

Michigan Bow Hunters

NEWS



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'Nockin' 'Round The North

by Liz Gall

At this writing, winter, so far, has been kind to the deer and little animals. The snow is not so deep that they cannot get around. They are able to range out and feed on apples, acorns and garden "stuffs" which they dig out of the snow. We find fresh tracks almost daily where the deer have been feeding the night before.

As the snow gets deeper the deer will be forced to yard up and then the trouble begins. A deer yard is a thick woods or swamp edge of cedars and pines where snow piles up on thick branches providing cover from the wind and weather. The deer make a trail through the yard so they can range out for food as long as weather permits. While confined to the yard they browse as high as they can reach while standing on their hind legs. This leaves the fawn or small deer without food early in the season. Year after year the animals will return to the same yard eating all new growth leaving the area barren of food.

Game biologists and foresters watch for such areas and cuttings are planned to provide them with food for the winter. The sound of the chain saw is music to the ears of our northern Michigan white-tails, as woodsmen cut trees near browsed-out deer yards. Downed trees provide the essential food for weakened animals when cut near enough. The Conservation Department has planned for thousands of acres of such cuttings again this winter.

The country is covered with fox tracks and there is evidence that coyote are plentiful. It would be rather difficult to get either of these animals with bow and arrow when chased by dogs. But they say there is much fun to be had by calling them in with a predator call and "peckin" away.

Why not give it a try and let us know how you do so we can report it in the monthly "NEWS". There is no closed season on fox or coyote.



PHOTO CREDIT — Charles Stafford of Kalamazoo

Andy Ammann and his turkey taken with a bow the first day of the season with a permit, near Baldwin. Andy felt it wasn't such a great feat as the turkey allowed him two shots at twenty yards, with the bird remaining in a squatting position and motionless like a grouse. It was a lone adult hen weighing eight and a half pounds. We disagree with Andy and feel getting a turkey with a bow and arrow is a feat at any time.

V.P.'s Message

I wish to thank everyone who took the time to write me concerning their views on hunting from tree blinds. I would like to ask this favor of each and every bowhunter -- sit down and write both your local representative

and senator and give him your feelings on hunting from tree blinds.

I have talked to both Senator Gordon Rockwell and Representative Raymond Baker, chairmen of the conservation committee in both the Michigan State Senate and House of Representatives. They have both expressed some doubt about this bill from the standpoint of safety and also taking an unfair advantage of the deer.

I feel this would be a very good law for bow and arrow hunters and hope that you and your hunting partners will take five or ten minutes and write your Senator and Representative asking for his or her support in the introduction of a bill that would allow the archers to hunt from a scaffold, raised platform, deadfall or tree.

Let's not hesitate on writing as the Legislative Session began on January 10, 1968 and the sooner a bill is introduced the better the chance of its passage.

Also, reserve the night of April 6, 1968 to be in Lansing at the annual awards banquet and dance. It will be held at the Ingham County Conservation League Clubhouse (same place as last year). The dinner will begin at 6:00 P.M. and the dance at 9:30 P.M. Tickets are \$5.00 each and you can get them by sending your check to me at 203 West Weiland Road, Lansing, Michigan 48906.

Douglas L. Bartrem
Vice President
Michigan Bow Hunters

1968 Membership Contest

In your January issue of "MBH NEWS" there was a list of rules and prizes available to members participating in the membership contest. It is hoped you read the rules over carefully and have started already in signing up new members.

It is not necessary to use an application blank for sending in new mem-

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