



## It Is Greek to Me!

By: Roy Grimes

Director of the NASP

Until recently the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) had only been taught in English to teachers in the forty-six states and five countries in which it has been adopted. Of course some would argue, when the program is taught in Ohio something other than English is spoken (buckeye) and that in certain parts of Kentucky and Tennessee a few colloquial terms are used that might be foreign elsewhere. (My apologies to my NASP friends in these states who know I'm just having some fun!)

This past spring Malena Rolensky, a teacher in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan Canada, became the first person to undergo NASP certification in French. She was joined the following day by five more French-speaking teachers who were certified by NASP Basic Archery Instructor Trainer (BAIT), Todd Smith. Together these teachers now present NASP archery lessons in three Moose Jaw schools.

Canada became the third country to adopt the NASP on June 20, 2007 when Nova Scotia joined the effort. Later that December, Saskatchewan joined the NASP thanks to leadership provided by Joe Milligan of the Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation (SWF). In less than six months Joe and his fellow trainers have certified sixty teachers to present NASP lessons as part of the in-school curriculum. Today there are fifteen Saskatchewan schools in the NASP and Joe expects to double this number by the end of the 2008-09 school year. They had their first "mini" NASP Tournament this past June and hope to send a team to the NASP Nationals in 2009. Quite a success story for brand new NASP locale!

NASP in Saskatchewan is lead differently than in most of the United States. In most states the Fish & Wildlife Agency provides the lead to administer the expansion and integrity of the NASP. However, in Saskatchewan the largest organization of conservationists, per capita, in the world leads the effort. The Saskatchewan Wildlife Federation is a non-profit, non-government, charitable organization boasting more than 26,000 members in 120 branches Province-wide.

While habitat and science-based wildlife management is the SWF's primary mission, it's members believe very strongly in conservation and outdoor skill education to assure youth grow into adults who will be proper stewards of the natural world. This highly respected organization will celebrate its 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009.

The SWF is borrowing a strategy from Neil Curtis, the NASP Coordinator of Victoria, Australia. Like Neil, Saskatchewan's Joe Milligan is working with the local police department to use NASP to provide young people alternatives to decision paths that lead to crime, violence, and jail. As has been learned in many states, the NASP is popular with youngsters at alternative and disciplinary schools. These troubled youth have such a strong desire to participate in the NASP, many of them will obey range commands and follow instructions when they wouldn't in a normal school environment. It warms our heart to hear of students from these schools who, through the NASP, found their way back to school and are now "on target for life".

In the near future Joe expects to be invited to certify as NASP instructors, Native American teachers at schools located on First Nation lands. Interest by First Nation teachers and students is also becoming widespread in places like South Dakota, Arizona, and New Mexico. In fact, it is possible that NASP may someday have an additional competitive category at its national tournament specifically for First Nation schools.

Our hats are off to Joe Milligan and Todd Smith in Saskatchewan! They have their eye on the NASP prize – the youngster who discovers archery and from there a path to greater personal satisfaction and success. Todd, I'd sign off in French but the only words in that lingo I know are... spaghetti and fries.

Psst. Hey Joe, wouldn't it be neat if Saskatchewan's 80<sup>th</sup> NASP school could be enrolled sometime in SWF's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary year!?