severity index (WSI) to describe how Maine winters impact winter mortality rates (WMR) in deer. WSI is one of the cornerstones of deer management in Maine and impacts the number of Any-deer Permits (ADP) allocated for hunters each year. Presently, doe harvest objectives are determined based on herd structure goals and current herd structure within a Wildlife Management District (WMD). These objectives may then be increased to allow for a higher doe harvest if WSI is low (winter is mild) or decreased to further limit doe harvest if WSI is high (winter is severe). Severity of the previous winter may also be taken into consideration.

Because ecological relationships change over time, this relationship between the severity of winter and winter mortality rates must be periodically reevaluated. In 2015, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (MDIFW) began a 5-year study to reassess the relationship between our winter severity index and winter mortality rates. Doing so requires data on winter temperatures and snow conditions, which are used to calculate a winter severity index, and data on the survival rates of deer in the winter.

(continued on next page)



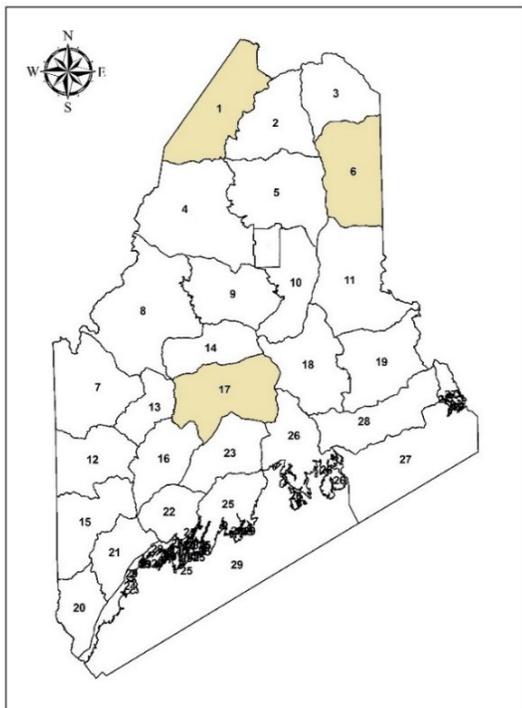
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Winter severity is calculated at 26 monitoring stations throughout the state by tracking the site's temperature and snow depth in softwoods cover and in the open. Temperature data are recorded by electronic temperature loggers, and snow data are recorded by biologists and volunteers in the field. At the end of winter, in early April, data from temperature loggers and snow measurements are used to calculate a winter severity index value, which will help inform how many Any-deer Permits are allocated for the upcoming deer season.



Since 2015, MDIFW has been capturing white-tailed deer and fixing GPS collars to them to monitor their movements and survival rates. From early January to early April, MDIFW researchers are in the field capturing deer in wildlife management districts (WMDs) 1, 6, and 17.



The fates of these deer in conjunction with data on the severity of the winters they encounter will be used to re-evaluate the relationship between WSI and WMR and help shape deer management in Maine in the future.



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Why I Carry - A Woman's View

By
Stacy Warren

When I first started hunting, my husband chaperoned me and took me to my treestand in the dark because I was afraid of the woods; that is, I was afraid of what I couldn't see. I wasn't used to the sounds of the forest and which animals make what sound. I didn't grow up spending my time in the woods, so it was all new to me. On more than one occasion I've watched other hunters walk by me in my treestand and not even see me. And more than once, I've had a hunter whom I don't know, approach me while I was hunting. No matter when it happens, it's just plain rude, but I've never been afraid.

Over the years, I've become very comfortable in the woods, and I no longer need the hand-holding I once relied upon; however, being comfortable in the woods isn't the same thing as being a woman alone in the woods. When I hunt with my rifle, I never worry about being a woman alone in the woods. I'm not the paranoid type, and it's never been an issue, but I always had my rifle. I hunt in areas that are family lands, or where private land owners give us permission. I pretty much know who is hunting and when they're hunting, and a rifle automatically provides me protection. So when I began bow hunting, I didn't automatically carry a handgun along with my bow. In fact, it never crossed my mind. I went about my hunting business as I always did.

Then came that afternoon, as I was walking down into my stand, I was met by two young men carrying a shotgun *in my woods*.

Men I hadn't expected. Men I didn't know. And I didn't like that since all I had was my bow. This was my first, *Oh crap*, moment. As they approached me, the only upper hand I had on the situation was that they were hunting in my area, where they didn't have permission. I overheard one even talking about my family and how we hunt there...so they knew us. I kept reminding myself that I had a phone, but that might not even be an option should I have a confrontation with these guys. I was at a definite disadvantage, but didn't want to make it obvious.

I remained authoritative but friendly. I asked them where they were hunting because I was hunting there. After a brief awkward conversation, they knew I was annoyed and they were in the wrong, so they tucked their tails and headed back from where they came. At this point I was more annoyed than anything. By the time I got to my stand, I was late by a half an hour, and watched the tail of a deer as it bound off. That night's hunt was ruined.

A few days later, I decided to try again. I was on a quest to get my royal crown/grand slam and I wasn't about to let any opportunity to hunt go by. It was



perfect weather for bow hunting: cool and almost no wind and the rut was close. So I left work early and headed into the woods. As I neared my stand, I was once again met by one of the two men I had met days earlier. I was more than annoyed, but apprehensive because he had spotted me coming down the trail, and was walking right toward me. This time, he was carrying a rifle, not a shotgun, and I with only my bow. My second, *Oh crap*, moment. He wasn't bird hunting either. He acted nervous and tried to make light talk and claimed he was hoping he'd see a coyote...okay. Once again, the situation came into my favor as I had basically caught this guy hunting out of season even though I couldn't prove it. This guy had basically been traipsing all over my area where I had planned to hunt. Second hunt ruined.

After this second round of uneasiness, I resolved to the fact that I needed to carry a handgun, if not as protection, then simply as a peace of mind. I learned long ago that one thing a woman should never be is the victim of opportunity. It's better to feel safe than to be a victim, and if that means taking along a gun, then so be it. And besides, John and I carry a gun while we're bear baiting, camping, and trapping, so this would be no different, except John wouldn't be with me.

I've had training and I have a concealed carry permit so when I headed into the woods, I brought along my .44 Taurus for the remainder of the season. It's like a cannon in my hand, but I can shoot it. I've since moved to a different handgun, a Taurus P38 ultralight that's easier to shoot, and also lighter to carry.

It seems strange to say that carrying a gun made that much difference, but it did, for me. I particularly liked having it when I hunted expanded archery in the city. Hunting in unfamiliar areas took the edge off worrying about being bothered or confronted by a stranger. I could focus solely on my hunt.

When it came time to hunt again, instead of heading back to the same spot, I found a new one and set up a blind. I'm happy to say that I got my first bow deer and my royal crow quest was complete.

Being a woman hunter in the Maine outdoors is one of the most enjoyable and empowering things I've done in my life, and if carrying a handgun while bow hunting is going to make me feel safer while I do the things I love, then I'll continue to carry. I've even taken it along on my adventures with girlfriends, and it's been well received. Whether I'm bird hunting, fly fishing or bow hunting, I have my handgun with me.

If you've wanted to do things but the fear of doing something is because you feel vulnerable, then you might want to consider getting a handgun, training and certification to carry it (even though a concealed carry permit isn't required...for now).

Happy hunting!

Staci Warren is a co-founder and board member of Women of the Maine Outdoors, an associate member of the New England Outdoor Writers Association, and has her own blog (Mymainelygirladventures.com) where you can read about more her adventures.

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From everyone at the
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