

THE MAINE BOWHUNTER

SEPTEMBER 2010

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



By Jerome Richard

This has to be one of the best summers in a long time with hot, sunny days. Remember how rainy it was all last spring and summer of 2009? There is no excuse this summer not to get outside and enjoy the great outdoors from hunting, fishing, and camping in 2010. The best news is my lawn is dry and near dead, so I got out of mowing the grass most of the summer. Life is good!



I hope everybody was successful this past spring turkey season. It was

Jerome and Tina with their booth at L.L. Bean

a great opportunity for people to

harvest two spring Toms for the first time. I have already received several stat sheets from MBA members who harvested their turkeys using archery equipment. Remember, you still have a chance for a third turkey this fall.

Tina and I set-up an MBA booth at the Moose drawing that was held at L.L. Bean on Thursday, June 17th. If you have never been to a moose drawing event it is really a big social event. We had a blast hanging out at L.L. Bean most of the day and meeting sportsmen from all over the state of Maine and even the non-resident hunters hoping for a chance at a moose hunt in Maine. It was another



Josh Contrell doing a moose call seminar at L.L.Bean

great sunny day in Maine and when the drawing started it sounded like a lot of MBA members got drawn for

this year's moose season. Congratulations to all the lucky winners! I have been putting in for the moose lottery for many years and never have been drawn, but Tina has only applied for less than 10 years. Guess what? She was picked this year, but luckily I'm the sub-permittee and I plan on loading up her rifle with blanks so don't say anything. I lost



The crowd waiting to hear their name be drawn for a

track of how many MBA members got a permit this year, but I hope everyone has success at harvesting a moose. I know many have applied for 20+ years for this opportunity.

Tina and I finally got a short vacation recently and spent a 2-night stay at Northern Pride Lodge in Kokadjo. Wayne and Barbara Plummer were great hosts and Barbara was a great cook too! Many of you may remember that Wayne is an

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3D SHOOTS

Sept. 17-19th Maine Trappers Rendezvous, NASP Event, Sid-

Sept. 17-19th Becoming an Outdoors Woman, NASP Event,

Oct.-Nov.— Happy Hunting and Good Luck!!!

Dec. 12th MBA BLIP Class, Old Town Archery, Old Town, ME

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MBA member that harvested the largest bear taken with a bow in 2009. While Tina and I were at their lodge we were able to do some canoeing on Roach Pond, fly fishing some local brooks, saw several moose, deer, foxes, and owls, and even went to visit the 1964 B-52 bomber crash site too. It was a fantastic stay up in the mountains, but way too short. If you ever want a great place to escape for a while and enjoy some great scenery, please check out Northern Pride Lodge. Wayne guides a lot of bowhunters for black bear too! Again, Barbara, thank you for the great meals.

By the time you read this newsletter the MBA will have done another NASP event at the Maine Wildlife Park in Gray. This will be our third year in a row doing this event for IF&W. I have lived in Maine for 22 years now and I had never gone to visit the park until we were invited to teach the kids about archery. The same thing happened with the Maine Discovery Museum where NASP actually provided Tina and I an opportunity to visit activities here in Maine that we never really thought about visiting. We got to teach some archery to others and in exchange we got to visit more places in Maine. Pretty neat deal, right?

Tina and I made a trip up to Bryant Pond, ME, to the Bryant Pond 4-H Camp & Learning Center on June 5th to participate in the annual Youth Field Day. We made sure we took all the MBA NASP equipment and the camp provided

the kids – tons of kids! It was like old home days for me because I also got to meet a lot of the people I used to work with from the Rumford paper mill. I would like to thank Scott Olson for inviting us back again. Scott was a great help to the MBA when we sent 10 kids to the camp on scholarships for the archery week camp in honor of Mark Peeler.

In the last issue of our newsletter we mentioned the 1st Annual Paul Caron Memorial Day 3-D Shoot at Old Town Archery Center. Thanks to Bob Wengrzynek and “Big John” Ehman they held an MBA 3-D Shoot on Saturday, June 26th. It was another great sunny Maine day and with a lot of MBA members turning out for the event. Bob was extremely gracious and donated all the entry fees to the MBA. As many of you probably already know Bob has helped us at many events from the MBA banquets, 3-D shoots, and even the Bowhunter Safety Education Classes to recruit new members.

The Maine Traditional Archers held the annual Poke-n-Hope on Saturday and Sunday, July 10th and 11th. I have been speaking a lot about



Steve Gray shooting at a bear target inside a blind.

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the great sunny days this year, but at this event Tina and I did have to dodge a few rain drops. The MTA does a great job at this event which is held at the Durham Rod and Gun Club. This 3-D shoot has 60 targets set up throughout the woods and it gives you an opportunity to experience the excitement of shooting traditional archery equipment like the long bow or recurve bow. Tina and I have tried to make this event every year no matter what else is going on. There's plenty of room to camp out and enjoy the company of other archers from Maine and several other states at this event.

While we were at the Poke-n-Hope event, Tina and I had a chance to stop by and visit Tom and Jess Hartford of Central Maine Archery in Auburn, ME. Man, were they busy with putting on two birthday

parties at one time at their indoor shooting range. I didn't realize what a great idea to help introduce kids to archery by hosting birthday parties at their shop. (I just wished the kids would have shared some cake with me!) Please make sure you read Tom Hartford's article on bow strings in this newsletter. Tom and Jess have been great at providing technical articles on archery equipment for our newsletters.

I want to give a special thank you to Deanna Page, Russell Corson, and Bob Walker of Moosehead Trail Trading Post for supporting the MBA with the NASP program at Dexter, ME on Saturday, July 24th. I dropped the ball on this event and if it had not been for these 3 people I would have embarrassed the MBA. I

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THE
AFFILIATES
THAT
SUPPORT
YOUR MBA!

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know we will be back next year and I hope to volunteer Tina to do the "greased pig" contest. I know she can do it, but she will have to ride in the back of the truck on the way home after that contest. The weather that day wasn't the greatest, but Deanna said there were tons of kids enjoying the archery equipment plus some adults as well. They even recruited some new MBA members at this event.

The MBA attended the Cabela's Archery Week on July 31st - August 1st and did a treestand safety seminar. There were plenty of seminars and other archery events going on that weekend. We were lucky to have our table alongside the Maine Archery Association (MAA) where we could talk about ideas to promote archery especially with the youth in Maine.

The MAA, the MBA, and the Maine Traditional Archers are all fairly small groups of archers with limited resources, but with a lot of things in common. I think we all have found it hard to promote the sport of archery due to many factors such as access to school programs, competing against other sports, computers, and videos. I remember back in the 70's when I was in high school in Tennessee with my twin brother (yes, it's scary there are two of us running around) and we were both on the high school skeet team and any type of shooting sport was common during those days. Now days it is more difficult to get people to approach archery in a school setting. I also realize school budgets are really being squeezed in the last few years and archery or any other extracurricular activity is way down the list on priorities. I still believe things will turn around in the economy and I hope we are there to help when that opportunity becomes available in the future.

On a final note, the Marsh Island BLIP will be held from September 27th thru October 16th this year. It is shaping up to be one of largest groups to participate in the BLIP program. I hope that this year's BLIP will be just as successful and work well as a team as last year. The 2009 BLIP group did a tremendous job of

working together and being a true team, and being an asset to both the towns involved and to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. If we can't run this program in a professional, well-managed manner, than others will shut this program down. For those interested in being involved in future BLIP events, our next BLIP class will be held on Sunday, December 12th. It will be held at the Old Town Archery Shop in Old Town, Maine. Please be sure to watch the website for updates.

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new

**LINCOLN COUNTY REPORT
BY OUR NEW REP
PERRY HATCH**

Lincoln County Representative to the Maine Bowhunters Association. My name is Perry Hatch and I currently live in the town of Dresden with my wife and two children. I am a life long resident of Maine growing up in the small town of Morrill. I am a lifetime member of the MBA.

I first started bow hunting at the age of 14 and killed my first white-tail deer with a bow over 30 years ago. Since that day I have had the opportunity to archery hunt several states including ME, RI, AZ, NM, CO, and WY. All of those hunts were DIY hunts. I have taken white-tail deer, black bear, turkeys, mule deer, pronghorn antelope, javelina, elk, and bighorn sheep over the years with a bow. I look forward to meeting the bow hunters of Lincoln County or anywhere. Please feel free to drop me an email at any time. My address is: perryhatch@dishmail.net



Secretary Report by Dan Long



Happy pre-Fall MBAers! It's the third week of July at the time of this writing. Some of you shoot all year long, some only when hunting season approaches. Summer is pretty sweet this year! It's nice to feel the sun on my face for more than a couple of days. I currently (not always) fall into the pre-hunting season shooter category. Just too freakin' busy with work but I'ma changin that. In addition to dustin' off Mr. Bowtech (hold down the cheers now), I have been going through the state of the MBA business documents and have found that I am (and have) a little behind. Too much information I know, but my backspace key is broken. We had elections recently and e-mail's change, and job descriptions and responsibilities change—I thought now that I am back to the Secretary position (from VP) I'd take some time to go through these documents again and update them where change has occurred. This will be good information for the folks holding officer, director, and county representative positions so they and the higher-ups in the organization can hold them accountable to do what you as the great and powerful mem-

bership direct us to do. By the way, you, Mr. & Ms. Membership, need to e-mail, call, or somehow talk to the elected leadership of this great organization to let us know your thoughts and opinions so we can do what is best for the masses. Otherwise, who the hank are we representing? Do you want us to go off half-cocked like a bunch-a liberals? The best thing you can do is grab a friend by the scruff of their neck, and help them to fill out an MBA membership application and the both of ya start spillin yer guts to us. We do some really cool stuff like watchin out for bad liberals trying to get a foothold before we can cut it off or smash it with a hammer, and we also do tons to introduce kids to the sport—tell me that's not important! We work to maintain and expand bowhunter rights too.

The business document updates will be completed and the sleek new swanky version in the hands of your officers, directors, and representatives before this newsletter hits your mail or in-box. What's that you say? You want to see the final document? You want to have input on what's in there for the future? Well, AWL-RIGHT! We need more people like you! Give me a call and I'll get you a copy or better yet, come to an MBA Regular Business Meeting and participate in all the fun. I know a couple of people like Bill Valleau and Perry Hatch 2 name jest a few who did and now they have stepped up to be County Reps—RIGHT ON! If you can't do that, then call your county representative and ask or tell them what the hank is goin on—or not goin on in your neck of the

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Getting Permission from Landowners

By Tina Richard



I hope you are looking forward to this year's hunting season and have already done some scouting prior to the season. Also, I hope if you are scouting and hunting on land owned by others that you take the extra step to "ask permission first". When Jerome and I lived in Rumford, ME a lot of property was not posted, but he always found out who owned the land and made arrangements to meet the landowner to get permission every year far in advance of the hunting season. When we moved to central Maine we noticed just the opposite where most of the property was posted "No Hunting, No Trespassing", but we quickly realized that if we asked the landowner most times they would let us hunt especially if we were bowhunting.

By asking permission every year you help protect the opportunity to hunt on other people's property and foster a good relationship with the hunting community, as well as, the non-hunting community. What is the worst thing that could happen? Maybe you get turned down a few times, but even Jerome has been turned down a few years in a row and later the landowner let him hunt as he learned more about him. We also take the time to thank the landowner every year by sharing some deer meat or giving out gift cards to all the landowners every year whether we harvest a deer on their land or not.

When we teach the Bowhunter Safety Education Class we have asked the students how many of them own in excess of 25 acres. A

few may raise their hand, but the point is that many of us do not own a lot of land, so we rely on the generosity of others for the privilege to hunt.


Just because land is not posted as "No Hunting" does not give anyone the right to cross into that property to hunt or do any form of recreation. As hunters our actions can influence future laws towards access. One of the biggest dangers to access to private land is if the state were to pass a "reverse posting" law.

A couple of more big threats to access to private land are illegal dumping and abuse of private property by recreational vehicles. We need to be vigilant to identify and report situations or individuals that are responsible for these actions if we want to protect our future hunting and access. Remember these landowners paid for the property plus the annual property taxes, so helping the landowner to police the property and showing some gratitude with a "thank you" and a gift is a very small price to pay for that opportunity for access to their property.

Jerome and I have heard many bad stories from some of the students in our classes that own large parcels of land where others have caused them to post their land due to disrespect of the landowner or the property. It only takes a bad apple or two, right? Jerome has even reported violations of trespassing and even theft by "slob" hunters with a couple leading to prosecution in a court of law.

Many times when we ask for permission from other landowners we ask the same questions every year such as if other people will be hunting the property, where to park, can we use treestands and do a little pruning of small limbs, plus ask if the landowner has any specific rules or guidelines that they may want us to abide by. That saves us and them from any misunderstandings or trouble later. After all "who owns the land makes the rules" and they have the absolute right to control, limit, or deny access to their property.

There are four ways to post land



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Bob Walker

for "no trespassing" which is outlined in the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife hunting law book and also on the MDIF&W website.

⇒ "No Trespassing" sign placed every 100 feet apart.

⇒ Paint system with two silver stripes.

⇒ Post their land "in a manner reasonably likely to come to the attention of the intruder" such as gate, chain, or boulders across a roadway.

⇒ Landowners may verbally or in writing deny access.

It is strongly recommended that a hunter contact the landowner far in advance of the hunting season. It puts the landowner at ease if he feels like he is not under pressure to give a yes or no answer on short notice. It also gives you an opportunity prior to the season to return a favor first by helping him with a problem or small job where you can prove your gratitude to the landowner. Here are a few suggestions:

⇒ Recommend calling ahead to make an appointment.

⇒ Dress and act respectfully.

⇒ Ask if the landowner has any specific rules.

⇒ Ask the landowner about the use of a treestand and any trimming.

⇒ If the landowner will not give permission, please be respectful, shake their hand, and say "thank you". Another opportunity may develop later.

Even though it is not a legal requirement to hunt on another person's land, it is strongly recommended to get written permission and keep it with you while hunting. That way if a game warden has any questions about your access to private property you will be covered and you help the game warden in advance.

Sometimes the landowner may be concerned with liability of an individual being on their property in the event of an accident and the landowner being sued. MDIF&W has a great brochure that explains to the landowner the Landowner Liability Law which you could leave with the landowner to read and contact him later. Once the landowner has read the brochure it will probably put his mind at ease about that topic.

Many of you probably knew the most of what has been written above, but I hope I have shared the importance being a good ambassador for the hunting community. Thanks for reading.



MBA 3D Group Photo

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woods. They're accountable to bring your comments and questions to the Regular Business Meeting so we know what's on your mind and can forge the MBA path forward with your input. We like donuts and coffee and other kinds of bear-type bait so feel free to bring some if you come to the meetings, or tell me your coming and I'll bring some extra.

The MBA has lots of work to do to get ready for this fall's harvest time including Bowhunter Education Classes (check with your county representative to find a class near you), Bowhunters/Landowners Information Program set-up tasks, various Advisory Board meetings, hank I could write forEVER —maybe you just oughta read this whole newsletter cover to cover and let me know if you have any questions. It's dark out now and my candle light is fading so until next time...hunt quietly.



Knox and Kennebec County Reports by Bill Valleau



Over the past several weeks I have had the opportunity to visit with 3 archery shops within Kennebec and Knox Counties. All of the shops had individuals that were readily accessible for questions, including the owners. I found that each shop also had a good inventory of top end archery equipment with the option to special order upon request. Additionally, each also had an in house Pro Shop for individual servicing needs.

The owner of The Sportsman BARR (39 Main Ave Gardiner , ME 04345), Steve, was able to shed some light on the competitive shooting leagues that his shop has organized and supported. The indoor archery range and trophies within sight of the entrance are supporting examples of the stories he had to tell. Also visible to the public are the

letters from community programs thanking the shop for their involvement in several different fundraisers. The Sportsman Barr also offers several hunting and gun safety courses, with a Bow Hunters safety course upcoming, but the date has not been finalized.

Johnson's Sporting Goods (51 Park St Rockland, ME 04841) also has an indoor archery range which supports shooting leagues in the winter months, with lane rentals at other times. I found this shop to have quite a large selection of arrows, with nice accessories and targets. They currently do not have any specialized classes or events beyond the seasonal league shooting.

I was not able to visit Audette's Hardware and Sporting Goods (22 Peck Farm Rd Winthrop, ME 04364) personally, but was able to speak with Lee over the phone. Lee, who manages the archery shop, advised me that they do not have an indoor range, and no events currently planned, but they "offer a high quality product and smokin' deals on Matthews Bows".

Beyond the "window shopping" I have been doing, I have also had an opportunity to do some pre-season scouting in the areas I hunt, with special attention on food sources. In my area, this year appears to be a strong year for apples, and it looks to be an equally good acorn year as well. To me, this couldn't be a better pairing. I was once told by someone with more bow hunting experience than myself, that if you find where your deer feed, there is a greater chance for success each season. This individual went on to clarify that there is a larger opportunity to hunt deer in their normal feeding routines or patterns, as they have not been spooked by gun hunters, and they have yet to go nocturnal. The past three deer I have taken with a bow (a Matthews Outback) were early in the season, one at an apple tree and the other two feeding under an oak tree. While you are out doing your pre-season scouting, search for well traveled trails, find the apples, acorns or beech nuts, set out trail cameras, and you will have an exciting season.





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Tina , Jerome, Rick and Brad at the Poke and Hope
In Durham, Maine

A White-Tailed Deer's Best Defense, And Weakness

By The Environmentalist Hunter

John H. Hunt



A white-tailed deer has an incredible sense of smell. Not only is it capable of detecting minute traces of odor, it also has an extremely complex scent system. A hunter can use this complex sense of smell to his advantage to bring a deer into bow range. A hunter can also use scents incorrectly to scare every deer in the area away. Because a deer's sense of smell is so complex, many very successful hunters use the concept of trying to be scent invisible when they hunt, and don't take the chance of using the wrong scent at the wrong time. One of the biggest mistakes hunters make is to use a "doe in estrus" scent, when the rut is not on.

Let's take a look at how a deer produces scents, by examining its most important scent glands. There are at least 5 important scent glands on a deer. Two are on the head, and three are on the legs.

The 2 glands on a deer's head are the forehead gland, and the pre-orbital gland.

The forehead gland is located between a buck's antlers and slightly forward of them. The oil secreted from this gland often darkens the forehead of a buck. The forehead gland leaves an individualized scent of a buck when it makes a rub on a tree. It used to be thought that rubs were simply "visual" sign posts. This forehead gland provides evidence to the contrary. If you watch videos of deer making rubs, you'll notice that the buck stops every now and then to smell the scent he has left behind. Remember, most studies show that 85% of rubs are made at night. Rubs let you know that a buck is in the area, but hunting a "rub line" is far from a guarantee of success.

The pre-orbital gland is located on the inside corner of a

deer's eye. Deer are often observed leaving secretions from this gland on overhanging branches of scrapes. As when a deer leaves a rub, when it hooks trees above a scrape and rubs its eyes on the branches, it will stop and smell the secretions it leaves behind. These scrapes and overhanging branches are leaving both visual and scent based communication. Another misconception of scrapes is that they are used by one buck. The use of trail cams has definitely shown that scrapes are often visited and refreshed by many bucks. One of the most difficult aspects of hunting a scrape is that a buck will commonly bed a short distance "downwind" of a scrape. This makes an approach where you are not heard, seen, or smelled very difficult.

There are three important glands on a deer's legs. The tarsal gland is the most discussed and recognized of these three glands. It is found near the joint on the inside of a deer's hind legs, and is used along with the preorbital gland when deer make scrapes. After a buck makes a scrape by pawing up the ground, it brings its hind legs together and urinates down them. The urine runs down the buck's legs, over its tarsal glands, and into the scrape. When it does this, a mix is created of urine, tarsal gland secretions, and various types of bacteria that thrive in those conditions. As you can see, when you combine all of the scents involved with making a scrape, it becomes a very complex scent situation.

Another scent gland on a deer's legs is the metatarsal gland. This is located lower than the tarsal gland, and on the outside of the deer's lower leg. (note: from a comparative anatomy perspective, this part of a deer actually corresponds with our feet, so calling it the lower leg is really a misnomer.) It is

visually recognized as a roundish patch of white hair with a dark center. The actual purpose of this gland is unknown, however it gives off a powerful musky odor. It is thought by some to be used as an olfactory means of identifying individual deer. Another possibility is that it gives off an alarm scent when a deer is frightened.

The inter-digital gland is located between the toes of all four feet on a deer. Some research has shown that this gland may release over 45 separate volatile compounds. It seems very apparent that deer leave traces of this scent with every step they take. I have often seen deer following the inter-digital scent trail left by other deer, and even used this knowledge once to set up a hunter I was guiding, providing him with a great opportunity to take a buck. This scent had a period of popularity some years back, and hunters put this scent on foot pads as they walked to their stand, with the intention of making deer in the area follow the trail. I am quite sure it worked in some situations. The problem with inter-digital scent is "how much?" I'm sure most of you have seen a deer do the "foot stomp" when they've seen something that alarms them. When they do this, they're releasing a greater amount of interdigital scent. This scent in these amounts are interpreted as a "danger" signal. Who is to say how much of this scent to use. The scent from the interdigital gland is also left behind in a scrape when a deer paws it, adding another complexity to the scrape scent situation.

By analyzing these few glands that produce scent, it becomes apparent that using deer scents can be a tricky proposition. The most important considerations

are "timing" and "quantity." Use the wrong scent at the wrong time, or in the wrong amount and you're working against yourself. Using the correct scents at the appropriate time, and in the appropriate amount can definitely work to your advantage. I recommend a conservative approach to the use of scents. Become as familiar as you can with the use of one scent at a time that you may be interested in using. Be as observant as you can about its effectiveness. If you use more than one scent at a time, you're adding confusing variables that will make it impossible for you to tell which scent performed which way. I also highly recommend that you don't put attractant scents on yourself. This is especially important for us bowhunters. I do not want a deer to be looking for me when I'm bow hunting. I want it totally unaware of my presence.

A final interesting fact about deer is not just the scent that they leave behind, but how they smell these odors. They actually have two organs to smell with. One is, of course, their nose, while the other is their vomeronasal organ. This organ is located on the roof of a deer's mouth. It seems to be used primarily to analyze urine. Bucks use this organ when they are trailing an estrus doe. When they perform the "lip curl/sniff" and suck air into their mouth, they are probably checking a doe's state of readiness for breeding.

Now, by combining how deer smell to how they leave scent, we have a situation that is exponentially complex, and just adds another reason for us to absolutely LOVE THE HUNT.

Penobscot/Hancock County Report

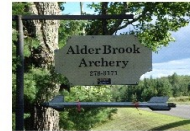


At the time of this writing, I am enjoying the killer-weather we are having. What a great summer to enjoy the water, friends, and family. Behind all this enjoyment lies a frightful beast that is beginning to awaken. He is the MIGHTY BOW-HUNTER DAN LONG! Just kidding!

I am starting to prepare for this fall's hunting season and really can't wait for my favorite time of year. My 3D target is constantly feeding in the woods behind my house and I am trying hard to put it down –shots from the ground, shots from my tree stand, standing, sitting, kneeling – it's all fun. Shooting (practicing) can be more fun if you try to make conditions as realistic as possible. Try to shoot from your tippy-toes –just like if you were in the woods and had a shot at a game animal, but there was, "this one stick right in the way." I blew a shot at a huge bull in Montana I stalked with my Dad a few years back just this way. Looking back, I just didn't think quickly enough because I hadn't ever practiced that way. I was 20 yards away and the 5x6 was lying down with his back to me and the wind just barely in my favor. He stood-up (probably caught wind of me) and for a second looked around. During that time, I drew and tried to anchor my sight on his body –and could have if that big limb now in the way because he stood up, weren't there. Ayuh, he sure looked perty whin he runned away. I felt so amateurish. I should have stood tall up on my tippy toes. All I'm saying is don't just stand there flingin arrows!

Some pretty cool stuff goes on in Penobscot and Hancock County. I believe most of the members in both

those counties are familiar with the Old Town Archery Center & Pro-Shop so that is where my "shop" related events are listed for. Other towns in these counties are also included where classes are offered. If you know of other events or locations in these two counties which I'm neglecting to mention –shoot me an e-mail at dan.long01@gmail.com and educate me please –I'll be sure to include them in the future. It's tough sometimes trying to figure what to identify for past, present and future events because the newsletter comes out every other month. Anyway, recently, Bob Wengrzynek at Old Town Archery (your MBA President Jerome calls him, "Bob W" for short!) held a memorial shoot for Paul Caron; Paul frequented the shop making coffee for everyone, and lived adjacent to the incredible outdoor 3D range that Bob W offers on the West Coiley Road in Old Town. Check out the Facebook page for Old Town Archery and you will see some great pics and proof that you missed a good time (if you didn't go.) Also completed at the time this newsletter comes out will be the July 24 3D Night Shoot at the Old Town Archery outdoor 3D range. The same range will enjoy a host of people at the Maine IBO State Championship on August 8 from 8 am to 3 pm with refreshments available. Call Bob W at 827-9489 for more info. Ya know, Old Town Archery (300 Main Street, Old Town) is a great pro-shop to get your stuff worked on, or to pick up what you need. They have traditional and compound archery equipment, 20 yard and 35 yard indoor lanes on two floors, a safe separate room for kids to shoot or birthday parties where kids can learn how much fun and pride you gain from shooting, one-on-one instruction, a video-hunt system, and offer leagues and tournament shooting. At the outdoor range on the West Coiley Road, you can shoot the 3D course field and woods targets –and this is an AWESOME realistic range that has trails and targets all through the woods! Bob W puts his heart and soul into his business and is very



Alder Brook Archery owned and operated by Mike Larrabee
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Mike has been in business for over 10 years, his shop has 2 indoor lanes, and he has an outdoor range with 15 targets with a 50 yard maximum.

The shop carries a full line of archery accessories as well.

Mike is an avid bowhunter with 30 plus years experience to help you become a better bowhunter. Please visit his shop for all your archery needs.



passionate about helping folks make the right choices. Bob has supported the MBA's efforts in so many ways and we all appreciate his dedication to the sport! Stop in and meet everyone at Old Town Archery and don't forget to bring your bow!

We all want to see more people getting into the sport of Archery, and bowhunting in particular. An archery education course will provide a student with a wealth of knowledge regarding equipment, proper hunting methods, responsibilities, and general safety. Most classes will have some outdoor exercises. Passage of a final exam is required. You must attend every day of the class in order to receive your certificate.

The following are Bowhunter Education Courses offered in Penob/Hancock Counties:

July 12/13 Newport,
Nokomis High School 368-3290.

July 17 Old Town
Old Town Archery Center & Pro-Shop 827-9489.

August 7/8 Lincoln
Mallard Hill Rec Center 794-6548.

September 11 Old Town
Old Town Archery Center & Pro-Shop 827-9489.

September 28/29 Howland
Penobscot Valley High School 732-8361.

September 30 Howland
Penobscot Valley High School 732-8361.

Check <http://www.maine.gov/ifw/education/safety/archery.htm> for more info.

Let me know your thoughts and questions on bowhunting issues from the legislative front, to the technical aspects. I maybe can't answer them for ya, but I'll get the answers, and maybe include your name and question/answer in the next issue. RIGHT ON!

MBA COUNTY REPS

REMEMBER, THESE NAMES AND THE CONTACT INFORMATION IS LISTED FOR YOU. SEND YOUR COUNTY REP YOUR THOUGHTS AND QUESTIONS ABOUT ANYTHING BOWHUNTING RELATED. YOUR COUNTY REP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR RESPONDING TO YOU AND/OR BRINGING YOUR QUESTIONS/ISSUES UP AT THE NEXT MONTHLY BUSINESS MEETING.

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MOVING?

Don't forget to notify us if your address changes. We get mail back from too many of our members' former addresses with a "no forwarding address" stamp on it. We have lost a few life members this year because they haven't notified us of the change.

BLIP members please check your information in the BLIP listing on our website. Updates to spelling errors, addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses should be sent to Director at large Jeff Hopkins.



Benjamin Sinclair



Daniel Sinclair

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 certified weight slip (heart and liver included), submit photo of harvested animal and **\$5 if you wish to receive the patch** to MBA, P.O Box 5026, Augusta, ME 04332 before January 31.

The following categories are eligible for a certificate and a patch:

- In state---- Buck, Doe, Bear, Moose and Turkey
- Out of state----Buck, Doe, Bear, Moose and Turkey
- Plus out of state -- Caribou and Pronghorn

Miscellaneous categories receive a certificate only.

Please Print

Hunter Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Age: _____ Sex: _____ Yrs Bowhunted: _____

Harvest Information:

Date: _____ Time: _____

At time of first shot the animal was:

Laying Standing Walking Running

Animals position relative to the hunter:

Qtr. Towards Broadside Qtr. Away Heading Away

Distance of First Shot: _____

Total of shots Taken: _____ Total Hits: _____

Position of Hits: _____

Penetration: _____

Time Waited Before Tracking: _____

Recovery Distance: _____

Time From First Hit To Recovery: _____

Misc.infoHunting Information:

Town/Country: _____

State/Providence: _____

Method: Stand Blind Still Stalk

Lure: Bait Decoy Rattle Call None

Cover Scent: Fox Skunk Other None

Weather: _____

Equipment Information:

Type of Bow: Long Recurve Compound

Brand of

Bow: _____

Draw Weight: _____ Sights: YES/NO

Type of Arrow: Wood Aluminum Glass Carbon

Arrow Length: _____ Overdraw: YES/NO

Fletching: Feathers Vanes

If Stand Used, Type: Ladder Strap on Climber Sling Permanent

Type of Camo Used: Forest Mossy Oak Advantage Snow Treebark Fluorescent

Other _____

Turkey Scoring Formula:

Weight _____ Beard _____ L.Spur _____ R.Spur _____

Weight (in pounds) _____ +2 x Beard Length _____ +10 x Length of Each Spur _____ Total _____

Game Information:

Animal

Taken: _____

Sex: _____ Weight: _____

Weight Verified: _____

(signature of Witness)

If Antlers Present, Total Points: _____

HOW TO SUBMIT ARTICLES AND ADS

The Maine Bowhunter welcomes submissions from all MBA members. If you've got something you would like to share with the MBA membership, send it along. We want to hear from you. Stories, photos, hot topics, even gripes are welcome. Try to keep stories to 500 words or less. Please note the following dates for submission of material.

The Maine Bowhunter is inserted into the Maine Sportsman and sent to the committed members of the Maine Bowhunters Association every other month, six times per year.

Ad rates are for camera-ready copy; some assistance in designing ads can also be provided at our discretion. Submissions by e-mail or on disk are preferred in either MS Word or Adobe .pdf format.

Send material to: Lori Weaver editor@mainebowhunters.org

Ad Size	Dimensions	Single Issue	6 Issues Per Issue Price	6 issue Price Paid in Advance
Full Page	7 ½ X 9	\$275	\$200	\$1200
Half Page	7 ½ X 4 ½	\$150	\$120	\$720
Quarter Page	3 ¾ X 4 ½	\$80	\$75	\$450
Eighth Page	1 7/8 X 2 ¼	\$60	\$50	\$300

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MAINE BOWHUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Lori Weaver/Paul St. John Editor
Phone: 207-486-3254
E-mail: editor@mainebowhunters.org

WWW.MAINEBOWHUNTERS.ORG

Newsletter Issue	Submissions Due
January	December 1
March	February 1
May	April 1
July	June 1
September	August 1
November	October 1

MBA Membership Application

New Renewal

Date: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Membership Type: Individual \$25 Family \$35 Individual Life \$350 MBA Newsletter only—Electronic form \$15

Individual 65+ with proof of age \$20 Couple 65+ with proof of age \$30

Club or Business Affiliation \$95 Corporate Membership \$250 Patron \$250 V.I.P. \$1000

Mail to: **Maine Bowhunters Association, PO Box 5026, Augusta, ME 04330**

Custom Bow Strings: Here are the Facts

By Tom Hartford

We recently had a customer come in that had purchased a Hoyt Vectrix from us a couple of years ago. He had a friend order a custom string and install it. The bow never shot right after that. He asked me to check over his bow. The bow was so far out of time. There was no way it would shoot correctly. The limbs turned all the way up, would only get to 72 lbs, but it was a 70-80 lb. bow. I inspected the strings and realized they were not the right length. He spent \$150 and the strings weren't going to work. We installed a custom made string from CMA and the bow performed perfectly. The moral to the story: Have an EXPERIENCED Pro-Shop install your strings for you.

Our goal for this article is to give you the most information we can, to share our knowledge about the quality of string materials, installation, and care, without giving out our trade secrets. I want to start out by saying that all strings that come stock on bows will do a satisfying job

for six months to a year depending on the care and setup of the bow. All manufacturers, in order to keep the price of bows down, use a string that allows bows to be shot and perform well for a shorter period of time than our custom made, properly stretched, and installed string. It takes a significant period of time to pre-stretch a string to prevent the string from getting longer after repeated shots which affects peep rotation, timing, and arrow flight. This is time that is not factored in during a mass production process. Most archers don't consider string replacement when purchasing a bow. After the initial purchase, string care and eventual replacement will be THE most important factor impacting performance and safety. No accessory will work optimally if the string is not properly taken care of.

A lot of manufacturers don't want to hear this, but ALL strings want creep. We've seen as much as a 1/4 inch of length added from string creep. In order to set the length of a string and minimize an increase in

length from use over time, we put 400- 500 lbs. of pressure on the string for a minimum of eight hours. Time is the key to minimizing string creep. It's experience that lets us know how much pressure to keep on the string, so as not to damage the fibers by putting too much pressure on them. After the proper installation of a custom string, the bow should shoot better than new.

The buss or power cable is the most important to stretch. This cable should be stretched the longest. The control cable and string can generally get by with 8 hours of stretching time. On binary cam systems, the control and buss cables are generally the same length. When they are, they need to be made EXACTLY the same way and stretched TOGETHER for the bow to have good timing. At CMA, we use a different serving for our buss cables than the industry standard so we don't get serving separation around the cams. BCY is our material of choice. It has won more tournaments and is currently shot on more world champions' bows than

any other string material. This material is the most consistent material we have found. Reliable quality is key to produce a reliable product with excellent performance.

You can have the best string in the world, but that doesn't amount to much without proper installation. What CMA considers proper string installation includes cleaning the grooves of cams from debris like old string wax and dirt, removing axles and limb pockets for cleaning and lubricating. Checking for E-clips, spacers, and putting the leaches/chub, peep, kisser button, and release loop are all included in the price of the new string.

Strings should be waxed regularly, to increase life of the string. Even a custom string won't last if it's not taken care of. If a string gets fuzzy, you may have broken a strand and may want to have an experienced bow technician check to make sure you haven't exceeded the safety factor. Strings have several "extra" strands for added safety to handle

(Continued on page 12)

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(Continued from page 11)

the pressure from the compressed limbs in case one gets worn through, breaks due to a brittle dry state from lack of wax, or just aging. Don't push that safety standard. You don't need to be 15 feet up a tree and have your bow explode on you. Parts do fly... up to 20 yards away, and a string has lashed a bow arm on more than one occasion. Bow hunting requires a bow AND the hunter. You are an essential component of the hunt, so don't compromise on the safety aspect. Another way to protect your investment is avoid high humidity storage area like the basement or excessively dry space like over the wood stove or the gas

cooking stove... don't laugh, we've heard it all. Cats and other critters love to "floss" with your string, so protect your investment with a bow case or hang them high or in a closet. A cut string is as loud and explosive as a dry fire. Wouldn't you like to catch that cat's response when it gnawed on "the last strand" holding that 70 pound compound together... another job for You-Tube? At any rate, regular bow wax application is often taken for granted and WILL increase the life span of your string.

If you have any questions on custom strings please contact us at CMA. Good luck with your new string and be safe.



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MBA Online

Don't Forget to check out our website for all the latest news.
To enter our Members Only section use the following:

Username: maillist

Password: mba10hunt

The Maine Bowhunters Association is organized and shall be operated:

- To provide a State-wide organization within which people through individual memberships, with a common interest in bow-hunting, may recognize and have means of furthering their interests.
- The Maine Bowhunters Association shall recognize ALL vertical bows as acceptable under the definition of bows provided by the International Bowhunter Education Program, which reads: "one that is hand held, hand drawn, and released with nothing attached to the bow that will allow the bow to be mechanically held in a drawn or cocked position." The Maine Bowhunters Association shall not recognize the crossbow under this definition and shall oppose attempts to make the crossbow acceptable for use in bow hunting only seasons.
- To foster a spirit of sportsman-like fellowship among all bowhunters.
- To initiate or support selected activities and programs intended, or expected, to emphasize the responsibilities inherent in any proper use of the bow and arrow and to protect such continued use and possession on the part of citizens of good repute.
- To strive toward upgrading the sport of bowhunting through education, training, demonstration, dissemination of information, and related activities.
- To encourage by education, training, and demonstration, the support of appropriate legislation or other activities, a high level of sportsmanship and ethics in any use of the bow and arrow in activities related to the interests of the association.
- To educate archers to the fact that bowhunting is a sport of separate from and not to be confused with the sport of target/field archery.
- To further the purpose of this association by means of education, demonstration, or other appropriate activities directed to the recognition and protection of the rights of others, insofar as they relate to property rights, and enjoyment and use of property, and the enforcement of laws and regulations.

