



Kerry Hardy's extensive pre-season hunting tactics have, over the years, brought him a number of trophy bucks.

ferring to the School of Environmental Science and Forestry at the State University of New York, where he earned a degree in landscape architecture.

He met his wife, Carolyn Silsby-Hardy, while she was attending law school in Orono. Today the couple has two sons attending C-RHS and a daughter in the third grade at Lincolnville Central School.

Although he now works for himself, specializing in landscape design, Hardy was for many years associated with a local landscaping firm that involved him in a number of projects in the region.

He is happiest using native plants and trees in his landscape projects and seeing the lasting beauty of the finished product.

"Many of these native species were difficult to obtain when I first began," said Hardy. "Today, many are available in the local market."

This past winter, when those in landscape work often have time to spare Hardy worked as a substitute teacher, and undertook a new project that combined his love of the outdoors and his urge to write.

He sat down at his computer and wrote several articles about his hunting experiences and his appreciation

for nature and submitted them to some of the country's major outdoor publications.

"I figured I might just as well start at the top," he said.

Was he disappointed in his first attempts as a professional writer? Hardly. An editor from Field and Stream soon called to tell him the magazine wanted to publish one of his stories.

His first story, which should hit the newsstands in late summer or early fall, is about his method of early-season preparation for deer hunting.

Hardy's early success as a writer didn't end there. A few weeks later an editor at Outdoor Life called to say the magazine is looking seriously at his work.

What does he want to accomplish with his writing?

"I don't want to write just about the tricks of the trade," said Hardy, "but on how to get more enjoyment from hunting and fishing than just getting game. The process is very important."

Hardy doesn't know what to expect from this new career opportunity but wants his writing to "take me as far as it can."

As an outdoor professional, how does Hardy rate the status of the Maine outdoors today?

"Birds and most animals are in good health and number, especially the deer herd," he says. "Migratory birds, and in some cases fishing, need to show more improvement."

This past winter's ice storm was a feeding bonanza for the deer herd, Hardy said, as they were able to move from one downed tree to another and feed at will.

Deer season is Hardy's favorite time of the year, and he begins preparations in late summer. He scouts his hunting areas thoroughly, often spending hours studying the haunts and habits of a single big buck.

He has spent the night in the woods using special equipment he will feature in a future article. The net result of his pre-season labors is the number of impressive deer antlers he has accumulated.

Nearly all the deer Hardy harvests are used by his family. He looks forward to skinning the deer, cutting and packaging the meat by hand and turning some of the venison into jerky.

This unique individual may be out hunting one day and doing battle with a corporate giant the next over the ecological damage that might result from a major construction project.

"Ecology and conservation projects have always been an interest, and will be more so in the future when I have more time," he says.

That afternoon, as our conversation was nearly over, Hardy took a deer hide he had been working on during the winter from his back porch down to the family sauna for storage.

The early spring sunshine warmed the field behind his house as we walked across his property. He smiled as he talked about his land, his state, his writing and his outdoor work.

Kerry Hardy is living a life he enjoys, a life he hopes will offer enjoyment to others who will soon be reading his stories.