



After hunting on the land of rural Kenyon resident Jim Braaten, Gov. Tim Pawlenty (right) attended a press conference at the Department of Natural Resources Field Office in Rochester. Pictured with Pawlenty was DNR representative Ryan Bronson who served as a key organizer of the hunting opener.

## Kenyon area is site of governor's hunting opener

The annual Governor's Deer Hunting Opener was held Saturday, Nov. 4, on the land of rural Kenyon resident Jim Braaten.

For the past several years, the opener has been held in northern parts of the state - the Brainerd Lakes area, the Grand Rapids area and the Perham area - but this year organizers chose to hold it in the southern part of the state.

"Southeast Minnesota has some of the best deer hunting in the state," said Minnesota Department of Natural Resources representative Ryan Bronson, who was a key organizer of the event. "It's not all about going up north."

Gov. Pawlenty not only commented on the beauty of the land and its rolling hills, but also thanked Braaten for allowing him to join his group.

"I had a great time. I got four hours of peace from a hectic schedule," Pawlenty said. "The landowner was terrific. He has a traditional hunting group that was good enough to let us hunt."

Although Pawlenty did not get a deer, two members of the group did. Harvested were two bucks, a 10-pointer and an eight-pointer.

This year's event built on the success of the past three Deer Hunting Openers, which raised thousands of dollars for habitat and conservation projects in Minnesota. Pawlenty began this new tradition in 2003.