

ABA Banquet

March 8th, 2008

Report by: Carl Brashears Banquet Chairman

The 29th annual Arizona Bowhunters Award Banquet was another huge success. The evening was filled with a lot of exciting events. One of the highlights of the evening is the presentation of Awards. This year three gentlemen received the Dedicated Bowhunter award, they were David Cluff Sr., Garth Goodrich, and Mark Ovitt. Mark Ovitt also took first place for biggest Javelina (14 1/8) and Turkey (19/16), Congratulations Mark on some great trophies. Our future bowhunters had a great year as well. Troy Lucas received a big game award for harvesting a Javelina, Joel Presmyk harvested an Exotic Ram, Benjamin Presmyk also harvested an Exotic Ram, and Andy Presmyk harvested a Mule Deer and a Spanish goat. The Walt Collins Award recipient was Lance Altherr. Lance was the founder of the group *Hunters who Care*. The main focus of the group is arranging clean ups in national forest. They have primarily focused on southern Arizona. *Hunters who Care* hold several clean ups throughout the year and most often remove several tons of trash from those clean ups. Congratulations to Lance and his group. The Norm Pint Award (Bowhunter of the Year) was awarded to Chris Denham. Chris has been a fixture in all sportsman groups in Arizona. Chris currently serves on several boards including the ABA, ADA, HOAL and is the editor of Western Hunting Magazine. Chris has volunteered numerous hours of his time to the betterment of Arizona Sportsman and Wildlife. Thank you to Chris and sportsman like him who volunteer their time so that all of Arizona Sportsman can enjoy the privileges that we currently have.

Another highlight of the evening is the Live Auction. Charles Delaney of *Delaney Auctions* was our auctioneer and did a superb job of auctioning off all of the items. This year we once again had the Commissioners Bear and Buffalo tag for live Auction. The Bear tag was sold for \$2,100 and the Buffalo tag sold for \$14,000. The ABA also had a Commissioners Javelina tag that was raffled off that evening. The Javelina tag raised \$1,710 from sales of the \$10.00 raffle tickets. All monies raised from the Commissioner tags go back to the AZGF Department. Some of the other items that were sold at live auction included a South African Bowhunt, a Texas Exotic Hunt, a guided Fishing Trip for Striper Bass with Don Martin, a day in Turkey School with Marvin Robbins, a Indiana Whitetail Deer Hunt with Corky Richardson (Airfare for the hunt was donated by Glen Jones), a Marlin lever action Rifle, a savage bolt action rifle, a Bowtech bow (donated by Corner Archery), a Hoyt bow (donated by Archery Headquarters), a Disney land vacation package, 2009 ABA Banquet table, and several other items.

During the evening the ABA had some raffle blitzes for some great items. One of the hot items was the Swarovski Crystal Necklace that was raffled on a rose blitz. Ladies were able to purchase roses for ten dollars. Each rose had a raffle ticket and the person holding the winning ticket won the necklace. As with most blitzes there were a limited number of roses to purchase. We had to card blitzes one for a PSE X-Force Bow and another for a Savage .308 youth model bolt action Rifle. Both blitzes were a huge success. I believe one gentleman won both blitzes. Talk about being lucky!

There were over 35 bucket raffle items and 30 Silent Auction items. I think my favorite portion of the evening is watching the kids win their door prizes. There were 3 bows, 3 BMX bicycles and numerous other prizes for the kids. I think each future sportsman or sportswoman was excited with the prize that they were able to win. Our Ladies Table was another highlight with bucket raffle items and silent auction items including Swarovski Crystal jewelry, Sterling Silver Jewelry, Camo Jackets, Candle Basket, Bath & Body work baskets and numerous other items.

The Awards Banquet is one of the fund raising events for the ABA and this year we were able to raise over \$20,000 net. The monies raised help support archery in Arizona and continued success of the ABA. I would like to thank all of our supporters who donated to our banquet. Without their support events like the banquet would not occur. Thanks to all who attended and I hope to see you at next year's banquet. The 30th Annual Arizona Bowhunters Association Awards Banquet will be held April 18, 2009 at the Mountain Preserve Center. Hope to see you all there!!! Shoot Straight and Best of Luck Hunting!!!

Carl Brashears

Vice Chairman/Banquet Chairman

Arizona Bowhunters Association.