



The Maine Bowhunter



The Official Newsletter of Maine Bowhunters Association

Winter 2017

Front Cover Features a Monster Maine Buck!



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President's Report , A Discussion of Some Hunting Ethics Questions, A Brad Magoon Kansas Hunt, We Welcome Old Town Archery and Survival Shop

President's Report Winter 2017 by Deanna L Page



Here we are in 2017 already! The MBA wants to know how your 2016 hunting season went! Have you turned in your stat sheet(s) and photos yet? If you haven't, it's not too late, fill out the stat sheet in this newsletter and return it to our PO Box or email it to statistics@mainebowhunters.org by March 1st so we can get them processed before the banquet.

Our MBA volunteers are working to put together a great banquet for our 50th Anniversary Celebration, so be sure you pencil us in for April 15th at Jeff's Catering in Brewer. Do you have an item you would like to donate, or are you able to collect donations from businesses or people willing to help us? Email me at mainebowhunter68@gmail.com with info on

items and who donated them so we can give proper credit.

As a member of the Maine Bowhunters Association, you already get many benefits including protecting our heritage in the legislature. As an added benefit, the Board of Directors has voted to start a random monthly drawing from our current membership. Each month, one lucky MBA Member will receive a \$50 gift certificate to their local Archery Pro Shop. We will be doing our first drawing in February and will notify the winner and post their name on our Facebook page.

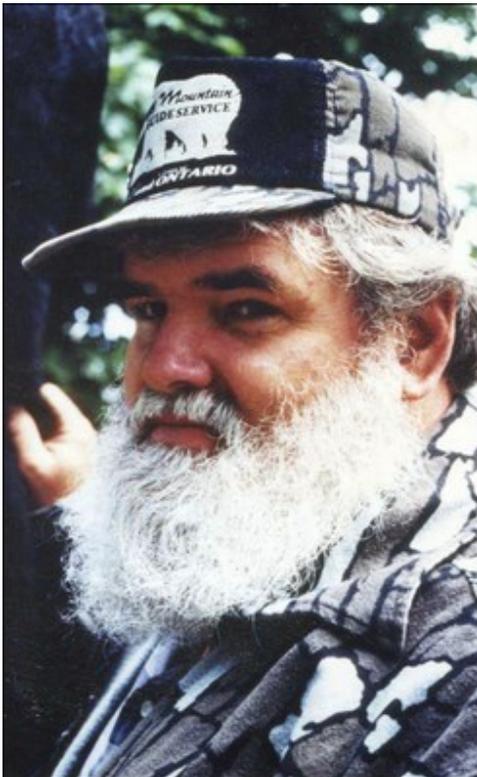
The Sportsman's Shows are right around the corner. Cabin Fever Reliever will take place Feb.25 & 26 in Brewer. Penobscot County Conservation Association show will be in Orono March 10-12, the Presque Isle Fish & Game Assoc. will hold their show March 25-26, the State of Maine Sportsman's Show in Augusta will take place March 31- April 2. We can always use help at our booth, so if you can donate a few hours of your time at any of these shows, please email me, or call Scott Abbott at 356-6523 to sign up. Please stop by our booth at any of the shows to say hello, we always want to hear from members. We have a couple of great raffle items we will be selling tickets on at the shows as well. The first one is an awesome donation from LL Bean, a 12' Manatee Deluxe Angler Kayak package! Our second raffle item will be a fishing trip Donated by Don's First Light out of Wells. Check them out on Facebook or at www.donsfirstlight.com for more info.

Thank you for your membership,

Deanna Page

President, MBA

This Issue of The Maine Bowhunter is dedicated to the late, great bear hunting legend Wayne A. Bosowicz



After working as an iron worker as a young man, Wayne set his sights on becoming a bear hunting guide. He and his wife, Donna, settled in Sebec, Maine in the early 70's and began building the world-class hunting operation known as Foggy Mountain Guide Service.

Known as the Dean of Black Bear Guides, Wayne combined a vast, hands-on knowledge of bear and bear habitat with natural people-skills in a way that allowed him to make a hunting trip at Foggy Mountain Guide Service, not only a successful hunt, but an experience to remember for a life-time.

Although music and film celebrities, politicians, editors, writers and captains of industry were frequently his guests, they got the same Wayne as the school teacher from Pennsylvania or the autoworker from Detroit. He'd look them in the eye, grab their hand, and say "How in the world are you? Pull up a stump and let's talk bear." Wayne was very well known and respected in the hunting world. He was the subject of numerous magazine articles over the years and the featured speaker at many hunting shows and forums. Wayne was very active in building and maintaining strong relationships between Maine's hunting community and landowners. He was founding member of the Maine Professional Guides Association. Wayne was a Lifetime Member of the Maine Bowhunters Association. Wayne will be sadly missed by the outdoor industry in Maine, but his legend will live on.

Ethical Questions About Bowhunting

By

John Hunt

I belong to some bowhunting Facebook Pages, and I've seen a few questions about ethics pop up over the past few months. Some of these questions come from very seasoned hunters as a topic of discussion, while others come from brand new bowhunters who have real questions about what is the right thing to do. I'd like to preface this article by saying the following: If you are obeying the law, taking only ethical shots, and respecting the land and landowners where you are hunting, you have nothing to apologize for. Any decisions you make above and beyond that are your own.

Question #1: Should you shoot a doe with fawns? This question led to a ton of responses on one FB page, as well as some very contentious arguments. Some people say they absolutely would never shoot a doe with fawns. One problem with this is, how do you know if a lone doe does or doesn't have fawns you can't see. I have watched a doe for up to 10 mins, when, all of a sudden, out pop a couple of fawns. The other factor in this question is "will the fawns survive without their mother?" The answer is pretty simple. Deer biologists schedule seasons to ensure survival of fawns if the doe is shot. There are some situations where the fawn will not survive, such as a very early season kill of a doe that had fawns late in the year. However, these situations tend to be in the minority. Some people make the decision to not shoot does with fawns more for emotional reasons. Yes, the fawns will likely come back looking for their "mom." That can be disheartening for a hunter. Realize, however, that by late October/early November the does will be driving their fawns away anyway. They do not want them around during breeding season. So, if you chose not to shoot a doe with fawns, it is your choice, but don't ever criticize another hunter who does so. It's bad for the sport to attack fellow hunters who are obeying the law.

Question #2: Is it OK to shoot fawns? Again, some hunters say they would never shoot a fawn. They claim it takes away the potential for trophy bucks in the future. Many who say they wouldn't shoot a fawn say they would be embarrassed to do so. In my opinion, if it's legal to shoot a fawn in your area and you have a tag for it, there is nothing unethical about it. It's a matter of personal choice. I can tell you from experience, there is nothing better than backstraps from a young deer, and how can hunting for food be unethical?

Question #3: This is more of a general discussion than a question, but it deals with taking small bucks. Many people get upset about other hunters taking 1 and ½ year old deer. Some hunters won't shoot a deer until it's 4 ½ years old. Some won't shoot a deer under a certain antler score. Some ranches won't allow the shooting of immature bucks unless they are a specific "cull" buck they want to get rid of to eliminate poor antler genetics. I understand the allure of hunting big bucks, and have written about this general topic before.

Quality deer management has been a huge trend over the past couple of decades. In my opinion, I think it has made some great improvements in the trophy quality of deer in many areas, and the Quality Deer Management Association has contributed to some excellent deer research. At the same time, I think the expectation of killing big bucks has diminished the hunting experience for some hunters. If killing a 180" deer on a managed ranch is your idea of hunting, good for you. I would never criticize that. However, it's not the type of experience many hunters are looking for. TV hunting shows have also set the "average hunter" up for disappointment and failure. So, should you shoot younger bucks? It depends. If you're on one of those ranches that don't allow it, I'd strongly advise against it. If you're hunting an area with antler restrictions, follow the laws of that area. If you're hunting simply because you love hunting, and want some quality meat in your freezer, and you're not in an area with antler restrictions.....obey the law, respect the land-owners, take an ethical shot on that four pointer, and be proud of your success.

Some decisions I personally make about what deer I kill have a lot to do with the ecology of the area I'm hunting. If I'm hunting in an area that has low deer densities, I am likely to target bucks over does and fawns. If I'm hunting an area with excessively high deer densities, I am likely to target does and fawns over bucks. In Maine's expanded archery zones, the goal is to reduce deer numbers. Targeting does in these areas is, in my opinion, a good thing to do.

In summary: If you're a trophy hunter, be careful about putting people down who shoot does, fawns, and small bucks. If you're a meat hunter, be careful about putting people down who trophy hunt. You can always say one form of hunting or another is not for you, but don't "inflict" that opinion on others. We're all hunters, and we all need to stick together. There are some who do their hunting in the aisles of the grocery store who would love to take hunting away from us. We don't need to help them by attacking each other.

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The Black Walnut

By

Brad Mageon

October 28, 2016, up at 4:40 AM. 59 degrees, clear skies, with a Kansas breeze out of the southeast. At 5:55AM I'm putting my climber on the small black walnut tree that has been so good to me over the many years. It's amongst a good amount of various types of oak trees. One oak tree is so close I lean my right shoulder against a limb of it. I have a good view of a creek run and tree covered side hill. I'm only up in the tree about 13 feet, and have limbs and trees that came me real good. I call this area "Bobcat Run" because I've seen bobcats there many times over the years. One even ate some of my cousin's buck awhile back, but that's another story.

At 7:40 AM I had two big does walk in at five yards. I drew and released a Rage behind her right shoulder. She ran across the creek and crashed. I could see where she fell. I continued to sit until about 9:00 AM waiting for a buck, but none came by. It was getting warm, so I put my tag on her, put her in my deer slayer sled and dragged her to my car that was parked in my friend's cattle pasture. From there I drove up to their barn, where I got her skinned and boned, and in the freezer by 2:45 PM.

By 5 PM I was back in the same tree, but only had some hen turkeys come by that I didn't choose to shoot. I then decided to give that walnut a rest for a few days.

November 12, 3:30 AM, 25 degrees, clear skies with no wind. I did my morning workout, and then drove to my friend's cattle pasture that leads to public land. I parked my car just inside the pasture gate, then walked the half-mile to get to the public land. I then walked another ¼ mile into public land to get to the small black walnut tree. By 5:15 AM I was all settled in. At 7:30 I had a doe and a boot-jack buck come under my tree sniffing around where I was standing when I hooked my climber on. They stayed around for about 10 minutes and then just walked off. Around 8:00 the wind started to pick up out of the east. 20 minutes later I saw a good sized 8pt. about 100 yards to the east. I blew on my EZ grunter, but he didn't hear me. I gave it another try a little louder and he still didn't hear me. Then I blew on it real hard and he stopped. He heard me, but didn't seem to know where the sound came from, so I gave it 2 more moderate blows and he started coming in at a fast walk. I knew this was prime time for the rut. I was at full draw when he walked within 5 yards of the base of my tree, but he didn't stop for a shot. He went around the other side of my tree. I stayed at full draw, turned around facing the tree and swung my bow up around it. I quickly did a grunt with my mouth and stopped him. I put a Rage through his left lung and heart. He only went about 80 yards before he piled up. I put my tag on him and had him all boned out and in the freezer by 3:00 pm. This black walnut tree has accounted for a good number of deer over the years, both does and bucks. All of my Kansas bucks have been killed on public land. I have been hunting public land in Kansas since 2004, and have killed 12 bucks with my old Mathews SQ2. There have been some big ones and a few small ones. As long as the deer gods keep smiling on me, I'll be back in 2017. Roll and Rock Public Land!

Audette's Sporting Goods
22 Peck Farm Road
Winthrop, ME 04364
ph. 207-377-2711

Welcome!
Dan Sanborn
and
“Old Town Archery & Survival”



Welcome to the new shop, we have renovated, and added some products in the camping, survival and hiking areas. We still stock over 50 bows and several crossbows. We have two indoor shooting ranges, a computer generated Techno Hunt and have recently added Archery Tag. Archery Tag is a game similar to dodge ball except you shoot foam tip arrows at each other. This winter we are bringing back Shooting leagues and hopefully a couple tournaments. We will have a couple snowshoe shoots at the outdoor range and continue to have shoots throughout the summer.

Check out our Facebook Page Old Town Archery & Survival and our website www.oldtownarcheryandsurvival.com for updates on what is going on. Give us a call at 207-827-9489

MBA Big Game Statistics Sheet

To be eligible for MBA Big Game Awards you MUST complete this form, have paid membership 30 days prior to harvest, submit a photo of harvested animal, and mail to MBA PO Box 5026, Augusta, ME 04332 before January 31st each year. Or email to statistics@mainebowhunters.org. Visit our website for more info www.mainebowhunters.org.

Hunter Info:

Name _____ CHECK THE BOX IF YOU WANT
Address _____ EITHER OF THE BELOW FOR
City/State _____ THIS HARVEST
Zip _____ Phone _____ Big Game Certificate
Email _____ Embroidered Patch w/ Year

Harvest Info:

(patches available for buck, doe, turkey, bear, moose)

Date _____ Town/State _____ Time _____
Animal's Position: Qtr Away Broadside Qtr Towards Heading Away Other: _____
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: _____

Game Info:

Animal Taken: _____ Sex: _____ Weight: _____ Points: _____

License Info:

License number: _____
IF&W tag number: _____

Turkey Scoring Formula:

Weight : _____ Beard: _____ L.Spur: _____ R.Spur: _____
Weight: _____ +2 X the beard length _____ +10 X length of each spur _____ Total _____

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



All Points
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MBA Membership Application or join online at 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**



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