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BOWHUNTING COALITION MEETS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Forty representatives of 30 state and provincial-level bowhunting organizations attended the annual meeting of the North American Bowhunting Coalition held at the Pope & Young Club's headquarters in Chatfield, Minnesota on August 12-13. Conferees discussed important bowhunting issues and charted action on a number of concerns including assisting the aging and physically challenged bowhunter, Sunday hunting, crossbows in bow seasons and high fence hunting.

Rick Story, Senior Vice President of the U. S. Sportsmen's Alliance, updated the group on anti-hunting initiatives of the Humane Society of the United States and the pressing issues of state-level sportsmen's organizations. Story highlighted legislation that would expand bowhunting in some states and legislation that would restrict bowhunting in others. He illustrated the need for members to get involved locally, as well, by focusing on anti bowhunting ordinances that have been passed in several cities.

The state of Alaska will become the 40th state to implement the National Archery in the Schools Program, so reported Roy Grimes, NASP National Director. The rapidly growing school archery program is expected to reach 700,000 students by the end of next year. Kevin Stay, NASP coordinator for Brennan Industries, maker of the Genesis bow, said nine additional states have a NASP program in the planning stages.

Wisconsin Bowhunter Association's Mike and Rose Brust unveiled the NABC's new website with a live Internet download from www.nabowhuntingcoalition.com.

Coalition project directors reported on the completion of important action items. Gary Socola, New York Bowhunters, briefed the coalition members on the CD-formatted "Adaptive Equipment for the Aging or Physically Challenged Bowhunter" program. The CD illustrates the different ways conventional bows can be adapted for use by disabled and aging bowhunters. It will be widely distributed and is currently available for download on the NABC website.

Steve Link, Washington State Bowhunters, outlined how state/provincial organizations can increase their productivity and effectiveness. Link's 14-point presentation emphasized the best practices that have been utilized by successful bowhunting groups.

Terry Receveur, Indiana Bowhunters Association, presented a descriptive seminar on high fence hunting and David Tetzlaff, president of the Traditional Bowhunters of Florida, directed a lively discussion following his presentation on the World Hunting Association's concept of competitive, televised hunting. NABC members universally condemned the WHA's plan to shoot whitetail deer with tranquilizing darts within fenced enclosures, labeling this venture as an affront to fair chase hunting.

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