

THE MAINE BOWHUNTER

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE MAINE BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

WINTER ISSUE

THE FIRST LADY OF THE MBA



RUTH HUNT

Ruth killed the large doe with her Mathews Jewell bow set up and tuned by Lee Robinson at Audetts's Sporting Goods in Winthrop.



President's Report

John Hunt

President's Report

I'd like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the great things Maine Bowhunters Association has done and is doing recently. Most importantly, over the past couple of years we have built an incredible team. Every one of our Officer and Director positions has been filled with highly competent, highly motivated individuals. We have changed from County Representatives to Regional Representatives. This is enabling "task sharing," so no one is over tasked and team work can flourish. We have nearly doubled our representatives. We've gone from 11 representatives in 16 counties to 18 representatives in 8 regions. Many of our areas had no representation whatsoever. Our representatives are now starting to make phone contact with every member in their region at least once per year. This type of contact with membership is unprecedented in Maine Bowhunters Association. We also keep our membership informed with important information through email notifications. We've gotten great feedback and thank you for doing this.

We have gotten our printed newsletter back. This was motivated by our membership. A number of members were telling us that they missed the printed version. We did an email poll and found overwhelming support for it. At the same time we were investigating this, we were informed that the cost of our publication NWSJ was going up substantially. We could not justify the increased cost of both the newsletter and the NWSJ, so we found a great national publication "Bowhunting World," and provided that and our newsletter to our members. We are now providing "all" of our members with a family membership. We have also established a Facebook account to reach out to more people, increase our membership, and get more feedback from bowhunters. We are also using this account to help promote our affiliated archery shops. We have added three archery shops to our 10% discount affiliations. Kittery Trading Post, The Outdoor Sportsman, and LL Cote. Recently "Central Maine Archery" one of our outstanding archery shops has started providing free MBA memberships with every bow they sell " Thank you Tom and Jess. We

have improved relationships with sportsman's organizations and landowner organizations, including SAM, SWOAM, PMGA, MFB. We work hand and hand with Sportsman's Alliance of Maine, and David Trahan. We are deeply involved in fighting the bear referendum. We have already provided \$2000.00 to the fight. We have started fundraising for this, and have started putting out collection containers at archery shops, tagging stations, meet cutters, and other locals. If you can help with this important project please contact us. We are working to get bow and arrow removed from the 100 yd discharge law. We hope to see many of you at the legislative session to make this happen. A few months ago we had the most successful and fun banquet we've had in years. This year we'll be having it in Brewer and expect it will be an incredible event. Our meetings are better attended than ever. We use to be lucky to have 6 or 7 people at our meetings. Now we have 15 to 20 people attending our meetings regularly, contributing their ideas and efforts. Maine Bowhunters Association has changed to an organization that is not run by a handful of people. It has become a fully inclusive organization that empowers everyone to have input, and encourages everyone to contribute. Now we are asking each and every member to bring new members onboard. You can do your part to make MBA stronger. By having more members, and being a larger organization, we will have a voice that can't be ignored.

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FROM THE EDITOR

SCOUTING CAMERAS REVEAL THE SECRET WORLD OF WHITE- TAILS - BUT WILL THEY HELP SUCCESS?

“There’s a difference between a tool and a toy!”

Scouting cameras are great tools for Maine bowhunters and when used properly they can enhance bowhunting success. Bowhunters should consider scouting cameras as a tool, merging them into their overall scouting plan. A camera used randomly just to take photos of deer, is a toy and can be counterproductive; doing more harm than good. Because the constant intrusion will alter deer patters and cause nocturnal activity.

On Site Set Up

Bowhunters should place their scouting cameras onto trees so the sun is behind the camera, a basic photography rule, this prevents sun from reflection of the camera’s lens which can cause “sunburned photos” this is a common mistake that new users make.

A question I’m often asked is, “how far and how high off the ground should I set the camera”? The answer is simple read

the directions that came with the camera. Camera manufactures vary on the proper placement of their particular model.

When it is legal, using minerals has helped me locate deer. Corn draws turkey and other small game and should be avoided, unless you want 200 photos of turkey and other non-target animals.

Bowhunters can place sticks between their cameras and tree to adjust for vertical range; horizontal adjustments are made by simply sliding the camera around the tree to the desired location. Cutting or tying back limbs will prevent them from tripping the camera’s sensor in windy conditions.

When setting up over bait place the camera facing perpendicular to the bait and adjust the camera to greater time settings like five minutes. For trail photos face the camera at a 45-degree angle to the trail, and set the timer for quicker settings. Setting up cameras in this manner will result in better photos and avoid wasted shots along with the time consuming work involved with deleting photos.

Analyze This

Taking quality photos is one thing but analyzing and using that data to improve bowhunting success is another matter altogether. You should always try to set scouting cameras at good tree stand locations. The first thing to check is a suitable tree

with good background cover to hang a tree stand; if none are available and the area is a screaming-hot location to ambush deer then consider a portable blind. In these locations I don’t use bait because I don’t want to change deer patterns in the area and make my presence known to deer plus it’s unlawful to bait deer during hunting seasons in Maine which would nullify the area as a hunting site.

Author's Note: During the 1st Session of the 126th Maine Legislative (Public Law 2013 Chapter 382) requires landowner’s written permission to place a scouting camera on their property (private property only) also your name and address must be on the camera. Landowners have the right to remove any cameras on their land that lack their permission. The bill became effective on October 9, 2013.

On another matter, I have seen many treestands in my area without the owners name and address attached. In fact the only stands I’ve seen labeled properly is when I hunt with an MBA officer or rep. Members are reminded to comply.

Val Marquez



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“Educate yourself before you decide....you owe it to OUR wildlife”!

by Deanna Page

We, the citizens of the great State of Maine, need to stand united against the Humane Society of the United States and its outrageous tactics. HSUS is using threats to get our outdoorsman's groups to support their plan. HSUS stated “We have \$3 million dollars, polling data that says we can win a bear referendum in Maine, and if you will support LD 1474, HSUS will not submit a referendum to ban trapping and hounding. If you don't support LD 1474, HSUS will add baiting to their bill and go to referendum and Mainer's would likely lose baiting, hounding and trapping.”

Let me provide some info regarding the “North American Wildlife Conservation Model” for those unaware of the concept; “There's nothing quite like it anywhere else in the world: a system that keeps wildlife as a public and sustainable resource, scientifically managed by professionals - thanks to hunters and hunting. Hunting, as some folks tend to forget, has been a human activity for a long, long time...as long as there have been humans.

But something happened to hunting around the late 1800's and early 1900's that changed hunting forever. It became regulated. The relatively new profession of wildlife biology supported those regulations with science. License fees and excise taxes - paid for by hunters themselves - supported the enforcement and the science. Money was also set

aside to protect habitat, conduct research and teach hunters to be safe and ethical. At the time, those visionary moves were essential because of the pathetic status of North America's wildlife population. Wildlife species were few in number at the beginning of the 20th century, now, throughout the continent, many species are back for all to enjoy, not just hunters.” Eric Aldrich

Valerius Geist, a German native who immigrated to Canada as a teen, studied wildlife biology and earned a doctorate in animal behavior has some insight on the subject;

The North American model has endured despite widespread changes in society, technology and in the landscape of the continent. It has become a “system of sustainable development of a renewable natural resource that is without parallel in the world.” Furthermore, it has benefited not only huntable wildlife, countless species of songbirds and shorebirds are protected, becoming specifically designated as non game species. Seven features make the North American Model distinct.

1. Wildlife is a public resource.
2. Markets for trade in wildlife are eliminated.
3. Allocation of wildlife by law. States allocate surplus wildlife by law, not market pressures, land ownership or special privilege.
4. Wildlife can only be killed for a legitimate purpose.
5. Wildlife species are considered an international resource.
6. Science is the proper tool for discharge of wildlife policy. This is a key concept of wildlife management. “Because of sport hunting and the Federal Aid dollars

that it provides to the Division of Fish & Wildlife, we can conduct scientific, professional management that benefits all species, not just game or non-game.”

7. The democracy of hunting. In the European model, wildlife was allocated by landownership and privilege. In North America, anyone in good standing can participate.

According to Geist, the glue that holds this unique North American model of wildlife conservation together is hunting.

All of this can not be stated without quoting one of the great leaders of our country who had the foresight to lead this nation in the right direction for conservation, Theodore Roosevelt, he said; “Above all, we should realize that the effort toward this end is...a democratic movement. It is...in our power...to preserve large tracts of wilderness...and preserve game...for...all lovers of nature, and give reasonable opportunities for the exercise of the skill of the hunter, whether he is or is not a man of means.” “Our duty to the whole, including the unborn generations, bids us restrain an unprincipled present-day minority from wasting the heritage of these unborn generations.”

The management of wildlife in our state needs to be in the hands of the biologists NOT rich, special interest groups like HSUS. “

Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife carries out a wide variety of fish and wildlife conservation programs. These programs focus on maintaining abundant game resources, as well as managing non-game wildlife and restoring endangered species.

The Dept.'s mission is focused on the protection and enhancement of the state's inland fisheries and wildlife, while at the same time providing for the wise use of these resources. Direct economic impacts directly attributable to the use of the resources amount to over 1/2 billion dollars annually. These expenditures play a major role in the state's economy. The Dept is dedicated to assuring these highly valued resources are available for the use and enjoyment of future generations.

The management of our wildlife needs to stay in the hands of Maine people and our valued IF&W staff, not in the hands of special interest groups with lots of money. We need to put an end to these groups trying to control and manipulate our lives. If HSUS is successful in getting or should I say, "buying" their way into the wildlife management of our state's bear population, it will not stop there. Stopping any part of our bear management program would be a slap in the face of IF&W, Randy Cross and his fellow biologists, every bear hunting guide and bear hunter in the state of Maine. As if the economy is not in a bad enough situation, this would bring severe devastation to many areas of this state. Using the referendum process to manage our wildlife is NOT in the best interest of our wildlife or the citizens of this state. Much of this information was taken from Boone & Crockett Club's website as well as Maine Inland Fisheries & Wildlife. Educate yourself, the information is there free for you to read, don't let misguided opinions make your decision for you. I would like to urge every Maine resident & voter to take 21 minutes & 25 seconds to watch the following YouTube video that explains how our wildlife populations are managed. Before you vote, you owe it to OUR wildlife to watch! Search YouTube for "North American Model – Boone and Crockett Country" or copy & paste this link <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eGZZ8C4Os2U>

Correction: In the fall issue of "The Maine Bowhunter" the cover page states that Lance Farrar's Buck was 183 P&Y points, when in fact it was 183 MASTC points. The MBA is sorry for any confusion this typo may of caused.

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For information check our web site at:
www.mainebowhunters.org

Lessons Learned

By: Gary Rohm

Once upon a time in a land far away, well not really that far, unless you were walking, but still 14 hours sitting in a truck, some friends and I went bow hunting for whitetails in the great state of Ohio. I promise not to include anymore sentences like this first one so as not to tick off any of you English teachers.

We go for a week every year and this particular year was unseasonably warm for the first week of November. The temperatures often got into the upper 70's which doesn't sound all that warm, but throw a climbing treestand and a pack on your back and climb the hills and valleys of reclaimed coal land and you will work up quite a sweat. With the warm temperatures, the deer weren't as cooperative as I wanted and the rut was not as it should have been. I managed to rattle in a few smaller bucks during the week but passed on all because this land far away holds some very nice whitetails. With your archery tag, you can shoot 1 buck and 2 does during the extremely long season. You also have the option to purchase another permit that lets you shoot 3 more does if you just can't get enough venison. The season runs from late September until mid-February, making Ohio a great affordable place to possibly tag an awesome white-tail. Enough advertising for Ohio, they aren't paying me anything. Now on with my story.

As I mentioned earlier, the rut was not in full swing this year although the

whitetails were plentiful but generally uncooperative.

During the week, 4 pointers and six pointers showed their immaturity by running in to my rattling. I passed on them as I didn't go there to shoot a small deer, at least not until the end of the week. About midweek, I decided that if I had an opportunity to take a doe, I would. I was set up on the outside corner of a field and was rattling when I noticed a deer coming down the field towards me. Without my binoculars it appeared to be the doe I would shoot. I prepared and waited until it was within range, brought my bow up and then she turned her head. It was then that I noticed the blade, not a spike, but an antler hidden behind "his" ear that looked like a putty knife. He then turned his head further looking for the deer that were fighting (me). Out of his head on his right side was an antler that came out not on top but under his ear and dropped down. This deer was one genetic experiment gone wild. Needless to say I wasn't going to waste my buck tag on him although that is not a deer you want passing his genes on to future generations.

Now it is the final day (Saturday), it's still maybe 80 degrees and I had one final spot I wanted to try before calling it quits for the year. It was a great funnel spot and the deer would have to pass in front of me as a steep cliff was behind and a ridge line running right to left in front, it's base about fifty yards in front of me. I love to hunt from climbing treestands because of their mobility. Unfortunately, by the time I got to this spot, up and down ridges, through the briars (lots of them there!), my twenty pound

treestand with my pack tied on it, weighed about two hundred pounds. I was sweating like a pig and everything we try to do to eliminate scent went right out the stinking window. I had no choice but to hope that the wind would not give me away. I assembled my climber on the ground right under my tree and climbed up, settled in, and expected this last evening's hunt to be a complete bust. About one hour later, a six pointer came down the ridge to my right but too far away for a shot. I am now in anything goes mode (well almost).

Now for the lesson part of the story.

I'm sure all of you reading this have had the "do as I say and not as I do" thing reprimand. This is another one. Now it is starting to get down to the last hour of legal hunting time and I hear some deer running across the top of the ridge in front of me. I can make out the sound of antlers hitting brush and branches as they run. Those deer ran back and forth numerous times but were out of sight and driving me nuts as the sun was down and beginning to loose light fast. I just hoped and prayed that they would come down before it was too late. Then it happened. I saw a doe, a big doe, run down the ridge with her tongue hanging out like an exhausted dog. She came down and stopped directly under my stand. When I say directly I mean I was looking at her through the slots in the base of my stand. Behind her came a fork horn and a skipper doe which both stopped ten yards in front of me. Now I knew that he was not the one doing the chasing up top but what more can you ask for but a hot live decoy right under me? Remember the scent control thing? Have you bought all the latest and greatest scent control sprays and gadgets? I sell this stuff and yes it does work to your advantage and you should try to keep yourself as scent free as possible, but in this case it all went out the window.

When I look back on this event, I have to chuckle as to the lengths a women will go to escape the in heat dogging of the male gender. I believe that

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she knew I was there and thought that she was safe from this incessant rut crazed buck who was now finally coming down the ridge behind the deer. It's like she was telling him to come over here big boy, I dared you! You won't bother me anymore! This beautiful ten point buck came down to the bottom of the ridge, still about forty yards out. I really thought that all my patience over the week were about to pay off. As hard as the doe tempted him to come over, to his credit, he didn't fall for the trick and suddenly turned around and ran back up the ridge and was gone. In my frustration and for all men everywhere, I was going to make that doe pay for the attempt at trickery and fill my freezer with her.

Now I had ten minutes of legal time left and I can't shoot her because she is still right under my stand, and there are still two deer in front of me looking right through me. My hope was that she would walk out a few yards and give me a better shot. This is the "do as I say, not as I do" part. I always tell new bow hunters and seasoned ones that the shot directly under your stand is one of the most difficult and should be avoided as you will usually hit high of your mark. If I had only listened to myself. She took just two steps and started to stomp and blow. At this point I knew it was now or never. I drew and let it fly expecting to spine her and have the easiest tracking job of my life. Wrong! My arrow pasted through her and she ran off and I listened for the crash that didn't come. The shot ended up going a little high, surprise! I waited a little while and called Al my hunting partner. I proceeded to climb down and pack up my stand and gear while I waited for Al. We started to blood trail which was heavy and my hopes rose. My hopes rose until the blood trail lessened and abruptly ended not more than fifty yards from where it started. While fanning out and searching diligently, we heard a deer out in front of us walking. At that point we decided it was time to get out.

Sunday morning at 6AM was our scheduled departure time to head home. After a sleepless night (if this kind of thing doesn't bother you, you are one cold hearted dude) we returned to the

scene and continued in earnest looking for her. After six hours of searching and I'm not an amateur at this, we decided that she was still on her feet and sore but will probably live to see another day. At least that's the way I wanted to see it as this is the one thing that I and hopefully every hunter tries their hardest to avoid. Unfortunately if you hunt long enough, something like this could happen to you, so to wrap up my ramblings..."do as I say and not as I do" and discipline yourself to try and not take the shot that is right under you so you can avoid a 14 hour trip home with a sickening feeling in your gut, and watch out for those ladies who try their best to set you up for a freezer.

New Hampshire Offers Great Day Trip Bowhunting

By: Val Marquez

Eastern New Hampshire is one days travel for Maine bowhunters. The eastern part of NH has good bowhunting opportunities for MBA members and these folks have a great resource in the area, I'm that resource.

As part of your MBA benefits you have a system of area reps to aid you. This is for current members only another good reason to keep your membership current. Reps can offer a wealth of information including areas to hunt.

I have owned a camp in NH for 25 years and have bowhunted the area around Freedom, NH for that long. The area has very few bowhunters, deer and turkey hunting is available and the bear population is excellent as well.

NH has a three month bow season including Sunday hunting. In the past I have held MBA hunts at my camp, we enjoyed shooting and hunting.

To find out about NH's great hunt opportunities simple Google New Hampshire Fish and Game, or call me (members only please).



"Abby Deslauriers Takes up Archery"

By Tina Richard

Abby Deslauriers is not your typical young lady; she is a go getter and loves to fill her dreams. She got her first bow in March which is a PSE Rally with the poundage being 18-50 pounds. She is shooting at 28-30 pounds right now while she does JOAD. Jess Hartford who owns **Central Maine Archery Center** with her husband Tom is the JOAD Instructor and she does an awesome job with the kids.

Abby started JOAD in April so she has not been doing it long but just five months indoors and outdoors and Jess said she is doing an outstanding job. By winter Abby should be beating her scores than what they are now and going to other states for competitions. She does not let any distractions get to her, she is very focused and dead on her target.

I met Abby at her first 3-D shoot and tournament at the Somerset Bowhunters which Jerome and I belong to on Aug. 5, 2013, which we held the State Shoot and she came in third place with a score of 309 in the Cubs group. She is an incredible young lady who wants to get into hunting and I see her doing that and becoming a great hunter. Abby loves archery and plans on continuing to do this in life.

MBA Membership Application or join online at www.mainebowhunter.org

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