Adaptive Sportsmen Inc.
8727 W Coldspring Rd.
Greenfield, WI 53228

“Our mission is providing recreational opportunities for physically challenged people.”

Adaptive Sportsmen Inc. is a Non-Stock, Not for Profit 501(c)(3) Foundation organized in Wisconsin

2005 HDTV RAFFLE

In 2005 we are holding a fund raising raffle to help pay for the many events that we hold. This year we decided to raffle off a 55” Sony HD TV as our Home Theater System. Raffle tickets are $5 or 3 for $10 and the drawing for the TV will be held Oct. 1 at the Baraboo deer hunt. This TV and home theater system is a $4000 value, so it’s going to be a great prize to win. Everyone should contact Mary Mitchell at 414-916-2298 to get tickets to sell. We need to sell lots of tickets to help pay for our events during the year.

If you can arrange to spend a day in front of a local Wal-Mart, Gander Mountain, Best Buy, or other retail store to sell tickets, that would be helpful. We can arrange for signs or posters to help explain the raffle and our organization’s purpose. Everyone should be working to sell these raffle tickets, since it is a major funding source for all of our events.

2nd Annual ATV Ride, June 2-5, 2005

The Pine Forest Lodge in Mercer was the site for our second annual ATV ride June 2-5. We had total of 11 disabled riders and 9 able-bodied riders participate in the ride on Friday and Saturday. John and Cheri Strate were gracious hosts and we had several other volunteers including John Martinson and Dan and Shirley Jacoby helping out. The weather was great; warm and dusty on Friday and with a warm rain on Saturday to bring down the dust and make the trails more challenging. Thanks to Subway of Mercer, Bear Chasers Grill for their help with the food, beverages, and gas. Sue Lloyd donated the elk meat for the BBQ and Cheri Strate and Shirley Jacoby helped out with other dishes. We would also like to thank the ATV clubs for their donations; Fifield Dirt Devils ATV Club, Baylake ATV Club, and Tri-County Trailblazers.

Friday we had 7 disabled riders and 6 able-bodied riders start out from the resort, and we were able to put on 110 miles of trail riding. The trails were great, but it was hot and dusty. The ride wasn’t too hard, except for the short ride up to an overlook, which was very difficult. Saturday we had 7 disabled riders and 7 able-bodied riders who split into two groups, with a slow group and a fast group. The rain came out around noon to make the afternoon ride easier. The fast group put on their rain suits and started out for Lake Superior. They almost made it, but were sidetracked by some neat trails in a sand dune near Saxon Harbor. Next year we’ll make it to Lake Superior!
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ADAPTIVE SPORTSMEN
Check the Calendar page on our website for more information and application forms at: www.adaptivesportsmen.org

August 13-14th Blackhawk Archers 3D Shoot, Verona. Contact Les Werner (608) 845-8296

August 19-21st Sunset Pines ATV Ride, Check out the ATV ride, sporting clays, NWTF Banquet and fishing opportunities at the Sunset Pines Resort in Willard, WI. This is an ASI event, co-sponsored by NWTF and Rock Creek Disabled Outdoors. Call 414-617-4870 or email areu@adaptivesportsmen.org

September 30th-October 2nd Baraboo Bow Hunt. Call John Mitchell (614) 333-7475 for information.

Oct. 7-9th and 14-16th Clintonville Bow Deer Hunt Call Larry Drake at 715-535-2697 for information.

Oct. 22nd Smith’s Pheasant Crest Pheasant Hunt Contact John Martinson 608-846-4518 for information

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

Challenge the Outdoors, has events during the year and a Pontoon Boat on Shawno Lake is available from May-October for day or evening fishing outings. You can check http://www.challengetheoutdoors.org/

Deer and Turkey hunters please remember that we currently have a pair of hunting blinds available from the Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans of America (WPVA). These are trailer blinds, and can be checked out from Don Felt at the WPVA office, 2111 S. 108th St, Milwaukee, WI 53227 or call 414-328-8910 for information.

Equipment Loans
We have a number of different blinds, crossbows and shooting supports available to borrow for your turkey or deer hunting. The Flambeau decoys will help your deer hunting. The latest arrival to our equipment loan program is two 3D deer targets from Rhinehart. Contact John Mitchell at 414-333-4745 or email areu@adaptivesportsmen.org to check out the equipment.

Sponsors from April to June
Badgerland Chapter of the Safari Club International, American Packaging, National Wild Turkey Federation. Members and volunteers are contributing to Adaptive Sportmen on their land, and there are many good properties around the state. Contact Charlie Ande or Mike Little for information. Our thanks to all of you.

Landowner Hunts
Several generous landowners have asked Adaptive Sportmen to help them find physically challenged people to hunt on their land. There are many good properties around the state. Contact Charlie Ande or Mike Little for information. You can get the email from the web page or type, landowner@adaptivesportmen.org

Wanted to Buy
A nice crossbow. Contact Bill Stuber 608-393-2327.

Interested in Sponsorship to the ASI.

for more information. Call (920) 833-6274 or (920) 766-9218 or send emails to drawforme@yahoo.com for details

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS (cont.)

Aug 27 Happy Farm Fun ATV Ride (Free) Hosted by the Ghostriders of Grant County. ATV safety courses and advanced lessons available. Lunch included. Contact - Dave Vaassen at 608-565-3093 or email at dphoat@chorus.net

Fishing Has No Boundaries www.fhnbinc.org (800-243-3462) is holding several fishing events in Wisconsin in 2005, including:

August 20-21 Chippewa Valley August 27-28 Lake Winnebago You may contact Mike Damm at 920-922-0763 or Linda Ott at 800-937-9123 for further information.

Dunn County Sportsmen Alliance Contact Mary Butler at 715-232-1496 or email to mbutter@co.dunn.wi.us for information. They offer fishing and hunting opportunities for people with disabilities.

Visit the Wisconsin DNR “Open the Outdoors” website for information on events, licenses, and permits for disabled hunters at: http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/rtb/open/

BAAP Spring 2005 Turkey Hunt. (Many, many firsts)
First we need to thank our sponsors (the Badgerland Chapter of Safari Club International, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and a very gracious anonymous donor), the Badger Army Ammunition Plant and our many volunteers for making this hunt happen. We also need to thank Sauk Prairie Equipment for the use of two gators that allowed us many access more of the areas. Four turkeys were harvested but just as important was the camaraderie with friends enjoying Wisconsin outdoors. Many of the hunters and guides saw deer and coyotes with an occasional skunk and raccoon were also reported. The reports came in to the main gate where Greg Borgwardt had his grill and pick up truck set up in a fashion that was reminiscent of a chuck wagon on a trail drive in the old west (including the cowboy coffee).

Rick Schafer was the first hunter in with his first Tom tied on top of his vehicle. It was taken with his crossbow. His guided was Jack Shripke of the NWTF. His full story must be read! John Martinson was actually the first hunter to take a turkey. He got his first turkey using a shotgun after hunting ten minutes. When his guide Mike Gustin retrieved the bird it turned out to be a bearded hen. Sunday saw more action as Duane Johnson was able to connect on his first turkey with a crossbow. It also was a bearded hen. Brian Graham was his guide and knew a good place for a set up. Mike (gator man) Kelly served a dual role Sunday guiding Lynn Krueger and serving lunch at the main gate. The last station was on the edge of the field and as the shooters completed the course you could see smiles on every face as they headed to the clubhouse. After dinner the prizes were handed out in the indoor range. My only complaint is that there were two different kinds of dessert to try them all. Thanks to all from John Mitchell

2005 Horizon Bowmen 3-D Archery Tournament New faces were present for the fifth annual Horizon Marsh Bowmen 3-D tournament June 11th, which accounted for the largest turnout ever for this event. We enjoyed a beautiful mosquito free afternoon during the shoot followed by the best rib eye steaks around. A lifelike course along the groomed trails had just the right amount of challenge to it. I thought that the bedded elk was real! The gentle rise and fall of the course through the woods required concentration when estimating yardage. The little skunk target skunked several shooters. The groups that went around the course together ranged in size from two to six. Compound bows, stick bows and crosbowski were in use. Some shooters walked while others rode manual wheelchairs, power chairs, ATVs or were chauffeured in John Deere gators. The last station was on the edge of the field and as the shooters completed the course you could see smiles on every face as they headed to the clubhouse. After dinner the prizes were handed out in the indoor range. My only complaint is that there were two different kinds of dessert to try them all. Thanks to all from John Mitchell

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Mike Little (right) displays the deer mount donated by Jerry Phelps of The 600 Club Taxidermy. Jerry donated the mount for the biggest buck taken in 2004 by a disabled ASI Member. Congratulations Mike.

Dick Fisher is shown at the Menominee fishing outing June 11th in Point Comfort Park, hosted by the Dunn County Sportmen Alliance, with his guide Jim Forster who is with the Land Conservation Department in Dunn County. They won first place in the walleye Division with a walleye that weighed two pounds and was 16". The other two walleyes were 16" and 17". Also Dick won first place in the blue gill category with a 3/4 pound blue gill. The contest was attended by 37 participants. There were many wonderful prizes given out and a tasty lunch. Dick and his wife Betty enjoy taking part each year at this outing as they have met so many wonderful people that work in Dunn County and the surrounding areas, and who give so much of their time and the use of their boats for this outing.
Steelhead Fishing

Let me start out by saying this was simply a fantastic day - this is Charlie's day. Here's the rundown.

Charlie Ande lives about 2 hours away from the SE WI Tribs. The distance hasn't stopped him from fishing; Charlie is determined and won't let anything get in his way. Other than angling from a boat, Charlie has never fished for steelhead from the shore; however, he's highly motivated for the challenge.

A mutual friend put us in contact, initially to discuss access points that I thought Charlie could get to. The bottom line is there is not a whole lot Charlie can't do. His wife is somewhat limited if you can't walk. Even in a few spots that really came to mind, one requirement would be a boat.

After a couple emails, it became apparent that it might just be easier to go with Charlie and figure out some access points together. I sent him an invite to camp and join me any day of the week...we decided on the 23rd. I wasn't entirely sure what we'd be able to accomplish...turns out that Charlie was a bit more mobile than I expected. He said, "You see that beach down there...if I was here by myself I might try to walk down there...problem is there's no way I'd get back". The largest challenge for Charlie's mobility is currently distance...it's just not possible anymore.

We met up around 10:30 at Kenosha Harbor - one of our favorite spots to camp and fish for mobility.

Charlie got out of his truck and set up his portable scooter. Kenosha Harbor is all about spoon fishing...we rigged up the spinning rods and headed to the water. It was EASY to get to the shore from the parking lot. We ended our morning at the end of the parking lot (1 block south and 1 block east of the intersection of 156 and 32). We cast for a bit, but a strong wind made it difficult to say the least. There's nothing to stop you from going over the edge though, so be careful.

Next stop, the mouth of the Pike River, which is just off of 32, a couple miles north of Kenosha Harbor. With the soggy ground, we didn't go down. Too steep for someone in a wheelchair or scooter to go solo, but if accompanied, Charlie felt he could get down there. We decided to go back without a problem. The sandy beach would be off limits, too difficult to get to, but the lagoon offered some good access.

We then headed upstream to the one spot I was sure we could get on the river. Sorry, it's somewhat of a personal spot, a favorite of Charlie's. I was just going to post locations on-line...either do some scouting OR if you're disabled and want to try it, contact me and we'll meet up.

Anyway, we fished at the first pool for a while where we spooked a few red drum as soon as we approached. Charlie was now geared up with spinners and eyes fixed on the water stream while I continued to play dark water with the fly rod.

Charlie was a good 30 yards away when I heard him shout and looked up to see a silver streak dancing on the water's surface. I bolted upstream, slid down the bank and called Charlie's first tributary steelhead...a magnificent moment. I had no choice but to wait on a white rotor tail spinner at the outside tail of a bend.

We went downstream to a bit another spot where...
I felt Charlie would be the best choice...granting landed the fish would require my help. Slushy and soggy ground made for slow going...several times we had to assist the scooters in the water. Even if we NEVER swept the water so determined to fish...Charlie's enthusiasm for exploring literally had my jaw on the ground.

I stayed within earshot and sight while leaving Charlie to work the long deep run with his scooter. My attention was then grabbed by movement at the tailout of a bend pool...STEELHEAD ON THE REDDS! SWEET! I creep up,捏 a fly with my leg on the tree that stood between us. There was simply no good way to cast to these fish...the best I came up with was to reach around the tree while standing behind it and hope for the best.

Well, Charlie got a magnificent show while watching up from the downstream bank...juming, jumping, jumping. He was initially fair, but in the process of fighting fouled up on the lead fly...now he's fouled. As I brought him into shore, I questioned whether to photograph the fish or not...but then he got fair...I saw it, not more than 6 feet away from where I stood. Less time thinking and more time landing the fish should have been my priority, as he made one more run and jump, finally disgorging the hook into my hand.

We resumed the task of probing water...I turned up a brown trout and wondered if that was going to be my only fair fish for the day. Charlie and I decided that we should keep on moving...we already had fish under our belts and this day was as much about scouting spots as it was about actually fishing.

Next stop, the Root River. The WNDNR had suggested LINCOLN PARK as a good spot for a person in a wheelchair. So I went to check it out. The WNDNR doesn't mention the lower banks, so I see that almost 10' 45 degree sloped banks blanketed in limestone rip rap, hardly a good place for a disabled angler to fish. Instead, we went downstream to Island Park. Yes, there are tall banks too, but they are vertical banks...someone in a wheelchair or scooter can get right up to the shore in several of the upstream spots...all you need is a long net. I KNOW I have good handicap access.

Charlie and I re-rigged his spinning rod and I broke out the centerpin...it was time to do some fly fishing. Drifting spoons and baits "luck" when the fish aren't there. I see it to recall 10' 45 degree sloped banks blanketed in limestone rip rap, hardly a good place for a disabled angler to fish. Instead, we went downstream to Island Park. Yes, there are tall banks too, but they are vertical banks...someone in a wheelchair or scooter can get right up to the shore in several of the upstream spots...all you need is a long net. I KNOW I have good handicap access.

The gobbler ran about 10 yards, and then started fighting fouled up on the lead fly...now he's fouled. As I brought him into shore, I questioned whether to photograph the fish or not...but then he got fair...I saw it, not more than 6 feet away from where I stood. Less time thinking and more time landing the fish should have been my priority, as he made one more run and jump, finally disgorging the hook into my hand.

For me, it all started one late March evening when John Mitchell, president of Adaptive Sportsman, Inc., contacted me knowing of a Gobbler Guillotine member that needed somebody to turkey hunt with this spring, during the 5th period in Zone 29. I excitedly wrote him to inform him I would be able to help. "Hello, is Walter home," I asked. "Yes, this is Walter" was the reply. I introduced myself and a lengthy conversation ensued. A great friendship was underway.

Walter and I made plans to scout several areas in early April. We spent two fun-filled action packed weekends scouting turkeys (and seeing them), making plans, and waiting. Walter’s new crossbow he got for his birthday. I would also like to thank Wilma, Walter’s wife, for all the excellent meals and great hospitality she provided whenever I was there. Walter was going to be a “Maverick” upon my advice and a no nonsense gobbler killer (broadheads on). These take a bit of time to assemble and sight in, but once done, they are absolutely deadly on a gobbler’s head and neck. I had field tested these heads for Matt Fetter of Arrow Dynamic Solutions last year and was very impressed at the impact they had. Walter contacted Matt, who rushed the delivery for the hunt. After watching Walter nail a dime size bullseye at 20 yards several times with the Gobbler Guillotine, I knew gobbler hunters who range into range was going for a ride home in Walter’s truck.

For Walter, Walter Joost is that, the quest to harvest a Wisconsin Turkey started last spring at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant Spring Turkey Hunt. Walter had a great time and a very nice hunt, but like so many other turkey bow hunts I have seen, his hunt ended with a bird that gets hit and can’t be recovered. Thus, the decision to use the Gobbler Guillotine and cut the head off the turkey.

The hunt is finally here. Walter hunts all day Wednesday and Thursday in the Honey Creek area, seeing just hens. No Toms and no gobbling. That’s a strange way to start the season. Walter gets out of bed once again and heads for the woods in the Honey Creek area. Just like the other mornings he is in his handmade hunting blind (4:40 a.m. and ready). Its different today though! Thunder and lightning surround him and as it starts raining about 6:00 a.m. Walter is glad he is in a blind (nice Christmas present Walter!). As luck would have it, the storm turned out to be short, and by 5:30 a.m. the rain had stopped.

Walter’s first gobbler heard all season erupted from the pines down below. The gobbling continued hot for the next fifteen minutes, and then turned cold. Another long fifteen minutes passed and another gobbler. Suddenly, about 40 yards away, a couple of hens walked out from the pines with two nice gobblers in tow. Walter got ready for a shot, but “no cigar Charlie”!

The hens led the gobblers out of sight into a nearby field. Walter felt somewhat disgusted thinking “There goes my chance”!

Sure enough! Within minutes the hens reappeared, stroiling back in bow range. Still following the hens, keeping 40 yards away from them were the Strutting Brothers. That’s the blind feeding about 15 yards away. Walter hoped the Brother Toms would follow the hen’s lead. But the boys stayed 40 yards away, continuously strutting. After several minutes of this, Walter leaned over and said “20 yards of the blind but did not present a shot. If they would just get into the shooting window, Walter could get a shot. When the gobblers finally broke strut and headed through the shooting window, they walked by so quickly, our boy Walter was unable to get a shot. In desperation, Walter made a “pull” with his mouth. This stopped the gobblers instantly at about 13 yards from the blind. Walter’s shot angle out the blind window was so severe, he had to act like a gymnast to get a shot off. He leaned over as far as he could, trying to keep his balance and not roll the whole blind over. As he leaned to the rolling point, he aimed his Ten Point Elite OX4 crossbow topped with a red dot sight. With the gobbler’s neck stretched up and looking away, Walter placed the red dot on the turkey’s neck. Just as Walter shot, the tail feathers pulled out of the Bow for Walter’s QX4 Carbon Thunderbolt topped with the 100 grain 2’s 2’ Gobbler Guillotine to hit. The Gobbler Guillotine cut through the bird and sliced Walter’s top back half off and cut through his head behind the eyes blinding the gobbler.

The gobblers flew about 10 yards, and then started walking through the Arick. At about 23 yards from the blind he stopped. The turkey appeared hurt, but Walter was unsure if he hit him. Not knowing the extent of the gobbler’s injuries (if any). Walter backed back his crossbow and knocked another bolt, wondering if he should shoot or not. He watched the gobbler for five full minutes before deciding to shoot again.

The gobbler never moved. Its mannerisms indicated to Walter the tom had probably been seriously wounded. Walter was waiting for the gobbler to die, but got worried it was going to walk or fly away. Walter told himself, “Shoot him again. This guy could walk away and you’ll never find him. Then you won’t have nothing”!