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Dorn and George Bruhn, Jr.

partner in action

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Capable Partners, Inc. is in good standing with the State of Minnesota as a non-profit organization and is registered as a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization with the I.R.S. of the United States government.

Capable Partners

apable Partners was conceived in the early '80s and incorporated in 1986 as a non-profit organization whose volunteers provide outdoor activities for the physically challenged. We serve those who used to hunt, fish, and enjoy the outdoors but are no longer able to without additional support. We bring together friends, family, and other capable partners to remove the barriers to participation. We are dedicated to making participation affordable and members are able to have fees waived when needed.

Today, our organization, with a membership of 230 individuals, about half of whom are physically challenged, thrives with events every month of the year. We have successfully partnered with the Minnesota DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for greater access to hunting areas; we testify on behalf of legislation that might impact the disabled hunter; we continually improve the organization by seeking ways in which the physically challenged can better experience the outdoors with the help of their capable partners.

Mission

Capable Partners' purpose is to provide opportunities for personal growth and independence for physically challenged persons and able bodied partners through participation in fishing, hunting, and related outdoor activities.

Our Values

- Helping individuals realize their potential
- Promoting ethical hunting and fishing
- Enhancing relationships with family and friends
- Creating more accessible opportunities
- Increasing the number of people we serve
- Building the organization from within

Our Methods

- Create accessible outdoor opportunities for more participants, with more locations, and events.
- Develop our membership through experience and teaching to obtain skills needed to organize member activities. These individuals will become the future leaders in the organization.
- Include, encourage and assist new and existing members to participate in outdoor activities.
- Educate about issues for the physically challenged and advocate for change, increased access, and solutions.

Our organization defines physically challenged as, "a physical impairment that substantially limits a person from participating in outdoor activities."

Letter from the President



hank you to our great volunteers (both physically challenged and able) for supporting our organization and MAKING THE OUTDOORS ACCESSIBLE FOR 31 YEARS!

Thank you to our generous donors who have given and continue to give the resources we need.

I am delighted to report that the state of our organization is strong! Here are a few of the great things we have done in the last year:

- raised more money than ever before (2016 Game Fair & 2016 Banquet);
- put more money into the program, which includes our Ice Castle Fish House/RV;
- added two Spring pheasant outings to our calendar;
- created committees to do important work;
- added a Soocial Media Coordinator please like our CapablePartners page on Facebook;
- moved the banquet to a hall with wheelchair accessible restrooms, and stage;
- added prizes such as the Henry rifle and new salmon fishing trips;
- increased banquet attendance this year we had 250 people, a 35% increase;
- updated the Bylaws to make sure they closely match what we do; and
- added volunteers running Capable Partners, more people working on our mission!

What are we going to do in the next year?

- We are going to build on the great foundation we have.
- We are always looking at quality new events: camping, a virtual archery tournament, and more.
- We are going to develop a 3-5 year plan to guide the organization.

Look at what a fun, exciting organization the volunteers have built! Here are some facts.

- We have 230 members.
- We have over 35 opportunities to get outdoors each year.
- We have events all twelve months of the year.
- We are the largest organization of our kind in the US.

We have many volunteers and the total hours given to the organization is in the 1,000's per year. Each officer averages 20 hours per week. That's what it takes to run Capable Partners. You can help by working three hours a year or by working 20 hours a week. There are many roles to fill. Please volunteer to make the organization better!

On a personal note...I am grateful for what the organization has given me ranging from getting outdoors and a chance to lead a great team of people, to learning about the impact we have on people's lives. Please see the stories about Jason, Ken Schroers, Jim Grant and George Peters as examples.

Best Regards.

Evan Newton



Ice Fishing

The 2017 ice fishing season started out with our little brown fish house having a bit of an "attitude" and not wanting to get out on Medicine Lake. At the beginning of the season, Bob Lindig went out to Nate Sjolin's Grandma Edie's property to pick up the fish house. During his inspection, Bob noticed there was a flat tire and dry rot from years of sun exposure. We decided to buy

a new tire and rim to use as a spare while getting a new tire to replace the flat. The new wheel was put on the fish house. However on the day that it was going to be pulled to the lake, Bob had truck trouble.

Craig Simpson offered to go pick it up with the assistance of Raak Krost. After hooking up the trailer, they were only two miles down the road when Craig noticed smoke behind him! Unbelievably, the brand-new tire had blown. The offset of the new rim was wrong and it had rubbed on the frame. We had not noticed because it was hidden by the fender. Fortunately, the old rim was ready and waiting with its new tire only three blocks away. Thanks to Raak, the tire was quickly changed and they were back on the road.

After picking up Bob, they were finally pulling the house out onto Medicine Lake. It took a little maneuvering to locate the spot and there was some trouble getting it level enough so the door would open properly. In the process of making sure the door was opening and closing properly, the door handle broke off. With daylight fading, "Carpenter Bob" had to wait until the following

> morning to go back to the lake and repair the door. Eventually he was able to get the door open and replace the lock. After only using the new lock a few days, the inside mechanism of the lock broke, and once again, we were locked out of the fish house. Time to call "Locksmith Bob"! After a few hours of struggling, Bob was able to get the door open and install another new lock.

> Okay, it was finally time to drill some holes in the ice and start fishing! After clearing the holes, Bob and Craig started the fish locators and saw graphs full of fish. After a few hours of fishing, enough crappies had been caught for everyone to go home with fish dinner.



George, Amber, Evan, Emery and Keith





Doug Link



Evan Newton

Ice Fishing

Don't forget, the little brown fish house did not "want" to be used this year. After the first few times out fishing, the heater became unreliable. No matter what was tried, it wouldn't stay lit. They decided to replace it. Fortunately, "Furnace Repairman Bob" and a couple of helpers were available for the job. Yes, the same Bob as "Locksmith Bob" and "Carpenter Bob". We are lucky that Bob is a jack-of-all-trades. Now, with everything in working order, let the fishing begin!

Despite the shortened season, we had over 25 different anglers take advantage of the little brown fish house. They mostly caught crappies and perch. Several of them were new to our ice fishing program and some people were able to use it three or four times.

Capable Partners members Craig Simpson, Steve Scheunemann, Ted Scheunemann, and Bob Lindig were fortunate enough to be interviewed by Javier Serna of *Outdoor News* for an article in the February 17, 2017 publication. This article gave excellent exposure to the Capable Partners ice fishing program we have been offering the physically challenged for the last four years.

After building the program, Craig has stepped aside from coordinating the little brown fish house, but all are in good hands with the new coordinator Bob! The jack-of-all-trades, Bob, will be a great new coordinator for the 2017-2018 ice fishing season.

Let's thank Bob for taking over the responsibilities of coordinating and all the great help he has been for the last two years. Many thanks also go out to everyone else that helped throughout the years. For all of us who love hard water angling, let's hope we have good ice for next season, and if everything goes right, we might have a surprise next winter!

Story by Craig Simpson



Craig Simpson



Steve Scheunemann



Ted Scheunemann



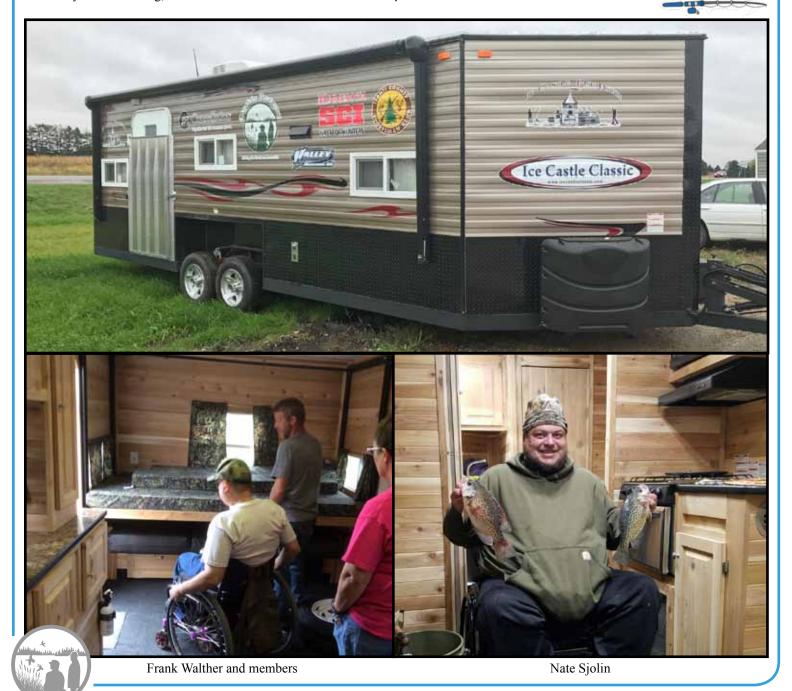


Capable Partners Expands Ice Fishing Program with Ice Castle Fish House/RV

ven with the warmth shortened ice fishing season in 2015/16, over 100 people used Capable Partners ice fishing shack on Medicine Lake. We had gotten "the little brown shack" used, put a ramp on it, upgraded to a metal ramp, spray insulated the bottom, and made other modifications to make it work for physically challenged anglers. Craig Simpson nurtured our new ice fishing experience each year. After four years of the popular ice fishing program, it was time for us to invest in a fish house built to meet our needs. With the financial help of Ice Castle, Constellation Mutual, Minnesota Safari Club International, Isanti County Sportsman Club, and Valley Manufacturing, we decided on an 8'x 21' Ice Castle/RV.

In May of 2016, Capable Partners' board of directors approved the largest capital investment ever – over \$18,000. Past Presidents Nate Sjolin and Dean Petersen took the lead in working with Ice Castle on the design that would suit us best, which included hydraulic lift frame, rubber floor, thermostatically controlled forced air heat, metal ramp, and LED lighting. By the July picnic, we had the Ice Castle Fish House/RV for members to see, tour, and become familiar with.

Did we use it? Yes, we did! The deer hunt coordinators for Lac qui Parle used it at Watson's hunting camp rather than staying



Capable Partners Expands Ice Fishing Program with Ice Castle Fish House/RV

at a motel which saved Capable Partners hundreds of dollars. A member used it as an RV at a remote location for deer opener. Then during ice fishing season, we fished Buffalo Lake, Beebe Lake, Medicine Lake (Holes for Heroes contest),

and Lac qui Parle (LQP) for the Ice Castle Classic tournament. We caught a variety of fish including sunnies, crappies, perch, and walleyes. Sadly, ice conditions did not allow us to get it back on a lake near the metro after it was at LQP.

For 2017, the coordinators are talking about how to allow members to use it to camp during the summer near Pine City, MN. We are going to showcase the Ice Castle at some of our summer time events such as the Lake Pokegama fishing trip, Annual Picnic and ATV ride. It may also be used during waterfowl season, at some more of our deer hunts, and other showcases which could include Game Fair, MN SCI Expo, and MN Deer & Turkey Classic.

It meets our physical needs, is comfortable and four anglers in wheelchairs can fish simultaneously. The fish house ambience, features, and safe environment encourage more members to participate because it feels like you're sitting in your living room. Without the support of our generous corporate sponsors, we would not have been able to invest in the Ice Castle Fish House/RV to expand our ice fishing program.

Thank you sponsors: Ice Castle, Constellation Mutual, Minnesota SCI, Isanti County Sportsman Club, and Valley Manufacturing.

Story by Evan Newton



Perry Bauer



Ice Castle Classic

riday morning, February 10th, Dean Petersen picked me up and we headed to Lac qui Parle Lake for the 4th Ice Castle Classic fishing contest on Saturday. Dean, his wife Erica, his son Kolten and I slept overnight at Dean's parents' house. Chuck and Sally live in nearby Dawson, Minnesota. It was Chuck who trailered the fish house from Plymouth to LQP for the Classic. The weather was expected to be warm and when we woke up it was forty degrees. We were concerned that there may be water on top of the ice.

After breakfast, we headed to the lake with a stop to pick up Dean's longtime friend, Brent Kosbab, so he could be one of our helpers. We had plenty of helpers including Warren Albrecht, Chad Albrecht, and Lance Tebben. Once we drove onto the lake, we parked next to Capable Partners' Ice Castle Fish House/RV and got set up waiting for the contest to get started at noon. Capable Partners' Past President Nate Sjolin met us there with some more helpers.



George Bruhn, Jr. Dean Petersen, Brent Kosbab and Nate Sjolin



Ice Castle Classic

Ice Castle holds the contest each year with Capable Partners' being one of three non-profit organizations that benefit from it. For this year's contest, Ice Castle had drilled a grid of 2,000 holes and they had 1,800 anglers show up to use them. I couldn't believe they sold hamburgers, brats, pop and coffee for just a buck!

Even though the Ice Castle fish house is very comfortable, we fished outside because it was such a nice day. Nate sold banquet raffle tickets to other anglers,but we didn't catch any fish. Many people stopped by to talk to us about the fish house and Capable Partners.

The contest had prizes including Ice Augers, Fish Cameras, Portable Fish Houses, Vexilar Flashers, a Trip to Las Vegas, Ice Castle Fish Houses, and an ATV! The grand prize was \$10,000 cash that was won by a guy who caught an 8.84 lb Northern Pike. Ice Castle had fifty prizes with fifty winners. The last prize was won by a small Crappie. To see the complete list, go to www.icecastleclassic.com/prizes/.

I would like to say "thank you" to Dean and his parents for their hospitality. Also to Capable Partners, and Ice Castle for the great weekend they provided for us and the great time we had.

Story by George Bruhn, Jr.





Annual Banquet

The goals for this year's banquet were to get more members to attend, provide a better venue, and provide a comfortable place for members to socialize. We enjoyed a full house, 250 attendees, which was our largest group ever! The food was great; it was at a reduced rate; and the new venue was more spacious and more accessible. This new venue made it easier to access the different raffles and auctions. Keeping everything in the same room, while having a wheelchair accessible restroom, a wheelchair accessible stage, and a working speaker system, enhanced the fellowship.

Official business:

- The officers and the new board members (Scott, Terrie, Darren, and Bob) were announced. We gave a special thanks to the board members whose terms ended this year and a welcome to all the new.
- The Bylaws, which the Governance Committee had spent many hours amending, were passed.
- The President, Evan, gave a state of the organization speech via Perry because Evan had laryngitis. (See the President's Corner.)

Added features this year included extra door prizes, a special gun raffle for attendees only and food selection indicators in the deer antler and birch log theme. The table centerpieces were a big hit, thanks to Jason and his deer antler collection!

Before and after the President's speech, we viewed a slide show (projected on the wall for all to see) of all the many activities. What fun we had this year! Meanwhile, Merchandise Coordinator Laurel unveiled a new clothing line of shirts, jackets and hats with



Hunting Package winner Dean with son Kolton Remington 870 winner Jim with Perry





Perry presents plaque to Steve, CFO of Clam Outdoors embroidered logos. It is a great way to get the name of Capable Partners out in the community so we can share our mission and events.

In addition, we had great prizes this year. Raffles included hunting and fishing packages along with several guided fishing trips. Five guns were won as well as a compound bow and one crossbow. There were many winners of outstanding prizes in the silent auction area. The 50/50 winner won \$427. The "Funds for Fun" table, as always, was fun and full of great prizes!

Banquet Chair Violet had her hands full with over 70 donations for all the raffles and packages. She also got "thank you" plaques for volunteers' outstanding service. Staffing the raffle tables became a challenge when several workers had to cancel at the last minute due to illness or family issues. This caused a scramble to fill their

> positions. Thanks to those who jumped in to fill the spots of those workers who could not attend.

Thanks to the Banquet Committee for all their hard work and months of planning. It takes a lot to get 250 people fed in a timely manner. We thank those who got their reservations in on time because food needs to be ordered and seating arrangements planned. Thanks to all who helped make the banquet a success!

By Laurel Bauer



Ken presents plaque to Alvin from Leo's South



Ken presents plaque to Jerry from Leo's South

Annual Banquet



Mark Ryan Turkey Shoot

y nephew Matt knocked on the door a little early, but I was ready to start our adventure that included an early morning, two-hour drive from Bloomington to Little Falls, MN. On the drive up, Matt told me about his last bird hunt, where he was the only one of about ten people who could hit a bird. On this Sunday morning, that Matt slept in.

We met with the other Capable Partners hunters at the clubhouse to let coordinator Tom Gindorff know we were there, settle our participation fee, and get assigned a blind. We headed out to the turkey shoot area in a convoy and parked at our blind. Another hunting group, Midwest Outdoors Unlimited, traditionally hunts the day before we do and leaves their pop-up blinds in place until after our hunt. The blinds are set up in a circle around the wooded hill where the turkeys are released.

It was sunny and breezy, but the hunt area was protected and the blinds cut the wind too. After Matt and I got set up in our blind, the turkeys were released at the pre-arranged time. Initially I didn't recognize that the movement in the trees was turkeys.
Once I did, the turkeys seemed to stay behind the trees.
I started hearing shots from other hunters. I saw turkeys run toward the blind to my left; no shot for me, but the Scheunemann brothers were shooting.

Later, I took a shot at a turkey and was rewarded with a puff of dirt at the turkey's feet. Matt fired five times with his 12-gauge Benelli and may have come close with one shot, but we know one shot missed hitting a tree trunk. As I said, sharpshooter Matt must have slept in!

When the time was up, we loaded up and drove back to the clubhouse for lunch. We swapped stories and heard about the success of others. For instance, Violet Foster bagged four, and the Scheunemanns took multiple birds. Even though Matt and I didn't hit birds, we were each able to take cleaned birds home.

Story by Evan Newton



Violet Foster with some nice birds



Wade Wiebold and Terrie Schrank



Mark Davis and Laure Zumbusch



Ted, Steve, and Tom Scheunemann

Capable Partners' Impact

en Schroers contacted me in September about archery deer hunting at Bloomington Ferry in the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge. He had hunted the public area there for 40 years but a heart condition had slowed him down and

it was no longer safe for him to hunt so far back in the woods. In fact, on a scouting trip in September, his custom hunting bicycle broke and the refuge staff had to come get him.

In October, Ken volunteered with Capable Partners to demonstrate archery hunting during the 40th anniversary on the refuge. He showed me the easy way to set up my deer decoy. He also told me he felt he was not deserving of being able to hunt where we hunt because he didn't use a wheelchair. Since he had the required state permits, I assured him he met Capable Partners' standards to hunt big game.

Later in October, I showed him and a couple of his hunting \partners (his family

members) our hunting area at Bloomington Ferry. They were so excited; Ken hunted the next day but didn't see any deer. Four days later, he and I talked on the phone. We talked about other Capable Partners deer hunts he could participate in, he gave me advice about

using deer decoys, and we wished each other good luck for the evening's hunt.

Ken hunted that evening, and as he was coming out of the woods, 20 yards from his truck, he had a heart attack and died the next morning. Ken had loved being in the woods. His family and friends, who wore camouflage to his funeral, thanked me and Capable Partners for giving him the ability to keep hunting. They remarked about how excited he had been to be hunting with us. Ken had quickly become my friend. I miss talking with Ken about hunting and know I would have learned a lot from him. Ken died while he was doing what he loved.

Story by Evan Newton



Ken Schroers

Capable Partners' Impact

just joined Capable Partners. It is an honor...It was very nice to be accepted. Before that, I was at home most of the time or going to doctor's appointments. I am sure everyone knows how it is. A person gets tired of it. Almost makes a person think that there is nothing out there for us to do.

In September, I went on my first archery hunt at the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge. I used to go to Bloomington Ferry. You can tell I haven't been there for a long time...I got lost...even though I live in Bloomington!

I met the coordinator, Evan, there so he could show us around and let us know where to hunt. I was so impressed on what I saw. The access to the hunting



George Peters and Louis Flowers

spot was so easy to walk and smooth. And being able to drive to the hunting site! The first word that came out of me was, "WOW." It was so quiet and so beautiful.

I remember that Evan told me the mosquitos were thick. I was told to bring mosquito repellent. I thought, "OK, I have dryer sheets which I've heard work to keep mosquitos off. I can use those." Big mistake - they didn't work. The mosquitos swarmed and we couldn't stay very long. I will know better next time.

That day I saw seven turkeys and one doe which was too far away to shoot. Even though I was uncomfortable, I will cherish that day forever. I get another chance to hunt which is something I love to do. Thanks Capable Partners, for making my day.

Story by George Peters



Lake Minnetonka Muskies

t was a wonderful Sunday morning with very little overcast and a mild wind that really made it a perfect day for Muskie Mania. About 13 Capable Partners members and 14 guides shared 10 boats looking to land some lurking lunker Muskies, the largest member of the pike family, in one of the many beautiful Lake Minnetonka bays. Our 22nd consecutive year for this outing!



Jim Purtle monster 51" Muskie being held by Jim's son James Jr.

Muskies are very unpredictable, and everyone desired for the big fish to rise or at least have ferocious appetites. While most of the anglers longed to even see one, a half a dozen muskies were netted, the highest success ratio for this outing ever. The largest Minnetonka Monster was a 51 incher caught by Jim Purtle "with son James Jr. holding fish, a smile almost as big as the fish." His father, Jim, who is blind, snapped the photo using a point and shoot technique; good job! Their guide was Muskie chapter president Eric Schultz. Next in line were a 45 and 44 incher landed by Roger Shasky and his guide Matt Olson. A 43 inch long fish was caught by Don Savage and his wife Jackie with help from their guide, John Hoyer. Lastly was a pair of smaller muskies snagged by Scott Hennan and his guide John Newman. Also let's not forget to mention your reporter, Rod, co-coordinator, who kept his solid never-caught-a-Muskie streak intact. Hopefully my day will come in 2017?!?

Lunch was incredible. Master chef Tom Lund grilled to perfection, can you believe, not burgers but porterhouse steaks & thick cut pork chops. Many thanks to the great volunteers back on shore for bringing the extra treats and helping serve the meals. Everyone had smiles on their faces even if they saw no fish!

A BIG Thank You to the Twin Cities Chapter of Muskies, Inc. for hosting this outing and Simms Outdoors for providing lunch. A special thank you to Paul Hartman, my co-coordinator/guide since day one. WOW! This coming event will be our 23rd year. Your reporter can't wait, how about you? Mark the calendar for Sunday, June 11th and join us trying to land a lurking lunker!

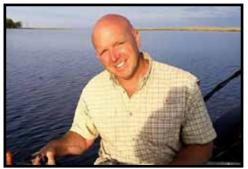
Story by Rod Guthier



Don and Jackie Savage with a beautiful 43" Muskie



Rod Guthier co-coordinator



Paul Hartman co-coordinator

Lanesboro Trout Fishing

rout fishing warrants special techniques and often requires fording streams, unless you are fishing at Lanesboro with Capable Partners. Sometimes you make the drive to southeast Minnesota and come up empty unless you are fishing at Lanesboro with Capable Partners. Sometimes you pack for days unless you are fishing at Lanesboro with Capable Partners. For the last two years, I have gone fishing at Lanesboro and come back with a limit of tasty rainbow trout.

Two and a half hours southeast from Minneapolis, the city of Lanesboro has a trout pond and every year the DNR stocks it just prior to our June trout fishing event. This year the DNR released



Evan Newton, Don Savage and Frank Walther

1,750 rainbow trout 12" long and about 30 brook trout that were a little bigger at 18"-20". The pond is open to public fishing but Capable Partners receives an annual invitation to fish the pond the Friday prior to the big weekend.

The forecast for Friday morning was hot and windy. I dropped off my wife, Becky, and cousin, Sherry, at the nearby city of Fountain for them to bike ride downhill into Lanesboro. When I got to Lanesboro, it was 8am, the sun was shining, and the DNR staff had fishing rods and bait ready to go. Various volunteers helped me bait my hook and made sure my bait was positioned properly. My "uncle Frank" had a great time fishing for stream trout which he had never done before.

Going down to southeast Minnesota, reminds me of adventures with my young son, Sean, on our trout fishing trips to Caledonia, Preston, and Houston. One time we were fishing on our favorite Crooked Creek near Caledonia. We got dinner at a restaurant and parked our conversion van off the side of a dirt, country road. At 3am we were rousted by the local Sheriff's Deputy knocking on the window and asking what we were doing. I think the first thing that came out of my fogged brain was, "sleeping." After assuring himself that we were not causing trouble, he left us to go back to sleep.

As we finished fishing in Lanesboro, volunteers cleaned the fish and packed them on ice for members to take home in their coolers. New members Jackie and Don Savage had a great time meeting the other members and fishing. By noon it was starting to get hot meaning it was time to leave with our trout. Dinner back at home was grilled rainbow trout!

Story by Evan Newton



Prior Lake

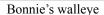
he day was predicted to be stormy. Our group of 25 braved the possibility of rain. Much to our surprise we were granted 4 hours of perfect weather. With a slight breeze our pontoons sailed out onto Prior Lake for a morning fishing trip. We were not disappointed, upon coming in Dorothy bumped over the threshold of the boat house and exclaimed, "best fishing trip ever!"

We all caught sunfish galore! Bonnie caught her first walleye ever and a bass. Brigitte brought along her niece, Trinity, who received a new rod and reel and tackle box before the trip. She broke it in well as she caught sunnies non-stop.

A great picnic was provided by The Prior Lake Sportsmen's Club. Just as the brats came off the grill, the predicted rain dumped on our shelter. We were fed and dry. Many folks took home cleaned fish as well as new hats and Dorothy's day got one better as she won the grand prize, a Flambeau tackle box.

Story by Laurel Bauer





Trinity



Trinity



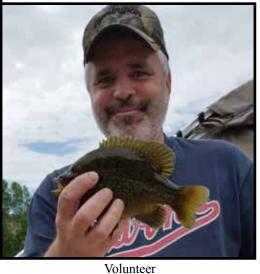
Karl Anderson



Brigitte Kurkowski



Dorothy Balen



Youth Fishing Day

n a cold, breezy, and rainy day, Friday, May 13, 2016, 200 local elementary school children boarded buses provided by Refuge Friends, Inc. to attend the Youth Fishing Day at the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge in Bloomington. The kids had on a variety of rain gear, which included ponchos and even some garbage bags. The weather did not dampen their excitement to be at Bass Ponds to learn about fish and fishing.

The children and their chaperones stepped off the bus and went to learning and activity stations to learn about Fish Identification, Ethical Fishing, Leave No Trace, Fishing Tackle, Casting, Shore Fishing, and Dock Fishing. They received a tackle box, and a fishing rod and reel so that they would be able to have an adult bring them back to fish again.

Bass Ponds used to be muskie rearing ponds run by Muskies,

Inc. Now the DNR stocks panfish and bass in the ponds as an urban opportunity to fish. The area is wheelchair accessible, which includes gravel paths and accessible docks once you get through the gate (the key is at the Visitor Center). Capable Partners, Inc. helped sponsor this event. This year's Youth Fishing Day is May 19th. Volunteer to help our youth learn about fishing!

Story by Evan Newton



Evan Newton







Lake Pokegama

t was a beautiful day, not too warm with a breeze blowing. Spending time on the lake on a perfect day, we caught a variety of fish including sunnies, crappies, walleye, and sheepshead. Friendships rekindled and stories of the ones that got away were told.

Volunteer skippers and their personal pontoon boats were arranged by our hosts at the Pokegama Lake RV Park & Golf Course. They helped the anglers on and off the boats, guided our anglers to the best spots, assisted baiting lines, and netted fish.

Back in for lunch about noon, we were treated to a delicious meal cooked by the volunteers from the campground. After lunch, there was a drawing for prizes that included fishing rods and tackle.

This was the first time in years we have done this event. Thanks again to our hosts - folks at the campground - for going out of their way to provide our members a great day on the lake. A special thanks goes out to Bill Vice for being the lead campground person on this great day.

Story by Violet Foster



Frank caught a Sheepshead



Karen and Darren caught a few nice Crappies



Ken caught a Walleye

Lake Minnetonka

n August 6th, 22 Capable Partners members met at Rockvam Marina for our annual Lake Minnetonka outing. We left the marina at 9:00 a.m. with three full pontoon boats and went to Forest Lake (a bay) looking for hungry fish. We caught a few nice crappies, a bunch of bass and lots of sunfish (some of them were fairly large). A good time was had by all.

At one o'clock we returned to the marina. We were greeted by Judy Hildman and Sandy Korlath who served us lunch! They have been supporting us and providing lunch for 15 years. We appreciate everything they do for us!



Brigitte caught a large mouth bass



I would like to thank volunteer boat skippers Brad Peterson, Bill Weeks, and Perry Bauer for driving, and finding the hot fishing spots! I would also like to thank Rockvam for their help getting us on their very accessible pontoons. We will see you August 5th, 2017 for our next outing.

Story by Dave Heidtke



Trinity caught a sunfish



Lake Mille Lacs

ishing in the rain in July, good friends old and new, eating too much and then driving home in the fog. That's this day's Lake Mille Lacs fishing story. As usual it started out great! We had good walleye chop, fish on the locator, and conversations with friends just catching up and hoping for the big one. Even though it sprinkled off and on all evening the fishing was good. We caught over twenty fish; the largest fish was 27 ½ inches with many in the 15 to 16 inch slot. Several folks caught multiple fish including bass and perch.

strange but it is delicious. The drive home became the day's biggest challenge. The fog was so thick in places that I couldn't see three to four feet in front of my truck. Being a cautious driver it took me twice as long to get home. Thanks to the lights in Bradford I was able to find my turn and my yard light to find my road. I always enjoy a challenge but this

Our outing concluded with dinner. We had cheeseburgers on the grill, chips, potato salad and desserts. Thanks

to Captain John for the great dump cake. The name sounds

Everyone made it home safely and are now looking forward to next year. Thanks to all the able bodied volunteers for making our trips this year a success and hope to see you next year.

big foggy one wasn't something I'd look forward to again.

Story by Violet Foster







Don Savage



Terry Hanson



Volunteer



Perry Bauer Captain John, Don and Darrell

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Lake Mille Lacs

ur first Lake Mille Lacs fishing trip was canceled due to 4 foot waves on the lake. Obviously, a place not fit for man nor beast. The rescheduled trip was in September, the weather cooperated and we made it. Four new members joined us, with three of them catching walleyes, and all are excited to join us again. Although it was catch and release, we had fun landing several walleyes. The largest was 28 ½ inches, and was caught by Raymond. Most of the fish were over 20 inches. Smallmouth bass were also caught and released, as there is a slot limit on them.

The threat of a storm brought us to shore an hour early. The rain caught up with us on the ride home, but we all arrived safely. All are looking forward to next year's trip.

Thanks to Captain John and the able-bodied volunteers who helped net the fish and make the day a huge success. In addition, a special round of applause goes to Perry who heroically saved the day by rescuing Sandy's cap, that had blown into the lake. Now it can be said that Perry's rod and reel catches more than just fish!

Story by Violet Foster



Congratulations, Young Lady!

reported in the 2016 "Partner in action" I missed a nice buck at 80 yards at the Vermillion hunt. I didn't harvest him but judging by the tallow and white hair we found, I must have nicked him in the butt. I couldn't sleep at all that night, kicking myself for missing my first ever "wally" (worthy of mounting on a wall).. The next morning Wade, my Capable Partner of six years, and I got permission to look for him before the afternoon hunt. noticed messy tracks with an irregular gait in the soy bean field heading towards a wind turbine in the distance. We drove there, found a large puddle of water where he could have refreshed himself and then slowly followed a ditch which seemed his most likely path to safety. After several minutes Wade whispered: "Terrie, there's your buck." He was nestled into a berm with his hip elevated and his head tucked under his forelegs with his rack sticking out. Wow, I couldn't believe we found him. The buck slowly raised his head and looked away from us. OMG, he's still alive!



Terrie Schrank with a nice doe

Wade and I instantly dropped to our knees, hiding from his line of sight; we freaked out because we had left the gun in the vehicle, 300 yards away. Yikes! We quietly crawled back and notified the DNR officer. I was shaking so badly, not from my Multiple Sclerosis, but because a "wally" was within my grasp. I couldn't even hold the gun so Wade offered to dispatch my deer. He grabbed the gun and quickly stalked back to the deer. I watched Wade creep to where the buck had been, and he disappeared into the ditch. When no shot rang out I headed towards Wade, hoping my buck had expired. As I approached I could see Wade's disappointment as he sighed and sadly said: "He's gone." Only the grass bed and a smudge of blood remained. Driving back to the shed, we drowned our sorrow with the blaring tunes of Ted Nugent Hunt Music. Wade and other Capable Partner volunteers expanded the search but found no trace of the buck. I was happy we had found him, and secretly happy that the buck got away. Maybe he'd be back next year?

September 17th, 2016, we were back in the same stand. Wade and I were optimistic and had high hopes of seeing "my" buck. The morning's full moon beautifully illuminated the meadow before us; not so good for deer hunting, we both agreed. The day was uneventful, and afternoon dragged on without a single deer

sighting. Wade kept the mood light with his jokes and encouraged me to hang in there as crunch time was fast approaching. After sunset all was quiet except

for a distant ATV and a scurrying mouse. We tensely waited and waited, I looking one way, Wade the other.

With a few minutes left I spied her atop a ridge 50 yards away, broadside. She froze, her eyes glued to mine. I motioned to Wade not to move a muscle. It seemed like an eternity before she looked away unalarmed, giving me the chance to aim my gun and get off one shot. She bolted, I shot again not wanting her to get away. Wade laughed and said: "Your first shot was a kill shot, no need for the second." He saw her run 50 yards, spin a couple times and drop under a juniper bush. I wasn't convinced she was dead and decided to let her sit a while, just to be sure. After about 15 minutes we headed towards her, finding her just where Wade had said. "Congratulations, young lady!" he guipped. Sweet music to my ears, not only because at nearly age 60 it is nice to be called a young lady: but because I harvested my first Capable Partner deer with a clean

heart shot. I was smiling ear to ear, and could only exclaim; "Cool!" Thanks to Capable Partners, Gregg Runyon and Wade for helping this "not so young" lady feel kid-like joy! I can hardly wait until next year; maybe my buck will be back?!?

Story by Terrie Schrank



Wally

Deer Blind Repair

e had a major rebuilding project for the deer stands at Carlos Avery and Dakota County this past pre-season. Both hunting areas had stands with walls covered by corrugated plastic that had faded and were falling apart from exposure to the sun and elements. The Minnesota Deer Hunters Association bought us enough plywood to refinish almost all the stands. Rich, who works at Carlos, Trapper Bob, and Jerry took on the task of tearing off the plastic from the Carlos stands. They designed a pattern for cutting the plywood, and screwing it on. After that was complete other volunteers came to the rescue. Rick and Willie Wagner, whose dads hunted with us for years, wanted to help. They gathered fellow members of the





Minnesota Hunters Club who came out for a weekend to put the plywood on. Next up my son Jon and grandson Dan arrived to help. The last crew in was my son-in-law Chad and my other two grandsons Reece and Sky. We got the firing window finished with a couple goof ups, but I told them to remember they are only deer stands. Then Jerry, Rich, Darrell and Trapper Bob finished up the Carlos stands with paint, and put them back out so they were ready for the hunt.

On to the Dakota County repairs...Trapper Bob hauled down the plywood and boxes of wood screws to the garage in Rosemount. Then Dale Tribby, Dale Schons and Glen took control of this project. A crew gathered Saturday morning ready to work, except the screws had been left on the trailer and were back up at Carlos Avery. Trapper Bob sent a crew member out to buy screws to replace the ones that were back at Carlos. We got five of the stands completely redone. We completed the bottoms of the other two. The stands were ready for the early Dakota County hunt in September.

Thanks to the Minnesota Deer Hunters Association for the plywood and thanks to all the volunteers for their help in completing these two major projects.

Story by Gregg Runyon



Annual Picnic

That a beautiful day, sunny, a slight breeze and friends old and new. The smell of pork smoking makes us all hungry. Three large tables of goodies brought by our members to share. A

chance to win a drawing. It doesn't get much better than this.

The sounds of laughter and good conversations abound. Shotguns being used in good competition, most shooters sharpening up the eye for fall hunting in a couple of months.

The archery folks are tuning up their bows for deer hunting as that is not far off. Everyone's a winner.

The new Ice Castle fish house is on display, it will be used for ice fishing as soon as the ice is thick enough. In the coming summers, it will be used for overnight camping. At the end of the day with full tummy's its time to go. Many friendships renewed and new ones made. The end of a perfect day.

Thanks to all the folks that made the picnic one to remember



Annual Picnic





New Ice Castle fish house / RV

New Ice Castle fish house / RV



ATV Ride

August 20, 2016, started out slowly with only seven Capable Partners members showing up for our 15th Annual ATV Red Top Trail Adventure. It had rained most of the night and our help was slowed by a downpour in the cities. All gathered around 10:00 a.m. with skies threatening, but to our surprise no rain. There was very little water on the trails and no dust! It was a perfect day to be out.

We had just enough machines for everyone to ride thanks to Leo's South who supplied two side by sides and a single. Jim Purtle, a new member with a vision disability, joined us with his son using one of the side by sides. A friend of mine also lent a hand with his four wheeler by taking Dave Martti with him. Dave wasn't sure at first because he has not been on a four wheeler since his accident, but soon had a grin from ear to ear.

An hour or so later on the trail, the group ran into Darren Dorn from Capable Partners, with a few more friends. The threat of rain slowed them down as well. All were having fun, and I won't mention who, Faith, but I could hear you a couple of four wheelers

back. Apparently, much to her enjoyment, her driver had trouble missing the puddles on the trail! When we had made it through the Red Top Trail I polled the group about taking the gentler gravel path back or returning via the trail. It was a unanimous vote for the trail and away we went.

Once back at McQuoid's Inn in Isle, MN, who cordially allowed us space to headquarter the event, we started to set up for lunch. Again rain threatened but a friend Dave Ice, graciously offered his party barn to hold the barbeque. Not long after getting there and setting up the rain came. We were all safe and dry and no one wanted to leave.

I finally packed up around 4:30 with several going back to ride some more. None of this would have happened without the sponsors and volunteers.

Thank you so much, I hope we can do this again!

Story by Ken Johnson



Game Fair

y earliest memory of Capable Partners was when Greg Waite and Allen Buss invited me to join their organization in 2006. Before I ever went hunting or fishing as a member I volunteered for Capable Partners (CP) at the Game Fair booth with Greg, Violet Foster and her husband Jerry. Since then I have enjoyed many more volunteer opportunities with CP; taking part at the Deer Classic booth, attending Minnesota Deer Hunters Association events and speakingtoraisemoney for CP.

I realized I loved volunteering almost as much as hunting or fishing because I love

getting to know people and hearing their stories. The people that work the different booths for these events come from all over the United States, even Alaska; and Canada as well! I have had folks from Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota stop by and visit. Sometimes for 20 minutes or more!

This past year's Game Fair, August 12-14 and 19-21, was no different. It did rain Friday and Saturday of the first weekend, and I prayed for it to stop. I wish I hadn't because the humidity laden temperature jumped up 20°. Rain is better than muggy heat at the Game Fair!





On left, Carlos Martinez, Ken Johnson and far right, George Bruhn, Jr.



Accepting the plaque for "Many Years Of Support" are Game Fair owners, Chuck and Loral I Delaney Presented by Violet Foster and Darrell Erickson

I would like to say thank you to Coordinator Violet Foster. Darrell Erickson, Perry and Laurel Bauer, Scott Linder, Dean Petersen, Evan Newton. **Brigitte** Kurkowski. Jim Vorderbruggen, Greg Hance, Savage, Nate Don Sjolin, Sandy Runquist, Rick Waldeland, Ken Johnson, Faith Hirdler, Darren Dorn, and Carlos Martinez for all their hard work.

I now invite all members of our great organization to volunteer with me at this coming August's Game Fair. You will experience good times with great people, have good conversations and enjoy tasty foods. Don't miss this opportunity to share your enjoyment of CP, and all the wonders of the Game Fair! I guarantee you won't be disappointed!

Story by George Bruhn, Jr.



Carlos Avery Duck Blind

ast year I hunted the Carlos Avery waterfowl blind numerous times because it's close to home. A couple buddies and I keep the blind well maintained. So it's ready even if the hunting can be hit or miss.

If you saw birds that were close enough to shoot, you definitely needed a young strong pup to go after birds there. I'm talking with Coordinator Evan and hopefully the DNR about moving the blind to a better hunting location at the opposite end from where it's at now.

For 2017, I am the coordinator for the waterfowl blind. If you ever want to hunt Carlos Avery it's tough for your able-bodied helper and dog but you will at least hear and probably see some birds!

Story by Darren Dorn



Darren Dorn





Boomer

MN Valley NWR Duck Blind

atching the sun slowly rise on misty mornings as the wildlife comes to life makes my pulse go faster. At the first rays of light, one can hear the whistling of the ducks' wings as they fly out to feed and we are ready to hunt. On the occasional day that we arrange afternoon hunts, the sun setting is also a magnificent sight that signals the end of a day in the outdoors. Memories are made in this scenic area of the river valley that is within the Twin Cities metro area. Come join us. These are a must see in person!

... Thanks to Capable Partners and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, we were able to enjoy another year of duck hunting in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. The location of our blinds is near Lion's Tap in Eden Prairie. This year the hunting was hampered by the abundance of rainfall we had in the summer and autumn. The duck blinds were completely under water at one point. The flooding had reached past the walking paths and the parking lot, almost reaching Flying Cloud Drive. Eventually the waters did recede and we were able to get back into the blinds to enjoy some good hunting.

It's a great experience to be able to go hunting with able-bodied friends and family members; that is extremely difficult to do outside of Capable Partners. We have duck blinds set up to sit in and help shield us from the weather, which is a short walking (or in my case rolling) pathway from the parking area. Hats off to the amazing able-bodied volunteers for all of their hard work! They show up early to set out the decoys, as well as assisting the hunters and their equipment out to the blinds. Then they clean up after all is done. The camaraderic can lead to a great learning opportunity in this unique setup.

...Capable Partners has five waterfowl coordinators for the MN Valley NWR. In order to hunt, you contact them, let them know dates you're available and they will invite you on the days they have the blind reserved. They also arrange for volunteers and dogs. Some even bring food for after the hunt.

... Some of my favorite moments are watching the amazing dogs retrieving the birds after they have fallen into the water. My brother, Tom, has a lab named Zephyr that has retrieved for us for the last two seasons. Last year was his first year retrieving and I was a proud "uncle" watching him gain more experience with each retrieve he made during the hunting season. Being a prior owner of labs, I get so much enjoyment from watching the different dogs' excitement at doing what they love best. Not to mention, it helps the volunteers by not having to row out after the birds, which not only makes less work for them, but also allows us to spend more time hunting.

Story by Steve Scheunemann



Marsh Lake Duck Shoot

ell, another great shoot took place at the Marsh Lake Hunting Preserve in Victoria, Minnesota. We set the date for this hunt in the beginning of the year so you never know what the weather will be like but again Mother Nature cooperated and gave us a great day. We had over 20 participants and all went smoothly. Andy Akins, my co-coordinator, and Shawn Eastman make sure everyone is well taken care of.

Marsh Lake has the perfect set up for Capable Partners. The blinds are set in front of the trees the ducks come over and there is a hill behind the shooters that waiting hunters, family and friends can observe from. That is one of the best parts of this duck shoot. Your friends and family can let you know when birds are coming and some will shout "Mark!" Of course, those of us that are close friends that hunted together many times take the opportunity to rib one another if one's shooting is not up to par. I have to admit that I wasn't shooting well this year and I was trying to take my time, follow the bird and take one good shot instead of just blasting away. After some time went by, I heard my good friend Andy ask me if I was using a single shot shotgun! Great humor!

It's a magnificent sight to see the birds darting over the tree line. It's hilarious to see the occasional duck waddling past you on the ground. It definitely shows some intelligence in



Photo by Chuck Karkak



Steve Scheunemann



Marsh Lake Duck Shoot

avoiding the hunters versus the ones that fly within shotgun range. It seems they have done this before or just want to taunt the poor shooters. However this may not be the smartest ploy because some of them appear to be wounded to the retrieving dogs and get swooped up anyway.

Whether you are a hunter, a nature lover or both, this is an enjoyable experience for all involved. I encourage everyone to come participate in this hunt and bring your friends and family. Whether they want to participate in the shoot or become your personal cheering section, they will enjoy the scenery and make memories.

Story by Steve Scheunemann



Jon Dennis, Doug Dorn and Steve Scheunemann



Volunteer, Roger Shasky and Tom Pletcher



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Steve Scheunemann, Volunteers and members waiting to shoot

My First Deer

or the past four years my dad and I have participated in many Capable Partner deer hunts.

Even though I get excited to harvest a deer with every hunt, I don't get my hopes up because I know many hunters have gone years without getting one. Maybe the October 8th, 2016 Carlos Avery Deer Hunt would be different. It was a crisp and sunny beautiful fall day as we listened to Gregg Runyon's wisdom on deer hunting strategies. He shared advice about moon phases, deer diet and which blind windows to have open or shut based on the winds. My blind, Number 19, also called "the Pumphouse" by the locals had an open field in front with deer potentially arriving from the right or left. We believed the deer would likely come from the right so we positioned ourselves in that direction.

The afternoon sun felt great but as it set the day snuck away with no action. At 7 p.m. with only 11 minutes left to hunt I glanced to the left and saw what appeared to be a mirage. No, it was a huge buck that appeared out of nowhere, 75 yards out. He was staring right at me. I grabbed dad to get his attention.

We couldn't believe our eyes. My adrenaline raced half way to the moon! I attempted to reposition my wheelchair, but it was too noisy. I decided to stay put and reach over to the left, making for a very difficult shot. Long shot or not, I wasn't going to miss this opportunity. I aimed carefully and shot once. BAM! My head flew back as the scope whacked my nose and my buck jumped and ran off, tail held high. Even though seeing the tail up is not a good sign, my hopes were high that I hit him.

I immediately called the machine shed for help. Trackers were busy helping other hunters with their deer so I anxiously waited for a half hour, thinking sundown seemed so long ago. It was getting so dark with just a sliver of a crescent moon shining, how would they ever find my deer in this dense woods? I was delighted to see Jerry George's big Chevy truck appear out of the darkness. Trapper Bob was with him, and I knew I was lucky to have two skilled trackers on my deer's trail. The chase was on. Despite few drops of blood, most smaller than a dime; losing the trail and circling the same 60 foot diameter area for 45 minutes; dimming flashlights; and my buck doubling back 100 yards, Jerry and Bob wouldn't give up. Dad

encouraged me to be patient and let the trackers do their work; then Dad helped them mark the trail. They could have easily apologized and quit when they lost the



Louis C. Bernier with dad Louis D. Bernier

trail, but they didn't. Despite being tired and cold they lived up to their reputation and searched on. Because of their unbelievable tracking skills and amazing persistence as the clock approached 11 p.m. they found my buck.

He was a beautiful 140 pound eight-pointer! Dad and I couldn't have been more excited! Dad and Bob dragged my deer 200 yards out to the road while Jerry went to get his truck. Dad picked me up and brought me out to the spot for pictures. I had a great sense of accomplishment when I got to see my buck up close! Jerry and Bob helped dad load and secure him on top of our minivan and we headed for home.

Thank you Jerry George and Trapper Bob! You guys fought unbelievable odds to make my dream a reality. Your tracking abilities would make a seasoned dog howl with envy. The words tenacity and persistence don't do you justice.

Thanks also to Gregg Runyon for your coaching, advice, for not calling off the trackers and taking the extra time to put me in a good spot to get my first deer. I will never forget October 8th, 2016 – the day I got my first deer!

Story by Louis C. Bernier



Jerry George and Louis C. Bernier

Hunting with my Son

joined Capable Partners this Fall and was able to go deer hunting for the first time in a few years. I was born with Spina ■ Bifida and have had some major health issues in the past few years that have made it difficult for me to get around in the great outdoors. With the help of Capable Partners, I took a small buck at Becklin Homestead County Park while my son was with me!

In November 2016 near Cambridge, I went on the Capable Partners deer hunt with my .338 Magnum and my 11 year old son, Noah, who likes to tag along. The guys that helped us were amazing. They brought us out and set us up in the deer stand and told us to call when we were ready to leave. The blinds were set up so it was easy for me to see and shoot from.

The day was warm and sunny - not your usual November deer hunting day. We had our jackets off and Noah took a nap. I had looked down at Noah and told him nothing was happening when I looked up and saw a button buck staring at me. It was about 5 o'clock with the sun in my eyes. The deer moved behind some trees where I had no shot.

With my heart racing, the deer moved from behind the trees but turned right toward me. I knew a front shot would be a hard shot to make so I waited for him to turn sideways when his tail went up and his ears laid back. It was now or never.

My shot was true with the magnum doing quite a bit of damage.

My son was very excited as it was the first time he had seen me shoot a deer. He said. "Dad, three more deer are running away!" We called for help and Gary Anderson came out to the stand quickly even though he had to borrow someone else's truck. He asked Noah if he wanted to help and learn how to gut a deer. He showed Noah how to field dress it and he was able to help get the deer ready and loaded into my van.

This was a wonderful experience especially because I was able to share it with my son. It was only possible because of the dedicated volunteers of Capable Partners. My hats off to all of you for helping me and other disabled hunters keep doing what we love to do. Thanks!

Story by Jim Grant



Jim Grant

Carlos Avery Hunt

he number of hunters was down a little from 2015 at the Carlos Avery WMA Deer Hunt, but the deer sightings were up. The hunt was October 8-16, 2016. Even though



we took a couple days off due to weather, when we hunted, we hunted hard. The rewards were great for those who put the time in.

Ken Johnson started us off by nabbing a 6-pointer. Vincent, new to Carlos Avery, happily took a doe he with his black powder gun. Louie bagged his 1st deer. Way to go Louie! That's him and his 8-point buck on the front cover. It's the largest deer taken here in a number of years!

Tom was next with a doe. Curt's doe filled his tag after going unfilled for a couple years. Dave and I finished the hunt by harvesting does on the last day. There were also a few deer that got away. As a bonus many of us saw turkeys while afield which is always a nice surprise! Thanks to Jerry and Bob for all the time they put into the hunt, and thanks to Jim and his crew for supporting the hunt.

Story by Gregg Runyon



THE GALLERY



















Ken Johnson and Darrell Erickson

Greg Scollard SD Gobbler

Kent Dirks WI Longbow Harvest WWW.capablepariners.org

THE GALLERY















Jim Hamlin MN Smallmouth Bass www.capablepartners.org



Karl Anderson MT Mule Deer



Pat Kellin MN Gobbler

My First Dakota County Buck

n a beautiful September morning, I went down to the Dakota County Deer Hunt in Rosemount, MN in hopes of harvesting a big buck or at least a nice doe! After getting comfortable in my blind, it didn't take long until I saw three deer at 60 yards out. Even though they were out of bow range I was confident I would get a deer this day.

As the sun started to set, I said to myself, well that will be it for today, but I guess NOT!! Out of the corner of my left eye I saw a deer running, I pulled out my call and gave one little grunt. The four pointer stopped in his tracks 40 yards away. I shouldered my crossbow tight, slowly squeezed the trigger and watched the arrow fly!

I waited about 20 minutes and then called coordinator Greg Runyon and told him that I had hit one. Shortly thereafter helpers arrived and I showed them where the buck was standing when I shot. We searched for signs of a blood trail but couldn't find any. One of the volunteer's said that I missed him. I hollered: "No way, 'cause I heard a thump and then he jumped!" Bob Fashingbauer couldn't find my arrow and asked what brand of broad head I used. I replied: "Rage." We kept looking and looking, and FINALLY blood was found. We followed it about 100 to 150 yards and there he lay! Not only was it nice to harvest my first Rosemount buck, it was twice as nice as I had won my new crossbow at the Capable Partners Banquet two years earlier.

Thanks to Bob Fashingbauer for the help, and letting us use his truck. And thanks to all the volunteers who help make this great hunt a success every year. Eagerly looking forward to next year's hunt!

Story by Jim Hamlin

Dakota County Hunt

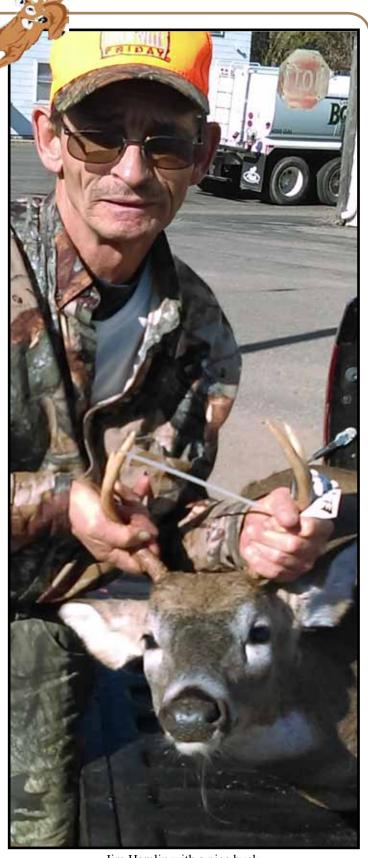
e had all the stands filled for the early (September 17-18) and late (October 22-23) hunts. Man the early hunt was tough because the moon phase was totally wrong. It was so bright we barely needed headlights leaving the field Saturday night. Despite limited deer movement Barry and Terrie both scored on does.

The late hunt's moon was kinder and the crops were off; giving hunters more locations and better white-tail opportunities. Many deer were seen. Even though we had a few missed shots, Evan Dale and Ken each harvested a doe and Jim downed his first buck with a crossbow.

Thanks to all the CP helpers, DNR's Bob Fashingbauer and his crew for making these hunts successful each year.



Story by Gregg Runyon



Jim Hamlin with a nice buck

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Sherburne Refuge Hunt

fter 40 years, I got the second buck of my life because Capable Partners gave me an accessible place to hunt near my home. It happened on opening day of the gun deer season at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge in 2016. I was hunting from "the castle", a manufactured blind that is very comfortable and well positioned. I knocked down a six-point buck on my first time deer hunting with Capable Partners.

Around 30 years ago, my brother Lloyd and I used to go to the refuge hunting ducks. We did a lot of shooting without bringing home many ducks. I remember one time we went really early to get the best spot. We rowed in and got the decoys spread out. Then we found out that we had left the shells at the truck. We discussed going back without picking up the decoys but knew that was against the law.

We picked up the decoys and started rowing back. Before we got back to shore, a fellow hunter gave us 12 gauge shells to use. It turned out that he lived near Lloyd and over the next few years they became best friends. We got back and ready just as all the ducks flew away. As we were leaving, we came upon a guy in a boat with a bunch of ducks. We asked him about the ducks he shot. He hadn't shot them. He was the Game Warden and the ducks were confiscated from hunters who had shot before legal hours.

Dean Clapp

...Also around that time, I was in a trap league with Jim Vorderbruggen in St. Michael. We went to Sherburne hunting ducks a few times. I lost touch with Jim, but when my brothers and other hunting partners were gone, I remembered Capable Partners. I contacted Capable Partners and went to the range with Dean Petersen and Jim to sight in my Savage over/under, smooth bore, 20 gauge shotgun with rifled slugs. I qualified and scheduled to hunt "the castle" on opening day.

My helper, Mark, had agreed to forego his gun deer season so that he could help me at Sherburne. I was grateful, but I wondered if I would deserve his sacrifice. We got there early and were setup well before legal shooting time. With trees at our back, the blind faces a field with a swamp on the other side. What a setup? I drove right to the blind, unloaded and Mark drove the van back to the buildings.

We watched the sunrise on a beautiful, 38 degree, November day. Around noon, we saw a large doe and a smaller one, but the zone was bucks only so we just watched them. We didn't need the heater because the high was over 70 degrees as we chatted, ate lunch, and kept alert. It was a great day and as it started to get dark, we made plans to come again the next day.

Just before dark, a deer emerged from the swamp. I thought I caught a glint of light off the antlers, but Mark was pretty sure it was another doe. He moved closer to me to get a better look as the deer was moving toward us. Just as he was saying, "it's a buck", I pulled the trigger and the buck dropped immediately. I told him, "my deer season is done!"

This was my second buck ever and my first deer in 40 years even though I had deer hunted on and off during that time. Mark stepped off 110 yards to the buck and gutted it. I had thought the distance was about the same as I sighted-in at, but it was about 50 yards farther. It was a lucky shot. Because it fell in the field, we drove my van to it, and loaded up my buck.

We took it to Mark's garage to hang the deer and skin it. Because it was warm, he processed and packaged it for me the next day. Thanks to Mark, Capable Partners, and the volunteers for helping me get my second buck ever!

Story by Dean Clapp



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Major Avenue Pheasant Shoot

he event this year was called the "Tim Lindbo Memorial Shoot" in honor of Capable Partners member Tim who died early this past spring. Tim's parents and family sponsored the event as a memorial to Tim. In previous years, Tim had enjoyed this event. This was the perfect time to honor him, celebrate his life and have a great pheasant shoot.

Those who knew Tim were immediately impressed with his smile, positive attitude, and enthusiasm for Capable Partners. Those who didn't know Tim saw where his upbeat outlook came from by observing the love, hugs, tears, and laughter that was openly and wonderfully displayed by Tim's family during the event. Their presence at this event demonstrated the love and support so badly needed during the grieving process. We thank the Lindbo family for their generosity in sponsoring this event and their donation of a Remington 870 to raffle off at the annual CP Banquet.

A bright, beautiful morning and a brisk wind greeted all who joined in the activities of the day. There were 26 hunters who occupied the ten blinds surrounding the silo. About a third of these were physically challenged. The remaining volunteers made for an unbeatable "support staff"! Mike Kuhlman assisted Jim Vordrerbruggen and Greg Hance in their rotations and throughout the event. Jim said, "I had a blast!"

The day's activities were overseen by coordinator Greg Hance who led the event. What does a coordinator do? Some of his tasks included fielding and making dozens of phone calls, securing supplies, arranging lunch, setting the schedule, lining up support, and filing forms!

Listing "Thank You" names is always a dangerous endeavor because of unintended omissions and misspellings; please forgive any that occur from the following.

It takes a team. Thanks to all who make the events work:

- ▼ To the Capable Partners who come alongside the disabled to make pheasant hunting possible for those who couldn't without your help.
- To Jerry Zumbusch and Mark Davis for providing and operating the "transportation trailer" and attending to the needs of the hunters that used it.
- ▼ To Jim Vorderbruggen for his help in setting up and helping at the sign-up table.
- ▼ To Bob Williams, Dan Larson, Rick Willoby and their retrievers to fetch our fowl.
- To Dave Martin and Jeremy Leal for releasing the birds from inside the silo.
- ▼ To Myra Martin and Sharelle Leal for setting up, preparing, serving, and cleaning up after lunch (which consisted of brats, potato salad, beans, sauerkraut, and lemonade).



Tim Lindbo, Jr.



Shooting Group



Scott Hennen and Greg Hance



Karl Anderson

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Major Ave Pheasant Shoot

- To Ray Williams who volunteers at Major Avenue, Caribou, and LeBlanc's mainly helping to distribute cleaned birds.
- ▼ To the family of Tim Lindbo, Jr. Parents Tim & Jill; brother Matt; sisters Keri Lorenz (Scott) and Amy Hennen (Brian); nephews Ethan Lorenz and Casey Hennen; nieces Avery Lorenz, Courtney and Chloe Hennen; and friend Scott Hennen who gave an emotional and moving tribute to Tim during lunchtime.

Story by Greg Hance



Ken Johnson and a trailer full of shooters

Caribou Pheasant Shoot

hat a beautiful day? It was sunny but a little windy. Everyone got ready to go to the field and shoot birds. Fifteen hunters took forty birds. Great job! Those pheasants seem to be getting smarter; they head for the trees and are hard to shoot. The event was not full with plenty space for more hunters.

Scott Linder and Tom Pletcher, who are new members, were excited because each took birds.

A special thanks to Jared Wanandt and Ray Peterson for bringing their dogs to help retrieve the pheasants. Thanks to Randy, and everyone at Caribou, for being so accommodating all these years.

Note: We are trying a new venue in 2017! We are moving to the turkey shoot location at LeBlanc's Rice Creek in Little Falls, MN. We will be able to accommodate 25 shooters and you will be guaranteed to take home, five pheasants and two chukkers. The date of the pheasant shoot will be September 23, 2017.

Story by Violet Foster



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Jason's Buck at MN Valley

n the Friday after Thanksgiving, Jason, a disabled member of Capable Partners, harvested a ten-point buck at Long Meadow Lake (LML) in the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge. He is the second disabled member to take a buck in the five seasons we've had this metro archery deer hunt. In 2016, we worked with the refuge staff to increase the chances for disabled hunters to take deer. Jason



made the best of those changes and turned his life around. Jason had grown up in Prior Lake and then moved to Minneapolis when he was 13. He was in a tree stand for the first time when he was five years old. He describes his father "Pete" as a meat hunter who always got venison for the freezer but didn't care about trophies. As a child, Jason had spent time in the woods with his father archery hunting and loved it. He developed outdoors

skills early, and his mother says that hunters who needed help would come to their door and ask if "the tracker" was home. He would follow the blood trail and other clues to always find the deer. He never lost one.

He remembers 30 years ago seeing the peninsula at the end of LML, where we hunt, and thinking about how great it would be to hunt there. This fall he went to check out the peninsula and found signs prohibiting the public from entering. He was disappointed that he would not be able to go in and photograph the big bucks in this area. However, he found out he was eligible because he had been disabled for three years due to being hit by a car while biking.

After finding the signs prohibiting public access, Jason contacted the refuge staff about how to hunt there and left his phone number. Jason had been despairing about the path his life had taken, and he had been ready to give up when the coordinator called to ask if he wanted to go hunting. His son Riley, who is 15 years old, had recently been taken by Riley's mother, illegally. Jason had taught Riley to bow hunt and had been planning to take him hunting during the rut.

He is an avid shed hunter (when bucks drop their antlers in January through March, he collects them), which means he likes being outdoors in the cold and snow. He has special areas he has discovered over the last 25 years. LML is an area he had hunted for sheds. He found big sheds in the Bloomington Ferry area as well. He has about 200 sheds at his home, many used as centerpieces for the 2017 Capable Partners banquet. He knows there are other shed hunters in the areas he uses and talks about ways to find sheds before the others do. Along with his other hunting gear, Jason carries three sheds in his backpack to rattle in the big bucks. He says, "Real antlers sound better to bucks than store bought plastic ones."

On Friday, Jason had been planning to go to Bloomington Ferry with Evan and Mike. Schedules didn't work so he asked if he could go to LML with his mother Jette. The calendar was open, so Coordinator Evan gave him the green light It was late when he got there and started to set up. Because there were only two

hours before the end of legal hunting time, the sun was starting to sag in the sky.

While walking to his tree stand, he found a road-killed buck that had 11 points and nice mass (7" circumference) at the base of the antlers. Because of a split brow tine and broken G4's on both sides, he recognized this buck as the one he had wanted to hunt. Jason had scouted the area and had seen this deer a couple of times. Seeing the



11 point road-killed

www.capablepartners.org

Jason's Buck at MN Valley

deer dead was so disappointing; his first thought was to leave. From his earlier scouting, he knew other big deer came through this area and decided to stay.

Sitting in the tree, he began to wonder where that 11-point deer could have gotten hit by a car. The closest highway is Cedar Avenue, about ³/₄ of a mile away, but the deer would have needed to swim across the river to get to where it died. That's an even harder feat, considering only one hind leg and one front leg seemed serviceable.

It was cold in the tree stand. With a high of 35 degrees and cloudy skies, the wind was blowing from the Southwest at seven mph. Jason is a big believer in "playing the wind," but he set up on the West side of our area because he had seen deer sign in the area. He used a tree stand to get a better view of the area, an act that may have kept his scent aloft. A half hour before dark, he saw a big buck to his Northeast – dowenwind!

Jason pulled out his rattling antlers in order to attract the buck and it responded by walking toward him. He said a silent prayer while drawing the buck closer. The buck put his head down, and Jason grabbed his bow. The buck came to 22 yards before Jason let the arrow fly. The buck ran a short distance to some tall grass, circled about eight times and then lay down. He sent a text to the coordinator, "smoked a big ten." 45 minutes later, he had to dispatch the deer with another arrow. As he was pulling it out of the grass to the gravel road, Federal Game Warden Scott and Coordinator Evan showed up to help. They celebrated with pictures, high fives, and admiration for a job well done. Scott helped load the deer into Jason's SUV and wrote a carcass tag so Jason could take the rack of the 11-point road-kill buck.

Before taking the ten-point buck, Jason was grateful to be alive, grateful to be outdoors and excited to be able to hunt this place with special meaning to him. After taking this buck, he was on "cloud nine," no longer despairing, and hopeful that his son would be returned soon. He turned to the coordinator and said, "Dude, you saved my life!"

Story by Evan Newton and Jason

Cartoon



By George Peters

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2017 Calendar of Events For updated calendar go to www.capablepartners.org



	March 2017		
March 25	Pheasant Shoot at Major Ave Glencoe, MN, able-bodied can shoot, all \$10 ea Must wear orange and safety glasses. Hearing protection is suggested.	Greg Hance	763-258-4293
	April		
MN	Turkey Hunting at Chaska and Sherburne Wildlife Refuge	Dean Petersen	612-388-015
Spring	Turkey Hunting at Sand Prairie Wildlife Management Area St Cloud, MN	Gregg Runyon	763-441-283
Turkey	Turkey Hunting at Carlos Avery State WMA Blinds Available Columbus, MN	Call Refuge	651-296-529
Season	Turkey Hunting at Becklin Homestead County Park / WMA Cambridge, MN	Nate Marks	763-370-173
	Turkey Maple Grove by Archery Only for pre-qualified members only	Lee Zeman	763-913-277
April 22	Pheasant Field Hunt at Whispering Emerald Ridge Menomonie, WI Must wear orange and safety glasses Hearing protection is suggested	Ken Johnson	651-792-207
	May		
May 7	Mark Ryan Turkey Shoot at LeBlanc's Rice Creek Hunting Little Falls, MN Ablebody can shoot, all shooter pay \$35 each	Tom Gindorff	651-429-762
	June		
June 3	Fishing at Knotty Oar on pontoons Prior Lake, MN With the Prior Lake Sportmen's Club providing boats, poles, and bait.	Terry Hanson	763-535-960
June 10	Fishing at Lake Pokegama RV & Golf Course Pine City, MN	Bill Vice	612-232-249
June 11	Fishing with Muskies, Inc. on Lake Minnetonka at Surfside Park Mound, MN Variety of boats, trolling available, lunch provided	Rod Guthier	952-888-649
June 16	Trout Fishing at Sylvan Park pond (show up at 8am) Lanesboro, MN Equipment and bait available, no trout stamp needed, lunch provided	Evan Newton	952-831-675
June 24	Lake Mille Lacs Fishing 4pm -10pm Nitti's Hunters Point Isle, MN Sponsored by Winkley Orthopedics 80	Violet Foster	763-444-442
	July		
July 29	Picnic at Isanti County Sportsman's Club (New Location) Cambridge, MN There will be Trap, Archery and Pistol ranges open	Violet Foster	763-444-442
	August		
August 2	Lake Pulaski Fishing at Pulaski West Park Buffalo, MN	Jim Zumbusch	320-963-587
August 5	ATV Ride at Isle, MN Bring your own machine or rides available Sponsored by Leo's South and IMED Mobility &	Ken Johnson	651-792-207
August 5	Lake Minnetonka Fishing at Rockvam Boat Yard Spring Park, MN	Dave Heidtke	763-535-271
August 11-13 & 18-20	Booth Game Fair Ramsey, MN A great opportunity to help Capable Partners and attend for free	Violet Foster Dick Ransom	763-444-442 320-274-519
August 29	Sight - in all weapons at Monticello Rod and Gun Club Monticello, MN	Jim Vorderbruggen	763-497-333
	September		703 177 333
Sept 5	Sight - in all weapons at Monticello Rod and Gun Club Monticello, MN Qualify for big game hunts (Rifle, Slug gun, Muzzeloader, and Archery)	Jim Vorderbruggen	763-497-3330
Sept 7	Sight - in all weapons 2 - 7 PM at Isanti County Sportsman's Club Qualify for big game hunts (Rifle, Slug gun, Muzzeloader, and Archery)	Bill Vice	612-232-249
September 9	Lake Mille Lacs Fishing 4pm -10pm Nitti's Hunters Point Isle, MN	Violet Foster	763-444-442
<u> </u>	Pheasant Shoot at Major Ave Glencoe, MN able-bodied can shoot, all \$10 ea Must wear orange and safety glasses Hearing protection is suggested	Greg Hance	763-258-429
September 9	Mast wear orange and sarcty glasses. Treating protection is suggested	Steve Scheunemann	

Updated Calendar: www.CapablePartners.org If a phone number has changed, email: info@capablepartners.org Main phone #: 763-439-1038

2017 Calendar of Events For updated calendar go to www.capablepartners.org



	September (continued)		,			
Sept 16 - 17	Vermillion Dakota County Deer Hunt Morning & Evening Rosemount, MN	Gregg Runyon	763-441-2834			
Sept 16 - 24	Lac qui Parle Deer Hunt at Lac qui Parle WMA Watson, MN Contact Nate by July 15, 2017 to get into blind drawing for first weekend	Nate Sjolin	763-286-9086			
Sept 16 - Oct 20	Archery Deer Hunt at Becklin Cambridge, MN ((closed during gun season)	Nate Marks	763-370-1733			
Archery Deer	MN Valley NWR (must pre qualify) Bloomington and Chaska	Evan Newton	952-831-6758			
Season	Maple Grove (must pre qualify and attend city meeting every other year)	Lee Zeman	763-913-2778			
Sept 16 - Dec 31	Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN (closed during gun season)	Steve Rein	320-293-6366			
September 23	Pheasant Shoot at LeBlanc's Rice Creek (New Location) Little Falls, MN Able-bodied can shoot, all shooter pay \$10 each Must wear orange and safety glasses. Hearing protection suggested	Violet Foster	763-444-4427			
Sept 23 - TBA	MNRV Waterfowl Hunting Jim Vorderbruggen 763-497-3330 Mark Holden 952-451-4350	Steve Scheunemann Greg Hance Nate Sjolin	952-445-0213 763-258-4293 763-286-9086			
Sept 23 - TBA	Waterfowl Hunting at Carlos Avery WMA Columbus, MN	Darren Dorn	763-301-0538			
Sept 23 - TBA	Waterfowl Hunting at Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN	Dean Clapp	763-856-2946			
Sept 26	Sight - in all weapons at Monticello Rod and Gun Club Monticello, MN Qualify for big game hunts (Rifle, Slug gun, Muzzeloader, and Archery)	Gregg Runyon	763-441-2834			
	October					
October 2	Carlos Avery Hunt Meeting at Carlos Avery Machine Shed Columbus, MN Required for those who intend to particate in Carlos Avery deer hunt	Gregg Runyon	763-441-2834			
October 7 - 15	Deer Hunt at Carlos Avery State WMA Columbus, MN	Gregg Runyon	763-441-2834			
October 21 - 22	Deer Hunt at Vermillion Dakota Co. Morning & Evening Rosemount, MN	Gregg Runyon	763-441-2834			
Oct 28 - Nov 5	Deer Hunt (rifle) at Becklin Homestead Co Park Cambridge, MN	Scott Linder	763-486-3192			
November						
Nov 4 - Nov 12	Deer Hunt (gun) at Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN	Steve Rein	320-293-6366			
Nov 6 - Dec 31	Late Season Archery Deer Hunt at Becklin Homestead Co Cambridge, MN	Nate Marks	763-370-1733			
Nov 25 - Dec 10	Muzzleloader Deer Hunt at Becklin Homestead Co Park Cambridge, MN	Nate Marks	763-370-1733			
Nov 25 - Dec 10	Muzzleloader Deer Hunt at Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN	Steve Rein	320-293-6366			
2018 January - March						
Jan - Mar 2018	Ice Fishing Fish House # 1 at Medicine Lake Plymouth, MN	Bob Lindig	612-224-6330			
Jan - Mar 2018	Ice Fishing Fish House # 2 Ice Castle variety of lakes in western MN	Nate Sjolin	763-286-9086			
	March					
March 3, 2018	Banquets of Minnesota in the Grand Olympian Ballroom Fridley, MN Social hour, prizes, silent auction, awards Violet Foster		763-444-4427			
Please contact the listed coordinators at least six weeks ahead. New member preference cut-off is one month in advance.						

Updated Calendar: www.CapablePartners.org If a phone number has changed, email: info@capablepartners.org Main phone #: 763-439-1038

MEMBERS TRAIL CAM CALLERY





Six eastern long beards



Big 8pt whitetail with wide spread



Red tail hawk with gray squirrel



10pt whitetail with horn growing out base



Black bear sow with three cubs



Coyote



Two 6pt whitetail sparring



Forkhorn whitetail in velvet

Capable Partners, Inc.

Providing hunting, fishing and related opportunities for the physically challenged capablepartners.org P. O. Box 27664 Golden Valley, MN 55427-0664 p.(763)-439-1038

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DONATION FORM

Complete this form online or manually and print, then mail to the address above

What if you were to become physically challenged and couldn't hunt or fish anymore? What if you are physically challenged and you want to go hunting and fishing again? Now you can have a partner to renew or inspire your love of these sports and to provide access to a safe and exciting adventure in the Great Outdoors!

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION	I AM: (check all that apply)		
Name:	PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED What are your limitations?		
Address:	What are your limitations?		
City/State:	ABLE BODIED SCOOTER CANE		
Zip Code:	WHEELCHAIR WALKER CRUTCHES		
Home Phone:	INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS or DIRECTED CONTRIBUTIONS		
Cell Phone:	FISHING (Summer) (check all that apply)		
E Mail Address	FISHING (Winter) DUCK/GOOSE		
E-Mail Address:	ARCHERY DEER PHEASANT		
(Capable Partners updates only)	SHOTGUN DEER TURKEY		
Optional - Date of Birth:	☐ RIFLE DEER ☐ ATV RIDE		
Do you work full-time? Yes No	☐ MUZZLELOADER ☐ VETERAN		
What is / was your occupation? NOTE: To be eligible to be a physic challenged deer hunter, you must have product a Hunt from a Standing Motor Vehicle Perumber 1			
EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION Name: Home Phone:	Contributions are Welcome! All contributions and donations may qualify as tax deductible. Capable Partners is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. A contribution can be designated for a specific outing, purchasing fishing or hunting gear or underwriting other activities such as the newsletter, annual picnic, annual banquet, or general fund. I have enclosed a \$25.00 fee for membership		
Cell Phone:			
Relationship:	I am requesting a scholarship for membership		
In the event of an emergency, please identify any	I have enclosedas a contribution		
information to be relayed to an emergency caregiver:	Specific outing contribution		
	If you have a boat or land for Capable Partner's use, please check this box.		

