

Northeast Deer and Elk Farmer News



Summer 2003

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Membership is available to anyone at a cost of \$40 US per year. Checks should be made out to NDEF and mailed, along with the filled out Membership Application from Page 7 of the Newsletter, to Henry Ahern, Treasurer as listed below. Membership includes a newsletter subscription, and 2 free classified ads per year.

Advertising rates:

Full Page \$50.00
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Camera Ready Ads for the NDEF newsletter should be sent to Brookside Studio, PO Box 1882 Wolfeboro, NH 03894 or emailed: cvclutr@worldpath.net

Payment for Ads to be sent to:

Henry Ahern, Treasurer
Bonnie Brae Farms
601 Daniel Webster Highway
Plymouth, NH 03264

President's Paddock

by Dick Krebs

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Dick Krebs. My wife, Lori, and I live on the shores of Lake Ontario in Sandy Creek, NY. We have a small elk farm, Mountain Ash Elk Ranch that we started in 1996. Lori works for the school and I have an auto repair business. I've been a member of NDEF for five years and a director for three. Although I hadn't expected to be chosen for the President's position, I accept it with enthusiasm and promise to do the best for our industry as possible. I hope I can count on all of you for your support.

I also want you to know it will take a lot to fill the shoes of our past president. Most of you know how much Jim Neil has done for our industry in all states on all different matters. Isn't it ironic how a few days after Jim steps down from office that the "Old Man On The Mountain's" face falls off! Well, maybe it was time for a new face, but don't think you are done yet, Jim! Thank you for everything you have done for us.

April has come and gone and another Convention passes. It was a great success according to many of the members that attended. If you missed it, then you missed a good time and a lot of informative speakers. The Ramada Inn did a superb job as our host hotel and we thank them for their efforts. The banquet and auction went extremely well and raised over \$4100 for NDEF. The night's entertainment was also great fun. (I didn't know Diane & Punky Rowlee could dance so well!) The Sunday barbecue was a bit muddy but everyone seemed to have a good time. Congratulations to

Rod Cropsey and Barb Galusha for having the fastest time in our "Deer Factor" event and to all the other contestants for joining in the fun. Even Sue Neil enjoyed the Rocky Mountain Elk Oysters. It was nice to see so many smiling faces from all over the northeast. I'd also like to say a special thank you to my brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Sandi Krebs, for all their help throughout the weekend.

The Northeast Cervid Marketing Coop. is moving forward and hopefully the first group of animals will be going to market by the end of May. We're hoping that the agriculture departments from each state will work along with us to open their borders for slaughter so all states will have the opportunity to be involved. This process has taken a lot of effort by Lyle Robbins (president), Martha Goodsell (secretary), Edgar Dolbec (vice-president) and John Bills (treasurer). The executive board met Monday, May 5th and everyone has a task to fulfill.

This is what it takes to keep our industry strong. So don't be an outsider... **please get involved.** Make sure that each and every one of you contacts your politicians and local farm bureau. We are stronger as a group than as an individual.

Now that June is fast approaching, we will all be busy calving and cutting velvet so Good Luck and God Bless.

Dick Krebs
dick@empireelk.com
315-387-5562 (Home)

2003 NDEF OFFICERS

President

Richard Krebs
Mountain Ash Elk Ranch
405 Weaver Road
Sandy Creek, NY 13145
(315) 387-5562

Treasurer

Henry Ahern
Bonnie Brae Farms
601 Daniel Webster Highway
Plymouth, NH 03264
(603) 536-3880

Secretary

Diane Rowlee
Hollandeer Farm
58 Stagecoach Lane
Derby, VT 05829-9498
(802) 895-4115

Directors

| | | |
|-------------------------|----|------|
| Hank Dimuzio | VT | 2006 |
| ledgendeer@adelphia.net | | |
| Jim Neil | NH | 2006 |
| nhelk@yahoo.com | | |
| Tony Tuttle | ME | 2004 |
| ttuttle@uninets.net | | |
| Les Armstrong | NY | 2006 |
| elkfarmerd@aol.com | | |
| John Barnatowicz | RI | 2004 |
| ajbarnat@earthlink.net | | |
| Richard Frost | VT | 2004 |
| rff-elk@juno.com | | |
| Edger Dolbec | ME | 2006 |
| rdolbec@earthlink.net | | |
| John Morse | NH | 2005 |
| jjmorse@tds.net | | |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2003 RAMADA INN, SYRACUSE, NY

Board members present: Henry Ahern, Hank Dimuzio, John Barnatowicz, Mark Drew, Richard Frost, Les Armstrong, Jim Neil, Tony Tuttle, Diane Rowlee, John Morse and Dick Krebs.

President, Jim Neil called meeting to order at 8:20 PM.

First item on the agenda was a slate of officers to present to the general membership. Hank, Henry and Dick all stated they would be running again this term. Mark indicated he would not be running again. The board agreed to present this slate and request nominations from the floor. Maine needs to be represented. Tony indicated that Ed Dolbec was interested.

State Reports: Jim requested that each state representative present a report to the general membership. Reports will be given by: Tony for ME, Henry for NH, John B. for the southern states, Hank for VT and Martha Goodsell (non-officer) will give NY.

Next item: Official stationary. Henry presented several examples supplied by our newsletter editor. After much discussion concerning the style and whether an address should be added, a style with our logo and just the states listed to the right on formal paper stock was selected. Next consideration was whether to use the 3-color logo or alter it to save money. John Morse made a motion to use the 3-color logo, 2nd by Richard. The motion carried.

Henry made a motion not to put addresses on stationary. Dick seconded

and the motion carried. If a director is ever hired, his/her address should be added. Henry will order 2000 sheets. Hank inquired about envelopes. These too would be ordered with just the logo on the left upper corner.

Jim then brought up the ethics complaint. Jim reported that all parties were requested to submit in writing their understanding of the issue with supporting documents. Ethics committee will review information and make a decision. Hank asked if we are to mediate or should we stay out of it and let them settle it in court. Jim felt we were asked to advise if there was an ethics issue. Committee cannot do that without more information. Henry made a motion to table this issue until all parties have been heard from. Richard seconded. Motion carried. The president will appoint a committee of 3.

Amenable vs. non-amenable classification. Jim reported that a member requested that we bring this discussion up at the general meeting. Should NDEF push to have venison listed as amenable? Henry stated that only USDA could do this and they are currently not interested. Hank stated that under the current restrictions, it would hurt farmers. It was suggested that it be brought up under "other" business. Henry suggested running NADeFA article on the subject in the next newsletter.

Cervid Products promotion committee – nothing done at this time. Jim has asked committee to make report.

Treasurer's audit – Jim did not get one done before meeting. Asked for volunteer. Diane will do it. She will contact Henry in a couple of weeks.

Treasurer's report – Full report will be made a part of these meetings as submitted.

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Directors Meeting

continued from Page 2

Director position proposal – Lengthy discussion on this issue voicing pros and cons. Main concern was funding the position. All agreed that it would be nice to have a director or liaison but NDEF just not capable of raising enough money. It was suggested that any member who incurs expenses representing NDEF at meetings, hearings or conferences should be compensated for those expenses. The board agreed to bring the matter to general membership at the annual meeting. Since time is limited for annual meeting, Dick made a motion that the concept be presented to members after lunch break on Sat. before afternoon speakers allowing members to think about it before Sunday's meeting. Hank to explain the need. Henry seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 PM.

ANNUAL MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2003 RAMADA INN SYRACUSE, NY

President Jim Neil called the meeting to order at 8:05 AM.

Secretary, Diane Rowlee read minutes from 2002 Annual Meeting. Jim made a motion to accept as read. Seconded by Hank Dimuzio. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Entire report made a part of these minutes. Current balance before income or expenses of the current meeting is \$15,763.49. John Morse made a motion to accept report as presented. Edger Dolbec seconded. Motion carried.

1. Newsletter – Jim explained why we went to a new editor for the newsletter and why we missed an issue or two (Missy Blackwell's resignation). Correspondents need to keep state news coming to new editor. VT needs new correspondent. Karon Casey of Red Rock Elk Ranch volunteered.
2. Dick reported that the auction netted about \$4,110. Final figures to be announced later.
3. Jim thanked Mark Drew, Les Armstrong and Byron Ellis for scoring antler contest. Also expressed appreciation to Dick and Lori Krebs for a great convention. He then looked for volunteers for next years annual meeting.
4. Jim began discussions on the recent legislative and regulatory events over the past year. He stated that even though these have been trying times, he felt we were making headway. Improvements to come soon was not very likely in his opinion. Only hard work from all members will move the industry forward. He then requested state reports:
 - a. Tony Tuttle presented Maine report: Maine organization had to fight legislation restricting hunt parks on short notice. 16 members testified and they managed to defeat bill after a lot of hard work. CWD surveillance program: committee formed to work with state. They are also looking into getting USDA inspection as non-amenable. Borders closed.
 - b. John Barnatowicz for Southern States: RI wild deer testing and John's farm testing gave them enough to be declared CWD free. RI can import from any other state that is CWD monitored. Their testing is covered by federal funds. Boned-in meat can be brought in unless from CWD state.
 - c. Hank Dimuzio for Vermont: VT going backwards. Borders are still closed. New commissioners of Agriculture and Fish & Wildlife are not sympathetic to our concerns. Hunt park rulings have been put aside for now. VT State Vet has gone to USDA. No one appointed as of yet. A temporary ban on deer/elk meats with bone-in or mixed is still in effect. There was a public hearing, which we did not know about until after period of comment passed. Hank was unable to convince them that this ruling is hurting the deer/elk farmer. It did go to rules committee but was only able to get slight word change on mixed meat. Final vote not taken yet for permanent ban.
 - d. Martha Goodsell for New York: 1000 wild deer tested (390 captive cervid). Dept. of Ag and Markets included farmers in drafting rules. They are working on getting it out of legal committee. DEC will go with Dept. of Ag in restricting venison imports. They are now trying to get restaurants to join the fight. Bill 4609 affects hunt parks currently no acreage requirements. NY farmers trying to get this reversed. Working on Code of Ethics for hunt parks. Grant was received and still working on regional project. This is threatened by border closings. Did get NY Farm Bureau to accept cervid farmers.
5. Edger Dolbec reported that the promotion committee did not get together. Other reasons but mostly due to CWD issue. Will try to get committee moving again.
6. At this time Jim called for nominations for Board of Directors. He presented the slate of nominees:

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Annual Meeting

continued from Page 3

Hank Dimuzio-VT, Henry Ahern-NH, Dick Krebs-NY and Edgar Dolbec-ME. Mark Drew stepping down. No other nominations were made from the floor. Andy Hinkley made a motion to accept nominations as presented. Erick Dolberg seconded. Motion Carried.

Henry Ahern made a motion to instruct secretary to cast one ballot for the slate as presented. Seconded by Les Armstrong. Motion Carried.

7. Jim thanked the board for their hard work and support during the two years he has been president.
8. John Barnatowicz and his wife of Granite Acres Deer Farm in our southern region will host next years meeting. Location to be announced at a later date.
9. Jim brought up amenable vs. non-amenable in meat inspection. Martha Goodsell explained that because we do not fall under this act, we have choices. We can use state inspectors or USDA. She express caution in considering any changes in current status. Maine has been looking into the matter and due to the current conditions, may table.
10. Les Armstrong suggested Martha Goodsell as liaison and to fund her expenses. The liaison would act as assistant to board. Martha Morse made the comment that each state needs to make a strong commitment to support this person. John Morse added that funding needs to be provided and suggested \$100 per farm to start. Dick Krebs commented that another way to fund is a per animal fee. Martha Goodsell thought Jim Neil a better candidate for the position. She added that the key to strengthening our position is effective communication. She suggested that we set up an email

“hot line” to get messages out as quickly as possible when action is needed. Discussion turned to funding. Henry wondered who would be responsible for levying fee. Other ways to raise funds were also discussed. It was suggested that each member visit a local non-member to get our membership up (also funds). All above comments to be reviewed by board.

11. Henry asked for a standing ovation for Jim Neil for all his efforts over the past two years.

Motion to adjourn was made by Henry and seconded by Les. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 AM.

Farm tour and lunch provided by Dick and Lori Krebs at their farm in Sandy Creek.

FOLLOW-UP BOARD MEETING SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2003 RAMADA INN SYRACUSE, NY

Meeting called to order at 9:35 AM.

Nominations for officers:

Secretary – Les made a motion to nominate Diane – Richard seconded – motion carried.

Treasurer – Dick made a motion to nominate Henry – Richard seconded – motion carried.

President – Richard made a motion to nominate Dick – Tony seconded – motion carried.

Dick asked for all our help, as his personal responsibilities will keep him

from being as active as he would like to be. All members need to represent NDEF.

If we are to get new members we need updated state lists of cervid owners. Each representative will contact his or her commissioners for new lists.

Discussion on compensation for time and expenses spent fighting regulatory process or representing NDEF at meetings was next. General consensus was that at the very least, expenses would be compensated. Concerns were expressed that the board needs to be more pro-active.

Jim made the motion to adjourn. John Morse seconded – carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:50.

NH DEER FARMERS EXPLORE FARMING IN CHINA

Henry Ahern and Cindy Downing of Bonnie Brae Farms, Plymouth NH, recently returned from a trip to Shangdong Province, China. While there, Henry was a guest speaker at the Shandong Academy of Agricultural Science. They also met with officials from the cities of Jinan and Qingdao regarding deer farming in the province and had an opportunity to visit two deer farms.

“Deer farming is done differently in China at the present time,” said Henry. “The deer are housed in walled enclosures, usually brick with cement floors, rather than pastured, the method with which we are most familiar.

The purpose of the visit was to possibly form a joint venture in deer farming in Shandong Province using the Western model. Delegations of the sponsors and their clients had previously visited Bonnie Brae Farms in 1998 and 2002.

Maine News

The quarterly report from Maine seems quiet for a change, compared to the current efforts of deer farmers/ranchers in New York State. The most important news is that of the Canadian border closure of which I'm sure you are all aware. Even our local village general store had an apology posted at their meat counter for the increase of beef prices secondary to the border closure. They were now purchasing western steer beef.

Farmers await the finalization of new rules from the Maine Department of Agriculture that will set an eventual date when the Maine/New Hampshire boarder will reopen to cervid traffic. It all will depend on the efforts of the farmer to comply with the CWD monitoring rules that will be required, record keeping, herd health monitoring and his honesty. Honesty and integrity shouldn't be an issue, should it?

Bethany Tuttle
Crown Point Farm
Albion, Maine

State Correspondents

Please send any information or articles for inclusion in the Newsletter to the following State Correspondents:

MAINE

Tony and Beth Tuttle
ttuttle@uninets.net

NEW HAMPSHIRE

John & Julie Morse
jjmorse@tds.net

NEW YORK

Deb & Les Armstrong
elkfarmerd@aol.com

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND

John Barnatowicz
ajbarnat@earthlink.net

VERMONT

Koran Casey
kcasey823@aol.com.

NDEF Membership /Renewal Application

Name _____ Date _____

Farm/Company Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Province/Country/Zip _____

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____ Web Address _____

New Membership

Renewal Membership

Is above an Address Change? Yes No

Currently Own Deer? _____

Type of Deer Owned _____

of Deer Owned _____

Topics of Interest _____

Do you wish to be included in the Association Website? Yes No

Do you wish to be included in the Association Directory? Yes No

To join or renew membership in the Association, complete the information above with a check or money order for \$40, mail to:

Northeast Deer & Elk Farmers
Henry Ahern, Treasurer
601 Daniel Webster Highway
Plymouth, NH 03264



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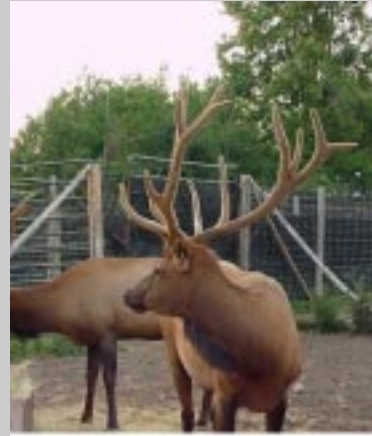
Tom is new owner of **Enforcer**.

Enforcer cut 35.8 lbs

and placed 3rd as a 5 yr old

at the International Competition.

Semen available



*Pictured is an example of the
kind of elk at my farm. He is
a 2 year old who scored 297
at Syracuse in April 2003 and
took 1st place!*

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Annual Meeting Photos



Editor
Northeast Deer & Elk Farmers
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