

The Minnesota Bowhunter

Continuing the tradition...



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Presidents message:

The Minnesota DNR is getting aggressive on the issues of bowhunter recruitment and retention. This is a healthy and necessary exercise. Kudos to them for being proactive on this front. Last winter, MBI met with Lou Cornicelli, Jay Johnson and Steve Merchant in regards to their game plan on how to recruit and retain bowhunters. They have some ideas we really like, and some we did not care for at all, but what surprised me was the lack of research they have completed directly related to bowhunting in Minnesota. There are a lot of questions I feel should be answered before any action is taken. Here are a couple of simple but important questions.

- We have gone from 70,000 to 98,000 bowhunters in the past several years? Why have we gained 28,000 bowhunters?
- What specific reasons do aging Minnesota bowhunters cite for dropping out of the sport?

Most of the information the DNR cites and quotes supporting their ideas comes from different state and national studies. License trends, age demographics etc. That information is useful, but there are so many variables that they should not be taking as straight fact.

The only real way to build a comprehensive and efficient action plan is complete a comprehensive study specific to our state. Lou Cornicelli let us know such a study may cost as much as \$40,000. sounds reasonable to me if it will erase a lot of the hiccups and miscalculations associated with the act of trying to fix something that isn't really broken.

Again I tip my hat to the state for being proactive on the recruitment and retention front, and you can bet that MBI will be working hard to prevent any changes to Minnesota's bow seasons without a high level of due diligence preceding any actions that alter our states longstanding bowhunting tradition.



Brooks Johnson
President MBI

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

www.mnbowhunters.org



MBI Seeking to create better opportunities for bowhunters in Minnesota spring Turkey Season:

MBI will be attending an NWTf board meeting this November on an effort to try and expand archery turkey hunting opportunities in Minnesota. Last year less than 3,000 bowhunters purchased the archery only license good for the last 2 seasons (2 weeks) of Minnesota's turkey season. We think there will be significantly more archery only turkey tags sold if the season was more conducive to bowhunting

We are hoping to add the rest of May to that season, increasing the archery season to the whole month of May. We have had discussions with the MN DNR on this topic as well as some informal conversations with individuals associated with the turkey federation. We are fairly confident the extra opportunity will put no strain on our expanding turkey population and hope to get something everyone can agree to together and rolling in the next 2 years.

Brooks Johnson
President MBI

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MBI participated in 2010 Game Fair:

MBI partnered with Rapids Archery Club and Chilakoot Archery Club for the 2010 Game Fair, Kids Archery Booth.. In spite of some very hot and humid weather the archery booth was very successful with almost 2000 shooters, mostly young and some not so young. We raffled off a nice Genesis youth bow at a dollar a ticket. The raffle of the Genesis bow went very well. The winner of bow was Matt Bloom of Hinckley MN. The Genesis bow was graciously donated to MBI by the Rogers Cabela's store. Thank you to Cabelas, to all the kids who participated in the shoot, many thanks to Rapids and Chilakoot Archery clubs, who's members worked very hard through the sweltering heat. Also thank you to all of the MBI members who worked in the ticket booth.





Darz Bor! The Anthem for Polish Foresters and Hunters

If you are part Anglo-European like I am, most likely your ancestry can be traced back to Europe. Contrary to what some folks think there is a strong hunting tradition there. Just like everyone else, they started with spears and bows long before firearms came to be. I don't think one can currently hunt with a bow and arrow in Poland and Germany where some of my ancestors are from, at least I haven't found a reference to it. If I am wrong somebody please fill me in. Part of the reasoning (*now I am interjecting my own opinion and family stories here*) may go back to the time when it was only legal for royalty or the wealthy to hunt. Poachers, peasants and common folk still hunted for their own interests and perhaps survival. Modern forests and government agencies may still see archers as poachers or don't have the confidence in bowhunting success like we have here. In my opinion they are missing out in many ways.

Below is the traditional saying Polish foresters and hunters use to greet one another, say goodbye or wish success to the hunt, "let the forest give you, let him bring you gifts", etc. You may recognize parts of it from current debates here over use of natural resources and game management.

*Darz Bor!- Darz Bor!
We stand together today fraternization,
As one man-like a wall,
Defense of the forests and wood dedicated,
From the sea waves, the peaks of mountains:*

*My woods wladarze
Take the banners
Darz Bor! -The slogan is,
Game Bugle call choir-
Darz Bor!- Darz Bor!*

*For working so complaint cluster,
Because great effort-because time urgency,
Let us encourage the toil the council,
Take My Forest- a Polish forest:*

*My woods wladarze
Take the banners
Darz Bor! -The slogan is,
Game Bugle call choir-*

Excuse me if the translation isn't fully accurate as the language has but faded in my family now and I am relying upon Wikipedia and other references. The point is, many peoples have passion, tradition and deep feelings towards hunting and its only fair to say that bowhunting was part of that history. In future newsletters I'd like to submit what I know about German (e.g. St. Hubertus the patron saint of the hunt), Swedish, Norwegian and Native American traditions and thoughts about hunting, specifically bowhunting. Those of you from the diverse backgrounds, as I know we all are, please feel free to submit your comments, stories and insights.

For more information see the European Bowhunting Federation website:
<http://www.europeanbowhunting.org/>

By; Tony Kuehn

Just like everyone else they started with spears and bows long before firearms came to be





MBI's Board of Directors elected the following Officers at it's Board meeting on July 13, 2010.

- President: Brooks Johnson
- Vice President: Nick Tortorelli
- Treasurer: Dan Christensen
- Secretary: Vacant

New officers will each serve one-year terms.

Outgoing President, Tony Kuehn, will now serve as Past President. Thank you, to all that served as Officers last year.



MBI appreciates and would like to thank our supporting Booster organizations



Rochester Archery Club
a 100% membership club

2010 MBI Membership Drive Sponsors:

- 2 dozen Easton Axis and xx78 arrows
- a Ripcord fall away arrow rest
- 1 yr subscription to Bowhunter magazine
- Bowhunter TV season 3 four disc DVD package
- copy of the book 'the modern Bowhunter' by curt wells
- copy of MR James book 'blind pigs and big bucks'
- 1 dozen Magnus stinger broad heads
- 1 Montana decoys buck/doe combo pack
- 1 Mathews outback bow as a grand prize - 1 only, no double up on this one

Bullfrogs? With a Bow and Such

Bowhunting is often a family affair for us Johnson's, and this August meant a trip to Illinois. Bullfrog was the quarry. 6 year old kid Arcus, 15 year old kid Bricker and 43 year old kid Brooks were all excited. Dad would be wielding both a compound and a recurve, Arcus was taking his longbow, and Bricker was taking his .625 big bore blowgun on this trip (don't ask).

A lot of the time we take our bowhunting pursuit a little too serious, but this was not going to be one of those trips. Frogs and kids always add up to fun. Add a bow and some arrows and I knew we would be grinning all day.



We met Curtis Price at the Lumenok factory in Yates City Illinois about 10 am. After we toured the biggest employer of the entire town, it was out to Curt's 99 acre ranch just outside of town. This area is an old unclaimed strip mine that contains some of the best bullfrog habitat in all of upper Illinois (so I was told). I don't claim to be a bullfrog expert, but I know a lot of bullfrogs when I hear them. My eyes told the same tale as my ears when we Ranged on down to the first pond. The place was thick with frogs.

They biggest bullfrogs liked to sit in the shade of any plants right along the banks of the ponds. We used Zeiss 10x power binos to spot them. Seriously, they were very hard to pick out sometimes. I could compare it to glassing for mule deer but that would be stupid so I won't. It was a hoot trying to get my youngest to spot the frogs through Binocs, and by days end he got pretty good at picking them out of the shadows before he planned his stalk. We found out his stalking skills need a lot of work. A lot of work. Stalks like his mom. Good thing he's only 6.

We killed our combined limit of bullfrogs in about 4 hours, and it went by fast. By days end the heat index was over 113 degrees, and we spent a lot of time in the water, stalking in for the kill like alligators. I wonder if leeches attach to alligators, because they sure enjoyed our presence. Human buffets. Bricker reaffirmed his prowess with the blowgun, and we finally got Arcus his frog on a stalk atop my shoulders in 5 feet of water. I was a human shooting platform, quiver and spotter all at once. I still think I was more excited than he was when he finally hit one in the neck at 14 yards and pinned it to the bank, but he claims otherwise.



The future of bowhunting does depend on the sports current members successfully introducing youngsters to the sport, but that does not mean turkeys and deer have to be the quarry. A typical day of big game hunting may produce nothing to talk about for a 6 or 12 year old. They don't care that the deer have gone nocturnal, or that it was too hot for the deer to move. Big game is the senior high and college of bowhunting. Frogs, squirrels and starlings are good subjects for elementary school. Give them little ones something to giggle about and your half way home

By; Brooks Johnson



The future of bowhunting does depend on the sports current members successfully introducing youngsters to the sport



MBI Position Statements

March 2010

MBI has established position statements on issues that affect bowhunting in Minnesota. Some are long-standing positions while others are established as a result of bills being introduced in the State Legislature each year. Others are in response to concepts or ideas brought about by state agencies, local governments, conservation groups, and other organizations. The following are MBI's current position statements.

Expanded Use of Crossbows in the Archery Season

General Position

MBI supports the existing disability provisions for crossbow use in the archery season but opposes expanding the use of crossbows in the archery season.

MBI has no problem with allowing hunters that have an eligible disability that prevents them from drawing the legal vertical bow to use a crossbow during the archery season. However, MBI believes that crossbows are not archery equipment and more akin to a firearm because hunting with a crossbow is more similar to hunting with a firearm. MBI agrees with the following statements from the North American Bowhunting Coalition: "...[crossbows] will change the dynamic of a sport that thrives for almost the opposite reason from results-oriented firearms seasons". Also, "Bowhunting exists exactly because it is difficult and challenging by definition, and because it requires a higher level of commitment that not all hunters choose to make".

Use of Crossbows for those 55 and Older

MBI recognizes that the Minnesota DNR is exploring the legalization of crossbows in the archery season for hunters 55 years of age and older as a tool for hunter retention. MBI is opposed to this concept.

Advances in the efficiencies of the compound bow made it possible for the Legislature to reduce the minimum draw weight by 25% in 2007. Existing law allows any bowhunter in the state of Minnesota who is not physically able to use modern archery equipment to obtain a crossbow permit to use it in the archery season. The retention capabilities of the weapon already exist in this state. MBI fears 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 MBI opposes. Bowhunting has forever been an inherently difficult and disciplined pursuit, culminating in tremendous satisfaction when one's goals are achieved. The shorter learning curve associated with the crossbow may negatively affect the culture and aura that historically define our pursuit.

Any assumption that an introduction of technology such as crossbows will solve the declining archery season participation of those 55 and older is premature, and 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 for their introduction. No public segment is requesting their presence, and membership, passionate about the sport, are strongly opposed to their introduction to the archery season.

MBI feels strongly enough about the topic that it is 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 a 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 technology as the answer.

Baiting for Deer

MBI opposes baiting for the purpose of harvesting deer and supports the Minnesota DNR in its efforts to eliminate baiting of deer

Baiting for deer is currently illegal in Minnesota. However, the Minnesota DNR is discovering that the practice of baiting is increasing. Some individuals, as well as some wildlife and conservation organizations, support a seasonal ban on recreational feeding as well. MBI is aware of the difficulties in differentiating between baiting and recreational feeding and understands some people's desire to recreationally feed deer during the non-hunting season and in residential yards. With this, MBI has decided not to take a position on the recreational feeding issue but, instead, continues to oppose baiting for hunting purposes.

Youth October Firearms Deer Hunt

MBI opposes the 4-day October youth deer season

The Minnesota DNR proposed a statewide October deer season for youth during the 2010 Legislative session. That proposal was later changed when the youth season was adopted for two regions of the state only. MBI supports the recruitment of youth in all aspects of hunting but for small, specific youth hunt areas only - not statewide or in large regions of the state. Additional hunters in the woods when others are out pursuing other game during concurrent hunting seasons (upland birds, waterfowl), especially during MEA weekend, will create additional safety risks. Also, MBI understands that blaze orange will be required for all archers during that season and believes this will negatively affect a bowhunter's ability to conceal themselves from a deer's vision.

Party Hunting / Cross-Tagging

MBI supports the elimination of cross-tagging of deer

On a trial basis, the Minnesota DNR is eliminating party hunting, or cross-tagging of deer, in the southeast zone in the fall of 2010. MBI believes hunters should only tag the deer they harvest themselves as cross-tagging places undue pressure on harvesting bucks.

Poaching Restitution

MBI opposes implementing graduated restitution values for trophy deer but, rather, supports a higher, uniform restitution value for all deer

Minnesota Deer Hunters Association supported a bill during the 2010 Legislative session that would impose graduated restitution values for trophy-class deer. In other words, the greater the antler score, the greater the restitution value. MBI is concerned that such a measure places too much emphasis on the pursuit of "trophy" deer. MBI agrees with increasing the restitution value for deer; but the increased value should be the same for all deer whether trophy class or not.

Portable Stands on Public Lands

MBI opposes allowing portable deer stands to be erected and remain unattended on public lands for the pursuit of deer

MBI believes the general principle of "public use" is being usurped by private claims associated with stand locations.



MBI held its annual members meeting March 27th in Champlin MN

At the NASP tournament

MBI held its annual members meeting at the NASP State Tournament in Champlin, MN at Champlin High School. We participated in the festivities by manning our booth in the vendor area as well offering assistance with the tournament shooting events.



MBI Booth with assorted hunting and family archery activity photos



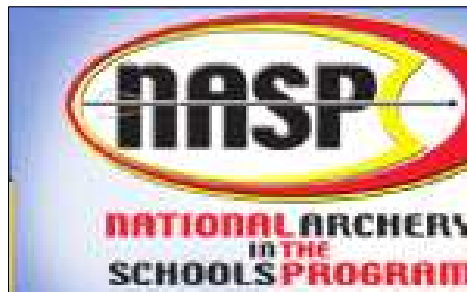
Brooks Johnson lends a helping hand as a scoring supervisor



Brooks Johnson scoring supervisor

We participated in the festivities by manning our booth in the vendor areas well as offering our assistance with the tournament shooting events

MBI also donated \$250.00 to NASP this year. We are delighted with the success of the NASP program and hope that many of the youngsters who participate in NASP will continue on in archery and/or bowhunting it is fantastic sport and an extremely gratifying way to hunt.



2010 NABC Annual Conference Held in Chatfield, MN on August 24th

I had the opportunity to attend the 2010 NABC Annual Conference as a representative for MBI. The meeting was held at the Pope & Young Museum in Chatfield, MN. The hot topic of the morning (as well as much of the rest of the day) as you might have guessed was crossbows (or "cross-guns" as they were referred to so affectionately) in archery seasons. The overwhelming majority of the national and state organizations that were represented there, spoke out against the inclusion of "cross-guns" in archery seasons.

There were many reasons cited for not allowing cross-guns in the bowhunting season, among the reasons were; ~ They are a medium range weapon (out to 100 yards) unlike a vertical hand held bow which is a short range weapon ~ They are equipped with rifle like scopes which are not allowed on bowhunting equipment ~ Safety issues (there are already hunting accidents related to cross-gun use, officially on record in a few of the states that have allowed them in their archery seasons) ~ Higher deer harvest percentages in archery seasons, very likely could result in less time in the field for bowhunters as well as all deer hunters ~ Archery seasons were created by our hard working bowhunting pioneers (Saxton Pope, Art Young, Howard Hill, Fred Bear, Glen St. Charles, to name a few) for those who wanted the challenge of "Hunting the Hard Way". This rich history, steeped with tradition is not something that any of the organizations present at the conference wished to see diluted or replaced with the addition of a Technically, Ballistically, Superior Weapon.

I should also note that all were in favor of the use of Drawlocks or crossbows for those individuals with injuries or disabilities that would restrict their ability to hunt with a Regular vertical bow during archery season.

For most dedicated archers and bowhunters the age old tradition of bowhunting is a passionate one, not taken lightly. The ethical bowhunter spends many hours practicing, getting to know his/her equipment until it is almost an extension of the hunter himself or herself. A cross-gun is a weapon that anyone can learn to shoot in a very short amount of time. If you can look through a scope and can pull a trigger you can shoot one, making it easy for anybody to purchase one and take it hunting the next day, regardless of weather or not that person has safety education or experience with shooting, hunting, tracking wounded game, etc.

Some of the other issues of the day were; ways in which NABC could assist other archery/ bowhunting organizations across the country in their pursuit to protect and promote the sport of bowhunting. There were some very good ideas being passed around the room. Here in Minnesota we will be seeing an effort to communicate to the bowhunters of our state of the importance of joining their state organization (MBI) This is a very important and much needed step for Minnesota bowhunters in order to keep a strong voice for the preservation their bowhunting traditions. Some other ideas were passed around relative to communications, newsletters and website Forums and ways to keep in touch with your state representatives.

Kevin Hisey of Pope & Young, gave a presentation on the history of archery and bowhunting, it was very interesting and informative. All in all It was a good day, full of information. I enjoyed meeting fellow bowhunters from other parts of the country and exchanging thoughts and ideas related to the great sport of bowhunting.

by; Nick Tortorelli



For most dedicated archers and bowhunters the age old tradition of bowhunting is a passionate one, not taken lightly.





Ticks and Lyme disease

If you live and play outdoors in the Upper Midwest like most bow hunters I know, eventually you are going to hear about ticks and the diseases they carry. Occasionally the media focuses on a story or two but they easily move on to more interesting things. My closest friends and family know I have been struggling with Lyme disease for at least 20 years now. A lot has changed in that period of time. Maybe you will recognize some of the historical timelines and spot your own experiences with *Ixodes dammit* (that's *dammini*) the little creepy crawlies in my story.

I grew up in a developing urban area that still had open spaces and woods. In my family we were big on Sunday afternoon walks in the forest and trips to the trout stream. We also liked to camp with Scouts and such. ticks were just a part of getting outdoors and enjoying yourself. Other than the one time my kid sister freaked out as one crawled into her underwear while we were in the car, tick events were pretty much uneventful. As a teenager we used to have fun removing them, popping them with match or flicking them off our clothing into the campfire by the dozens. Hey what could a little tick do, just as annoying as a mosquito or gnat but nothing permanent. Brush them off the dog or deer you were butchering in the garage, ahhhh, no problem. Fast forward to my early twenties, when I first went deer hunting out to Wyoming. We brought home a few Mulies and they were covered with ticks (inside and out). Read up on them and heard about Rocky Mountain spotted fever, the disease was even featured on a TV show or two. Hmmmm, echoed my sisters who were in nursing school. "There may be something similar up here. You guys should start being be more careful," they said. Yeah right!

Fast forward about 10 more years and I find myself bowhunting in NW Wisconsin, deer and deer tick haven. Still picking the little buggers off of me but also read up a little more on the diseases they carry. The book Control of Communicable Diseases in Man (circa 1980) referenced both, Rocky Mountain spotted fever, (only a problem out West) and Lyme disease (unknown infectious agent-vector borne). As a budding safety professional I'm starting to pay more attention to the risk. Sure seems to be published a little more anyhow. Kinda sounds like the long-term flu or meningitis thing I had as a senior in high school. Knocked me out for over two weeks, almost had an issue with graduation.

At or around 1986-87, I pluck a few deer ticks off and save them for a closer examination. I'd Been sick with what seems to be a tough case of the flu a couple of times. Ended up tossing them as my health seems to improve and the doc has other explanations. 1988-90 hunted very little, can't lift my arms much less shoot a bow, been sick a lot. Didn't think I would make it to 30 years old. At this point they are looking for some very serious diseases, I am wearing a heart monitor, everything hurts and sometimes I feel I am losing my mind (explains a lot doesn't it?). 1991-after seeing a bunch of specialists my GP get's a brainstorm and decides he is going to keep me on long-term antibiotics as that seems to be helping, Also had a slightly positive test for Lyme (makes sense with all that exposure over the years). After treatment I gradually get better with some relapses.

1992-Present Holy cow!, Four immediate family members, multiple friends and relatives are diagnosed with Lyme disease and some of the co-infections. Some fare better than others. From a precautionary one-time dose of antibiotics to weeks in the hospital on IV antibiotics. Their level of illness and treatment varies drastically. By this time my personal file is over 4 inches thick.

Continued on the next page

If you live and play outdoors in the Upper Midwest like most bow hunters I know, eventually you are going to hear about ticks and the diseases they carry.

This nursery rhyme as a child still haunts me. *Little woody-tick, woody-tick, woody-tick -BITE!* (with a tickle in the appropriate area) it has now become *Tick, tick, tick ,BOOM!*

Have I quit bow hunting, trout fishing, berry-picking or mushroom asparagus hunting because of this experience? No! What I have learned is to be more observant and more careful. Ticks, nymphs and larvae can carry about a dozen diseases that are transferable to humans. If you think you will always see them on you, keep in mind a nymph is about the size of a period in this article. The characteristic bulls-eye rash often times is missing or looks like something else. A vaccine doesn't exist and the new tests still aren't all that reliable. It's a clinical diagnosis, something to be worked out in fine detail with your personal physician, preferably one who both acknowledges the disease (in its acute and possible long-term forms) and subscribes proper treatment. Don't just rely upon antibiotics to fix everything. Overuse can actually cause other issues. This author came down with a nasty case of *Clostridium difficile* that way. Believe me you don't want that either.

What is a guy who loves the outdoors to do? Well, be just as concerned about prevention as you are on diagnosis and treatment. About the time scent adsorbing clothing was just coming out I started taking steps to separate my hunting gear from everyday clothing due to issues with ticks. Some of the same practices for scent control work for tick prevention (e.g. keeping your camo in a specially sealed bag, only wear it while in the woods, place in the clothes dryer after use). I use a mirror to inspect for ticks, shower and shampoo often-even on short trips. I bought a special tick removal tool have started using repellents such as DEET and permethrin.

There is a lot of good information out there, a lot of controversy on treatment and diagnosis too. We are lucky in the fact we live in MN and a few well informed and politically active physicians live here (some of which suffer from the disease). We also have one of the more active supporting networks and non-profit associations in the nation too. A few of my favorite resources are listed below:

<http://www.mnlyme.com/>

<http://www.lymedisease.org/>

<http://www.ilads.org/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dvbid/lyme/index.htm>

<http://www.lymediseasedigitalibrary.com/>

Not to scare folks unnecessarily, but please stay vigilant, keep your family and friends informed. Some of the research being done is very new, opinions controversial and there is even a legislative effort to protect you and your treating physician going on. At any rate you will likely become more informed and your diligence may help a friend or loved one. I know mine has. Recently a friend told me that my efforts to resolve my situation provided him with enough of an example to assist him with a similar situation. Final diagnosis for him and his 3 sons was Q-fever. A very rare infection (also rickettsial) and one of the most virulent on earth. They got it from cleaning an infected rabbit harvested while hunting, but that's a story for another day

Story by; Tony Kuehn @ 2010



Ticks, nymphs and larvae can carry about a dozen diseases that are transferable to humans. If you think you will always see them on you, keep in mind a nymph is about the size of a period in this article.



Minnesota DNR Bowhunting Summit

The MN DNR hosted a bowhunting summit on August 5th. It was well attended by [26 people representing various organizations including] many volunteer groups from the state. Some attendees included: MDHA, MBRB, MBI, John Glenn Archery, White Bear Lake HS Archery, MSAA, Traditional Bowhunters of MN, North Country Bowhunters/SCI, ATA, Rochester Archery club, Rapids Archery club, Fari-bault Archery club, Land O' Lakes Bowfishing, North American Bowhunting Coalition-NABC, NASP, Pope and Young, MN Association of Crossbow Hunters, Bluffland Whitetails, 3 rivers park district and some independent archery shops. The purpose was to brainstorm how to grow bowhunting and archery in our state.

Dave Shad from Fish and Wildlife started off with an introduction covering the rich MN history of bowhunting (home of P & Y, Gander Mt), current growth, hunter demographics and trends. Jay Johnson followed up with additional information on youth interest, recruitment and retention concerns and some bullet points on the best mix of strategies to increase participation.

After the DNR introductions, were the personal introduction of the 26 people in attendance, following the DNR format distributed prior to the meeting. Of the 26 there it was noted openly (and in the smaller groups) that a good number perhaps as many as 10 were either current or past MBI members. After introductions we broke for lunch into smaller groups of 4-5 people. The groups were pre-selected by the DNR facilitator in order to stimulate open discussion and exchange of ideas. After 45 minutes to an hour the whole group got back together to discuss shared interests and develop some action steps.

A common theme was the disconnect or missing transition step from our successful NASP program to recruiting these young would be bowhunters.

The big question is how we get these school age children who show an interest in bowhunting into the field. Not an easy task. The DNR believes the addition of places to shoot in the state may be one answer. A rep from the ATA backed this position, stating that it helps keep people in the pipeline until they have the means to start bowhunting on their own. Archery ranges in state parks, forests, county parks etc. Seems like a fairly inexpensive option to try, as the cost to build a range on land already acquired is fairly minimal.

Our small group had some good discussion on the current mentored and youth hunting opportunities. Are these events doing what they were intended to do? Are they introducing new blood to bowhunting, or are these extra opportunities simply being enjoyed by kids who already hunt? The consensus was not positive. Everyone agreed the intent is solid, so long as the right kids are lined up on the hunts. More study is needed before we keep opening the state up to more and more special youth access, possibly at the expense of our existing hunters.

Tony Kuehn's group discussed the issue of other sports competing for kid's attention. However, that was cancelled out in part by the fact it's a 100% participation sport and that it is low cost, minimal traveled. On the subject of bowhunting we had discussions relevant to access, misuse of equipment such as ATVs, and the controversy over weapons definitions like crossbows, aerogun's and 410 conversion kits.

Some simple solutions were discussed like increasing the number of tags available and increased access for opportunities for all. No consensus other than getting the youth involved in the sport.

There was some good dialogue in our working lunch discussion groups, but I did not feel like there was much of a fact set supporting any future plans. I felt there are a lot of questions to be answered before a solid plan can be put together. It brings me back to wondering if we should not be undertaking a state specific initiative to survey our new and exiting bowhunters to discover any obstacles to growing and retaining the number of bowhunters in Minnesota. Find out why we are gaining new bowhunters at a rapid pace, and the main reasons our aging bowhunters leave the sport. If we can first discover some of the precise reasons we are gaining and losing participants in our sport, we can move forward in the most efficient manner.

The group is going to meet again in the coming months. Any ideas that you would like brought up can be sent to me via the website for discussion, or I can forward them directly to the DNR for consideration.

Brooks Johnson; President MBI, founder of Double Bull Archery, Tony Kuehn; Past MBI President, NABC Representative, Volunteer Bowhunter Ed Instructor Kevin Hisey, MBI Board member, Pope and Young Secretary



Minnesota Bowhunters Incorporated (MBI) 2009-2010 Membership Drive

Become a Member Now! Strengthen the Voice of Bowhunters in Minnesota

Cost is only \$20 for an annual membership

All new members will receive:

A window decal

Hat or pocket knife with the MBI logo

MBI Newsletter Subscription

A chance to win over 1,400 prizes including one grand prize, a _____ bow.

All current members who refer a new member will also be entered in the grand prize drawing. Renewal members will receive.....

To enter submit the membership form below or join on-line at: www.mnbowhunters.org

For more information contact:

Brooks Johnson - MBI President
Dwayne Nelson- MBI Membership Coordinator

Minnesota Bowhunters Inc.
1769 Lexington Ave. N. #138
Roseville MN 55113
e-mail: Mbipresident@gmail.com-*I suggest we have several addresses*
Phone: *I suggest we have several numbers*

Minnesota Bowhunters Inc.

Continuing the tradition... 

Your Contribution Helps MBI Protect the Long Tradition of Bowhunting In Minnesota
In politics and local communities, the anti-bowhunting campaigns never end and the costs can be high.
MBI

has been recognized since 1946 as being a influential bowhunting organization. We help inform friends of bowhunting, educate legislators and the Department of Natural Resources during legislative testimony and forums, and defeat enemies such as in the 1995 hunter harassment case. Please join now and help us in

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Continuing the tradition...

The Minnesota Bowhunter

From The editor:

I would like to encourage any of our members and readers to submit interesting articles for our/your newsletter. I would be glad to print your experiences afield or your thoughts on archery and bowhunting. We, The Minnesota Bowhunters Inc. are all extremely passionate about bowhunting and in our efforts to promote and preserve our great sport. We also hope that all of the dedicated bowhunters here in Minnesota feel the same. We appreciate your support and encourage you to spread the word so that we may continue grow our membership and move forward with an even greater voice for the preservation of bowhunting, not only for us but for our future generations.

Minnesota Bowhunters Inc. (MBI) is a state-wide 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

www.mnbowhunters.org