

EDITOR'S NOTES

First, on behalf of the MBA, I would like to express a very special thanks to each of those donating items for auction or raffle at the Spring Banquet this past February. I would like to encourage each of our members to thank these folks personally and give them your business if given the opportunity.

In the news category, the MBA State Shoot will be hosted by the Yazoo Bowhunters on Saturday and Sunday, June 7 & 8 at their range in Yazoo City. Registration is 9:00 AM till 1:00 PM on Saturday and 9:00 AM till 2:00 PM on Sunday. Food will be available on site. For more information or directions to the range, log-on to the MBA website www.mississippibowhunters.com, or contact George Fielder (662)673-0230 or James Thornhill (662) 746-5213.

Another Legislative session has come and gone without any negative impacts on bowhunting. That's great news. With attitudes of constant change being the norm in the hunting community, how could this be possible? The answer is constant interaction between the MBA and key legislators. Our Legislative committee does an excellent job notifying our members early in the game allowing us to contact the lawmakers and give them our opinions. That's how the process was designed to work, right?

Every member of the MBA is important. One of the most important contributions you can make is to contact your local representative concerning issues related to bowhunting, and hunting in general, when our MBA Legislative committee sends out alerts when a critical a issue is about to come up for a vote. Timing is very critical. The most efficient and economical method of getting the word out to the membership is electronically, via email. For this reason, I ask that each one of you send an email to our Secretary/Treasurer, Joel Cunningham (joelbc3@yahoo.com) and give him your email address. Once a list is compiled, those members can be notified in a matter of hours. Everyone else will receive a letter via snail-mail. Timing is critical, so let me encourage you to send that email today.

I am grateful to the group of bowhunters that decided several decades ago to be proactive and form an organization that would represent the bowhunters of this state. At that time, hunting with a bow was considered a novelty, or a warm-up to gun season. A special bow-only season was formed during a time when no other method of harvesting a deer was allowed. Many new bowhunters were added to the ranks as a result. I just can't help but wonder if bowhunting would be as popular in this state today if that special early season had not been added. I doubt it. I also wonder if the popularity will decline if the early season is either removed, or if other easier-to-use weapons are added to it. I think it will.

Finally, I want to remind you again that the MBA publications are only as good as the material submitted by our members. Send stories and photos to bluethunder@bayspringstel.net, or to 500 Rankin Ferguson Rd., Pelahatchie, MS 39145.

May God bless each and every one of you with health, happiness, and a trophy of your dreams.

Dwayne Ensign

Mississippi Bowhunters Association Membership Application

Please enroll me in the MBA, whose purpose is to foster, expand, and perpetuate the practice of bowhunting in the State of Mississippi; to encourage the use of bow and arrow in the hunting of all legal game and predators; to improve the hunter for the hunting; and to protect, improve and increase the privileges of bowhunters.

New Member Renewing Member

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State _____ County _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ email _____

One Year Individual Membership\$20.00

Two Year Individual Membership\$30.00

Associate Membership.....\$7.50

Life Membership\$250.00

Voluntary Contribution to Political Fund\$5.00

Mail to Joel Cunningham, P.O. Box 6, Inverness, MS 38753

MBA SUPPORTERS – 2008 ANNUAL BANQUET

DONATED ITEMS FOR AUCTION

Bill's Archery, Pearl, MS

Columbia River Knife & Tool
www.crkt.com

Delta Outfitters / Hadad's Vicksburg, MS

Mr. Deuce McAllister, New Orleans Saints

Ellis Solomon's Taxidermy, Brandon, MS

Farmer's Cooperative, Port Gibson, MS

G&G Wildlife Studio, Jackson, MS

Got Gear Motor Sports, Ridgeland, MS
www.gotgearmotorsports.com

Hunter's Hollow, Oxford, MS
www.huntershollow.comHunter's Solutions

Mean Mallard, Ridgeland, MS
www.meanmallard.com

Mossy Oak, West Point, MS
www.mossyoak.com

North Jackson Honda, Jackson, MS
www.northjacksonhonda.com

Outdoor Country, Inc.

The Outfitter, Florence, MS
www.theoutfitter.org

Primos Hunting Calls, Flora, MS
www.primos.com

Rebel Archery, Vicksburg, MS

Rankin County Co-op, Brandon, MS

Copperhead Bows, Brandon, MS
Surplus City, Jackson, MS

Van's Deer Processing, Brandon, MS

OUTFITTERS DONATING HUNTS:

Ash Creek Outfitters
www.ashcreekoutfitters.com

Bent Creek Lodge
www.bentcreeklodge.com

Dark Timber Outfitters
www.darktimberlodge.com

Ellislie Plantation
www.ellislieplantation.com

Giles Island
www.gilesisland.com

Hickory Hills Bowhunting

Lee's Bend Hunting Club

Dr. Joe Bumgardner

Matlabas Game Hunters
www.matlabas.com.za/hunting

Mesquite Bowhunting
www.mesquitebowhunting.com

Noxubee Bowhunt
Wayne Stewart, Jr.

Snag Lake Hunting Club
www.snaglakehunting.com

Tara Wildlife
www.tarawildlife.com

Trail's End Hunting
www.trailsendhunting.com

Product Showcase - Double Bull Matrix 360°

By Adam Stewart

Ground blinds are undoubtedly one of the fastest growing sectors of the hunting industry. They have become very popular with bowhunters, and for good reason. These blinds allow us to get on eye level with our game, be mobile, conceal us from rain and wind, and most importantly, conceal us from the wary eyes of wildlife.

I recently went on a turkey hunting trip in Arkansas. To aid me in this endeavor, I borrowed a Double Bull Matrix 360°. One morning I awoke to rain and 25 mph winds and I decided this would be the perfect time to set up and use the blind.

There are many different portable blinds available on the market these days. Most are quality products well worth the cost. So what sets the Double Bull Matrix 360° apart from all the others? Three things stood out to me.

First, the material this blind is made from is head and shoulders above the competition. It is heavier and appears to be much more durable than others. In my setup this particular day, I had the blind nestled back against some cedars and small oaks. The leafless and rough oak tree limbs constantly raked back and forth on the blind in the 25 mph wind and had no affect on the blind; I had no worries that it would tear. The camouflage screening in the material is excellent. The large open patterns blend in great, and unlike most other blinds I have seen, when viewed from a distance, the blind did not look like a solid dark blob sticking out like a sore thumb against the background. The material is extremely weather-proof. I stayed dry! Not the first drop of water penetrated the roof, not even around the seams.

The second thing that impressed me about this blind was the window system. The blind is actually made from two independent pieces of fabric; a top piece and a bottom piece. Once you get inside, you can adjust the windows to suit any shooting position, height or style. The window opening is created by pushing the top piece of material up, the bottom piece down and securing them in place with a strap and buckle. You can also open just one side to shoot through and then settle in the back of the blind against the black background and be almost unnoticeable. Also, as the name implies, you can have a 360° window if you would like. Adjustments are quick, easy, and most importantly, quiet with no zippers.

The final thing that really impressed me with this blind was the ease of setup and takedown. While the company says the blind can be set up in 7 seconds, I found a more realistic set-up time to be more like 30-45 seconds. To take down the blind, you simply pull the five hubs in one-by-one starting with the roof hub and you are done in seconds. Included with the blind is a DVD which demonstrates set-up and take-down of the blind, plus video of about 5 hours of hunts using the Double Bull Matrix 360°.

In my opinion the blind does have a few drawbacks. The weight is advertised at 20 pounds, but is a worthwhile trade-off for the exceptionally heavy-duty construction of the material. The carrying case could also use built-in backpack straps to aid in transporting the blind in and out of the woods. The single shoulder strap becomes uncomfortable on more than a short walk. Lastly, this blind is a bit pricey as compared to most other blinds.

If you are looking for the highest quality hunting blind on the market, and are willing to pay the extra cost, I believe you will be very satisfied with the Double Bull Matrix 360° portable blind.

