

The Minnesota Bowhunter

Continuing the tradition...



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Presidents Message:

Hi All,

I hope you had a good hunting season this year. A warm opening weekend in September, rains that wouldn't quit in October but a pretty good November. Yours truly didn't get out as much as he would have liked but enough to put a few small ones in the freezer. Saw a few decent bucks but just didn't have an opportunity to get that big one. If this winter isn't too bad perhaps I will meet up with him again next year. For me there always seems to be a next year. As a person gets older they tend to have fewer and fewer "next years" to count on. That said, I do recall meeting up with two gentlemen both in their senior years who were registering a nice 10 pt buck.

It was late November and they were starting to lose confidence in it being a successful season. However, they timed their outing right and a big buck walked past both of them while trailing a late estrus doe. It was a once in a lifetime experience. The way they described it you would have thought these two guys going into their golden years were teenage bowhunters. It was all they could do to get that buck out of the woods and they were very proud of themselves. I let them tell the story to me and the archery shop owner a number of times. That was over ten years ago now. I don't know if either one of those two would even be hunting today. It was obvious the two were long time good hunting buddies. What a note to end a lifetime of hunting experiences on. I hope my time in the woods, when it does end, finishes with an experience like that. But I don't want to wait another 20 years to get that really big one!

I also remember helping a gentleman load a nice 9 point buck into his vehicle that his 15 yr old son had just shot, It was his first deer. We all had a good laugh when I reminded both of them he only had about 50 more years to top that feat or give up bowhunting. My hunting partner and I were hunting the same area the night before and he had harvested a nice big doe. Since we had just come back from the registration station that morning we were able to give directions, as they were from out of state. After a few more pats on the back they were off and on their way. As an impressionable teenager, I hope he is still hunting years from now and not being distracted by all the negative things kids are exposed to in this often crazy world we inhabit. Wouldn't it be fantastic if this boy would still be bowhunting another 50 years from now? I really hope he is.

Minnesota Bowhunters Inc.
1769 Lexington Ave N. #138
Roseville, MN 55113

www.mnbowhunters.org



The Minnesota Bowhunters Inc. established in 1946, will soon be entering its 65th year. Some would call that time period the senior years or up-coming on platinum status. Over that time period we have had many members come and go and the organization continues on. But how long will it go on? Per a recent DNR hunter study only a small portion of deer hunters belong to any sportsman's group. If we consider our membership and compare that to the number of bowhunters in the state, the statistics tend to agree. The board members and I would like to change that.

As an organization we get involved in numerous archery and bowhunting issues throughout the year. That has probably always been the case since the organization was founded. In many ways our volunteers act as the administrative staff for the rest of the bowhunters in the state. However the staff can only do so much without the support of its members and the greater bowhunting community.

Last year the board of directors and I decided to come up with a plan to increase our numbers and grow the organization. As an incentive we are offering a number of prizes to new members and extending the opportunity to current members who recruit bowhunters to join our organization. Details of the membership drive (or appeal) are in the following pages of this newsletter.

We need your help today to continue our involvement with archery and bowhunting issues that are important to you, me and future bowhunters. Please help us grow by referring a fellow bowhunter today!

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Tony Kuehn
President and Lifetime member
Minnesota Bowhunters, Inc.

2009 Game Fair Raffle Winner

Bryan Hamilton of Rogers MN. was the proud recipient of the Genesis youth bow raffled off by MBI at the 2009 Game Fair, congratulations Bryan.

Many Thanks to Cabelas, for donating the bow





MBI Launches 2010 Membership

Join now, renew your membership, or recruit new members and you become eligible to win some great prizes. All new members and renewals also receive a free knife!

Grand Prize: A Mathews Outback Bow ordered to fit you!

Other Great Prizes (listed in alphabetical order)



- 1 year subscription to Bowhunter Magazine
- 1 Bowhunter TV's 'Season 3' Four disc DVD package
- 1 Dz Easton Axis carbon arrows with vanes
- 1 Dz Easton XX78 aluminum arrows with feathers
- 1 Dz Magnus Stinger broadheads
- 1 Montana Decoy buck/doe combo pack
- 1 Copy of Blind Pigs and Big Bucks by M R James
- 1 Ripcord Fall-Away arrow rest
- 1 copy of The Modern Bowhunter by Curt Wells

MBI 2010 Membership Drive Prize Drawing Rules

1. The membership drive will begin on Jan. 1, 2010 and continue until Dec. 31, 2010. To be entered into drawing the membership must be postmarked or have a PayPal receipt before midnight, Dec. 31, 2010.
 2. The prize drawing will be held on Saturday, January 15, 2011.
 3. All winners must have been an MBI member as of January 1, 2011.
 4. Winners must be age 18 or older.
 5. Winners will be notified by telephone and/or mail.
 6. Individuals will be limited to winning one prize; Grand Prize drawing will be conducted first.
 7. New members and existing members who renew will receive the following number of drawing entries:
 - 1-year membership - one (1) entry
 - 3-year membership - three (3) entries
 - age 64 or younger Life membership - twenty (20) entries
 - age 65 or older Life membership = ten (10) entries.
 8. Members who paid for a 3-year membership during the calendar year 2009 will receive two drawing entries (one for the 2010 membership year and one for the 2011 year).
 9. Only one drawing entry per household for each year of membership - spouse and children do not receive drawing entries.
 10. MBI members who recruit new members or expired members to rejoin will receive one drawing entry for each new/expired member if the new/expired member includes the referring member's name on the membership form (no exceptions).
- All MBI members, including those who sign up during the membership drive, are eligible to receive referral entries.

For more information go to: www.mnbowhunters.org or call MBI President Tony Kuehn 952-715-7370



Landowner Shoes

By; Brooks Johnson

Almost every longtime bow hunter has knocked on a few doors trying to gain access to a new chunk of land, myself included. Sometimes we are welcomed and sometimes we are turned away. I would like to touch on a component of the process I have not seen discussed. It's putting yourself in the landowners shoes.

People own land for many reasons. Income, solitude, recreation, family heirs, and investment real estate are a few of the many reasons. My point is before you ask permission, think about why the person you are talking with owns the property. Consider what will be going through the landowners mind before you approach them. Put yourself in the landowners mindset, and your odds of securing permission are much higher.

A family farmer is probably the most common type of landowner approached by bow hunters. Some farmers own and farm their own land and more often than not, these farmers have an affection for and a deeply seeded connection to their property. What would motivate this type of person to grant you permission to hunt their property, money, fellowship, help with chores or repairs? It's up to you to figure out how you can help this person if you want to successfully gain access, but be fair and realistic before you ask to hunt. If you think offering help splitting wood, or mending an old pasture fence will get you in, be prepared to follow through on the bargain. Nothing will sour a landowner in regard to granting a request for access, faster than a hunter not living up to their end of the deal. Keep your word, don't ruin it for the next guy.

Some landowners lease or rent property for farming. Commercial farmers are more apt to view the land as a business. They might have more concerns over cash flow and liability, than a family farmer would. A commercial farmer may be more attracted to a financial exchange, such as a lease or trespass fee. One would be well advised to brush up on the liability issues involved with giving permission and it would certainly make sense to print out any regulations related to the Landowner's liability. The DNR has it highlighted in this years MN hunting regulations booklet. When you put yourself in the landowners shoes, it's really a no brainer to have these tools ready before you ask permission.

Some may think it's a waste of time to knock on the door of a fellow hunter who has posted his land to ask permission to hunt. I know I used to think the same way, until I bought my own piece of hunting land. I am here to tell you, transforming a block of woods into a piece of bow hunting heaven is no small task. It is a time consuming and financially intensive undertaking that few are familiar with.

There are access trails to build, trees to fell, food plots to clear, plant and spray, gates and fences to maintain and the list goes on and on. That guy down the road might let you bow hunt his place after gun season if you are willing to donate 60 hours of physical labor and use of the neighbors bobcat to add a nice 2 track trail with a killer deer attracting food plot on the end of it. 60 hours might sound like a lot, but pick the right spot and I can almost guarantee you will see more deer per sit than you would see sitting every day between the close of gun season and the end of the year in most public hunting areas.



What would motivate this type of person to grant you permission to hunt their property, money, fellowship, help with chores? It's up to you to find out how you can help this person if you want to successfully gain access



In the end, placing yourself in the landowners shoes is not only the best way to gain more spots to bow hunt, it is also the polite and courteous thing to do. It's the best way to create a win-win relationship between the bow hunter and the landowner, and it's your best shot at hanging onto those new spots for years to come. Bow hunters increase both opportunity and the sport's image with a give and take approach to land access.



Brooks and Arcus Johnson head out turkey hunting near a cabin they later helped reshingle.



we never fired a shot, but the birds were there, checking the cameras was Arcus's favorite part of the hunt preparation

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Below is an example of a land owner permission slip, used as a short term contract for access to private property for hunting or fishing purposes

LANDOWNER PERMISSION

Landowner: _____ Hunter/Fisherman: _____
 Address: _____ Address: _____
 Phone#: _____ Phone #: _____
 Vehicle ID: _____

As the landowner I give: _____ permission to hunt/fish on my lands described below for the dates: _____ to _____ according to the state or regional fish and game laws and regulations.

Property Description: _____

I, the above named hunter/angler promise to obey all state hunting/fishing regulations and abide by any rules established by the landowner and agree to waive landowner liability during these activities while on the premises. _____
 (hunter/angler signature)

For more details see;
 MN Statute 604A.20-604A.27





GET INVOLVED, Support your Local Sportsmen's Organizations

By; Nick Tortorelli

Now more than ever, we need the sportsmen of this country to stand together united, against those forces that exist, who's purposes include stripping us of our hunting heritage. Yes even right here in Minnesota, our hunting rights are constantly facing challenges, some you here about, some you don't.

News from United States Sportsmen's Alliance;

First Animal Rights State Caucus Formed

1/28/10

Recent news from California shows how animal rights supporters are continuing to gain influence over elected officials. Several state legislators recently joined forces to create the first state based "Creature Caucuses." These groups are meant to bring animal rights minded policymakers together in order to push legislation pleasing to groups like the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and PETA.

Officially called the "Animal Protection Caucus", the new grouping of Golden State legislators will be co-chaired by Senators Dean Florez (D-Shafter) and Tony Strickland (R-Moorpark) along with Assembly Members Cameron Smyth (R-Santa Clarita) and Pedro Nava (D-Santa Barbara). HSUS [is already singing its praises over](#) this and plans to mark the occasion with a reception at the state capital with its president and CEO, Wayne Pacelle attending.

While California will be among the first state legislative groups specifically promoting these issues, a "[Creature Caucus](#)" already exists in Washington, D.C. to advance animal rights legislation at the national level.

"Sportsmen across the country should be aware of efforts like this in their own state," said Evan Heusinkveld, U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance director of state services. "As always, it is essential that legislators understand that sportsmen expect them to represent the overwhelming number of citizens who do not believe in animal rights".

Many of these organizations would rather you not hear about their accomplishments and agendas. If we as hunters, more specifically bowhunters, are not careful enough to keep a watchful eye and a listening ear, dialed into our national, state and local governments as well our state DNR, we could be sadly uninformed of the activities that threaten the hunting rights that we enjoy so much. As a group bowhunters need to organize to promote and protect the sport we all love so much. MBI exists for you, to keep a watchful eye on those who would threaten your bowhunting rights. It our responsibility and yours to recruit as many of our



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bowhunting brethren as we can, for the preservation of our bowhunting heritage. Bowhunters seem to be a solitary group, here in Minnesota that seems to be the case as well. The time to get involved is here, there are a great many threats to our bowhunting seasons looming in the legislature right now, as I am writing this article.

As you've seen on the preceding page there are many animal rights/anti-hunting groups, that are hard at work, continuously looking for ways to eliminate your/my hunting privileges. There are also organizations hard at work that would twist or bend the definitions of "archery hunting equipment" who would like to include controversial weapons (crossbows) in our bowhunting seasons. If this inclusion succeeds we will see major changes in our bowhunting seasons, changes I fear will not be for the better.

Now is the time to act join your local sportsmen's organizations like MBI and be informed, take action, be an active participant in the promotion and protection of the great sport of archery and bowhunting that we all enjoy. It could disappear from our grasp easier than you might think.

Nick Tortorelli
MBI Board member



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Annual Members Meeting Notice

At the NASP tournament
on site at Champlin High School

March 27th 9AM - 12 noon
Champlin Park High School
6025 109th Avenue North
Champlin, MN 55316



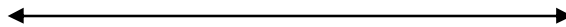


MBI Prepared for Upcoming Legislative Session By Shawn Ruotsinoja

Minnesota's legislative session just began and MBI is prepared to track any legislation that might affect bowhunting. MBI has made it a priority to take a stand on issues that either enhance or hinder our sport. First, MBI attended the annual forum hosted by the Minnesota DNR. The forum provided opportunities to talk to DNR staff and legislators about bowhunting concerns. Then in February, the Legislature began committee hearings. MBI will keep an eye out for new laws or changes to current laws that could impact bowhunting. If we think it's important to take a position on an issue, or even testify in support or in opposition, we will do just that.

In recent years, MBI testified in support of the venison donation program and reducing the draw-weight requirement for hunting to 30 pounds. We also provided opposing testimony to fend off an attempt by crossbow users to change the definition of archery equipment in order to allow crossbows in the archery season.

Remember, MBI can be your voice when such issues arise. If there's an issue or concern that you feel MBI should become involved with, please let us know. You can send your emails to; MBIPresident@gmail.com



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MBI supports; the National Archery in Schools Program

The NASP® started when Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) Commissioner, Tom Bennett wanted archery to become a high school sport choice. The KDFWR hosted a **Step Outside** event to introduce the Kentucky Department of Education to the sport of archery. It was suggested that archery would be a popular sport with students. The Department of Education agreed to help if the program was started as a PE class in middle school.



**Over 4.6 million youth have participated in Archery via the NASP® program
Over 5,000 schools have joined.**

"The Minnesota Bowhunters Inc. recognizes the DNR is proposing the use of crossbows as a tool for hunter retention.

Advances in the efficiencies of the compound bow helped us reduce the minimum draw weight by 25% last year, and any bowhunter in the state of Minnesota who is not physically able to use modern archery equipment, has access to a crossbow permit for use in the archery season. The retention capabilities of the weapon already exist in this state. We fear the introduction of universal crossbow access to those 55 and older is the first step towards full access of the weapon in the archery season, which we are opposed to. Bowhunting has forever been an intrinsically challenging and disciplined pursuit, culminating in tremendous satisfaction when one's goals are achieved. The abbreviated learning curve associated with the use of a crossbow will likely have a negative effect on the culture, the essence and the hard-worn joy of victory that have long defined our pursuit. Studies have shown it has and will have a negative affect on "bowhunting" and would diminish the culture that is associated with our sport.

Any assumption that an introduction of technology such as crossbows will solve the declining archery season participation for those 55 and older is premature. Adding the technology of the crossbow to Minnesota's current archery tradition is not an option we feel should be tested simply because the crossbow industry has shaped an argument (monetarily speaking) for their introduction. No public segment is requesting their presence and bowhunters, passionate about their sport are strongly opposed to their introduction to the archery season.

We feel strongly enough about the topic, that we are willing to donate a generous amount of time and resources to the investigation of why participation drops off at a certain age. We propose to be able to work with the DNR, to uncover the true picture of why participation in bowhunting drops off at any

given age. Only then can we objectively search for ways to retain aging bowhunters. We understand the DNR's need to retain licensed hunters but request that we take the time to find the real reasons people drop out of our sport, before introducing new technology as the supposed answer.

We feel the tabling of this proposal at this time would be in the best interest of the bowhunters of Minnesota as a whole; this will also give MBI and MN DNR the time needed to properly assess the real reason or reasons for the decline of archery license sales for bowhunters, age 55 and older.



**Coming to a
bowhunting season
near you!**

...unless YOU do something about it



Bowhunting has forever been an intrinsically challenging and disciplined pursuit, culminating in tremendous satisfaction when one's goals are achieved.

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Minnesota Bowhunters Inc. (MBI) is a statewide organization that has been representing, protecting, and promoting bowhunting since 1946. MBI is a non-profit organization registered with the IRS as a 501(c)3 and the State of MN. As a community of bowhunters our mission is to ensure that future generations of bowhunters will be able to enjoy the great sport of bowhunting as we have. It is with dedication and commitment to that end that the current board and membership devote our time and talents. It will only be with that same dedication of new and future generations of bowhunters that we will be able to succeed

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