

Michigan Bow Hunters

NEWS



VOLUME 2 — NO. 11

OCTOBER 1967

HISTORY OF BOWHUNTING IN MICHIGAN

In 1937, Michigan became the second state in the nation to establish a special deer season for archers. Two counties, Iosco and Newaygo, one on each side of the Lower Peninsula, were opened to bowmen for bucks only from November 1 to 14. Bowhunting was not unheard of before 1937, however. Prior to that a few persons had hunted deer with bow and arrow during the general deer seasons, concentrating mainly in the area near the Lumbermans Memorial monument northwest of East Tawas. The discharge of firearms was prohibited there for fear of damage to the monument.

In 1939, the archery season was extended to include all counties open to deer hunting in the regular gun season. This meant bowmen could hunt in most northern areas. Then in 1941, Allegan county, because of severe crop damage, was opened to archers for deer of either sex. It was the first time bowhunters were permitted to shoot antlerless deer.

Three years later, in 1944, the southern section of the state was opened to archers. They then had a statewide bucks only season during the first two weeks of November. In 1945, a major change was enacted by the State Legislature. The bow and arrow season was increased to 36 days—from October 1 to November 5. This year, 1967, another major change was enacted, extending the season for bowhunters from October 1 to December 31st, in Zone 3 with the exception that the season shall be closed

during the firearms season. This now gives the bow hunters 76 days of bow hunting.

Except for Allegan county, bow hunters still had to look for bucks only until 1947, when 17 northern counties were opened to antlerless whitetails during the bow season. By 1952, bowmen could shoot deer of either sex in nearly every county in the state.

That first archery season back in 1937 saw 186 persons, two of them from out-of-state, buy bow and arrow licenses. They killed just four deer. In 1938, 227 archers—all from Michigan—harvested a grand total of eight deer. License sales topped the one thousand mark for the first time in 1941. That year 1046 bowhunters shot 22 deer.

Michigan record archery license sales were recorded in 1965 when 52,200 bow licenses were sold. The states record archery kill came during the 1964 season when bowhunters bagged an estimated 2,810 whitetails for a 6.3% hunter success.

The average hunting success among Michigan archers is about five percent. This means that one of every 20 brings home venison each fall. Statistics show, meanwhile, that 30 yards is the average distance at which a deer is shot by an archer in this state.

Michigan has recorded just four serious bowhunting accidents since 1937. Two were fatalities.

It is presumed that many of our members new to bowhunting, didn't realize the long hard path travelled by old time bowhunters in securing the favorable regulations that we enjoy today. The Michigan Bow Hunters Association has played an important

role to members and non-members alike in getting favorable legislation established for bowhunters.

Douglas Bartrem,
Vice-President

'NOCKIN' 'ROUND THE NORTH

by Liz Gall

September was terrible — couldn't keep my mind out of the woods and on the house work. Even ran out of gas in the lawnmower before the job was finished because a beautiful vision of that big buck we sighted this summer kept getting in the way. There must have been more than one round that I repeated. So, if you should happen by our diggin's before the snow flies, you will no doubt notice a pretty spotty lookin' lawn (I did the front last of course) as chances are slim that it will be done again this year. And that's not all — if during the winters meals, you should be our guest thing nothin' of it if the pickles don't taste just right. I was shootin' right for the heart of a very obliging imaginary deer, standing broadside about 20 yards away, as I measured "one cup salt, one quart vinegar, two quarts water —".

And finally we heard it — the honk of geese flying south. A crisp wind blew, the smell of burning leaves reached our nostrils and we knew it was here at last — that wonderful fall season and bow and arrow deer hunting! Blue and Gold days filled with sounds of the wood creatures, falling leaves and dropping acorns. Cool, cool nights bright from the light of a full pumpkin moon. The howl of the coyote, the cry

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VP's MESSAGE

(continued from page 2)

After completing the silhouette shoot the Marshall club had an archery golf shoot set up that was a lot of fun and took a lot of luck to hit the small white dot for a zero. I am sure that those who shot this round enjoyed it very much. Low score was a 23 by Phil Grable--Sue Smith was second with a 25 and third was a 30 by yours truly.

The winners of the Bear Silhouette Shoot were:

Men Champion Hunter, Bare Bow
Joe Wagner of Mason with a 385.

Mens Champion Free Style
Phil Grable of Lansing with a 368.

Womens Champion Hunter Free Style
Louise Brunt of Climax with a 344.

Womens Champion Bare Bow
Liz Gall of Onaway with a 240.

In the Junior divisions Bruce Raymond of Coldwater led the boys with a 324 and Sonja Packard of Greenville led the girls with a 201.

I saw many of our members bring their buddies with them that were not members of the Michigan Bow Hunters and had them join that day. I am sure that this new member enjoyed the shoot and had an enjoyable day.

Each year this shoot is held the last weekend of August, so let's mark our calendars right now and plan on attending in 1968. The dates will be August 24 and 25 at the Marshall range just south of Marshall, Michigan.

This shoot is progressive, shoot as you come, (and on Saturday you can shoot any time between 12 noon till 5:00 P.M.). On Sunday the shooting starts at 8:00 in the morning and ends at 2:00 P.M. in the afternoon. You need not be present to win a prize and you shoot only once around the course which is 28 targets.

The range is located at the Wilder Creek Park and has facilities for camping--a pavilion to be under when the weather is bad or out of the sun--swings, slides, and teeter totters for the children.

Approximately 150 prizes were given out on the Lewis System plus several door prizes including a humidifier. The local club and the MBH District 8 purchased the prizes along

with donations by local merchants & archery dealers and manufacturers throughout the state.

Shoots like these are part of your membership and are enjoyed by many. Lets more of us plan on attending these district shoots and enjoy the company of your fellow bowhunters.

Douglas L. Bartrem
Vice-President
Michigan Bow Hunters

EARL'S ARCHERY

COMPLETE LINE OF
EQUIPMENT

PHONE 546-0192

Earl L. Foerster
506 S. Walnut Howell

AFTER YOU GET YOUR DEER KEEP THE MEAT FROM SPOILING

A lot can happen between the time your broadhead connects with a deer and the time your venison goes into the freezer. One archer hunting near Curran had his deer finished off and ripped to pieces by a hungry bear. You can't do much about rarities like that, but there are some steps you should take to assure yourself of good whitetail steaks.

The warm weather which can be expected during much of October makes bowhunting a real pleasure, but it necessitates some extra care in handling your deer so you'll have top quality table meat.

Don't load your deer into the car trunk for transporting before it has had a chance to lose its body heat. The tightly closed trunk will hold the animals natural heat and can contribute to spoilage within a short time.

Other factors which can cause spoilage are failure to field dress the deer properly, failure to cool the carcass thoroughly before hauling it home and transporting meat on car fenders or similar places where it wont stay cool.

After field dressing, remove all blood from the body cavity with a

clean cloth or with clear water. The water will not harm the meat if allowed to drain off well. Hang the deer so air can circulate around it and let the meat cool several hours before transporting it. Cheese cloth can be used to keep flies from the meat.

Always attach your tag immediately.

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'NOCKIN' 'ROUND THE NORTH

(continued from page 1)

of the jay, chatter of the squirrel and everything ablaze with color. Each year we think that never was the maple so red, the poplar so yellow or the pines so green. The golden days of autumn - some call it Injun Summer and believe that the autumn haze is then come back 'cause they're home sick. Don't KNOW about that, but for me it's a thing gets right hold of you and wont let go. It's a chronic "sickness" suffered each year. The only cure is to take to the woods October 1st and not come back till the Red Coats come.

The long range weather forecast says we will have a good amount of rain, wind and blustery weather for the month and there is a "maybe" of snow for the last day of October. One happy thought to counteract the rainy-day blues tho - the calendar says there are six weed-ends in our hunting season this year. Hope you get to hunt 'em all. (Son-of-a-gun, guess what just went by while I sat here musin'?).

BOWHUNTERS!! HUNT THIS YEAR AT

4 PINE HUNTING CAMP

Located in "Prime" deer country between Curran & Hubbard Lake in Alcona County. Room, Board, Blinds & Rye Strips -- \$95.00 per week. (Maximum booking 24 hunters per week). 1966 bowhunters success was 36%. ..

For information or reservations contact Hal Rothgery at, Mohawk Archery Lanes, 1020 Taylor Street, Elyria, Ohio 44035.

secretary would like a few clear sharp black and white pictures of your deer if you are successful this year. We can also use stories about your hunting trip or anything unusual that transpires, for our monthly publication.

District 9 Governor, Rex Holbrook reports that the deer silhouette shoot at Detroit Archers on September 10th went very well. Ted Spence with an 884 was tops in the mens bare bow division and Dale Putman top free style with 776. Carol Ellison and Jackie Bell were the women winners. Terry Bell was top junior girl and Bruce Holbrook was top junior boy. Art Linde donated a Sabo Bow to be given to the one shooting nearest to the average score. The average score was 461 and Loren Hilderbrand was closest to this figure with a 462.

The "MBH MAIL CARP CONTEST" closed August 15th and checks have been mailed to the winners. Winners in the mens division were as follows: Lee Statler whose carp weighted 36 pounds 8 ounces and was 38½ inches long and measured 27 inches around took first prize followed by Berwin Henson, Henry Burgaaf, Fred Buttery, Charles Brooks, Chet Marusek, Loyd Fyvie and Bill Gillespie. In the womens division, Dorothy Marusek was first with a 27 pound 3 ounce, measuring 38 inches long and 23¾ inches in girth. Wanda Henson was second followed by Bonnie Bretz, Reva Brown and Glenna Warne. Berwin Henson had the largest rough fish other than carp. Daniel Brooks topped the junior boys division followed by Floyd Fyvie. The door prizes were won by the following: Leonard Parkard, Royal Dockweiler, Donald Warne, Frank Smith,

Frank Keech, Dave Keech and Donald Raymond.

In the membership contest that came to a close July 31st, we were surprised that three contestants sold more than 40 memberships each. Bill Logg led with 51 new members and 9 renewals for a total of 54. G. L. Gifford was second with 50 new members and Floyd Eccleston was third with 44 new and 5 renewals for a total of 49 and 2/3 members. Many others made a real good showing and all received some kind of a prize for their efforts. A total of 259 new and 54 renewals was the final tabulation.

Don't forget to send in the hunting stories and good hunting to all of you.

VP's MESSAGE

The Marshall Bowmen and MBH District Governor Loren Willey are to be congratulated for the fine job they did in sponsoring the annual Bear Silhouette Shoot on Saturday, August 26 and Sunday, August 27.

There were 233 bowhunters that registered in the damp, cool, wet weather to see how well they could score on a bear silhouette. These targets were placed like actual hunting shots; standing feeding from a tree--up a tree--hiding in tall grass and behind heavy brush. Many found their broadhead heading straight for the heart area (15 ring) when it hit a twig and deflected out.

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THIS AND THAT

As the October issue of "MBH NEWS" goes to print we look at the calendar and see that only two short weeks remain before the bow season opening. Of course some of our members are probably already enjoying the early opening of the bow season on Garden and Beaver Islands and we probably will be getting in some of the big game application blanks that were enclosed in last months issue before September ends.

The MBH Officers and Board hopes each of you has a very pleasant and fruitful hunting trip. Don't forget the

Use the application blank below to renew your membership or sign up a friend.

MICHIGAN BOW HUNTERS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION BLANK

Name		Address	
City	State	County	Zip Code
New _____	Renewal _____		
Have You Had A Previous MBH Big Game Award? _____			
MAIL TO— Michigan Bow Hunters		Individual\$3.00 yr.
P.O. Box 4			
Flint, Michigan, 48501		Family\$5.00 yr.
Family membership includes man, wife, and children under 17			

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FIRST CLASS

THOSE WHO MUST HAVE
THE BEST USE

LaFonds Lightning 4 Blade
Broadheads and the
CUSTOM BOW SLING

manufactured by
WARNES CUSTOM LEATHER

SOME IMPORTANT DON'TS

For more or less obvious reasons, some methods of hunting, some devices, and some practices must be prohibited. Here are the important things you may not do:

(1) You may not hunt from a car,

aircraft, boat or float of any kind that is propelled by engine, motor, or sail, and you may not pursue animals with a snowmobile.

(2) You may not use artificial lights, such as spotlights, flashlights, or car headlights to take game. Firearms must be locked in the car trunk or secured in a container inaccessible from the car interior when occupants are using artificial lights to locate game.

(3) You may not set fires to drive out game.

(4) You may not drive small game or furbearing animals from their holes or homes.

(5) You may not hunt from a tree, raised platform, or scaffold.

(6) You may not use a snare, trap, cage, net, pitfall, deadfall, salt, drugs, poison, chemical, smoke, gas, explosive, ferret, weasel, guinea pig, or rodent of any kind; or crossbow, or

mechanical device other than a gun, bow and arrow, or slingshot to take wild birds or animals.

(7) You may not buy or sell small game.

(8) You may not destroy identity of your game, or evidence of the sex of your pheasant while it is in the field or when transported in a motor vehicle.

DON'T SHOOT CUB BEARS!!

MICHIGAN BOW HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

*wishes everyone a
Successful and Safe
Hunting Season*