

# The Maine Bowhunter



SUMMER 2019

Official Newsletter of the Maine Bowhunters Association



## Keeping Your Cameras Up All Year

with Bud Utecht

) 06 / 27 / 2017 05 : 53AM CAMERA 1

In this edition:

**Two Presidents' Reports**

**Clearance for Crossbows**

Dedicated to the  
*Preservation of Bowhunting*  
for over **50** years!



## Outgoing President's Report

with **DEANNA L. PAGE**

If you missed our 2019 Banquet, 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 its dedication over the past six years to transforming our banquet into a great night and fundraising event. We have worked to create some fun games and raffles to bring excitement to those who come to enjoy a great evening. Each year the Officers and Reps of the MBA form a Banquet Committee to gather donations from all of our awesome sponsors. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to our wonderful supporters from multi-million dollar companies, to the small Mom & Pop stores and individuals from across the state and beyond. In the past six banquets, we have raised over \$50,000!! Over \$12,500 of this went directly to outdoor education in Maine (sending kids to outdoor summer camps, supplying equipment to education programs, etc). We were also fortunate enough to donate \$15,000 to help defeat the 2014 Bear Referendum.

To continue 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, or 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 become involved. This organization is the group that protects, promotes, and preserves our bowhunting traditions in Maine. We need input from bowhunters across the state, just like yourself — let your ideas be heard! Contact myself at [mainebowhunter68@gmail.com](mailto:mainebowhunter68@gmail.com) or any of the Officers or Reps listed in this newsletter.

This will be my last President's Report. I have served as President of the MBA for several years, and have decided to pass the reins to someone else. On May 5th we had our annual meeting and election, the positions up for election were President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary, with a vacancy in the Legislative Director's position. Your new President is **Scott Abbott** — a Lifetime Member who has actively dedicated over two decades to this organization. Your new Vice President is **Steve Gray** who has served as an MBA Rep for years and the past several years as Secretary.

**Beth Bellegarde** has stayed on as Treasurer/Membership Director. I have stepped into the Secretary position. Long time bowhunter, **Troy Frye** has offered to fill our vacant Legislative Director position which will be a huge help for the organization when it comes to keeping an eye on upcoming legislative issues that will effect bowhunting in Maine. I would sincerely like to thank everyone who has dedicated time in helping MBA be an important part of the hunting heritage in our great state over the past 50 years.

Thank you so much for your membership,  
**Deanna L. Page**  
Outgoing President, MBA



## Incoming President's Report

with **SCOTT ABBOTT**

To start my first President's Report, I would like to thank the MBA Board of Directors for putting their trust in me to take the job of President. **Deanna Page** has done an outstanding job as the leader of the MBA and has raised the

MBA to a new level in the Maine hunting community. The work and time Deanna has given to the MBA has made it a very respected outdoor sporting organization.

I would like to give the MBA Members a little background about me. I'm a very avid outdoorsman. I have been with the MBA for 25+ years. I have been a Master Maine Guide for 22 years and I'm a third generation Maine Guide. My father, Walter Abbott and his father Warren Abbott were both also guides. Even with all the outdoor experience on my Dad's side of the family, the person that got me into archery was my grandfather on my Mother's side, Fred Stevenson. He was raised in Nottingham England — it's funny how things happen in life.

What got me into the MBA? I was at the Orono Sportsman's Show and I talked to the person at the MBA booth. That person was Jeff Hopkins, a well-known MBA Board member. Jeff was the first person to get me thinking about joining any kind of outdoor group. Jeff has been a major part of the MBA for many years, and truly has been a great friend of mine. I would like to thank Jeff for bringing me on board.

### **My goals for the MBA:**

- All outdoor groups are not possible without memberships. I would like to see our group increase our members.
- Make our voice stronger in Augusta.
- Get more members involved with the MBA.
- Maintain our very strong relationship with other outdoor groups in Maine.
- Keep Maine bowhunter's rights and opportunities, and grow the sport of bowhunting in Maine.

In closing, I would like to invite anyone that would like to get more involved with the MBA to shoot me an email or give me a call at 356-6523. It has changed my life, and it may change yours.

Thank you for your membership,

**Scott Abbott**

*Incoming President, MBA*



## **On The Mend** with Brad Magoon

### **A nice public lands buck just before a not-so-nice break.**

Hello MBA members and non-members. Hope you all had a safe and successful season last year. I was in Kansas from the middle of October to the second week of November hunting mostly public land. I took a button buck on private land and an 8-pointer on public land. Cousin Leif hunted two weeks with me but had to go to his stepson's offshore wedding just before the rut started, but put two in the freezer back in Maine. I didn't get any deer in Maine.

On November 10th, while back in Maine, I was walking out of the woods in the Expanded Zone and slipped on some wet oak leaves. I fell with all my weight on my right foot and broke my fibula. I should have gone to the hospital that evening, but instead I walked on it for 6 days. After a week of some solid pain without improvement, I decided to get an x-ray because it was not getting any better.

Doc put me in a walking cast the next day. Two months of that and then on to some intensive rehabilitation. I started getting better by mid-March. Lesson learned — if you think you should go to the hospital then do it! Think long, think wrong!

***It was definitely not worth waiting.***

Please write some stories for our newsletter!

**Brad Magoon**



## Crossbows Get a Three-Year Trial

with **Troy Frye**

My name is Troy Frye and I am the new Legislative Director for the Maine Bowhunters Association. I have been on the MBA Board of Directors in the past, taught bow and firearm safety courses for MIF&W for 10 years, took the crossbow safety course, have an associates degree in criminal justice, work full time as a corrections officer for a county jail, and I am a Maine Guide. I am very outspoken about deer hunting and have done extensive study on Maine's whitetail deer, moose, and bear harvest history. Many of you have probably seen my posts on the Maine Deer Hunters Facebook group. I promise to do the best job I can to represent the Maine Bowhunters Association and the archers of this state.

In 2020 the Maine archery season will undergo a transformation that will be unwelcomed to many bowhunters. The crossbow will be introduced into the October archery season, for a period of three seasons. The person using a crossbow will be required to have an antlerless deer permit to legally harvest an antlerless deer. The crossbow will not be permitted in the expanded archery season. At the end of the trial period in 2022 the commissioner will be required to submit a report to the joint standing committee of the legislature involved in the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. This report will include a recommendation, concerning the future of crossbows in the Maine archery season.

In 2015, there was a crossbow law passed, for the recreational target practice within 100 yards of a building without the owner's permission. This law doesn't authorize a person to allow a projectile discharged from a crossbow to enter the property of another person without permission. Laws on hunting with a crossbow still follow the laws of firearm discharge, at least 100 yards away from a dwelling without permission of the landowner.

I truly hope that the transition from a rifle/shotgun to crossbow is taken with great care and a tremendous amount of practice. As many archers already know, there is much more practice required to be consistent with archery gear than with a firearm. The crossbow is held like a firearm but still must deal with arrow trajectory of a regular archer, this takes time and practice to learn. Not sure how the crossbow enthusiasts can claim this is easier for beginners; weight difference, heavier draw weight and less mobile (many will have to shoot from a rest).

I am not a supporter of crossbow in archery season. I will be watching the results of this new law and will certainly keep everyone informed while this three-year trial period is in motion.

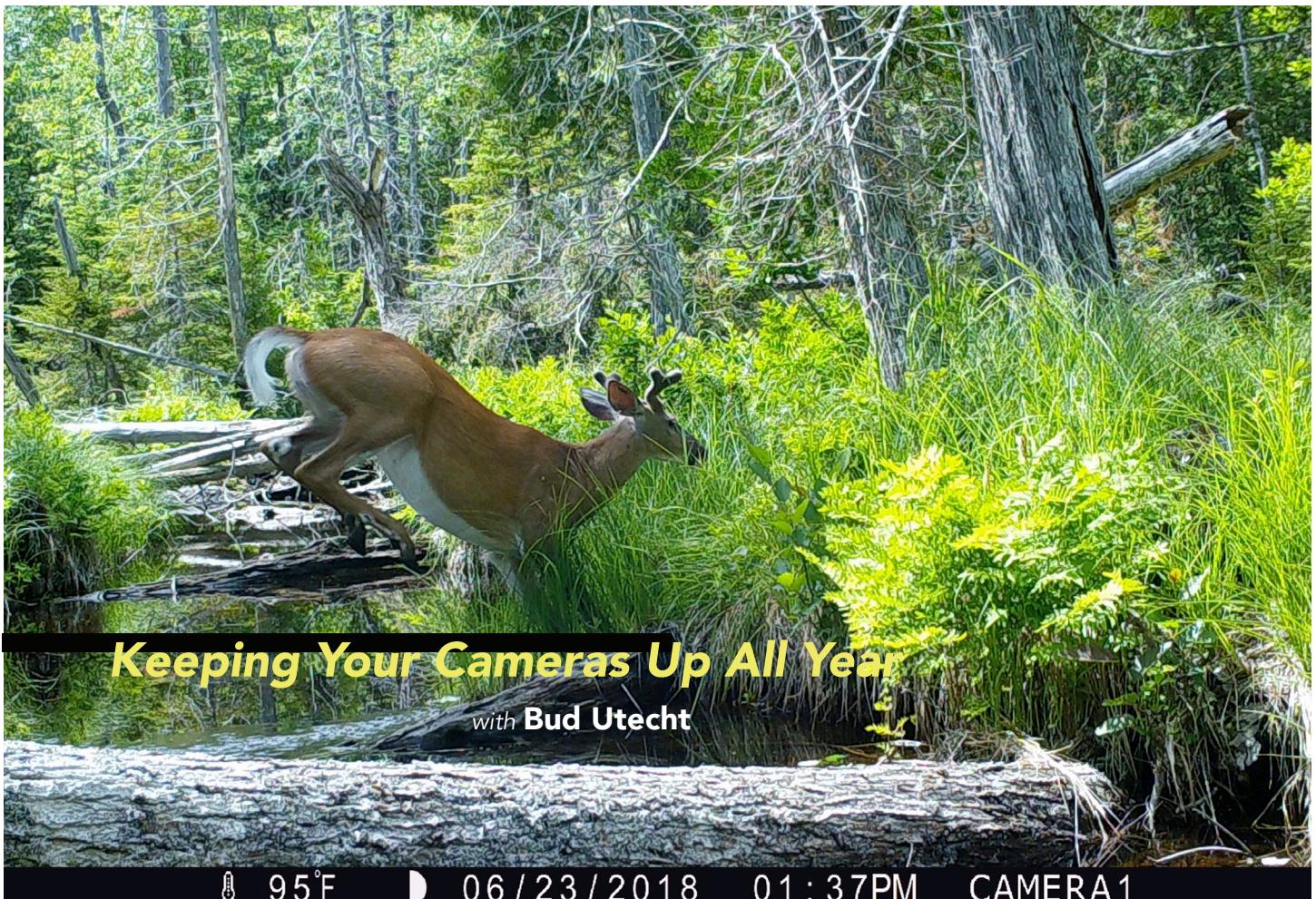


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## Keeping Your Cameras Up All Year

with Bud Utecht

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While my game cameras are not specifically used for hunting, they are placed in areas which I believe will show me the game animals I will seriously start tracking come fall. I have read plenty of articles telling me that game cameras are only good for showing where the buck was. So, are they really useful for hunting or better yet scouting? I tend to think there is more to it then simply placing a camera out in the fall.

Currently, I have over eighty cameras in the field with a good portion targeting deer in several areas around the state. First off, game cameras will tell you if there are any nice bucks in the area. The cameras also tell me where the does hang out, and I'm sure I don't have to tell you the importance of that. So now I can tell you how to pattern that buck right into your freezer. Just kidding, you will not be able to pattern your bucks. You will however be able to know where they like to be and where they will eventually show up.

Most of my cameras are up all year and by leaving them out, I can determine some interesting things. The first one is tough for some people to believe. Find the location where the does have their babies. Why? Because this is where the doe will raise her babies and therefore the location where the bucks will come check on her in the fall. Another reason for finding the does is that the scrape does not happen solely in the fall. I have witnessed scrapes that does go to all summer long. Towards fall, a few young bucks will usually start checking the scrape out as well. Sometime in October the big boy will pop in to let everyone know the territory belongs to him. He may not come back for a while, but he will come back and maybe a few other big boys too.



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### **By leaving my cameras up all year, I can determine some interesting things.**

While there is no guarantee that you will be there when he comes back, it certainly helps increases your chances of seeing him when he does with a camera in that location. Those bucks you thought went nocturnal will surprise you by showing up during the daylight at least a few times during the fall. Do not lose hope when you only see the big buck on your camera at night for a stretch of time. The deer have their winter coats on this time of year and they will move when it's cooler, especially early in season. When buck activity increases, or the rut changes, you can count on them moving around day or night defending his territory.

In searching for the buck, set your cameras off the trail and not in plain sight. Search for a clump of trees and strap it to the center one to help disguise. If the camera is in their path, the animal will avoid it. However, if the camera is placed off the path they typically don't pay much attention. If your camera has infrared flash, the animals will most likely see it. It may be time to upgrade to black flash and be more discrete. Remember, it is okay to experiment, especially this time of year. They will forgive any mistakes by fall.

**Bud Utecht** is an avid wildlife enthusiast and trail camera specialist. His trail cameras are strategically placed throughout the Maine Woods. Feel free to email Bud for trail camera tips at [bud@whatsinyourwoods.com](mailto:bud@whatsinyourwoods.com)



77°F



08/05/2018

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CAMERA1



36°F



10/31/2017

08:15AM

CAMERA1



## Getting Ready for the Season?

with Randy Gaetano

### Total Archery Challenge - Pico Peak, Vermont : 76 yards

With such a late spring, feels like summer just started — but our favorite time of year is right around the corner. Like most, I like to shoot year round. But over the next month, we should all be ramping up our focus and shot count. Try shooting a single shot with complete focus here and there too, something to replicate the moment of truth. I also like get my cardio going — short 3-5 mile runs every other day and a little bit of weight training to get my endurance to where it needs to be.

There are a lot of fun opportunities to get ready too. My good friend Dan Bothwell and I hit the Total Archery Challenge at Pico Peak in Vermont. The courses were challenging and really fun. We both left the 3-day shoot with smiles on our faces, a couple of broken arrows, and an expanded comfortable max distance. It's also time to start getting the bear sites active again — a great way to get back in the woods reading sign and getting in tune. I'm hoping to get up north to help my friend Dan do some baiting for his bear guiding service — M.B. Guide Service out of Eustis. If you're looking for some excellent bear opportunities his outfit puts out some good numbers.

My summer favorite, though, is just shooting 3D targets with the guys at the club every Wednesday night. You really can't beat an evening of 15 targets, a few long shots for beers and bragging rights, followed by some good laughs, grilled wild meats, and potato salad. Here's to a good fall!

**Randy Gaetano**

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# MAINE BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

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Beth Bellegarde 357-5656  
Webmaster: Paul St John, 310-8303  
Editor: Randy Gaetano 653-7033

**WRITE AN ARTICLE FOR THE MBA NEWSLETTER FOR A CHANCE TO BE PUBLISHED & WIN \$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE!!**

We're looking for more articles so we can grow this newsletter. News and story submissions will be entered into a drawing each issue. The selected article will go to print and the winning author will receive a \$50 gift certificate to their Maine bow shop of choice.



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For information check our web site at:  
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## MBA Membership Application

Or join online at [www.mainebowhunters.org](http://www.mainebowhunters.org).



New     Renewal

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Family/Household Members: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

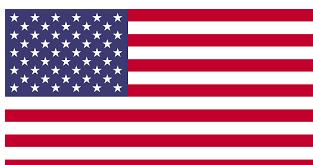
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: **Very important!** Print clearly: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Dues:  Family/household \$30     Affiliate Club/business \$95

Mail to: **Maine Bowhunters Association, PO Box 5026, Augusta, ME 04332**



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