

## In The Spotlight

### *Excalibur Kids*

Hello NSACH Members,

Ian has been so kind as to offer me a little bit of space in your monthly newsletter to tell you a little bit about a program called Excalibur Kids. This is a grass roots program aimed at helping children experience the great sport of hunting that we so dearly love. Below is an overview of what we are attempting to do and how we are attempting to do it.

#### *Description*

Excalibur Kids is a non-profit Internet based information and equipment resource funded through private donations. This nonprofit group was formed in order to enable children to experience the great outdoors and in particular, the sport of hunting. The goal of this organization is to reduce costs associated with the equipment needs of children without financial means wishing to participate in the sport of hunting.

#### *Mission Statement*

Our mission is simple; introduce children to the sport of hunting and provide them with the necessary equipment to facilitate this introduction. By providing this opportunity it is our hope that these children will benefit from the exposure to our sport and the lessons learned about life while in the outdoor environment.

The words above sound pretty corporate don't you think? Don't let them fool you. The message is most simple. We are going to help kids learn how to hunt. And not just any kids. We are going to help the kids who would never have a chance to experience our great sport because they simply cannot afford any of the equipment needed to venture out into the woods.

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## NSACH Volunteers Needed

2010 is shaping up to be a busy year for the NSACH. We are currently looking for volunteers for our Membership Committee and our Training Committee. If you would like more information on these two new programs, please contact Ian, via email.

Ian's email address is [shuber@eastlink.ca](mailto:shuber@eastlink.ca)

Or through the NSACH site at [info@nsach.ca](mailto:info@nsach.ca)

## Deer Hunter Ethics

Hunter ethics is an important issue that deer hunters must consider. The future of our sport may ultimately depend on it. Granted, ethics are not directly a biological issue, but a growing number of ethical topics are influencing the non-hunting public's opinion of hunters.



In Canada's Ocean Playground, hunters must remember one fact: Most Nova Scotians don't hunt. Less than 15 percent of Nova Scotians participate in hunting and hunting related activities. This is one reason that negative non-hunter opinion can lead to legislation which could curtail our privileges as hunters.

There is a difference between poor hunter ethics and what is illegal. Ethics are your personal code of what is right and wrong. Your code may not match your neighbour's. Moses did not come down from Mount Sinai with the 10 commandments of ethical hunting. What you do legally in private is, for the most part, your business and not the provinces' concern. Consequently, "your hunt is your hunt". One hunter may consider it unethical to use a crossbow, while another hunter may have given the issue considerable thought and determined that a crossbow is certainly an ethical weapon for him.

Hunting practices that violate the law are unethical. Hunters who violate existing laws are in the minority in our province. However, this small percentage gives all hunters a bad reputation in the opinion of the non-hunting public. Trespassing and general disregard for the rights of landowners lead the list of illegal practices.

More than 70 percent of the land in Nova Scotia is privately owned. Most of the success in wildlife restoration as well as current hunting opportunities are the result of private landowners cooperating with hunters and the provincial Department of Natural Resources. Therefore, hunting opportunities would be greatly reduced without the support of private landowners, most of whom are non-hunters.

A matter of serious concern to hunters and non-hunters is the problem of haphazardly disposing of deer carcasses. Many hunters who have harvested a deer have indiscriminately dumped carcasses in creeks, on roadsides and in areas where the remains are visible to the public.

This is unethical, senseless, and offensive to many people. Failing to properly dispose of a deer carcass causes all hunters to lose further respect and support from the non-hunting public. An ethical hunter and ethical groups of hunters make provisions to properly dispose of deer remains where they cannot be viewed by the public.

Nova Scotians have grown up with a hunting heritage. We have fathers, wives, grandfathers, uncles, children, other relatives and friends who hunt. This is a great tradition, a privilege which we cherish. These relatives and friends have shared the joys of our hunt. They want to hear about our hunt, see our trophies and are genuinely proud of us. During the hunting season 20 or 30 years ago, local newspapers were replete with harvested deer pictures and the smiling faces of successful hunters. The entire community looked favourably on hunters. But times have changed. You will only find an occasional picture of a hunter standing beside his deer in newspapers today.

*See Ethics on page 5*

## Coyote Hunting

Coyote hunting can be an exhilarating pastime. They are very challenging to hunt because of the senses and skills that they have evolved. Coyotes are very adaptable animals with great survival skills and keen senses, the Hunter should always keep this in mind lest he lets negativity cause errors in his judgment. They are however, very susceptible to certain hunting techniques because of these innate traits. The coyote's nature is extremely vocal and they will eat just about anything. This gives the Hunter all the edge that he needs.

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One coyote hunting technique which is successfully employed is baiting. This involves the placement of meat scraps, animal carcasses, etc, in an open area that can be seen by the coyote and the Hunter, such as an open field or a frozen lake. Once there is confirmation that they are coyotes present, such as a confirmed sighting or animal tracks, the Hunter can hide himself and await that first shot.

The most common technique, and by far the most popular, is the technique of hunting coyotes through calling. Because coyotes are very vocal animals, known as song dogs, they can be drawn out fairly easily with the correct calls. There are two types of call, one is the imitation call, the other is the distress call. Imitation calls mimic the various vocal calls of the coyote itself and will include female mating calls, male challenge calls, alarm calls, and locating calls. Hunters use these calls in an attempt to provoke a response from the coyote.



In this way they are confirming that the coyote is present, or indeed not present, and in some cases actually locating the coyote. The coyote call will vary from season to season. If a call is successful, the Hunter will continue to use it, if the call is not successful they can switch to another type of call, or a distress call can be used.

One of the most successful techniques that the coyote Hunter can use to bring out his prey is a distress call. This call is in effect saying "dinner is served" as far as the coyote is concerned. The coyote will mostly hunt hares, rabbits, small birds, squirrels, mice, and other rodents. You can purchase commercial distress calls, or there are other simple techniques that can be employed such as making a squeak by blowing into your hands. When using this technique you have to determine what food the coyotes are eating and adjust your call to suit.

It is always recommended that you wear camouflage gear for this because you do not want to give your location away. Also, don't expect to just go out hunting every year and outsmart the coyote just by hiding behind a tree in some random location. You have to do your homework. Study the different calls (or language) of the coyote during the off-season. You also need to have plenty of patience; sometimes this just involves relieving the boredom by having a partner with you. Having a partner with you also gives you the added benefit of being safe and will give you an extra set of eyes in order to effectively scan the landscape.

*KIDS from page 1*

Where is this equipment going to come from? Great question! And once again, the answer is simple. You and I are going to provide it. You see, we already have it. And we never seem to use it.

The entire idea behind this program is to utilize surplus equipment that you and I have that is just sitting around gathering dust. It could be just about anything. That camo hunting jacket you grew out of. Those old 2219 aluminum arrows you no longer use as you now shoot carbons. And yes, even that old crossbow hanging down in the basement that has not seen any use since you acquired your Excalibur.

I watch the hunting shows on cable and satellite. I am pretty sure you do also. It seems every outdoor hunting show has at least one episode where they bring in children to hunt. They outfit the children with all brand new gear, take them out and place them in a blind over a food plot and help them harvest a doe. Of course all the gear was donated by the manufacturers. You didn't participate. You just watched.

Whatever happened to those kids? Did they keep hunting? What were their backgrounds? Did they appreciate their shiny new equipment? Did they learn anything more about hunting than pulling the trigger? Sadly, we will never know.



Those shows never give you the chance to participate. Joe Hunter with his 2.2 children, a dog, a nine year old pickup truck and a mortgage is seldom if ever asked to participate. And therein lies the problem. You see Joe Hunter is probably the best solution. Joe Hunter is the best teacher. Joe Hunter faces all the trials of life every day. Joe Hunter can take a kid out in the woods and teach him that hunting is more than shiny equipment and pulling a trigger. And Joe Hunter is you!

We are all Joe Hunter. We are your everyday working stiffs. But guess what! Together we are so very much more. Collectively we are a force to be reckoned with. And together we can do more than any outdoor show ever dreamed of. And we can do it all with just the stuff we never use any more.

NSACH members, we could use your help. First, do you know of any child that might qualify for the program? If you do, we can help this child with the equipment needed to get started. Second, do you have equipment you no longer use that is gathering dust in the garage or basement? If so, let us know. We just might know of a child who could use that equipment and would be forever grateful.

Let us know. We are easy to talk to. Just drop us a line at [excaliburkids@gmail.com](mailto:excaliburkids@gmail.com) to start the process.

NSACH members, thank you for the opportunity to tell you about our program.

Michael Boeh  
Excalibur Kids  
[excaliburkids@gmail.com](mailto:excaliburkids@gmail.com)

## Join The NSACH Today!

Individual Membership \$20.00  
Additional family member \$5.00

If you hunt with a crossbow in Nova Scotia and are not currently a member of the NSACH, please consider joining today.

NSACH members enjoy the prestige of belonging to one of the newest hunting organizations in Nova Scotia today; an organization with a mandate to protect, improve and increase crossbow hunting opportunities for all legal game, across the province.

An application for membership can be printed from our website at [www.nsach.ca](http://www.nsach.ca).

We would like to thank all the NSACH members from 2009. 2010 will be exciting for sure. We have some great contests, gear give-away, and draws planned, so make sure you sign up in 2010. We will post info on our first AGM, which we are hoping to have in April 2010.



### Nova Scotia Association of Crossbow Hunters

C/O Lee Watson  
36 Mckinley Road  
RR #1  
Falmouth, NS  
BOP 1L0



Email [info@nsach.ca](mailto:info@nsach.ca)

[www.nsach.ca](http://www.nsach.ca)  
Check out the new forum.

The Broken Arrow Newsletter is published monthly, except during hunting season. Email your topic ideas or articles to [info@nsach.ca](mailto:info@nsach.ca).

### *Ethics from page 2*

Our close friends and relatives still look favourably on our hunting activities. The difference is that a growing number of the general public no longer look on the flagrant display of hunting as positive. Most of these people do not care if we hunt, they simply do not want us to flaunt our privileges nor successes in front of them.

Groups of hunters gathered along roadsides are offensive to some people. Your harvested deer, tied on your ATV in the back of your four-wheel-drive truck is offensive to some people. When public display of your harvested deer is necessary, think about the amount of visible blood. Consider how something as innocuous to us as an exposed tongue is received by a non-hunter.

Hunter fragmentation or the division of hunters as a group, is an issue of it's own but we as hunters must remain united and we can do that only when our hunting is ethical. Your hunt is still your hunt. Just remember that however you pursue deer - whether it's by archery; traditional, compound or crossbow, primitive weapons, shotgun or rifle - poor ethics on your part affects all deer hunters. The bottom line is that our actions as deer hunters must continue to keep non-hunters positive toward our sport. If we alienate these people and turn them into anti-hunters because of poor ethics on our part, we have failed.

Hunt safe AND ethical.

By Larry Castle

### ***FAIR CHASE STATEMENT***

FAIR CHASE, as defined by the Boone and Crockett Club, is the ethical, sportsmanlike, and lawful pursuit and taking of any free-ranging wild, native North American big game animal in a manner that does not give the hunter an improper advantage over such animals.

Read more about Fair Chase at:

<http://www.boone-crockett.org>