



# NAEBA News

March 2009

Volume 1 ~ Number 1

## North American Elk Breeders Association

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Monday – Friday

[www.naelk.org](http://www.naelk.org)

## NAEBA Elk Journal Spring 2009

*If you have articles, pictures, state updates, ads or legislative updates pertaining to the elk industry, please send them to the new NAEBA Office as NAEBA prepares for the Spring edition of the NAEBA Journal.*

## An Update from Your NAEBA President

*by Joel Espe, NAEBA President*

In the past few months, NAEBA has experienced monumental changes. There have been irreconcilable differences between Board members which have led to several directors stepping down. Two Presidents have stepped down since August. Regretfully, long-time NAEBA employee Jonnie Boone has resigned. For these reasons and many more, the past few months have been some of the most challenging times in NAEBA's history.

However, all is not lost! Many loyal, hard-working NAEBA members still remain in this organization. Numerous members have stepped forward with their time, talents and assistance to overcome these trials and move NAEBA forward in a professional and positive direction. Several changes have taken place over the past few months to make NAEBA members aware of.

### New Office Administrator & Location

Perhaps one of the biggest changes is that the NAEBA Office has a new employee and has moved to Minnesota! Julie Getschmann is the new Office Administrator. Julie and her husband Mike live in southeastern Minnesota and raise 50 head of whitetail deer. She has previously worked two years for NADeFA and has a real passion for the cervid industry. Since accepting this position, several board members and 'very helpful members' have loaded up the office and moved it into Julie's home. Her excitement is catching on. Lets welcome her and new ideas!

Many volunteers have stepped up to pack and organize three large trailer loads of NAEBA goods. Thank you to Eric Mohlman, Josh Lundberg, Mark Hendrickson, Gary Queen, Brian Wagner, Gerald Lawler, Joel Espe, Julie Getschmann and Tena Martin for all your help in making this difficult move.

The past few weeks have been very busy as Julie has been unpacking boxes and organizing the new office. We understand that some office work is slightly behind. Your Board of Directors and Julie are working very hard to maintain a strong foundation for the new office and your Association. The good news is that each day, more progress is being made and the office is close to having all membership services functioning in a timely manner. Please feel free to give Julie a call to follow up on any questions you may have if you have placed orders in the past few weeks. She will be more than willing to find your answers!

# North American Elk Breeders Association

PRESIDENT Joel Espe, WI  
VICE PRESIDENT Josh Lundberg, KS  
SECRETARY David Autry, TN  
TREASURER Mark Luedtke, MN

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## New President

Another change is that I was asked to accept the nomination to be your NAEBA President. With unanimous support of the Board, I accepted this position. Several new Directors have also been appointed to the Board. Knowing that we were starting with a financial handicap in tough economic times, the Board has held numerous meetings to analyze how to best move forward to relocate the office and improve membership services. Through moving the office and taking a second look at office operations, NAEBA is working to be as efficient as possible. Great strides have been made in the past few weeks!

## Updated Registry & DNA Systems

Brian Wagner, Bill Knutson, Mark Hendrickson and Jim Kotschevar have been working with ABRI to update NAEBA's registry handbook. NAEBA is doing it's utmost to give members quality service at a minimal price. This has been a good time to evaluate the program currently in place. The end result will be an improved registry system to better meet the needs of the membership in ever changing times.

## Convention Date Change

NAEBA's 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and International Antler Competition date has moved one week later to August 6-8, 2009 in Omaha, Nebraska. The change was due to a scheduling conflict with the NADeFA Cervid Congress which was to be held the same weekend elsewhere. Regional competitions are being organized. NAEBA is planning another great convention! The location is very centrally located within the United States with easy freeway access from all directions and an airport just minutes away from the host hotel. The hotel facility includes a convention center and a fantastic water park. Plan to bring the entire family, the convention will be full of education and fun, and there is a lot to do in Omaha for all ages!

## A Second National Elk Association

It is now apparent that former NAEBA members are trying to start their own elk association, offering the same services that NAEBA has been offering for over 19 years. Please know that NAEBA is dedicated to continuing the services it has always offered, that improvements are being made to enhance membership services already being provided, and that NAEBA has Board members, numerous volunteers and many supporters who are committed to moving NAEBA forward in a positive direction. Please support the efforts of your fellow NAEBA members with your membership renewals, registrations, ear tag orders, participation in regional antler competitions and by attending the upcoming NAEBA Convention in August. Get involved with a NAEBA committee. Contact Board members with your questions or comments. Your continued participation in any or all of these areas will ensure the longevity of NAEBA long into the future!

Respectfully,  
Joel Espe, NAEBA President

## Why Be a Member of NAEBA?

*NAEBA provides obvious things like the NAEBA Journal, newsletters, email alerts, conventions, competitions, elk sales, registry, DNA testing and ear tags. These benefits in and of themselves are valuable to every member. Here is a listing of things done in the past year which members may not be aware of. Please continue to support NAEBA ~ a hard-working association which has supported elk farming in North America for over 19 years!*

### NAEBA representation in Washington D.C.

- ✓ Last year, NAEBA was in contact with USDA continually until the protocol for shipping semen across the Canadian border was hammered out.
- ✓ NAEBA representatives have been a part of congressional briefings and meetings with USDA/APHIS to make the rules fair and workable.
- ✓ NAEBA has continued efforts to encourage federal officials to finalize the CWD Final Rule.

### Supporting the right to own and sell elk

- ✓ NAEBA representatives have traveled from one end of the country to the other, supporting NAEBA and its member's right to own and sell elk.
- ✓ NAEBA has submitted written affidavits for various states and individuals when they are under attack.

### Representation to promote the elk industry

- ✓ The NAEBA booth has been set up at numerous trade shows around the country promoting elk.
- ✓ NAEBA representatives will speak at the 3<sup>rd</sup> International CWD Symposium in Utah this summer.
- ✓ NAEBA has representation on several committees and on the Board of Directors for the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA).

### Promotion of elk on a national scale

- ✓ NAEBA members are working with Keith Warren's TV shows to promote the elk industry and educate the uninformed public. Keith's cervid programs have experienced huge success and response.



## Mark your calendars!!! 2009 REGIONAL ANTLER COMPETITIONS

### North Central Region ~ July 17-18, 2009

**Host:** North Dakota Elk Growers  
**Contact:** Gerald Lawler (701) 266-5391  
**Location:** Spirit Lake Casino & Resort, Devils Lake, ND

### Northeast Region ~ to be decided

### Southern Region ~ date to be decided

**Contact:** Mike Coleman (432) 353-4353  
**Location:** Coleman Ranches, Ackerly, Texas

### Central Region ~ August 5-6, 2009 (precedes the International Antler Competition)

**Host:** Iowa Elk Breeders Association  
**Contact:** Karen Therauf (319) 848-7653  
**Location:** Holiday Inn Omaha Convention Center, Omaha, NE

### Western Region ~ August 5-6, 2009 (precedes the International Antler Competition)

**Host:** Nebraska Elk Breeders Association  
**Contact:** Eric Mohlman (402) 756-4355  
**Location:** Holiday Inn Omaha Convention Center, Omaha, NE



# 2009 NAEBA Annual Conference

## International Antler Competition & Annual Convention

Holiday Inn Omaha Convention Center ~ Omaha, NE  
August 6 - 8, 2009

### Tentative Schedule:

- **Thursday, August 6**  
Antler Check-in and Judging  
Exhibitor Set-Up
- **Friday, August 7**  
Opening Ceremonies & General Meeting  
Regional Meetings  
Seminars  
Off Site Event  
Fun Auction
- **Saturday, August 8**  
Seminars  
Off Site Event  
Fun Contests  
Antler Competition Viewing & Awards

### Great Location!

Omaha is a quick easy drive from many locations in the country – Interstate travel from I-80 east or west and I-29 north or south!

	Miles	Travel Time (non-stop)
1. Dallas, TX	660	9 hours
2. Denver, CO	540	7 hours
3. Des Moines, IA	130	2 hours
4. Indianapolis, IN	610	8 hours
5. Milwaukee, WI	500	7 hours
6. Minneapolis, MN	380	5 hours
7. Oklahoma City, OK	460	6 ½ hours

Also, Omaha's Eppley Airfield (OMA) offers non-stop flights from many U.S. cities! FREE airport shuttle to hotel!!

### Tentative Seminars

- Antler Judging School
- Pasture Management
- Velvet Marketing
- Effective Lobbying

### Local Attractions

- Lauritzen Botanical Gardens
- Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, one of the U.S. largest zoos
- Old Market Shopping District, lots of unique boutiques and eating establishments
- See [visitomaha.com](http://visitomaha.com) to see many other great attractions!

### Bring the kids & grandkids!!!

The Holiday Inn Omaha has a FANTASIC WATER PARK ~ NAEBA has received the discounted water park pass rate of only **\$15** per day for tons of fun for kids of all ages! See details at [cocokeywaterresort.com](http://cocokeywaterresort.com)! PLUS, the hotel restaurant offers FREE meals for kids under 12 years of age!!!

### Hotel Information

**Holiday Inn Omaha Convention Center**  
3321 S. 72<sup>nd</sup> Street ~ Omaha, NE 68124

**Reservations** (402) 393-3950, mention NAEBA to receive the discounted room rate of **\$99** for Wednesday, Thursday, Friday or Saturday nights. Room block release date – **July 15<sup>th</sup>**.

**For More Info:** Brenda Hartkopf, Conference Coordinator (320) 543-2686, Joel Espe, Convention Chair (608) 558-8445 or Brian Wagner, Antler Competition Chair (612) 366-5078