The Adaptive Sportsman Newsletter  Vol. 8 Nov, 2005  Edited by Allen Neu

Please contact at aneu@adaptablesportsman.org with questions or comments

We are looking for people to help organize or work in the following events for the coming year; ATV rides, Summer Fishing events, Fall Deer and Waterfowl Hunts.

Ideas for events or activities are welcome. Contact John Mitchell or Allen Neu at 8727 W. Coldspring Rd, Greenfield, WI 53228 or aneu@adaptablesportsman.org

E-mail notices are sent out to all members about special events and opportunities that come up on short notice. Send us your email address so that you might get a chance to participate in events that might not be in the newsletter or on the web site. Send your email address to aneu@adaptablesportsman.org

Thanks to our 2005 Sponsors (companies, organizations & individuals)

Syisco Foods, West Allis Bowmen, Whitetails Unlimited, Safari Club, Wilderness Fish & Game, Kwik Trip, Burgess, Mid-State Equipment, Wings Over Wisconsin, Artisan Taxidermy, Landmark Title, Spiegelhoff’s Pick ‘N Save, Solofra Plumbing, Pishlaka Wildlife Soc., Tom Roberts, Bill Paulson, Hillcrest Farms, Reinman’s True Value & Sporting Goods, Fifield Dirt Devils, Bay Lake ATV Club, Tri City Trailblazers, Chipewa Valley ATV Club, State Farm Insurance, Wisconsin Deer Hunters, American Packaging & Endres Manufacturing. Thanks to all and to any other sponsors and donors not mentioned here.

Elections

Anyone interested in running for the Adaptive Sportsmen board of directors please call Kristy Richardson at (414) 254-9894 or John Mitchell at (414) 333-4745 by December 15th.

Business Meeting

The Annual Meeting & Board Meeting will take place at Camp Gray from 10 am to 2 pm on January 21st. Please call Mary Mitchell at (414) 916-2298 if you will attend.

Springfield Pheasant Hunt

An even larger group of hunters and volunteers assembled for the 2005 annual pheasant hunt at Tom’s Pheasant farm in Springfield, WI. The sourghum was taller too. We had the use of pointers and retrievers this year. Yellow and black labs, German short hairs, setters, spaniels and a Chesapeake. It was very interesting seeing the guides work their dogs and discuss the virtues of the various breeds. Some hunters were positioned as blockers at the end of the field. Some pheasants went into the game bag and many more were seen. After the hunt we had lunch consisting of Elk barbecue sandwiches and delicious pheasant that was deep-fried.

It was a great time on a beautiful day. Hunters and volunteers included: Joel Chic, Tyler Chic, Cody Chic, Mark Chic, Bill Paulson, Don Owlsiany, Mike Proctor, Steve Walley, Robert Sobbe, Dylan Hanson, Mike O’Neill, Mark Robinson, Jim Sarchet, Carl Clementi, Mark Tegtmeier, Paul Berris, Ken Houser, Lyle Roberts, Michael Peterson, Rick Schaefer, Catherine Schaefer, Les Werner, Jim Rutledge, Catherine Chic, Richard Duntz, Steve Bechig, Bob Dignan, Steve Solofra, Mike Lietke, Thomas Solofra, Jon Muellenbach, Joshua Muellenbach, Michael Skewes, Chris Such, Jackie Solofra, Claire Solofra, Jeff Solofra, Harley Kartz, Patrick Smith, Steve Remington, and Adam Barnard.

Smith’s Pheasant Crest

2nd Annual Pheasant hunt.

It was unbelievable all the great effort and time Wayne and Robyn Smith spent organizing and running another super pheasant hunt for physically challenged people. All the volunteers were awesome and I would like to thank them all and the sponsors, including Columbia County Sportsmen Alliance, Total Concrete, M&H Erectors, Davis Const., S.C.I., Trappers Assoc., G-Bow, Royal Bank, Smith’s Pheasant Crest, Mary Karrow, Arnie Olsen, Statz Imp., Schultz Power Supply, Hanley’s, Johnson Sausage, Badgerland Archery, Adaptive Sportsmen, Cutlers, Dawn Foods, Kwik Trip, Neenah Springs, Oxford Fuel and Food, Cardinal Glass, Two Rivers Sign, Source One, DM Menswear, Tractor Supply, and Pheasants Forever.

Fifteen hunters had a great time and many of them harvested a couple of birds on a pleasant day in October. The large tent set up in the field provided plenty of shelter for the excited hunters to eat and talk about their adventures. Each hunter had the opportunity to shoot some clay pigeons before they went out after their birds. These hunts really mean a lot to all of the participants because without these special events most would never have the opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors!

Thanks to all of you, John Martinson
Bear Hunt of John Mitchell

Once upon a time, I decided to apply for a Wisconsin bear hunting tag. It sounded like another great adventure but it seemed like it was a long way off because of the need to accumulate enough points. Well, on March 28, six points made 2005 the year to ask for a license instead of just a point. Garth applied for a license too with his five points and we were both drawn. That was a blessing because I found out later that some people with five points were not drawn. Two years earlier our buddy Cal Popp had hunted with Whisky Ridge Guide Service and scored the first night on a 325 pound bear. He did it with his crossbow sitting in a recliner that was brushed in at the base of a tree. We decided to use the same guide and I found myself in September sitting in my tree stand (it is more like a short stair case that Garth built). It was set up on the same bait where Cal got his.

The first night all I saw was a fox and the second night we had a cub that was acting like an unruly child, sitting in our bait after dark eating cookies. Now we did not want the cub in our bait and neither did Mama bear. Our guide Brandon and I were high above me in another tree. His other tree had a scent bottle and yelling @#$. To tell you the truth it was not scary to climb down at all, Brandon had already climbed down and went to get the ATV to give me a ride back out to the truck. The decision was made to move to a different bait the next day. There I saw a bear in the distance and one of three wolves that I heard catching dinner. Two days later we moved to another active bait where I saw my first fishers. They look like a cross between a fox and a weasel.

The final weekend came and my chance arrived. It was twenty minutes before closing, my crossbow was on my shoulder with the safety off and the bear was broadside. I am still not sure if I decided to pass or if I was called off. Brandon was giving me the do not shoot sign, it was about the size of a Labrador retriever.

In any case, I had a terrific time, nothing is guaranteed when you hunt. We had great guides with the best of the best under the hunter by my side. We did not want the cub in our bait either. We did have a scent bottle and yelling @#$. Brandon and I were high above me in another tree. His other tree had a scent bottle and yelling @#$. I finally was able to convince Mike to accept our offer. We sent Mike an airline ticket to arrive in Minneapolis on October 20th and we also sent his wife a trip to Wisconsin to enjoy a whitetail hunt on our hunting ranch. While this sounded simple it was not. It is easy to understand why these brave young men and women’s privacy is so well protected. It took over a month and numerous calls just to get a name and phone number.

We finally made contact with Sgt. Mike Meinert (retired) in Security, Colorado. When I reached him by phone he at first was quite skeptical about what I was offering him. He kept asking why I was doing this. I simply told him that what he and all the rest of our military people do for us every day, allows all of us here at home to do the things we do and live the lives we live in a free country and I as one American very much appreciated his service. I was just saying thank you. His next question was “Why me?” I told him he was picked by the Veteran’s Administration and as far as I was concerned he represented all of those who have served, fought, wounded, and died in defense of our freedoms. I finally was able to convince Mike to accept our offer.

We sent Mike an airline ticket to arrive in Minneapolis on October 20th and we also sent his wife a trip to fly in from Colorado to be with Mike for a few days. When I first met this young couple in the airport I knew right away I did the right thing.

Over the next few days while we were sitting in hunting blinds on the ranch we talked a lot about Iraq and the war. Mike very much believes in our mission and the justification for being there. He frequently mentioned the tragic children and families that have lost loved ones. In his eyes at times when he talked about them, it was clear that he was troubled when they recalled their faces.

In August of 2003 as part of a three vehicle convoy to secure a stretch of road near Fallujah they came under attack from a large number of insurgents. Mike recalls the day as the most intense fire-fight he had experienced thus far. There were six soldiers in each of the three armored personnel carriers. Mike knew they were seriously outnumbered but he still felt that they had the advantage. Suddenly, a sandbag exploded hitting his right leg. He discharged his weapon. He continued firing at the enemy until someone grabbed him and told him to lie down because he had been seriously wounded. He first noticed two of his buddies lying on the floor of the armored personnel carrier. He quickly realized that both men had lost a leg and were in serious trouble and then became afraid that he too had lost a leg at the knee. He used his conscious to wake up the drivers.

Three men, three amputations all in the same vehicle at the same time and they were still under heavy fire. A rocket propelled penetrating device had slammed into the rear of the APC with a five foot long titanium rod sticking Mike and splitting the back of the APC lodging in the engine block. With assistance the APC was able to retreat and stayed running without oil for over an hour while the wounded soldiers were rushed to aid. Miraculously all three survived. Mike has a prosthesis leg now and is learning to get along quite well. At 26 years old this is a young man who has left a big impression on all of us.

Now about the hunt. We passed on a few nice bucks the first couple days and then things kind of went from not too good to worse as far as seeing the kind of deer I wanted to find for Mike. On Sunday we had the last full hour of about 10 am and I traveled by vehicle to the bottom of a brushy draw where I knew some nice bucks were likely to be bedded. One nice buck busted out but another stayed put. I could see the left antler in the brush and it was huge. The problem was it was only a long main beam with no points coming off of it. Mike glassed the huge deer and I could tell he was excited. I told him he could take the deer if he liked it. He shot the deer and I told him to lie down because he had been seriously wounded. He first noticed two of his buddies lying on the floor of the armored personnel carrier. He quickly realized that both men had lost a leg and were in serious trouble and then became afraid that he too had lost a leg at the knee. He used his conscious to wake up the drivers.

Three men, three amputations all in the same vehicle at the same time and they were still under heavy fire. A rocket propelled penetrating device had slammed into the rear of the APC with a five foot long titanium rod sticking Mike and splitting the back of the APC lodging in the engine block. With assistance the APC was able to retreat and stayed running without oil for over an hour while the wounded soldiers were rushed to aid. Miraculously all three survived. Mike has a prosthesis leg now and is learning to get along quite well. At 26 years old this is a young man who has left a big impression on all of us.

Now about the hunt. We passed on a few nice bucks the first couple days and then things kind of went from not too good to worse as far as seeing the kind of deer I wanted to find for Mike. On Sunday we had the last full hour of about 10 am and I traveled by vehicle to the bottom of a brushy draw where I knew some nice bucks were likely to be bedded. One nice buck busted out but another stayed put. I could see the left antler in the brush and it was huge. The problem was it was only a long main beam with no points coming off of it. Mike glassed the huge deer and I could tell he was excited. I told him he could take the deer if he liked it. He shot the deer and I told him to lie down because he had been seriously wounded. He first noticed two of his buddies lying on the floor of the armored personnel carrier. He quickly realized that both men had lost a leg and were in serious trouble and then became afraid that he too had lost a leg at the knee. He used his conscious to wake up the drivers.

The weather cooled during the following week and another buck and two more were taken in Clintonville. Planning for these hunts occurs throughout the year. We have countless people to thank, including the people at BAAP and other landowners for hosting us, the various gun clubs that allowed us to use their facilities, the great guides at Rock Creek Disabled Hunters Association, and the remarkable disabled who load and unload the camps and equipment. Thanks to you all.

Youth Bear Hunt Experience

Chris Oken was chosen for this fall to use a bear kill tag donated by Wayne Krueger of Wausau. He shot the 250 lb bear shown in the picture to the left, and he shot it on the last day of the season, with 10 minutes to spare. Chris had been sitting on baits set up by Kevin Oldham west of Wausau and was hunting each weekend with his father and Kevin. Chris, a paraplegic injured in an ATV accident, is an avid hunter and wheelchair basketball player. He looks like player. He has experienced hunting with his father each year, and was very happy to get this chance to hunt for a bear. Thanks to Wayne and Adaptive Sportsmen for setting him up with this chance.

Chris Oken poses with the bear he shot this fall

Baraboo & Clintonville Bow Hunts

Pulling out of Camp Gray to head back to Badger Line Sportsman Club (BLSC) for the annual 3D shoot in Baraboo the day of the 2005 hunt the shadow of the earth could be seen on the moon to the east. The thermometer registered in the 40s. It looked like a good day to hunt. A six-point buck was taken the first morning and then the temperature began to soar. Chris had been sitting on baits set up by Kevin Oldham west of Wausau and was hunting each weekend with his father and Kevin. Chris, a paraplegic injured in an ATV accident, is an avid hunter and wheelchair basketball player. He looks like player. He has experienced hunting with his father each year, and was very happy to get this chance to hunt for a bear. Thanks to Wayne and Adaptive Sportsmen for setting him up with this chance.

BACK TAG
Al Neu--bow-antelope
Larry Drake--bow-buck & doe
Mark Taylor--bow-doe
Pat Sullivan--gun-doe
Al Neu--gun-3 does
Charle Ande--gun-2 buck

Chris Oken poses with the bear he shot this fall