

WILD TV HUNTFEST 2010

We decided to put a booth in this year's *WILD TV HUNTFEST* held at the River Cree Resort (Aug 6-8) just west of Edmonton. This event is the biggest *hunting orientated* trade show in the province and we felt it would be a great place to expose the general hunting public to the Alberta Bowhunter Association. It still amazes me that many of the province's hunters/bowhunters do not know we exist – yet the ABA has been around since 1956 and is responsible for most of the bowhunting opportunities archers enjoy in Alberta today. This event would go a long way in gaining much needed exposure and also give us a chance to talk to hunters/bowhunters about the ABA, the issues we face as bowhunters, the SRD proposals, etc.

HUNTFEST drew 14300 people over the 3 days and we were very pleased with the way things went for us. We sold 3 books of the "Spring Fever" raffle tickets; 2 Life memberships, another 18 new or renewals. We talked to a bunch of people about all kinds of issues. We had 32 SRD Proposal surveys filled out with many more passed out. Sandy brought the new colorful ABA Brochures that show what we have accomplished, what we are involved in, what we offer, how to join. Many of the booth volunteers made the rounds of the show and spread the ABA "*word and presence*".

At WILD TV's *GRIZZLY AWARDS* banquet on Saturday night, the viewer's choice awards were presented to the most popular shows on the network as voted by the viewers. Various silent/live auction items were on hand and our ABA Jacket sold well and all proceeds come back to us. As many have heard, Cabelas Canada announced they will be opening a new mega store on the SW side of Edmonton by the fall of 2011. Cabelas Canada were the major sponsor of HUNTFEST – ABA member Steve Ecklund of Red Deer is one of their pro-staff. Cabelas were looking to align themselves with one of the province's outdoor groups and Steve told them about the ABA, who we are, what

we represent and what we are trying to do. They approached us just prior to HUNTFEST about the ABA being the recipients of the proceeds from a major auction item they were donating to the Grizzly Awards. I approached the executive and we accepted their offer. I also personally called all the archery shops in Alberta that we have contact info for explaining to them that we were approached, there were NO strings attached, we will treat Cabelas just like we treat everyone else, there is NO exclusive deal with Cabelas (or anyone else). Cabelas donated a package (full outfits for him and her, accessories) valued at \$2500 – it sold for \$1100 and we get the full \$1100.

Chad Gothard of Trap Creek Archery (403-669-3907) graciously donated one of his custom longbows as a draw for new/renewal memberships sold at HUNTFEST. It was a beauty -- 52# at 28", the riser is Zebra wood, blood wood with an accent strip of osage with caramelized laminated bamboo limbs and was won by Stacey Johnson of Edmonton. She was some excited!!

All in all, it was a great show for the ABA and well worth it. We are booked already for next year. I want to really thank ALL the volunteers who gave their time over the weekend to man (and woman) the booth – everyone did a great job and represented the ABA extremely well. *Looking forward to working with you next year!!*

Chad Gothard	Debbie Smith-Jones	Mike Walliser	Roger Murray
Ted Hansen	Debbie Wrubleski	Sandy Hrycyk	Joann Hernberg
Wayne Young	Garth Laturus	Sean O'Neill	Gun Lemke
Brent Watson	Pat Morphy	Ken Nykolaychuk	Mel Kaban

THANKS again everyone. Brent