



# ***The Maine Bowhunter***



The Official Newsletter of Maine Bowhunters Association

WINTER 2015/2016



## In This Issue

**President's Report,  
Caring for your Orchard,  
Stolen (A story by Bill Valteau)**



## President's Report

By

Deanna Page



Welcome to 2016! I hope everyone had a great holiday season with your family and friends. As we roll into the new year, I wanted to remind everyone that harvested a big game animal with a bow to turn in your stat sheets. For your convenience a copy of the stat sheet is included in this issue. The deadline is January 31, that will give us time to input the info and get certificates, plaques and patches ready for the banquet on April 16th in Brewer. We are also now accepting nominations for Supporter, Director, Representative, and Bowhunter of the year awards. Nominations should be emailed to [statistics@mainebowhunters.org](mailto:statistics@mainebowhunters.org).

The MBA would like to extend our utmost appreciation to Tom and Jess Hartford at Central Maine Archery in Auburn for their support over the years. For quite some time, CMA graciously paid a year membership to our organization for anyone who bought a new bow from them. Recently we heard that unfortunately they had to close their shop. Sad news for the bowhunting community in Maine. To prevent more of this from happening, we as bowhunters need to realize the value these high quality pro shops bring us, and be sure to do business with them. They are the professionals who will make sure the equipment you purchase fits you correctly, and is properly maintained, increasing the enjoyment and success you get from shooting and bowhunting.

On another sad note, we got news that the town of Cape Elizabeth may be considering looking at closing the Town to bowhunting. The reason? Because a few bowhunters there were disrespectful to a couple landowners....hunting without landowner permission, on land that was posted, and leaving gut piles instead of respectfully disposing of it. I want to urge everyone who is reading this to PLEASE take the time to secure landowner permission, whether the land is posted or not. Landowner respect is the most important thing we can do to insure future bowhunting opportunities, especially in urban areas. All bowhunters could lose the chance to hunt certain areas, like Cape Elizabeth, due to the actions of a few. R-E-S-P-E-C-T!

The MBA is your organization, here to preserve, promote and protect bowhunting in our state, we would love your input. Please feel free to reach out to myself, or any of the Board or Reps with issues and/or ideas on what you would like us to do, or do differently. We are always looking for input and help from our membership. Please get involved, and make this organization of yours better by becoming a representative, submitting articles for our newsletter, or helping out in any way. We will soon be signing up volunteers for the Sportsman Shows, so if you are willing to give an hour, a day or a weekend, please send me an email so we can get you a sign up sheet. [mainebowhunter68@gmail.com](mailto:mainebowhunter68@gmail.com)

Thank you for your membership, looking forward to hearing of everyone's 2016 hunting successes!

Deanna L. Page  
President  
Maine Bowhunters Association

# Cabela's®

WORLD'S FOREMOST OUTFITTER

## Taking Care of Old Orchards

By

*Julie Johnston*

In most areas of Maine we are blessed with old apple orchards. Most all old farmland has a group of apple trees hiding somewhere and I'm certain that the deer in the area know where they are located, making it a nice place to slide a stand nearby. Hopefully in your hunting area you are fortunate enough to have old apple trees I'm sure you know that the deer love these apples.



Up here where I live the deer are still checking to see what is available under the snow or if they can reach apples that haven't dropped yet. The other week a friend observed turkeys up in the trees knocking apples down while the deer were eating them. Not sure that is exactly what the turkeys had in mind but it worked for the deer.

There is some easy work you can do in the months of March and April depending on the spring in preparation for fall. Of course I'm writing this in the month of March and we seem to have gotten our share of snow but it will give us a chance to get out and do some trimming later than usual.

It is good to have several kinds of trees in your orchard because the apples will be ready at different times. One of my spots has a tree that the deer will hit in late fall it's a Red Pole and they love it. Yellow transparent or white skinned apples are another favorite. I have a yellow transparent on my lawn and the deer eat most all the apples it produces because they are on it in the middle of August and will check it every day until the apples are all gone. Another tree that is a late producer is a Liberty they will dig through the snow to find one of these delicious apples.

Apples trees really don't like shade and this means from other trees or even the apple tree itself. If the tree you are pruning has too many branches, the center of the tree is not getting the required light.

The best time to do the pruning is in March or April when the tree is dormant this allows the tree a chance to adjust

and promotes new growth in the right time of year. It is important to go at this slower than you'd like because if you remove too many of the branches the first year or clear out a large amount of the underbrush, or surrounding over story you can cause the tree to go into shock. The tree needs time to adjust to the increased level of sun which can cause the bark to split if it gets too much sun and winds which may topple the tree if the roots are not well dispersed, so don't overdo it. Make



*(Continued from previous page.)*

sure you cut out dead or diseased limbs and start removing branches that are crowding each other. I have an apple tree in one of my spots that has been 18 years getting tall enough so that the deer aren't able to chew all the branches off.

Fertilizing is important if you can get fertilizer around what is called the drip edge of the outer branches this will feed the roots of the tree. It will be great for the trees growth this summer, try to do this in April or the first week of May.

Depending how involved you want to be April or the first of May would be a good time to check the pH of the soil to see what else the old Orchard might need for nutrients. After the soil test you will have a better impression of whether the trees could use some lime, potassium or magnesium.

If you do plant trees remember that they will need a lot of water and some type of tree protectors. These protectors can be purchased or you can use old screening. The object is to keep mice from chewing the bark at the base of the tree in the winter. All this work will pay off to you and the surrounding wildlife in the future. This is also a good time to put up a game camera to give you an idea what is in the area. As always keep your eyes open for some deer sheds.



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## *Stolen*

by

**Bill Vallau**



It was the first Monday of rifle season but I decided I would continue to use my bow rather than switching to my rifle. I had been seeing deer regularly during archery season, so there was a chance I could get a deer with archery gear. The property I hunted was about a 20 minute walk from my house through the woods. This patch of woods was thick with small pine trees, ledges, alders and even apple trees. My ground blind was set to watch a deer trail that came from a bedding area and crossed a small stream. As the sunny day turned gray, I decided to start my walk home before darkness reached the tree tops. I cut across a small field, connected onto a path that paralleled my road and I climbed over the rock wall that circled the perimeter of my property. It was dark and I could see my wife had turned on our porch light that acted as a beacon as I came out of the woods. When I made my final approach to our property the silence of the night was shattered by a rifle blast, the shot was so close I jumped and spun in a circle trying to get a quick visual on

anything that would verify the shot. My knees started to shake and my heart was beating with excitement. I worked to gain my composure and noticed a pickup truck slowly driving by on the road. I thought to myself, that's a nice new truck, never seen that one before in the neighborhood. When I reached my yard, I sat on the back steps to listen for a noise related to the rifle shot. I thought if it was my neighbor that shot I would hear some victorious yells, the rumble of a truck heading down the field to retrieve their trophy. The night was still and quiet not a noise from my neighbors or anything related to the rifle blast. My wife opened the window and asked if I shot, she was unaware I was hunting with my bow. As I recounted the events, headlights came up the road and a pickup stopped. I told my wife I was going to take a walk down the driveway and check our mail. I walked down our 200 foot drive, crossed the road, looking in the direction of the pickup. The tail gate slammed and the pickup drove away. I walked down to where the pickup was parked and in the woods I heard the crunching of leaves and running. I headed back to my yard and walked into the woods to intercept whatever I heard running. I scanned the pitch black woods, moving my flashlight back and forth and moving toward the sound of the chaos in the leaves ahead of me. The noise split, the running stopped but the rustling of leaves was now closer, I shinned my mag light ahead and two glowing eyes were looking at me. I ran closer and dropped to my knees and grabbed for my cellphone and called my wife, "I found a doe she's been shot, she's alive but has a huge injury to her spine, she's crawling and is trying to stand." My wife calmly said she would call the game warden, than call me back. After I hung up with my wife, I slowly approached the big doe, she was panting from exhaustion and fear. While I knelt near the wounded doe, waiting for a call back from my wife the pickup truck pulled up, the tail gate dropped, I waved my flash light, as if to signal to the truck, saying "I have your deer, it's here", but once again the trailgate slammed and the truck sped away. My wife called to tell me a warden would be calling shortly and the state police advised my wife that I was not to dispatch the deer until I spoke with the game warden. I went back to the doe and she continued to fight and struggle for the ability to use her legs and flee. I had shot many deer at that point in my life but being next to an animal fighting for life and suffering is sad. The warden called to tell me he was on his way and said how I would put her out of her suffering was up to me. I reached for my sheath knife, walked over to the deer and she spun in a sudden rush of panic. I tried holding her neck but her strength was too great and I got bucked back and forth. I retrieved my bow, grabbed an arrow, tipped with a 4- bladed muzzy broadhead. I walked to the side of the doe, I spoke gently to the deer telling her to relax and let go. The broadhead went through the doe's heart and she laid her head down into the leaves. I rubbed my chin, cleared my glossy eyes and went back to meet the warden.

**To be continued in our next issue.....**

## MBA Stat Information

To be eligible for MBA big game awards you MUST, complete this form, have paid membership 30 days prior to harvest, submit certified weight slip, submit photo of harvested animal, and send to MBA, PO Box 5026, Augusta, ME 04332 before January 31.

**PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLE**

### Hunter Info:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email \_\_\_\_\_

### Harvest info:

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Town/State \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Animals Position: Qtr. Away      Broadside      Qtr. Towards      Heading Away

Distance of first shot: \_\_\_\_\_ Shots taken \_\_\_\_\_ Hits \_\_\_\_\_

Position of hits: \_\_\_\_\_ Penetration \_\_\_\_\_

Time waited before tracking \_\_\_\_\_ Recovery Distance \_\_\_\_\_

Time from first hit to recovery \_\_\_\_\_

Misc. Info: \_\_\_\_\_

### Equipment Info:

Type of bow:      Long      Recurve      Compound

Brand: \_\_\_\_\_ Draw Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

### Turkey Scoring Formula:

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ Beard: \_\_\_\_\_ L.Spur: \_\_\_\_\_ R.Spur: \_\_\_\_\_

Weight: \_\_\_\_\_ +2 X the beard length \_\_\_\_\_ +10 X length of each spur \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

### Game Info:

Animal Taken: \_\_\_\_\_

Sex: \_\_\_\_\_ Weight: \_\_\_\_\_

Antler Points: \_\_\_\_\_

The following categories are eligible for a certificate & a patch In State/Out of State buck, doe, bear, moose & turkey.

### License info:

License Number: \_\_\_\_\_

IF&W tag number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please include \$5 for each animal you want a patch for.**

**PLEASE submit a stat sheet for EACH animal you harvest, the info helps the MBA & IF&W.**



*All Points*  
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**For information check our web site at:**

**[www.mainebowhunters.org](http://www.mainebowhunters.org)**

**MBA Membership Application or join online at [www.mainebowhunters.org](http://www.mainebowhunters.org)**

New     Renewal

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

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

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**



**Maine Bowhunters Association  
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Augusta, ME 04332**