



## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hope everyone had a successful turkey season and are now looking forward to the fall and all the different hunting seasons in front of us. Many are counting the days for their hunt in the western states. Good luck to all of you. Our deer season in Wisconsin is earlier than normal this year. Because of this our broadhead shoot has been moved up to Labor Day weekend: Sept 5, 6, and 7th. (Sat, Sun and Monday) by necessity. We have had many requests over the years from our bear and western hunters to move the shoot a little earlier, as well as from members that would like to make a longer weekend of it without burning a vacation day. Because we really don't have much choice this year, we will find out if Labor Day weekend is a good alternative. Plan on attending and supporting WBH. It's a great place to fine-tune your shooting skills and to see old friends and meet new ones.

We had an outpouring of anger and frustration from unhappy gun and bow hunters concerning the state deer herd count. Hunters feel that the count is much lower than estimated. Meetings around the state started to crop up. By getting legislators involved, hunter's voices were heard, leading to a suspension of Earn-A-Buck. Our Legislative Liaison, Ron Kulas

attended these hearings and his testimony was very well received. WBH was complimented by bowhunters and gun hunters alike on Ron's excellent presentation.

WBH believes the future of our association starts with our youth. We have been a major supporter of youth groups like Ray Howell's Kicking Bear, the WI Outdoor Education Archery Camp, Youth bear and turkey hunts and NASP. Many kids attending any of these functions have a bow in their hands for the very first time. With the cooperation and support from members and clubs across the state that generously donate their time and funds to the youth fund, we can continue to do this. And thanks to all of you for that. We are also preparing our land in Polk County for youth hunting opportunities.

Our Support Our Sport raffle is in full swing and we have an amazing array of quality prizes this year. If you haven't bought or been out selling tickets yet, there is still time. The drawings will be at the broadhead shoot on Sept. 7th. Winners do not need to be present to win.

Also because there was so much interest in last year's ATV raffle – we are doing it again this year. The drawing will be at the convention in March and tickets will be available soon.

Wisconsin is again being targeted by the crossbow federation to attempt to force crossbows for everyone into our archery deer season. WBH is working diligently to keep the Board, DNR and legislators informed of all the negative consequences that change would create. Because the performance of the latest crossbows is so vastly superior to all archery equipment, the crossbow lobby has switched from arguing that they are "almost like" bows to now saying instead that they will improve hunter recruitment and retention. However the opposite is actually proving to be true. In states like Georgia and Tennessee where they have added crossbows to their archery seasons, the bowhunter numbers have gone down, not up. It seems that almost all crossbow users, perhaps looking for an easier way, switched over from other equipment to crossbows. And the few new hunters actually added are being more than offset by those leaving the sport out of frustration or disgust. To us bowhunters that chose to bowhunt because it offers more challenge than other forms of hunting, it doesn't come as a surprise that if you keep removing the challenges, the reasons to continue are diminished.

Have a great season and shoot straight!

*Wright Allen*

## CONVENTION 2010 ~ MARCH 5, 6 & 7

### Chula Vista Resort ~ Wisconsin Dells

608-254-8366 • 800-388-4782 Toll Free

WBH Room Rates: \$119.00 +tax

*This includes the Water Park Pass -- Make it a family weekend!*  
(Water park pass can not be separated from the room rate)

***Make your reservations early!***



Guest Speaker  
to be  
announced.