A Message from the President

Roy Grimes, President & CEO

NASP® is a Senior this year. In other words, we have been around for 18 years since planning for the program began at the headquarters of the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources back in 2001.

The original goal of NASP® (called KASP in that first year) was to have archery taught as part of the curriculum in 120 schools across Kentucky. We believe a far higher power had other ideas. By May of its 4th year, Mississippi became the 25th state to adopt the program. Today, 47 states, 8 Canadian provinces, and 9 additional countries participate in the program.

In this newsletter you will read many pieces that are news, but others that are reports or summaries of how far we’ve come thanks to the hard work and passion of state agency NASP® administrators, certified teachers, and several new and original NASP® sponsors.

As NASP® matures, we seek to undergird the program with more robust infrastructure to make the program easier to monitor, evaluate, and deliver service to its participants. Ideas such as trainer reporting, on-line refreshers, and opportunity for NASP® graduates to stay in or return to the fold have been incubated and are hatching. We continue to trust our original design, mission, and guiding principles. Many states and provinces that participate in NASP®, have built the program to the point that it represents the largest youth constituency in their jurisdiction. Wise state administrators are increasingly seeking to market other outdoor programming to NASP® students who are, because of the program, doing or wanting to experience every outdoor pursuit under the sun.

Throughout the articles in this newsletter, you will see how NASP® is flourishing, expanding, and magnifying the impact it makes with young people. For more information please visit our ever-improving website at: www.naspschools.org

Sincerely,
Roy Grimes
CEO/President, NASP®
Intern Assistants for NASP® Coordinators

Over the past few years NASP® has hired or provided funds for a few states to employ interns to assist the state’s coordinator with certain NASP® duties. These interns have been very popular additions where they have been tried helping with training, events, and communications with school instructors. In an effort to magnify this assistance strategy, NASP® has an offer out to its state coordinators to provide the majority of funding to hire intern assistants. The focus is on state coordinators to identify standout teachers and other educators in its program who would like to help expand the state’s program and earn a few dollars at the same time. NASP® is expecting to pay $10,000/year to these part-time interns.

NASP® is looking to identify 5 states to participate this next year. So far, 12 states have responded that they would like to participate ... another difficult, but worthy decision ahead for NASP®! A single outcome will be used to measure the success of this expansion, and that's participation growth in the states that are granted these intern positions.

If the project proves to be successful in accelerating NASP® expansion, the intern program will be offered to many more states and maybe Canada.

NASP® Moves to Most Conservative Participation Reporting Model

For most of its existence, NASP® has reported the numbers of schools and students participating in its program based upon individual, state or province-wide reports. At times these reports indicated as many as 2.4 million students per year in 14,000 schools were participating in the program. This is greater participation than found in Boy Scouts & Little League Baseball.

However, while it is relatively easy to keep track of new schools entering the program, attrition, due to retired or relocated, NASP®-trained teachers is much more difficult to measure. In order to report numbers that NASP® can absolutely document, an on-line reporting system was implemented three years ago. Every certified archery instructor and trainer in the program must file an on-line report each year letting us know which school they represent and how many students they taught. For this year, these reports reveal the following:

- Number of schools - 8,794
- Number of students - 1,359,926
- Number of students/NASP® School - 155 NASP® students/school

We hope, as time moves on a greater percentage of teachers at schools teaching NASP® archery will report, so we can more accurately portray their extensive and impressive efforts. By the way, schools that don't report are disqualified from participating in NASP® events such as tournaments.
**SAVE the DATES!**

- NASP® & IBO Western Nationals -- Salt Lake City, UT - April 24-25
- NASP® & IBO Eastern Nationals -- Louisville, KY - May 7-9
- NASP® & IBO Open Championship -- Daytona, FL - June 11-13

Note: Beginning in 2020, participation in the Open Championship will be modified to make it both a more "open" opportunity for students who may have competed very little or not at all, and a more "elite" experience for the top teams and individuals advancing from Nationals.

**The Academic Connection is Part of NASP®'s Mission**

NASP® is first and foremost an in-school target archery program designed to be taught by a teacher as part of the school-day curriculum. This in-school requirement provides opportunity for students who might never have discovered their interest and aptitude for archery. To support this academic emphasis, NASP® and one of its sponsors, Easton Archery, have instituted the Academic Archer program, mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter.

Another way NASP® draws attention to its academic value is through its scholarship program. Every tournament season most state and provincial tournaments award cash scholarships to archers, or teams of archers, based upon a variety of parameters associated with tournament attendance. For instance, at the NASP® Open Championship, NASP® has a "Scholarship Shoot-Off" during which the top 17-20 boys and girls from the Eastern and Western National Tournaments vie for more than $105,000 in CASH scholarships. In addition to these individual awards, at least 5 teams also win scholarships for each of the 24 team members. These amounts range from $400-$1,000 per member. Finally, NASP® also matches many state and provincial scholarships at those tournaments.

Since the inception of these scholarships, NASP® has awarded more than 679 individual scholarships totaling $2,375,550. Some students have been awarded more than one of those scholarships. Two students, one each from Michigan and Kentucky, have been awarded more than $40,000 to date. One of these young people is attending school at Purdue University and the other is just now a sophomore in high school!
The Genesis Bow Turns 20 in 2020

According to the most recent survey of NASP® participants, 49.31% or 670,580 students in the 2018-2019 season, competed in archery competitions within their school, between other schools and/or at large events such as state, national, and world tournaments. According to the same survey, just a bit over 40% of NASP® students participated in no tournaments at all. Strangely, as it is with nearly all surveys, about 10% of the respondents, "Don't know if they competed or not".

During the recently completed 2018-19 tournament season, the following number of students participated in events listed at www.nasptournaments.org

- State & Local -- 360,973
- National & Open Bullseye -- 20,469
- National & Open NASP®/IBO 3D Challenge -- 8,459

It should be noted, that some of these students attended more than a single tournament. In fact, one student attended 39 state and local NASP® events! As we like to do in NASP®, we've gamed a bit with the number of archers and the arrows they've shot. Since www.nasptournaments.org was launched, 1,454,114 archers have participated in NASP® archery tournaments; including two practice ends, these archers shot more than 58 million arrows. Laid end to end, these arrows would extend more than 27,000 miles, which is more than a full trip around the earth's equator!

The Genesis Bow Turns 20 in 2020

“Matt McPherson, the founder and owner of Mathews, Mission, and Genesis Archery, is also the inventor of the Genesis bow.” Matt invented the Genesis in 2000, just one year before planning began for what became the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP®). One of the guiding principles of NASP® is to use safe, durable, affordable, and most importantly, "universal-fit" equipment. The Genesis bow has uniquely fit that bill since day one of NASP®.

Recently, new marketing staffer for the Genesis and past NASP® World Champion, Cameron Peyton, provided some fun facts and an offer regarding this important bow. Peyton advised that it takes 4 minutes to build a Genesis bow. So, while a NASP® archer is shooting and scoring a 5-arrow end in gym class or at a tournament, two Genesis bows are put together in Sparta, Wisconsin! A bow builder at Genesis Archery can build 125 bows in a single shift. There are 15 employees at Brennan.

Cameron reports that a special 60% discount of $20 off the Genesis Bow Maintenance kit is being offered on their website. Just go to genesisbow.com and use Promo Code: B2S19. This kit can keep your Genesis looking and working like new, for the next 20 years!
2019 On Target for Life Award Winners

The National Archery in the Schools Program announced the 2019 recipients for the On Target for Life Awards and Recognition Program (OTFLA). The OTFLA program is intended to recognize and celebrate the many instances where in-school archery, and the people involved with it, are positively impacting the lives of over 1.4 million NASP® student archers each year.

Since its inception in 2002, NASP® has continued to hear powerful examples of how in-school archery has positively impacted the lives of students and adults. The OTFLA program is intended to capture examples of the “best” of what NASP® is doing in 47 states, and 11 other countries with both team and individual awards.

- **The Bullseye Award** is earned by a NASP® Student that has made notable positive strides in academic performance and behavior through their involvement with the program. The 2019 winner was: Matthew McConville of Harborside Academy, Wisconsin
- **The Superhero Award** recognizes an unpaid volunteer that makes an outstanding positive impact on their NASP® program or team. The 2019 winner was: Autry Lowry of Benton Elementary/Middle School, Louisiana
- **The Courage Award** is presented to a NASP® student that has overcome a major life event or disability yet continues to inspire others through their participation in NASP®. The 2019 winner was: Michael Dalby of Faribault High School, Minnesota
- **The Coach of the Year Award** is an individual award for a NASP® educator/coach. The nominee must have a proven history of making an overwhelming positive difference in the lives of participating NASP® students. The 2019 winner was: Caleb Patrick of Carthage Senior High School, Missouri

**NASP® Welcomes New Sponsors: The Mule Deer Foundation and Hoyt Archery**

The National Archery in the Schools Program has long been recognized as the world’s largest youth archery organization with 47 participating states and 11 countries. As a non-profit, NASP®’s success while outstanding, couldn’t be accomplished without help from credible and generous sponsors. NASP® is proud to welcome two new bronze medal-level sponsors to the fold: The Mule Deer Foundation and Hoyt Archery.

For twenty years, the Mule Deer Foundation’s (MDF) main focus has been on the conservation of Mule Deer, black-tail deer, and their habitat. According to MDF, “they recognize the importance of regulated hunting as a viable management component and is committed to the recruitment and retention of men, women, and youth into the shooting sports and conservation.” MDF is NASP®’s newest bronze medal-level sponsor and they are thrilled to be partnering up with NASP® to bring instruction in archery to over 1.4 million archers per year.

To find our more, get involved or become a member of MDF, visit www.muledeer.org or call 1-888-375-3337.
Hoyt Archery is another recent sponsor who has joined forces with NASP®. Hoyt is known to be one of the most respected manufacturers of quality bow hunting and target archery products. According to Hoyt, it has been the leader in the archery and outdoor industry since 1931, nine decades. According to their webpage, “It began as a small shop in St. Louis, MO to today’s world-class 150,000 sq. ft. manufacturing facility.” Hoyt is dedicated and passionate towards not only its employees, but also archers and bowhunters globally which makes Hoyt and NASP® a great partnership. For more information about Hoyt Archery visit www.hoyt.com

2019 NASP® Academic Archers Win Genesis Bows

Registration for the Academic Archer program concluded for the 2018/2019 school year, on April 1st, with an all-time high of 31,251 students enrolled into the program. Educators from forty-seven US states, and three Canadian Provinces implemented the NASP® Academic Archer Program with their students.

Following the close of registration for Academic Archer, NASP® conducted a random computer drawing from among all registered students and selected ten student names. Each of these young people won a new Genesis Bow of their choice and custom Easton Academic Archer Arrows! NASP® would like to thank a generous sponsor who purchased the bows, and of course, Easton Archery for donating the arrows.

2019 Winners:
- Landon Fuller LOGANVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL GA
- Lyle Baumgardner TANEYVILLE R-2 SCHOOL MO
- Nolan Zona RIVERSIDE BEAVER COUNTY PA
- Anna Kremer Villa Madonna Academy Jr/Sr High KY
- Sean Murphy ARCHBISHOP NEALE SCHOOL MD
- Paige Gehringer XAVIER COLLEGE PREPARATORY AZ
- Cameron Huie TABERNACLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL AL
- Jenessa Rose Laurel Ridge Middle School OR
- Piper Davis HARTLAND MIDDLE SCHOOL MI
- Jessie Andresen ZIMMERMAN MSHS MN

Registration for Academic Archer will be opened on September 1, 2019 for the 2019/2020 school year. NASP® is hoping to see the number top 50,000 students soon. It is our intention to increasingly send the strongest message possible, about how teaching archery as part of the school curriculum, is important to the mission of educators.

For more information on beginning the Academic Archer program in your school: Please visit: https://www.naspschools.org/opportunities/academic-archer or contact Dr. Tommy Floyd at: tommy.floyd@naspschools.org.
Standardized Training for more than 100,000 Teachers!

One of NASP®'s founding and guiding principles is to keep program participants safe and competent using highly standardized and well-proven training techniques. Every teacher who presents NASP® lessons must attend and pass the program's 8-hour Basic Archery Instructor (BAI) workshop. During the workshop, instructor candidates learn how to set up and run a safe archery range. They learn how and when to inspect equipment for safe operation. They also learn a process of shooting called the Eleven Steps to Archery Success which will be key for most new archers (and old) to enjoy archery.

The training program is under constant evaluation, with occasional edits made to improve clarity and teaching technique. In fact, the most recent update of the training materials for both BAI and BAI Trainer occurred this year. A NASP® training packet costs only $40 or $45, depending upon the level of certification being sought.

Each year about 7,000 new teachers, coaches, and even parents go through NASP®’s training to become BAI. Once trained, the instructor maintains their certification by simply providing an annual, on-line report letting NASP® know that they taught archery during the year prior, which school they taught for, and how many students they taught.
Nancy Stephenson: From Girl Scouts to State Archery Champion!
Virginia Student at Battlefield High School

**NASP®**

**Why did you decide to get involved with NASP®?**

**Nancy:** I first attempted archery with Girl Scouts. Although I wasn’t very good at it at first, I loved it and wanted to keep shooting, so my parents got me a bow for my 10th birthday. When I saw that there was an archery club at my middle school (Ronald Reagan Middle School in Haymarket, VA), I joined the club with a few of my friends, and then I shot in my first 3D tournament called The BuckBuster. I did very well, and my mom convinced me to try out for the archery team. I made the team and never looked back.

**What has been the greatest fun or highlight being in NASP®?**

**Nancy:** When I first started to think about this question, so many memories came to my mind. Winning my first 3D championship, shaving our coaches head, trips all over the country that turned into family vacations, and so many tournament memories. Then I realized the underlying highlight is the team. I practice, compete, and travel with an amazing group of people. High School (and Middle School, for that matter) can be difficult. It’s hard to make friends outside your social comfort zone. Archery bridges all those gaps, and all those people who normally wouldn’t be together, otherwise are now family. Age, grade, gender, and all sorts of people with different passions are all working together, having fun, and being themselves. My archery family is awesome!

**What do you like most about being involved with NASP®?**

**Nancy:** I love shooting an arrow and the feeling you get when it goes exactly where you wanted it to go. Honestly though, without my team (my archery family), I know I wouldn’t be as successful as I am right now. I have amazing people supporting me every step I take. From my family to coach, practicing with the team or in private, I don’t believe there is a single mean person on the team. We all build each other up and work together. Even outside of practice, I know I can go to anyone on the team, tell them about my day, and ask how they are doing. Everyone works together, and I believe everyone should have an experience shooting archery. I really do love it!

**What do you think your future in archery will be like?**

**Nancy:** I don’t know yet. Currently I am aiming to win state (Mom note here: She did win states!) and National tournaments, but there is so much I would like to do. I want to become a certified archery instructor. I am starting this process at the end of March. I want to help other kids get into the sport. One of my goals is to be a camp counselor, and I want to pass these skills onto others. I would love to continue shooting into college and beyond. The ultimate dream is to become part of the Olympic Archery Team. I can’t imagine life without archery.
Bowtree

My name is Mike Ray, "Mr. Bowtree", as I have been so named. I live in Quincy Illinois where Bowtree started in my backyard shop in the year 2000. Bowtree manufactures a full line of archery range accessories or the backyard shooter, all the way up to archery dealer display racks. Bowtree is a Made in the USA --a small family business, and I have been involved as a vendor with NASP® since 2002.

I became involved with NASP® in Metropolis IL where I was at an archery event, set up as a vendor selling my new product, the "Bowtree". Jeanie Richardson, from the Kentucky Wildlife and Jon Rinehart, with Rinehart Targets, approached me at this event. They asked me if I had a product that held several bows. In fact, I had just made such an item for our local club.

From that moment, we began making the 10-Bow floor rack which holds twenty NASP® bows. We have recently added the six-rack to the NASP® catalog, which holds twelve NASP® bows. Our racks are made of solid steel, with a powder coat finish. Our hanging area is covered with our Bowtree Rubber.

The highlights of being involved with NASP® over all these years are numerous, but the people that are involved with the NASP® organizations, from the organizers to the volunteers, are some of the best people ever, and my family always feels welcome.

The kids I have met over the years and have watched growing up in archery is the best though. Several come to mind, and I think the friendships will last a lifetime as they make sure to come by the booth every year to say hi and tell me their scores.

The all-time greatest moments have to be at the World tournament when you get to see everyone and interact with so many kids at one time. Not to mention the sounds in the building with so many arrows flying at once or even standing on the firing line when the first whistle sounds off. It’s amazing to watch and hear.

Bowtree’s future goals are to help grow the sport with a several new items on the R&D table. We are working with the IBO on an item that I believe will find its way into the NASP® tournament events. Another item I am excited about, that we are working on, has to do with helping the challenged archer participate in the sport.