



3rd Annual

Kanabec Sportsmen's Fair

The 3rd Annual Kanabec Sportsmen's Fair went off without a hitch on Aug. 27 & 28 at Rolling Oaks Ranch just north of Mora. We here at the Chamber, hope that all who participated in this year's show enjoyed themselves - all of us who worked it had a great time.

At the event you could experience the A.C. Expos Gun Show, SandCreek Firearm Instruction who gave Utah and Minnesota permit to carry classes. There was rock climbing - provided by the Minnesota National Guard, you could try your hand at archery with instruction from 4-H shooting authority, Dan Porter as well as make an effort to hit some trap provided by the Kanabec Conservation Club and their double wobble trap shooting machine. The United States Army participated at the show too. They brought in great give-away items and they also set up a big marksmanship simulator activity in the dark barn. Pheasants Forever and the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association - Snake River Chapter were present as well as the Mille Lacs Equal Rights

Foundation, and Proper Economic Resource Management.

Any kind of dog was welcomed into the show. If your dog was one who enjoyed the water, they could try jumping in the Dock Dogs Northern Stars Big Air Jumping Competition. If your dog was more of a dry type, they could make their way through the obstacle course set up by the 4-H Dog Activity folks. For human guests, down by the pond there was fish printing and bubble-ology (encase yourself within a bubble!) activities put on by the Mora Women of Today and the Girl Scouts. Shad Singleton did a seminar each day on duck & goose calling where he also discussed the fine points of bird hunting - making a blind, setting out decoys and such. Local Chamber Member Businesses set up for business at the show as well. Julie Lane brought her Yorkie - named Buddy - who aptly took a dip in the pond wearing his fitted life jacket. Julie offered patrons her always fantastic pizza and other fine goods. Peggy and Dave Chelberg displayed great embroidered items, hats, jackets,

and shirts as well as cut vinyl appliques for windows or other flat surfaces. We had a fantastic face painter on hand who painted butterflies, dragons and beautiful designs on anyone who wished. As a matter of fact, we were all in awe as she painted and applied a gunshot wound on the face of a young girl guest. It looked so real that this girl's brothers and father screamed and almost fainted at the sight (it didn't help that some of her "partners in crime" helped stage this surprise by having her family find her in the ambulance set at the site)! I have a feeling that we'll be seeing this talented face painter at more of our local events. There was also dog massage, handmade animal apparel and beds, pet adoption, beautiful laminated wood products, even home improvement - as well as, of course - a variety of food.

Toward the end of the show, we held the drawings for our two raffles which raised money for the event this year.

We wish to thank Derek Voge, owner of Voge Outdoors - Mille Lacs Fishing Launch who donated to the Chamber a 30-person, 4-hour boat launch. This raffle was won by Roger Crawford of Mora.

The second raffle was a two-partner. The first winner would win their choice of a \$500.00 gift card donated by Cabela's or a 30-06 Savage Axis Rifle with a Bushnell Scope, purchased by the Chamber. Mike Helmbrecht of Mora won the first choice of which for

him was the \$500.00 gift card and Brian Lentz of Good Thunder, Minn. won the rifle. Congratulations to these winners - thank you all for purchasing your tickets - please try again for next year's show! We're grateful for the support of Cabela's who have offered another \$500.00 gift card to be raffled off for the 2012 event.

The board will be making the decision whether to move forward with the 2012 Sportsmen's Fair by the middle of September.

The Kanabec Sportmen's Fair event would not have been possible without our sponsors, assistance from the city of Mora, the Mora Volunteer Fire Department, the Kanabec County Sheriff's Reserves, the Kanabec County First Responders, the Mora High School F.F.A., the Kanabec County 4-H, archery equipment provided by Mora schools, the Kanabec County Ambassadors, and without all of the wonderful, dedicated volunteers who wanted no more than to see this event succeed.

Please join us in thanking these businesses for their sponsorships:

Grand Casino Hinckley, EZ Excavating, Eagle Ridge Lodge/North Country Welding, Kanabec Publications, Cabelas, Power Lodge, Quality Disposal Systems, Mora Chevrolet, Kanabec Rental, Ann River Calls, MN Deer Hunters Association - Snake River Chapter, Voge Outdoors, Mora Women of Today,

And thank you to these special individuals & their families:

Lenny & Andrea Bong, Sue & Dusty Rundquist, Ken and Kathy VonBank, Angela and Shad Singleton, Dan Porter, Gary Baker, Kristin Lang, Jessica Krone, Toni Occhino, Don Tapp, Barb Baran & Cortney, Paul Kastenbauer, Diane Ostman, Mary Weisner, Keith Thelen, Jeff Amundson, Property owner Joey Brockner and his boys Chad and Kevin, & of course all of the Mora Area Chamber Directors: Jack Cole, Nancy Helmbrecht, Bob Benes, Gary Syvertsen, Sandy Juettner, Dawn Plested, Dean Randt, & Sara Tilberg.

DONATION

The Mora Area Chamber of Commerce was recently given a grant for \$2000.00 from East Central Energy's Operation Round-Up. These funds will be used to assist in the purchase of sound equipment to be used by the Mora Community Theater and Mora Area Chamber for events such as community play productions and the Murder Mystery Dinner Theater which provide community enrichment and funds for scholarships for postsecondary bound students.

We would like to thank East Central Energy for giving us the funds that will assist us in enhancing our community's enjoyment of their local theatrical performances.



Director's Column

Was the third annual Kanabec Sportsmen's Fair a success?

Let's think about that. I know my grandson thought it was great because he very much enjoyed the trap shooting, learning how to use the goose call, and shooting the bow and arrow. I talked to a couple of young men who were

thrilled to find a couple of very large knives at the gun show.

I saw a lot of people eating great food - they certainly looked happy!

The participants in the "Dock Dogs" were very happy with the pond that was dug and lined, specifically for the competition. People were awed by the distance the dogs could jump!

Those that had kettle corn enjoyed it, but the popcorn man said that he lost money. The people who had archery training were happy for the experience, and the trainers should be pleased with the number of people they

exposed to archery. The people who found the guns they had been looking for at the gun show were excited. The food vendors wanted to sell more food, the National Guard wanted more wall climbers and the Army wanted more laser gun shooters, the Conservation Club wanted more trap shooters, etc., etc., etc.

So the Third Annual Sportsmen's Fair was a success to those who attended. Unfortunately though, if the vendors are not happy, there will not be any show for people to attend.

From my perspective Karen and her volunteers did a marvelous job of transforming

a field and pasture into a sports fair. More people came than last year! More raffle tickets were sold.

The bigger question is why weren't there lots more people attending the show so the vendors would be happy?

We are very interested in your comments and suggestions. Is the Chamber on the right track or is there something else that we should all be spending our time on?

Please call Karen Amundson, executive director, or any one of the directors you feel comfortable talking with. We very much need to know what we can do to better serve you.



Nancy Helmbrecht,
Interim President
MACC
Owner, Dandelion
Floral & Gifts