

# *partner* *in action*

*Issue No. 33*  
*2020*





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Whispering Emerald Ridge

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## partner in action

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## Capable Partners

Capable 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 240 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



Anyone who knows me knows I love this organization. I want it to be the best it can be! As someone (Rear Admiral Grace Hopper) once said, “the worst phrase in the language is ‘we’ve always done it this way.’” The way I look at it is, if you’re not trying to get better, you are getting worse!

What is the status of our organization? We have over 290 members, over 40 reasons to get outside each year, and strong financial footing. It looks to me like we are doing better than ever at getting disabled folks outdoors enjoying Minnesota.

Our volunteers are the backbone of the organization. We have five new board members, the most turnover in years, but it will position us to make the best decisions possible for getting our members engaged and active! Want to get involved? We need a merchandise coordinator, more fundraisers, an email coordinator, and more volunteers to run our great events.

Have you been drawn for one of our “Once-In-A-Lifetime” trips? Walleye fishing in Canada or a trophy whitetail hunt near Paynesville!! In addition to these drawings, and the events we coordinate, many of our members have taken advantage of hunting opportunities outside of Capable Partners including: The Minnesota Broken Wing Connection (may co-founder Doug Bermel rest in peace), United Federation for Disabled Archers, Chairbound Hunters, SilentAbility.org, and Twist of Fate. We network with other organizations such as Clam Outdoors, who sponsors our Rush Lake Ice Fishing Extravaganza.

What’s next? We are looking for more ways to get our members and volunteers out enjoying the outdoors – hunting, fishing, and ATV riding. Many of you know and have used the new online system, which will make it easier for many to participate. If you have had trouble getting in, call our support team – Evan or Arlene. If you have any ideas, let us know.

I am looking for a year of improving our service to our members. We’ve had a lot of change for the better, and there is more to come! Remember, the worst phrase in the language is “we’ve always done it this way.”

Thank you.

*Darren Dorn*





## Ice Fishing Extravaganza



### Story by Laurel Bauer

**A**nother fish house city was formed on the ice by our friends at Clam Outdoors. Shelters were set up, holes drilled, plywood floors placed and heaters set in the “on” position. Forty-eight members of Capable Partners arrived on Rush Lake ready to fish. Some also brought fish houses, including a Wilcraft and the orange Ice Castle newly purchased by Capable Partners.

Anglers were ferried onto the lake and assigned to fish houses with a professional angler from Clam and all of the equipment needed.

Most had the latest fish finders, lures, rods, and baits for targeting panfish. The orange house, which had seven people in it most of the event, proved roomy and comfy. Around 1 pm, all were treated to a hot dog lunch with chips and full-sized candy bars to fuel the body as we fished. Enough fish were caught to keep the day interesting.

We enjoyed good conditions such as no wind and tolerable temperatures. After fishing, we gathered inside Flickabird's



Clam Outdoors guides and Capable Partners members at Flickabirds Resort

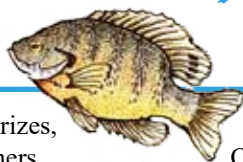


Clam Outdoors guides and Capable Partners members at Flickabirds Resort





## Ice Fishing Extravaganza



Restaurant, where raffle tickets were drawn for door-prizes, which were donated by Clam Outdoors and Capable Partners. Everyone went home with a prize.

A special thank you goes out to our friends at Clam Outdoors for their wonderful support and help for this great event.



Clam Outdoors guides and Capable Partners members at Flickabirds Resort



Capable Partners members at Flickabirds Resort

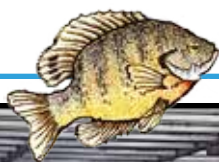


Front: Pat, Mike, Rick and Butch loading up





## Ice Fishing Extravaganza



Volunteer, Clam Outdoors guide Mike Hogan, Jack Conrad, members Perry Bauer and Mike Bourgeois



Clam Outdoors guide and Capable Partners members



Some of the nice fish that were caught



Wilcraft helps transport members onto the ice





## Ice Fishing Extravaganza



Dave Martti



Darren Dorn and Connie Pawelski



Pat Moore, Maria and Jim Stevenson



Dick Ransom



Clam Outdoors ice fishing setup for the Extravaganza



## New Fish House

### Story by Nate Sjolín Ice Fishing Coordinator

This past winter the board of Capable Partners decided we needed to upgrade the Little Brown fish house. We were very fortunate to have three great supporters who donated to this project: Isanti County Sportsmen's Club helped with the hydraulic frame, Rum River MDHA and Sluck Foundation helped with the structure and equipment.

The new orange fish house is an 8 ft by 16 ft, 12-hole, Ice Castle toy-hauler with an open floorplan, into which we are able to fit four people in wheelchairs comfortably along with three able-bodied fishing guests. There's a ramp door on the back end but none of

the RV accessories (no beds, no stove, and no toilet) of the bigger Ice Castle.

As some of you know, we took it to the 2nd Annual Clam Outdoors Rush Lake Ice Fishing Extravaganza and out to the Ice Castle Classic on Lac Qui Parle. We had it on Lake Sarah in Rockford, MN, for most of the season, where lots of 8"+ crappies were caught in the 24 times it was used out of the 31 days it was on the ice. This fish house will be available for future use, maybe even summer camping. If interested, contact Nate Sjolín at 763-286-9086.



Dean Petersen, Brett Drexler and Nate Sjolín





## New Fish House



Jim Vorderbruggen and Greg Hance catching crappies





## Mille Lacs Ice Fishing

### Story by Jeff Jacobson Ice Fishing Coordinator

This was my first year as coordinator of the Ice Castle fish house on Mille Lacs. With the help of Captain John from Nitti's Hunters Point, we had the Ice Castle out on January 15, 2020.

We were hoping to have it out a little earlier, but the weather didn't stay cold enough for ice making conditions. There were 12 different



members that used the Ice castle this year; it was used a total of 20 days. We made efforts to move around to find the bite, but it was tough, and by the end of the season, there were just ten walleyes caught. The Ice Castle was removed from the lake on the last weekend of February.

I look forward to coordinating again and seeing you next winter..



Captain John with a big walleye



Perry Bauer with a nice walleye





## Lake Minnetonka Muskies

### Story by Rod Guthrie Muskie Co Coordinator

**C**asting and trolling again for the 27th year Muskie fishing! The weather was wonderful and we were blessed with just enough wind and overcast skies. Our Sunday morning outing started with coffee and donuts while we loaded 19 Capable Partner members into 13 boats and one pontoon. Then we started to hunt for the Monster Muskie at Lake Minnetonka's Surfside Bay Park, Cooks Bay, next to the city of Mound.

Muskies were stiff mouthed this year. The fish were on the hard to find list, but one Muskie was boated. The Minnetonka



the meal. Loads of salads, chips, and deserts to pick from. And the taco salad was out of this world good! I have to say thanks to the many volunteers for bringing so many extra treats and helping serve the meals. As always 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 to the fishing guides, helpers, and the volunteers. And most importantly a big thanks to Paul Hartman, my co-coordinator and guide since day one.



A great turnout by Muskies, Inc. guides and Capable Partners members

Monster, a 39-incher, was caught by Kevin Affolter while trolling on a boat captained by Dave. Keli Thornton caught a sizable 34-inch northern pike while trolling the deep water. The experience of Captain Gus was enough to keep their boat from getting skunked! Other boats may have landed some larger fish that I didn't hear about, since nobody seemed to be bragging.

Captain Wayne and Karl Anderson lead a boat every year fishing for panfish instead of muskie. They found large numbers of panfish just the right size for Muskies to snack on!

I've never landed a Muskie and this year was no different. Now I've had hits and follows and the Muskie just looks at me. And that's it, it just looks at me like it's laughing at me! I don't have much to tell about my days fishing this fish. Every year I hope to catch a big Muskie; it's been 27 years but I can't give up and never will.

Lunch was served in the pavilion and our Master Chef Tom Lund grilled steaks and chicken to perfection. Muskies Inc. volunteers brought numerous side dishes to complement



Kevin Affolter with a beautiful 39- inch muskie

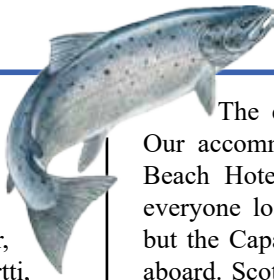




## Lake Michigan

### Story by Laurel Bauer

Once again, a fantastic trip was won by some very fortunate Capable Partners members. This trip is won by attending the Annual Banquet and entering the drawing. This year the winners were Scott and Linda Linder, Tom and Steve Scheunemann, Dave and Arlene Martti, Jerry and Terri Schrank, Dan Cooper, James Dalman, and Elizabeth Bauer.



The event was coordinated by Perry and Laurel Bauer. Our accommodations, right on Lake Michigan, at the Illinois Beach Hotel and Conference Center were top-notch. Getting everyone loaded in the 38-foot fishing boat had its challenges but the Capable Partners pitched in and we got everyone safely aboard. Scott was so excited to get on the boat he used his new sliding board but didn't even take the time to get it out of the box!



Laurel Bauer, James Dalman, Elizabeth Bauer and Scott Linder Back: Linda Linder

The first day on the water was a little overcast with a threat of rain. We managed to avoid the rain and had a great day on the water, after a few tumultuous waves that got our systems in check, it settled down and fishing began. We all drew numbers to take turns and grab a rod when our mate hollers, "fish-on." There were times when we had 4 fish on at the same time which adds a lot of excitement! Both boats came in with large catches of salmon and lake trout.

Day two was met with disappointment, as the boats were not able to get out of the harbor due to high winds and very high waves. Some of us spent time on the beach rock collecting and enjoying the view. We were satisfied with our catch from the day before and took a leisurely trip back home.



Elizabeth Bauer and guide with a coho salmon



Linda Linder and guide with a coho salmon





## Lake Michigan



Front: Steve Middle: Arlene, Terrie, Tom and Guide Back: Dan and Jerry



Captain and Arlene Martti with a lake trout



Jerry and Terrie Schrank



Scott Linder and guide with a lake trout





## Lake Michigan



Steve Scheunemann with a lake trout



Terrie Schrank with a lake trout



Some nice coho salmon and lake trout





## Lake Michigan



Elizabeth Bauer with a lake trout



James Dalman and guide with a coho salmon



Linda Linder with a coho salmon



Guide setting up for the day





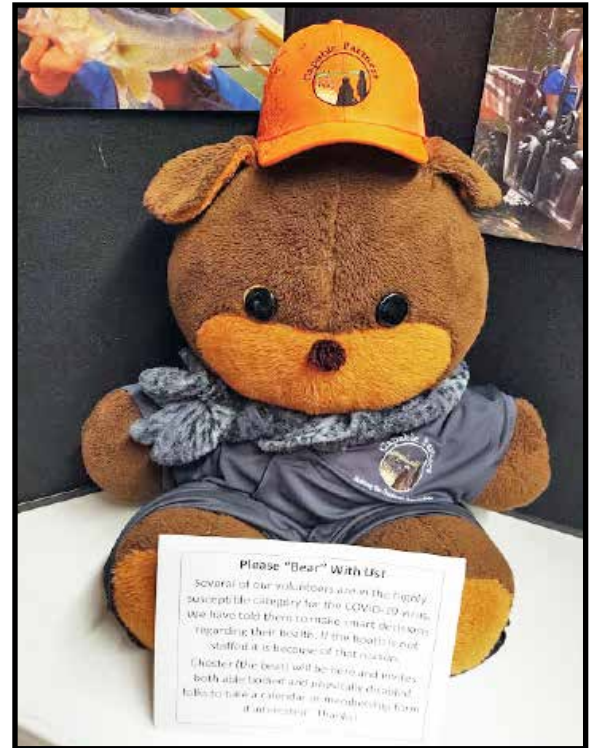
## Booth

### Story by Terrie Schrank Booth Coordinator

Our mission statement: “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.” The mission is spread not only by this magazine, word of mouth and social media, but also by staffing booths and making presentations. We are present at Game Fair, MN Safari Club International, the Outdoor News Deer and Turkey Classic, U of M’s Discover Abilities Expo, the VA’s Ability Fair, meetings with Courage Center patients, and more! Our booths and presentation happen because of the generous gift of time from many members sharing words of wisdom and genuine caring smiles.

We can honestly say, “if you want to get outdoors but are physically challenged, we’ve been there and done that.” Our thanks to each and every volunteer! Not long ago, on the evening of March 12th, Capable Partners set up their booth for the 2020 ODN Deer and Turkey Classic. There was excitement in the air because the Classic had moved to Canterbury Downs and our booth space was twice the size of our booth at the State Fair Hippodrome and had ample room for people in wheelchairs to be able to work the booth.

On the morning of Friday the 13th, President Darren Dorn determined that due to the blossoming of the COVID-19 Virus and many of our members’ being at higher risk for complications, any volunteers scheduled to staff the booth for the weekend could be excused, even if it meant for some shifts the booth might not be staffed. To still provide a friendly and informational atmosphere, Chester the Bear volunteered to



Chester



Front: Evan Newton, Dean Clapp and Jason Stushek Back: Terrie and Jerry Schrank





## Booth

stay at the booth (see picture). He even had a sign letting folks know why people weren't present, plenty of information for the taking, and copies of "Partner In Action". And he had some Hershey Kisses to sweeten the deal! Several folks volunteered throughout the day on Friday, with a plan to have at least two people present for two-hour shifts. Chester patiently hung out in the background.

Later in the afternoon Governor Walz made his own determination that having any gathering with more than 50 people should probably be avoided. The leadership of Outdoor News gathered, consulted with the folks running the Twin Cities Auto Show and the state government and decided to close down the Classic at close of business on Friday night.

There were a lot of disappointed folks who had been waiting to see the vendors or getting a prize buck officially scored. In the days and weeks that followed, the seriousness of the virus pandemic made itself clear, restrictions tightened in response, and the value of the decision became evident. In the time since then, several CP events had to be postponed or cancelled and could continue to be postponed for months. We are dealing with an uncertainty we haven't faced in our lifetimes. The CP website describes it best:

"We hope all of our members, supporters, and their families are well and doing everything they



Jim Vorderbruggen and Greg Hance can to keep themselves and everybody else safe during this global pandemic...Though the timing is uncertain, the pandemic is temporary, and we will eventually get back to normal operations. Please be patient. We will get through this!" As Chester might say: "Please bear with us."



Rob Klett, Terrie and Jerry Schrank





## Annual Banquet

### Story by Laurel Bauer

Capable Partners 2020 Annual Meeting and Fundraiser Banquet was held at the Banquets of Minnesota for the 4th year. A record number of persons signed up and enjoyed a fun evening with great food, fellowship, raffles and prizes.

Wow! We were so lucky to be able to have the banquet; another week later and we would have had to cancel or reschedule with the COVID-19 lockdown. The venue is excellent for our physically challenged members and gives our organization a level of sophistication deserved by all.

Thanks to the generosity of so many, we had the best ever amount of quality donations, which made this our most profitable banquet. We had three donated guns, fishing rods, reels, and other fine prizes.

New games such as the Wine Pull and Meat Raffle, as well as our favorites like the 50/50, 4-gun raffle drawing, Funds for Fun, Silent Auctions, including two custom Capable Partners fire rings and various other raffles added to the fun and enjoyment of the evening.

We look forward to enjoying each other's company next year at the same venue, Saturday the thirteenth, the second weekend of March. Thanks to all for their hard work getting the banquet arranged as well as acquiring all the great prizes.



Violet Foster accepting plaque from President Darren Dorn



Perry and Laurel Bauer accepting plaque for outstanding volunteers



Chris Kane Fish and Wildlife accepting plaque from Violet Foster



Craig Simpson accepting plaques from Violet Foster



Walt Gessler LQP area DNR manager accepting plaque from Violet





## Annual Banquet



President Darren Dorn



Vice President Scott Linder



Secretary Rob Klett



Treasurer Evan Newton



Past President Nate Sjolín



Board Member Chris Decker



Board Member Darrell Erickson



Board Member Jeff Jacobson



Board Member Terrie Schrank



Board Member Craig Simpson



Board Member Quinn Willmarth





## Turkey Shoot

Story by Louie Bernier, Jr.

I have been looking forward to this turkey shoot since we left LeBlanc's last year. On our drive up, we had steady rain between Monticello and Little Falls so we were expecting a rainy morning. It was still raining when we got out of the van at 7:30 AM. Soon after, the rain stopped and it turned into a beautiful sunny day.

I've been to the Capable Partners turkey shoot for five years. Previously, the only turkeys I've seen on my hunts have been way out of range. I was hoping to do better this year - at least fire some shots! Gregg Runyon and Ray Peterson gave me suggestions to improve my chances and told me that they had a blind in mind for me. We arrived at our blind around 9 AM.



Louie Bernier, Jr.

We had no extra time when we got to our blind. Then we find that our blind was made for able-bodied people - with a high step threshold. But we solved this problem. My dad pulled out the stakes and tipped the blind to the side to get me in.



Dad set out two decoys on a small mound 15 feet out. We had just gotten the decoys placed, and the van parked, when the turkeys were released.

No more than ten minutes later, two turkeys approached from the left - about 40 yards out! It looked like just one, but no there were two! One was behind the other. I whispered to my dad; "There's a turkey!" I aimed the bead at the turkey's neck, took my first shot, quickly pumped the shotgun, and shot the second turkey. Then I took a third shot. Both turkeys went down. What a thrill! I shot, not just one turkey, but two of them. I cannot describe the excitement!

My grandpa would have been so proud of me because it was his '56 Wingmaster that I was shooting. A half hour later, two more turkeys appeared on the hill to my left about 35 yards out. I quickly aimed the gun and shot both turkeys. Then I took two more shots to make sure they were going down. In one hour, I shot four turkeys! Beyond belief! Adrenalin rush x 4!

We weren't sure if the decoys helped, but all four turkeys appeared to be heading towards them. Ray Peterson was a big help on this turkey shoot. He and his crew arrived just in time to pick up the downed turkeys. My dad ran up to the van to get my tag. He was excited too, but his excitement got the better of him. In his rush to get back to the blind, he locked the keys in the van.

Back at the blind we saw three more turkeys out about 70 yards. Two of those turkeys came within 50 yards - right between us and the neighboring blind to our right. Since I already shot four turkeys, I didn't take a shot - hoping that our neighboring blind would get them. I think they got at least one of them.

As soon as the shoot was over, my dad had to get to work unlocking our van. I tried not to think about how hard it would be to get a lockout serviceman out to this remote blind - on a game farm - on a Sunday! My dad was asking everyone for a coat hanger or tire iron. None to be found. That is until Amanda came along!

Amanda is Jerry George's niece. She is the kind of person that is prepared for anything - just like her uncle. (Read about Jerry George's tracking abilities in my Capable Partners deer hunting story). From the back of her pickup she supplied my dad with duct tape, a thin wooden shaft, a bungee cord, and a crowbar. My dad cut the metal hook from the bungee cord and taped it to the end of the wood shaft. Then he used the crowbar to pry the door open far enough to drop in the shaft and hook the lock button. Seconds later the van was unlocked!

I will remember this special day the rest of my life! A big thank you to Ray Peterson, Gregg Runyon, and our new friend Amanda!



## Whispering Emerald Ridge Pheasant Hunt



### Story by Ken Johnson Pheasant Hunt Coordinator

It looked to be a very cold, wet rainy day for the hunt. To our amazement the weather was cool but no wind and definitely no rain! As always, the group was split into two groups - morning and afternoon.

If you haven't done this hunt, you should. It's the closest thing, in my opinion, to a real pheasant field hunt. The birds are placed ahead of time and you follow the pointing dogs on a four-wheeler.

If you are ambulatory, you ride in the cab and if you're in a wheelchair, they strap you in the back of the bed of a four-wheeler.

The dog goes on point and the driver gets you close before they have the dog jump the bird. There are lots of volunteers to help each disabled hunter be successful. Plenty of birds are taken.

Thanks to all the helpers who make this event run so smoothly.

Thanks to Whispering Emerald Ridge Game Farm owners Bruce and Teresa for hosting, and to Pheasants Forever for sponsoring the event! On another note the food they feed us for lunch is worth the trip itself!



Jim Vorderbruggen, Greg Hance and Russ Eigen



Ken Johnson with a great shoot



Tony Gutzwiller and Dale Schons



Steve Scheunemann filling the game bag



Russ Eigen, Volunteer and Greg Hance





## New Pontoon

Story by Evan Newton

Who doesn't love fishing? Rife with memories of time spent on the lake, maybe with your grandpa, fishing is one of our most popular activities. So, as the board was searching for ways to expand our fishing opportunities, we decided to buy a pontoon boat that could be used weekly to get members out fishing in May through September each year. Isanti County Sportsman Club donated money to buy a boat, Perry Bauer found us a deal, and we bought a 2002 Crestliner 22-foot pontoon with a four-stroke motor and a two-axle trailer. The wide gate and open floorplan allow multiple anglers in wheelchairs onboard simultaneously.

The program will have six to eight trained skippers, who will pick a day and a lake and meet members at the lake to take them fishing. We have fishing supplies such as life vests (everybody must wear one), rods, and tackle. Nate Sjolin has volunteered to coordinate the pontoon boat and has already taken it to a mechanic to make sure it's in top running condition.

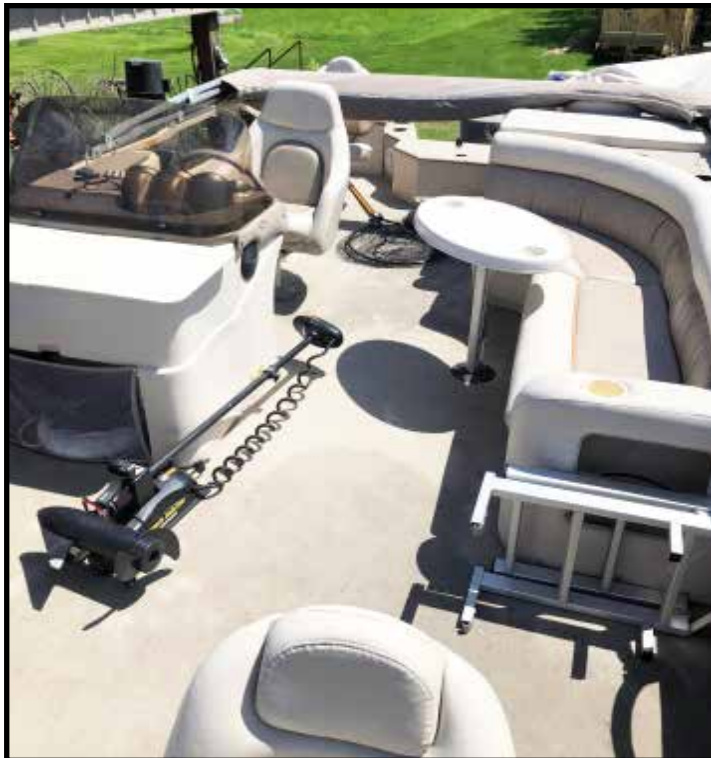
Our insurance requires us to have safety equipment, and a training program for skippers and first mates. After training was developed, the call went out for volunteers to be skippers and first mates to take members out on the boat. Seven people showed up for the first dry land training, which was in September. Then we went to the lake for "On the Water Training," but we ran out of time.

We will provide training again soon. We are calling for people who are willing to skipper or be first mate several times over the Summer. Contact Nate if you are interested in driving or helping drive the boat.





## New Pontoon





## Lanesboro Trout Fishing



### Story by Evan Newton Lanesboro Coordinator

**H**i George, I said as member George Peters showed up at my house on the second Friday in June with his two granddaughters in tow. At 6:30 a.m., we loaded my wife's bicycle on the van, and all piled in for the two-hour drive to Lanesboro. We dropped off my wife in Fountain; she prefers riding downhill into Lanesboro rather than the other way. The bike trails around Lanesboro take you to many small, beautiful towns like Fountain, Preston, Lanesboro, and Whalan (with the Aroma Pie Shoppe). You often ride alongside the picturesque Root River and other trout streams.

We arrived in Lanesboro about 9:15 a.m. and George said, "It's going to be sunny, warm and breezy today." Some people (members, family members, and public) were already there and had been fishing more than an hour. I said "hello" to DNR Area

Fisheries Supervisor Ron Benjamin, who was already cleaning trout. He mentioned the old pier was replaced with a new aluminum dock by the city and DNR. Our DNR hosts had plenty of help available in addition to fishing equipment and bait for all.

As I rolled onto the dock, it became apparent that it was a floating dock and the addition of my nearly 600 lbs. was felt by everyone on it. Some volunteers set me up with a simple bobber, sinker, hook and minnow and cast my line. Greg Hance, Jeff Jacobson, Louis Bernier, Glenda Dalman, Jim Dalman, Jim Vorderbruggen, and others were already catching 12" rainbows stocked by DNR.

There were anglers successfully using wax worms, but George used floating line, a casting float, and a fly with a slow retrieve, which seemed to catch bigger trout.



Members enjoying a morning of trout fishing at the Sylvan Park pond



Members enjoying a morning of trout fishing at the Sylvan Park pond





## Lanesboro Trout Fishing



We caught an estimated 200 rainbow trout, most of which went to the cleaning station to get cleaned and packed on ice. As noon rolled around, Kerry and Emily Sobieck provided a delicious lunch of barbecued ribs and baked chicken. After eating, most of us left for home, but some stayed to continue fishing. Anglers of all abilities had a great time trout fishing.



Greg Hance, Jim Vorderbruggen and Jeff Jacobson



Louis C. and Louis D. Bernier



George Peters' granddaughter Alysia



Seven nice rainbow trout





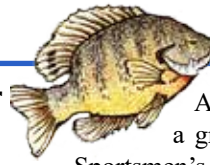
## Prior Lake

Story by Brigitte Kurkowski Prior Lake Coordinator

Here we go again, another fishing trip to Prior Lake.

The morning started off a bit on the cool side and showing gloomy skies. The weather wasn't looking very cooperative for the day but I guess looks can be deceiving, because it was one of the best fishing trips we've ever had!

The pontoon I was on went to three locations and couldn't do any wrong. As soon as our lines hit the water, we had panfish on the line! We caught so many, it got to the point that we just couldn't keep any more fish. Our bucket was overflowing with water splashing from our unhappy keepers. Our skipper even had time to take us for a bit of sight-seeing around the lake.



At the right time, we decided to head in and get a great meal from volunteers from the Prior Lake Sportsmen's Club (PLSC). As usual they did a great job with the food and AWESOME service to go with it! The PLSC sponsors this event and arranges pontoons boats, skippers, crew, fishing equipment, bait, and a picnic lunch. We are always so grateful to have such wonderful volunteers taking care of us year after year!

Let's not forget the men who spend hours of their time cleaning our fish! They were cleaning while we were eating and still cleaning as we were leaving. Members who wanted fish were able to take bags home with plenty left over for the volunteers.

It was another great year at Prior Lake! I am already looking forward for next year.

Thanks to everyone coming out and making it a success!



Coordinator Brigitte Kurkowski

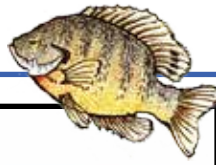


Trinity





## Prior Lake



Front: Dave Back: Trinity, Terry and Volunteer



Frank Walther



Chris Deming and Rick McCoy



Alena, Louise and Gene Troyer





## Lake Mille Lacs

### Story by Violet Foster Fishing Coordinator

**F**orty members and guests accounted for over 90 visits spread over four Mille Lacs launch trips seeking the legendary walleye. Our first trip was the best for weather with sun and warm temps although no one caught any fish in the slot limit.

Our remaining trips were cold, damp and windy. It was great to combat the cold with a burger or brat to warm up a little. Some of our members bring side dishes to share.

Most folks were wise enough to bring warm coats, hats and gloves. Hopefully we will have better weather for next year – like at least 80 degrees. Each trip we throw money into two pots – a tip for the boat captain, and a pool for the three largest walleyes.

Nitti's Hunters Point Resort provides everything we need to fish including rod & reel, slip bobber, jig, and leech. There's always someone handy to bait your hook, net your fish, and remove your catch.

During the season, we caught and released about 60 walleyes each trip. Smallmouth Bass were also caught but were returned to the lake. We are all hoping for the rules to change so we can keep a walleye or two in 2020.

A special thank you to Nitti's and to John, our boat captain.



Coordinator Violet Foster



Dean Clapp

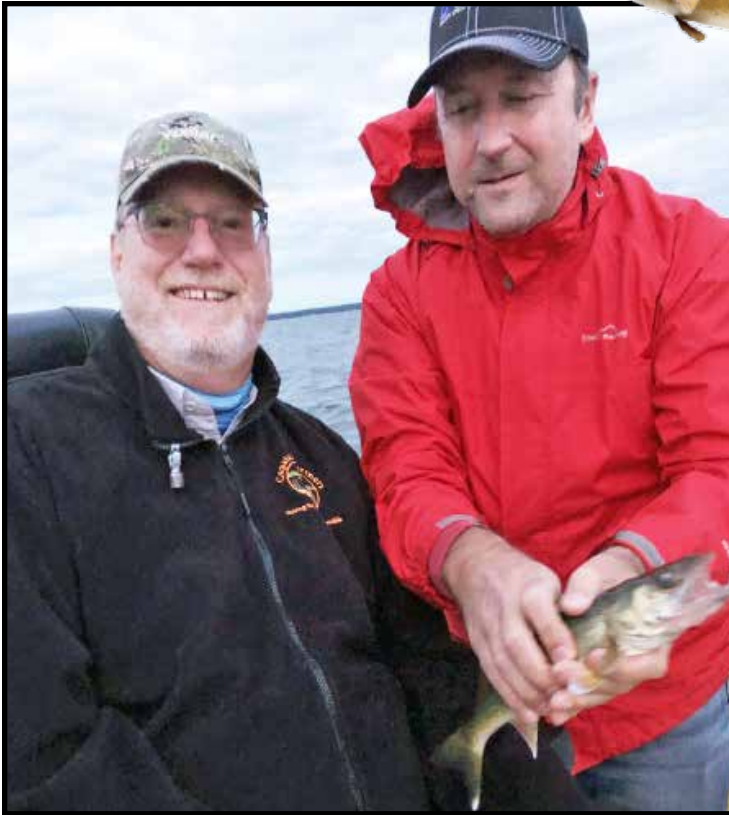


Scott Poehler





## Lake Mille Lacs



Evan Newton and Jim Purtle



Rick Waldeland, Jeff and Clarine Jacobson



Larry Schuerman



George Peters



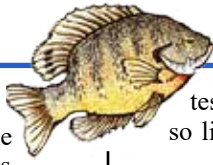


## Lake Pulaski

### Story by Laurel Bauer

A great day spent on the water, sun in the sky, slight breeze with temps in the 80's. The Buffalo Rotary treated us by providing five pontoon boats, one scrambled at the last minute from a step mom of one of the volunteers, when two originally scheduled boats had broken down midweek. With a full crowd of anxious anglers, we were able to accommodate all that showed up to fish.

We had 25 Capable Partners plus captains and some mates. One boat caught over 100 fish, mostly sunfish and one large northern that thought Perry's sunfish was bait and as Perry was reeling in the sunny the northern snatched it and was hooked onto the 2-pound



test line intended for much smaller fish. Beside the line being so light it was a small hook, no leader and no net in the boat!

Perry artfully angled the big boy until it was exhausted and lifted him onto the pontoon. Anglers on the other pontoons were also successful in reeling in many fish. Buckets of fish proved to show a successful day on Lake Pulaski.

Many thanks to the Buffalo Rotary as they provided boats and captains as well as cleaning and bagging the fish. A lunch, also provided, filled our immediate needs under the shade of the large oak trees in the park.



Members heading out to enjoy a day of fishing



Captain and members fishing the hot spot



Coordinator Jim Zumbusch and Greg Hance

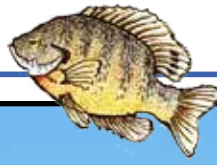


Terry Hanson and Faith Padden





## Lake Pulaski



Dean Clapp



Perry Bauer



Dave, volunteers Front: Rick and Nikki



Members enjoying lunch prepared by Buffalo Rotary





## Major Ave Pheasant Shoot

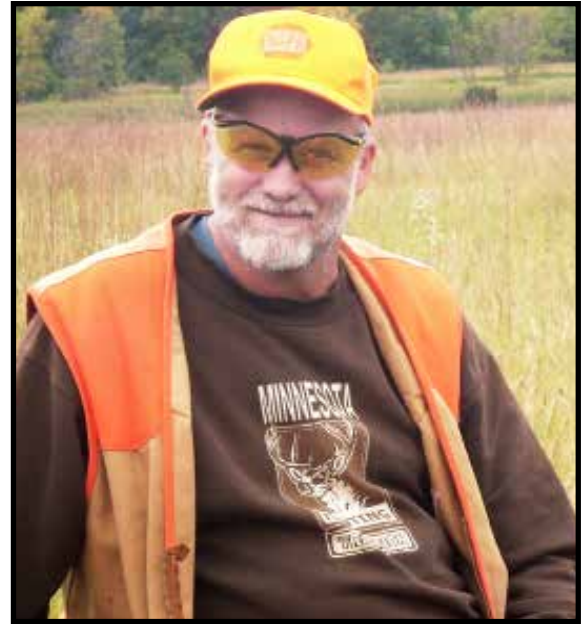
### Story by Russ Eigen

**S**tick with the winners, or so the saying goes. No matter what version is used, they all can be applied to this event!

Thank you, Greg Hance, for coordinating all of the details that make this shoot run so smoothly. Greg will quickly give thanks and credit to all the help that surrounds this outing - the incredibly important AB's (among several others were Jerry Zumbusch & Mike Kulman, who headed up the "trailer team" that I rode with); the dog handlers; guides; meal preparers/servers (Mike & Miley); and all the other "behind the scenes" personnel that get us from pre-shoot pastries to cleaned, chilled, and bagged birds! Speaking of bagged birds, on this day we downed 101 of 125 released pheasants (80%). A year ago, the numbers were 93 of 140 released (66%).

My blind buddies for the day included father and son team of Richard and Paul Brey. Paul (son) uses a wheelchair due to Spina Bifida. Paul feels very fortunate in having overcome predictions of his longevity more than once! Like so many of our volunteers, Richard is not without medical issues either, having had three back surgeries, but he served wonderfully as our helper.

A final recognition goes to Dave Maia, who is the new owner of the hunt club! Thank you, Dave, for retaining the name that we are familiar with as well as facilitating another successful event!



Coordinator Greg Hance



Nicole & Chad Fix and Jacie



Fall shoot: Greg Hance, Jim Vorderbruggen and Steve Scheunemann





## Major Ave Pheasant Shoot



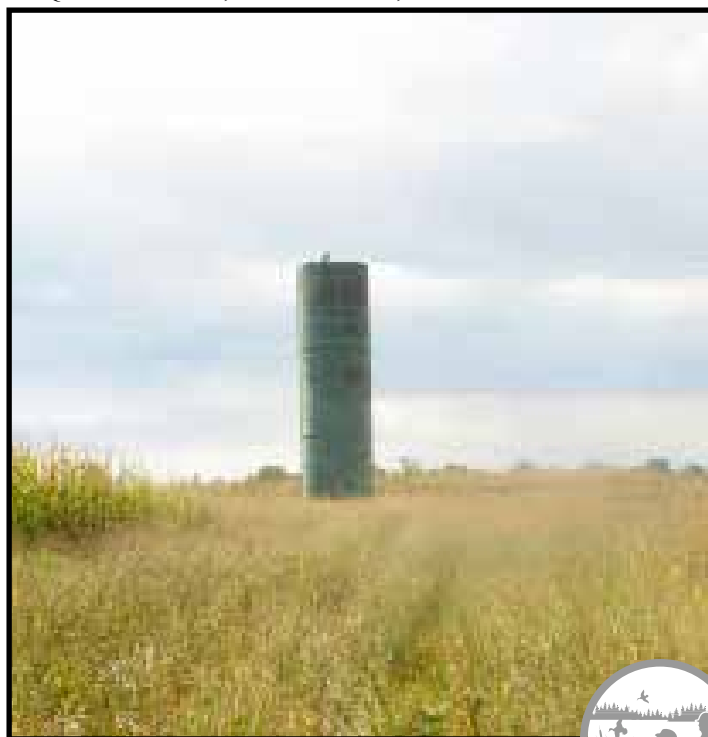
Steve Scheunemann, Nicole Fix and Tom Scheunemann



Quinn Willmarth, Todd Thornton, Nicole Fix and Jacie



Karl Anderson and Ken Johnson



Pheasant release tower





## Annual Picnic



### Story by Darren Dorn

The picnic is always a fun time for all our members to get together and visit, eat good food, and do all sorts of different kinds of shooting. We have trap shooting, 3D archery, pistol, and long gun shooting. Great picnic food is provided, and we eat under a picnic shelter out of the sun.

This past year was another success, with great sunny weather. It's so much fun; I would like to see more people participating in the picnic. The facility is great and has everything we need. Bill Vice and the Isanti County Sportsmen's Club have been awesome in making it happen for us.

Thank you to Violet Foster, the picnic committee, and everyone else who made it happen.



New shelter under construction



Clubhouse



Danielle Uden



Trap range





## Annual Picnic



Picnic shelter



Left: Shooting range with sight-in benches and shelter

Right: Trap shooting





## Rainy Lake



### Story by Mike Hanson

**T**he fishing trip to Rainy Lake I won was one of the most productive and well-run trips I have been on! I was fortunate enough to go from being a stand-by to being an actual participant. I would like to thank Capable Partners, Inc., RainyDaze Guide Service, our guide, Ryan, Tom Scheunemann, Terry Hanson, who were in the boat with me, and last but not least, Nate Sjolin for coordinating this once in a lifetime trip. Boats were accessible and guides made things work flawlessly. Good job!

I can't give anybody credit for the weather, but it was as good as it gets. We had sunny days, it rained one evening, and winds were strong enough to give us that famous walleye chop. We arrived to the AmericInn Sunday afternoon and went from there to Border Bar to enjoy live music and great food! At 8:00 a.m., Monday, July 21st, we took a long boat ride to Canadian waters, where we limited out on crappies. I lost count of the number of fish I caught.

Everybody's luck changed over the trip. Terry had a slow morning but couldn't miss the second day. Tom did well both days. We caught so many fish our guide didn't get his line in the water until afternoon. I caught a fifteen (15) inch crappie. I haven't done that well with crappies since ice-fishing as a teenager on Lake Minnetonka!

Once the crappies stopped biting, we went after walleyes and limited out again. Then, it was back to the motel and a local restaurant for a dinner of Mexican food and fish stories with Capable Partners members from the other three boats. We went after big walleyes on the 22nd and left the crappies alone. I only caught two fish, but one of them was the second largest walleye of the trip at twenty-six (26) inches.

In summary, our boat limited out on walleye. I caught the largest crappie on the trip. Rod Guthier caught the largest walleye. Our guide caught a perch that was not much larger than the bait he used. That fish was part of a school and he educated it. We arrived back to the dock to find an ambulance, border patrol agents and people from the local sheriff's office. They fortunately weren't there for any of us. We went back to the motel for a great fish-fry and more fish tales. There are two sayings among people who fish. "He who lies last lies best" and "the first liar hasn't got a chance." Fortunately, we were able to verify claims to the largest walleye and crappie with witnesses, measurements, and pictures.

I have been a member of Capable Partners since 1992 and have gone from this organization's first blind hunter to serving as its president in 2008 and 2009. I am proud to be a member of an organization that has grown to offering a trip as good as this one and look forward with anticipation to the future! Keep up the good work!



Mike Hanson with his 15 1/2 inch, biggest crappie



Mike Hanson with a thick walleye






## Rainy Lake



### Story by Joe "Yahtzee" Yaritz

The Rainy Lake trip sponsored by Capable Partners and led by Nate Sjolin was a spectacular experience! I met a lot of good folks, and learned something about each, too. For instance, as the old adage goes, you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. Well, if you lead Mike Hanson to water, he does nothing but catch fish! I presume that he may have help using his ESP, an Extra Sensitive Pole, giving him an unfair advantage for catching crappies. Not only did he catch more than his fair share of crappies, but he also caught the biggest one at 15 1/2" and won the largest crappie prize. I shouldn't have been surprised at his prowess, because two years earlier I duck-hunted with Mike and he shot a big mallard that day. Rod Guthier had the knack for walleye fishing, and he caught the largest walleye at 26 3/4" to win the other \$60 prize!

On the first morning, my boat was loaded with Craig Simpson, Ken Rueter, and our guide Matt Steffen. The other boats held Nate Sjolin, Nick Linder, Dave Meyer, and guide Ben Gilbertson; Rod Guthier, Kevin Affolter, Jim Dalman, and guide Chuck Coomber; Mike Hanson, Tom Scheunemann, Terry Hanson, and guide Ryan Fehn. It was a cool 61° when we departed the docks after we loaded the wheelchair users by a hand-operated lift into the boats.  continue on page 40



Front: Guide Matt S., Joe Y. Back: Ken R. and Craig S.



Front: Guide Ben G., Dave M. Back: Nate S. and Nick L.



Front: Guide Ryan F., Mike H. Back: Tom S. and Terry H.



Front: Guide Chuck C., Kevin A. Back: Jim D. & Rod G.





## Rainy Lake



My technical nature wished to explore the limits of the lift, but when I yelled “How much weight does it lift, how high does it go, and how far does it swing?” all of those operating the lift gave me that disapproving shake of the head, and I heard “There’s one in every bunch!” and the label “instigator” was on me again. That science experiment will have to wait for another time on a different unsuspecting victim.

On our first day, July 21, anticipation was high, and we were eager to start fishing. We traveled north 25 miles to a portion of Rainy Lake on the Canadian side to try for some big walleyes. We were at the first secret fishing hotspot. When we got there, we caught fish immediately on a jig head tipped with a nightcrawler, but they were just a bit too small for the slot limit. We were looking for fish between 17” and 18”, and anything smaller was released. One thing about the RainyDaze Guide Service is that they work their tails off to help clients. Matt was kept busy tending our poles, baiting our hooks, and netting the fish. Sweet, and we didn’t have to touch the bait or the fish, unless of course you were like me and couldn’t help it.

Matt is a successful walleye tournament fisherman when he’s not guiding. His boat was equipped with several advanced high-resolution fish finders with 12” screens, a Bluetooth Minn Kota trolling motor that would spot lock the position marked on the screen, and a map of the underwater depths and structure. With the sonar, we could “see” the fish hiding behind rocks on the bottom, but trying to entice them to bite was a different story.

I didn’t think I needed it, but this gave me another excuse for not catching fish on my own fishing excursions. I have nothing that compares to these space-age gadgets, but I’m waiting for the one that shoots the hooks into their mouths automatically! The smaller walleyes had a fairly healthy bite, and one couldn’t help but feel the rod jerk to action, and we were catching walleyes early and plentifully.

We even had a Canadian resort fisherman come and circle around our boat. My guess was for friendly conversation, to ask for fishing tips, and to see what bait we were using. He might have also been trying to chase the walleyes to his spot 75 yards away. After a shoulder shrug by our guide Matt, and a comment about being close enough to cut our fishing line from Craig, we learned the history of that spot, which is open for interpretation. We heard the Canadian had strategically placed and had been fishing those sunken rocks for nearly a century. He greatly appreciated all of the boats that came to his location, and we were welcome to follow him around to his other spots. Boy, those Canadians are sure a friendly bunch...

We left that first spot, and found bigger walleyes hiding behind another rock, as indicated by larger marks on the sonar display screen. However, these fish were more finicky and just kind of sucked on the crawler tails on jigs. It was tough to get them to suck it all the way up to the hook, amplifying the need for the previously



Joe Yaritz two great crappies



Joe Yaritz with a nice smallie



Joe Yaritz with a beautiful Canada walleye



Nate Sjolín, Nick Linder and Dave Meyer with some great crappies





## Rainy Lake



referenced and yet-to-be invented FFF (Forced Fish Feeder). Finally, Matt landed a nice 24" walleye, but to my disbelief he wasn't even trying. While we were actively dancing and bouncing the baits off the bottom of the lake or onto the closed mouths and heads of these lunker walleyes, he was just deadsticking his rig (in a rod holder). I quickly surmised that by taunting the fish from a distance, the big fish would get annoyed enough to bite the hook. I was correct in this assumption, and soon after I caught a 23" walleye, the one that I had previously knocked on the head several times with my jig. Craig and Ken had their share of big walleyes too. The other fish on the screen just wouldn't bite the hook, which I guess explains how they got that big. So we ended up leaving that place for another of Matt's secret hotspots.

The fishing was generally good, and it's been a long time since this guy got to catch a lot of fish. We were fortunate enough to latch onto some hard-fighting smallmouths, too! We each caught several giant bass, which was a sweet bonus to a great first morning. We eventually caught our limit of walleyes between 17" - 18", and the bite slowed down as it got later in the day. We could have kept one over 26", but none of us was that lucky. Nick Linder (no relation to TV personality Al Linder, which was a misguided assumption on my part) caught a nice 26 1/4" walleye the first day, but as I mentioned before, Rod topped that fish on the second day.

When it ended, it was a good 45-minute ride to be back to the docks, and there was no chance that we would get there by the 4:00 p.m. deadline. During the ride back we saw a few cabins that were demolished from some very localized tornadoes two days earlier. It was amazing to see the cabin on one side of a small island was in shambles, while only 75 yards away another cabin was in perfect shape. Knowing my luck, if I had a cabin there, the tornadoes would have found my cabin!

 continue to page 42



Ken Rueter with just one of his beautiful walleyes



Rod Guthier with one of many lunker walleyes he caught



Kevin Affolter with a smallie



Kevin Affolter with a walleye



Terry Hanson with a crappie



Terry Hanson with a walleye





## Rainy Lake



As I said before, there was no chance that we were going to make it back to the docks by 4:00 p.m. But what I didn't mention was that there is an unspoken race among the guides to not be the last one, especially if they are going to be late. Matt easily kept us in front of Ben's boat for most of the ride, but at the expense of almost losing Craig on a couple big waves. We slowed just a bit and locked Craig down to ensure he wouldn't be showing off his wheelchair water skiing moves in the near future. It looked as though we could cruise to the docks before Ben, but he Dale Earnhardted us with a slick shortcut around other islands, and he came out ahead as we rounded home stretch. I could tell that Matt was a bit perturbed and in disbelief about this development, but we had another player on the horizon. As I looked to our left, Chuck was coming hard and fast from the other side of the lake, hoping to sneak past us, too. Once Matt became aware of that threat, I saw that racer's glint in his eye and knew Chuck wouldn't get ahead of us. We all made it back in one piece and it was a good end to a great day!

The second day had us going to Canada (another secret spot, don't tell anyone!) to fish for crappies on hidden sunken trees, where our limit was 10 apiece. We were allowed up to four hooks per line in Canada, and Matt had us rigged on a jig with a dead minnow, and two to three other plastic jigs. We were on top of fish again, and immediately we were hauling them into the boat. I must admit that I caught my unfair share of crappies, and I kept Matt extremely busy. Even when he insisted that he net the fish, I was wind milling them up out of the water as fast as I could and before he had time to grab the net. I felt bad for Ken and Craig since I was monopolizing Matt's time, but fast fishing like this never happens for this guy, and I was anticipating trying for Minnesota walleyes once we got our crappie limit.

The bite was so fast and furious that I didn't have time to use the dead minnows. The crappies could stop biting at any time, and I wasn't going to slow down. At one point I thought I had latched on to a monster crappie, as the pole was bending down with hefty force. To add to my happiness, I pulled up two large crappies at the same time on plastic jigs. Matt had never had that happen in his boat before, so it was a first for him too. I briefly thought that surely these two crappies, laid end to end, would be much longer than Mike's big crappie, and I could win the biggest crappie prize, but I figured that was a stretch, literally and figuratively. It was rare and special, but of course Nate's boat had to top it and they had two on the same line twice that morning. I didn't think that catching two at the same time could be topped, but it was. Later on, the same sunken tree, I had a 40+'' musky take a bite out of my crappie at the boat. Wow, if I only had a musky rod, I would have dedicated the rest of my time to him, but that was not in the plans, as I was told to focus on crappie. We eventually removed most of the hungry fish from that spot, and went to another tree to catch the rest of our crappie limit. By 11:00 a.m. we had 40 crappie, using Matt's limit too. What a great morning fishing, and now on to the Minnesota walleyes.

I have to admit that my expectations for the walleye fishing on the Minnesota side of Rainy Lake was low, compared to the Canadian side, but I was pleasantly surprised. The fish we marked were very plentiful on the sunken reef, and the fish I caught fought like demons. At a depth of 30 feet, the walleyes did not give it up easily, and my first one was whopping fat and 21 inches!



Tom Scheunemann with a nice walleye



Tom with a big crappie



Tom with a walleye



Nick Linder with a walleye



Nick with another walleye





## Rainy Lake



It was also darker and had a slight blue slime on it compared to the walleyes in Canada. We caught several more big walleyes, and my assumption of the relatively poor fishing on the Minnesota side was wrong another bad assumption, but not the last!). The tricky part as I learned, was to catch the Minnesota walleyes as close to the 18" slot limit as possible, and those fish were fewer. But the big fish were plentiful, and we caught several more walleyes over 20". Wow, what a great spot for walleye fishing. We almost caught our limit of walleyes, in addition to the crappies, but we fell three fish short of a dozen. But these fish were fighters, and each one gave a spectacular fight.

Tuesday night we looked forward to the fish fry, and I was anticipating the taste of a fresh walleye and crappie dinner. In casual pre-dinner conversation with Terry, I was surprised to learn that he didn't even like the taste of fish. He was going to eat the side dishes only, and was probably going to give his fish away. He said he just likes to fish, enjoys the camaraderie, and wanted to experience the once-in-a-lifetime Rainy Lake trip sponsored by Capable Partners. I could understand, relate and sympathize with that, too, as I would probably do the same if I didn't like fish. But the cogs in this fish deprived brain were sublimely spinning, and the envisioned larger portions of fish for everyone else led me down the wrong path.

At the time it was just talk among the group, and I wasn't involved with separating the fish filets anyway. Until I volunteered to get more freezer bags, and then offered to help package the fish. Thinking that I had keen insight to Terry's thoughts, I explained to Kevin and Nate that he really didn't want the fish, and we need only to separate the walleye from the crappie and divide the fish into eleven bags of each instead of twelve.

Unfortunately, I felt like the first three letters in assume, and Terry did want his filets. Thus, I have to apologize to Nate, Terry, and any others that were involved in the last minute reorganization of the bags of filets.

The fish dinner was special, the Panko breading was delicious, and it was all cooked for us at the hotel restaurant. A special

thanks to the organizer Nate, the others from Capable Partners, and to the RainyDaze guides Matt, Ryan, Ben, and Chuck that put us on the fish.

As I started my drive back home on Wednesday morning, I was daydreaming a few miles outside of International Falls, and reflecting on how well the fishing trip went, except for my fish sorting blunder, recalling the events, and remembering the good folks that I shared my time with. I was abruptly brought back into reality as a doe that couldn't wait to get to the other side of the road raced my truck to the point of near impact. Had I not ferociously slammed on the brakes; I would have been bringing home venison on the grill too.

After a quick stop to reorganize items in my truck to their original positions, I once again proceeded homeward bound, but more fervently scanning the edges of the woods for any more suicidal deer. It was a beautiful fishing trip nonetheless, the weather couldn't have been better, and the folks couldn't have been nicer. It's a trip, that if you get the chance, you should definitely experience!



Craig Simpson with crappie



Craig with a Canada smallie



Dave Meyer with a walleye



Dave with a Canada walleye



Craig with a MN walleye



Mermaid





## Carlos Avery Duck Blind



### Story by Darren Dorn Waterfowl Coordinator

The Carlos Avery Duck Blind 2019 was a success! Prior to season opener, a Boy Scout, named Cooper Auge, contacted me about doing a project for Capable Partners for his Eagle Scout Project. Over 100 yards of heavy duty treated platforms travel out to the very accessible duck blind.

I knew, in order to make the hunting better, the blind would need to be farther away from the road. With assistance from some good able-bodied helpers, they brushed the blind up to where you wouldn't notice it from a distance.

The hunting this year was definitely a jump in the right direction. There were 30 ducks and two geese taken from the blind. The ducks included mallards, wood ducks, green-wing teal, and even a bluebill. There was a total of 15 hunters that participated at Carlos Avery. I have faith that the new blind and location will continue to increase the hunting there.

I would like to put a special thanks in to Cooper Auge, his Boy Scout troop, and their parents out of Columbus, MN. Come check out the new blind! Please contact me to hunt in 2020



Maxus and Darren Dorn trying new treated walkway



Boy Scout troop 114 parents



Connie Pawelski



Five beautiful mallards



A gorgeous male wood duck



Jacie





## Game Fair

Story by Coordinator Violet Foster



Every breed of dog can be seen at the Game Fair. More than just the hunting breeds, it's always fun to try to guess some of the new or rare breeds, everything from Rat Terriers to Saint Bernards. It's a dog lover's heaven!

In the years I have worked at the Game Fair, I have made friends with so many folks; both with other vendors and those that simply walk through to enjoy the event. Some of them stop every year to chat and buy raffle tickets to support our program.

Last year we even had a BBQ in the back of the tent. The Game Fair is held every August at the Armstrong Ranch

Sometimes the weather works to our advantage, as some folks are trying to get out of the rain, or they stop under the tent to cool off... and buy tickets. Good weather or bad we always seem to make more friends and enjoy our time at the fair.

A lot of our members first heard of Capable Partners at the Game Fair. Many are surprised at what we do and the events and opportunities we provide for our members. Everyone who works the event gets time to go enjoy the other vendors or go and watch the dog events. The Game Fair has so much to offer and is always a wonderful event to work at!



Front: Volunteer, Rick Waldeland, Brigitte Kurkowski, Darren Dorn and Maxus Back: Violet Foster, Dick Ransom and Darrell Erickson  
Kennels in Ramsey, MN. 80 acres of woodlands and lakes feature a wide range of exhibits and activities for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages.

Special exhibits include duck decoys, taxidermy, raptors, the latest dog accessories, and our Capable Partners booth! Visitors can participate in fun activities like duck and goose calling and shotgun competitions. Kids games include sling shots, air rifles, darts, and more. Fair-goers are encouraged to bring their dogs to join the fun and even try some of the competitions.

The weather is our biggest challenge every year. It's either raining or it's too warm.



Front: Brigitte Back: Dick, Violet, Darrell



Scott Linder and Ken Johnson



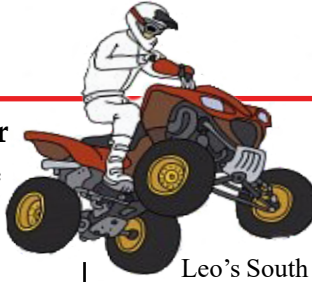


## ATV Ride

Story by Ken Johnson ATV Ride Coordinator

The August 3, 2019, ATV event has come and gone with great success. With the help from the Mille Lacs Drift Skippers Snowmobile Club, we moved our base camp to their facility, which is right on the trail! The clubhouse was the perfect place to start with plenty of room for everybody and enough room to cook out of the elements, which was not needed since the weather was perfect.

The deer flies were bad so we kept moving, and for some reason they all went after me. I looked like I had been beat up but it was from about ten bites around my sun glasses.



I didn't mind; I took one for the team and acted as bait.

Special thanks to:

Leo's South for providing ATV's so all had a vehicle to ride!

The helpers who helped setup and cook.

The Drift Skippers for hosting us.

Walter's Recycling for sponsoring this event.

I write this article in memory of one of our members who passed not too long after the ride, Bob Goth. He will be missed.



Members enjoying a day on fantastic trails



One of many water holes



A fun day of riding includes water on the floor





## ATV Ride



Volunteers



Riders taking a water break



Darren Dorn



Passenger Irvin Cooper and volunteer



Volunteers



Red Top trail



Second year of bandanas



Riders enjoying lunch



Volunteer





## Marsh Lake Duck Shoot



Story by Andy Akins Marsh Lake Coordinator

The weather was perfect, 60-degree temperature, light winds and a few clouds. 28 hunters met at Marsh Lake Hunting Club, just south of Victoria, at 9:00 am for the Capable Partners annual duck shoot. The event was coordinated by Steve Scheunemann, who along with the Marsh Lake staff did an excellent job to ensure this hunt was a huge success.

Ok now back to the problem. The ducks for some reason did not walk up the hill. The Marsh Lake staff had about a 50/50 chance of success when trying to herd the ducks up the hill to the tower. Luck was on our side; the Marsh Lake staff was good at driving ducks and they were able to get about 1,000 ducks up the hill and into the tower.



A great turnout of Capable Partners members

The hunters began the day in the clubhouse for the sign-up and safety review. While this was going on, a problem developed with the ducks. Before I continue, I should explain how the shoot works. In July the hunting club has 5,000 Mallard ducklings delivered to their 10-acre pond. The ducks are then cared for and live in the pond. The ducks are fed with food trays placed near the pond. Then each day the trays are moved up a trail through the woods that leads to a holding pen with a tower. This is how the ducks are trained to walk up the hill for food and thus fly back to the pond for water.

So, after the safety meeting we discussed another problem, themud and getting all the hunters down to the duck blinds/shooting area. A four-wheel drive vehicle had no problem getting down to the duck blinds. So many of the group rode down in the back of a pick-up truck. Luckily Darren Dorn brought his ATV and trailer and we were able to safely get a few of the members in wheelchairs down to the blinds that way. Once everyone was down to the shooting area, the ducks were released from the tower. Every few minutes, three to five ducks would fly from the tower to the pond below. Between the pond and the tower were the duck blinds.



Front: Jim and Steve Back: Don, Nicole and Tom



Cole Clark and Butch Anderson





## Marsh Lake Duck Shoot



Each hunter took his turn shooting from one of the five duck blinds available. The ducks flew very fast and proved to be very challenging, meaning “Humble Pass” lived up to its name. After about two hours or so, everyone had shot their birds. Some faster than others. The time at the shooting area goes extremely fast because the hunters who are done or waiting for their turn are able to watch the ducks fly, dogs retrieve, and yell encouraging words to those hunters who are in the blinds.

Next, we posed for a group picture and then made the short trip back to the clubhouse. Once back to clubhouse, the Marsh Lake staff had put together our traditional hotdog, beans, potato salad lunch that everyone enjoyed.

The conversations around the different tables were of a great day spent out in the field with a group of close friends. As a long-time member, co-coordinator and the sponsor of the lunch, I have to say this is a day I look forward to all year. To see some old friends and meet some new ones. Watch the dogs and the ducks but mostly what I enjoy is the excitement on the faces of all the hunters. Cole Clark borrowed my gun and when I went to see how he was doing, during his turn in the duck blind, the smile on his face told the story. What a great young man with a can-do attitude that never stops.

Thanks, Capable Partners for putting on this event it is my hope that it will continue for many years to come.



Shooter Don Savage



Shooter Pat Moore



Shooter Greg Hance





## Marsh Lake Duck Shoot



Don Savage, Dean Clapp, Darren Dorn, Stan Koich and Steve Scheunemann



Marsh Lake dog handler



Marsh Lake dog handler



Stan Koich



Steve Scheunemann





## Sherburne Duck Hunting



Story by Brenda Schuerman & Dean Clapp

This year at the Sherburne Wildlife Refuge, we fixed up and made sure all the duck blinds were ready to go. We fixed one of the older blinds to make three of them safe to use by Capable Partners and their able-bodied friends. We put railings on the ramps that go out to the blinds, making the area a safer and more enjoyable place for all of us to hunt. We painted the blinds camouflage, to help in the hunting process, and added the grass/moss skirts of camouflage that were donated. We received lots of help from family, friends, and members. A big thank you to everyone that helped put it all together.

With the purchase of a new duck boat, there is one at each blind. We also put life jackets in all three blinds, which will make it a safer hunt for the able-bodied helpers who use the boats to set decoys and retrieve birds. Able-bodied helpers make it all happen but they can also shoot birds at this event. This year was a wet year with little ponds all over the place! As in most years, we got some ducks, mainly mallards, teal, and wood ducks. New hunter, Larry Schuerman got the first duck of his life, while volunteer Aaron Harderopf shot three ducks at once. On occasion, Jim Vorderbruggen brings his cookstove and makes a delicious breakfast or lunch.

The wildlife refuge is a quiet and beautiful place to hunt with so much nature out there to see. While we were preparing the blinds for use and during our hunts, we were able to see one of the biggest deer I have ever seen in my life! Over the years, we have seen wild turkeys, coyotes, bears, wolves, swans, geese, sandhill cranes, and of course ducks!

After the hunting season, Jim Vorderbruggen, Greg Hance and some of the hunters got together for good fellowship and a BBQ on site. Sherburne Wildlife Refuge is a beautiful place to be. Its location is close enough to the cities for everyone to enjoy, but far enough out in the woods that you can feel all of the wonders of nature.



Larry Schuerman and Dean Clapp



New railings



Willy and Grant Wilson





# THE GALLERY



*Nicole Fix WI Archery Whitetail*



*Jim Hale MN Rainbow Trout*



*Kent Dirks WI Longbow Whitetail*



*Calvin Benedict MN Northern*



*Stan Koich MN Turkey*



*Emery Balts MN Whitetail*



*Doug Link MN Bass*



*Bill Vice MN Whitetail*



*Scot Bowman AK Halibut*



# THE GALLERY



*Lee Zeman MN Sturgeon*



*Matt with Evan's WY Antelope*



*Scot Bowman AK Yellow Eye*



*Bill Vice KS Whitetail*



*Amber Balts MN Crappie*



*Butch Anderson MN Whitetail*



*Karl Anderson MT Mule Deer*



*Brian & Tara MN Northern*



*Curt Selly SD Mule Deer*



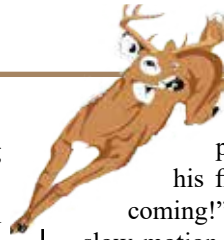
## Becklin Archery Hunt

### Story by Russ Rohr

I have been a hunter and fisherman most of my life. At a young age, my father began to teach me all he knew about both. When I was about twenty years old, I began to have vision issues. I was having trouble seeing traffic signals on sunny days and problems seeing things I needed to see at work. As time went on, I realized I had a genetic eye disorder, macular dystrophy, and by the age of 29, I was on disability because of it. More time went by, and I thought my hunting days were behind me. Then one day I was online and “bumped into” Capable Partners. I saw that there were opportunities to hunt very close to where I live in Cambridge, MN.

Becklin Homestead County Park WMA is a great place to hunt. I’ve been hunting there for half a dozen years now. In 2019, on a warm Wednesday afternoon, my helper Tom Evertz and I got out of the truck for the evening hunt. We picked up a few items we needed at a different blind of mine, and headed down the trail through the woods to another of my blinds near permanent blind #6. It was around 5 pm.

The night before, I had spotted a nice buck, but too far away for a shot. Of course, I was thinking I would not see him again, but I was wrong. I heard activity to my left just below a rise in front of us, and Tom whispered to me that he saw a doe. I was pleased, and readied myself for a shot. However, she never came over the rise.



My heart began to sink a bit, and just then Tom pointed to the left and put his hands to his ears with his fingers spread (the international sign for “big buck coming!”). It seemed like everything was happening in slow motion. I got my crossbow fixed on the area, and saw the buck in my scope. He was motionless standing with his head down. I centered the crosshairs, and slowly squeezed the trigger.

Tom began to congratulate me almost immediately; the buck had fallen where he stood. He didn’t even take a step. After he expired, we went over and I couldn’t believe it. It was the biggest buck of my life, and I just got him! He had eight points on his rack but one brow tine was broken off. I mounted it myself with a skull cap mount on a plaque.

I’m focusing on how to do what I love – hunt and fish. Capable Partners has changed my life for the better. I’m not sure what I would do without the organization and volunteers, but I’m pretty sure I wouldn’t be hunting as much, if at all.

Thank you for the opportunity to do what I may not have achieved on my own and especially thanks to my friend Tom Evertz.



Russ Rohr and Tom Evertz with a nice buck



Russ Rohr in the field with his nice buck





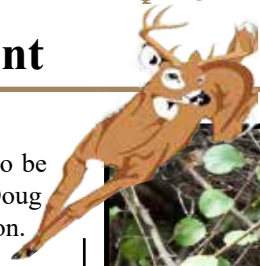
## Maple Grove Archery Hunt

Story by Lee Zeman Archery Coordinator

The 2019 Maple Grove Archery Deer Hunt turned out to be another safe and successful year. Success was had when Doug Link harvested two nice whitetail does early in the season.

Other hunters saw plenty of deer and had many close calls. We continue to see a good number of deer in Maple Grove, but the activity is usually right at last light, which makes harvesting more challenging. It seems like the deer in Maple Grove are adapting to the amount of public activity on the trails and inside the park that has made deer movement more nocturnal. However, like most areas, the rut seemed to push the deer more during the day time.

There seem to be many bucks around, and I'm excited to see what 2020 holds. If you would like more information on the Maple Grove archery deer hunt, you can find my contact information on the Capable Partners website



Doug Link harvested two does the same evening





## Dakota County Deer Hunt

Story by Gregg Runyon Dakota County Coordinator

We did a split hunt again this year with one weekend in September and one in October. For the September hunt on the 14th and 15th, we had 12 hunters. Hunters use shotguns and crossbows in this area just south and east of the metro. There are wood blinds usually overlooking crops.

The weather was a lot better than the September hunt last year, but it was still hot and humid. Evan Newton harvested a real nice 8-point buck (see his story). Barry Hite missed a huge buck that at least two other hunters saw. Other hunters harvested three more bucks. Glen Picha took a doe and fawn buck out of a new deer blind.



Dean Clapp with a buck

The second hunt was the 19th and 20th of October, and again we had warm weather, but not as bad as the first hunt. We had 12 hunters again. We harvested two bucks and two does. We all saw deer and a few shots were taken with a couple misses. Long-time hunter Mike Hanson scored his first buck (a nice 6-point) with helper Dale Tribby on the digiscope. Dean Clapp also harvested a nice 6-point buck.

Thanks to all the helpers Dale Tribby helped arrange again. Jerry George and Trapper Bob made it down to help. Bob Fashingbauer and his great crew as always helped out with the hunt and getting the blinds ready.



Dale Tribby and Mike Hanson with his 6pt buck

## Carlos Avery Hunt

Story by Gregg Runyon Carlos Avery Coordinator

We had the Carlos Avery deer hunt in the first part of October. The weather was terrible with rain and wind. We had 12 hunters, who harvested three bucks and two does. New hunter Dean Clapp took a nice doe. The rain hit hard, but we had hardy members who still wanted to hunt.

I decided to check out a different route to get into one of the stands. It was a bad idea and I buried my truck in mud. Jerry George and Trapper Bob had some real fun pulling me out. Yes, Jerry George has a video.

Thanks to the Carlos Avery crew for all their work getting the fields mowed and turned for the hunt. The 24,000-acre wildlife management area was named to honor Minnesota's first Game and Fish Commissioner who was appointed in 1915.

A very special thanks to Jerry George and Trapper Bob for getting the blinds setup and closed. Without the help of Jerry George, Trapper Bob and Jeff Anschutz we couldn't have done the hunt this year. These guys were out every day to help get the hunters in and out of the blinds. I also want to send out a thanks to Bill Vice, Jim Vorderbruggen, Dean Clapp and Mark Gulbranson for doing the qualifying/sighting-in of all the hunters prior to the hunt.





## Dakota County Dream Buck

Story by Evan Newton

A number of years ago, I was at a Carlos Avery potluck when Bob Fashingbauer, Wildlife Management Area Manager, came to Capable Partners to ask us to help with his Deer Management Plan at the new WMA. I have hunted Dakota/Vermillion for all ten or more years we've been there and gotten deer almost every year since the blinds were moved to the north. This year, I took the buck of my life!

Saturday, September 14, 2019, I hunted with my brother Kerrick in the morning and we didn't see anything. In the afternoon, I hunted with volunteer Gus Muench. Around 5 pm, we heard a gunshot and shortly after a big buck with 12+ points and antler palmation loped across the field in front of us before I could get my bite trigger in my mouth. Gus and I high-fived at our luck of seeing such a fantastic deer. Five minutes later, Gus whispered one word, "deer", and pointed to my right. I looked but didn't see it until I leaned forward to look around the corner of the blind. I saw a buck with "huge" tines and didn't have a second thought that this was a "shooter".

He was walking forward from my right to my left with his nose to the ground at about 40 yards out. I would have no trouble getting the bit for my 12-gauge in my mouth and lining him up. I grunted; he paused long enough for me to bite the trigger. He jumped up and mule kicked his hind legs. Then he ran over the crest of the hill and out of sight.

Bob and Jerry "the bloodhound" George came to help find the deer. Bob crested the hill and called "dead deer!" He came back to me and said, "No ground shrinkage. You're going to be happy with this one!" It was an 8-point with small kickers on the front of each main beam. I wanted the heart and liver but there was nothing left of the heart after the 12-gauge slug hit it.



Evan Newton and Bob Fashingbauer with Evan's dream buck

Darrell Erickson, an official measurer, scored it at 128 6/8! I have had a skull cap mount made and taken the hide to get tanned at Century Leather Products. Thanks to all involved who made my hunt possible and to those innumerable volunteers who have coached me over the years to bring me to this point.

Thanks for the buck of my life!

## MN River Valley Archery Hunt

Story by Evan Newton Archery Coordinator

Even though our Long Meadow Lake (LML) location was closed for the first eight weeks of the archery deer season, Jason Sorenson, a disabled hunter, took a big whitetail buck, a 10-point. His able-bodied helper and son, Riley Lindgren, tagged an 11-point that one of our other hunters had seen and, because of the forked G2 antlers, he thought it was a mule deer. The ears were too small to be a mulie but it was a great deer.

Along with a doe taken at Bloomington Ferry (BF), Capable Partners harvested a total of three deer in the MN Valley NWR. At the start of the season, we weren't able to get into LML because the road had washed out near the water control structure. Then it stayed flooded for six weeks. Once it dried out, we found there was a tree across the road. With permission from US FWS, a volunteer cleared the tree from the road. Finally, members who had a four-wheel-drive truck could get through the washed-out road and hunt.

The rut was on, and we were hunting. At LML, the team of Jason and Riley, hunted Friday night and saw a few deer far off. On Saturday morning, they saw a big buck, shot it, tracked it for close to two miles, and were unable to recover it. The intermittent blood trail was difficult to follow and stopped. They looked again Saturday evening before hunting, without success. Sunday morning, they saw another big buck, and Jason shot it. This deer dropped close to where the arrow struck it and was easy to find. About that same time, a pedestrian reported a buck with an arrow in it two miles away near the visitor center. The arrow matched and it was determined that yesterday's buck had been found! After gutting Jason's 10-point, they returned to Riley's 11-point buck to gut it.

Over at BF, an able-bodied hunter, Mike Peshut, took a small doe which he tagged and gave to his disabled hunting partner, George Peters. Four disabled hunters hunted 51 days at the river valley this year. George Peters was our most zealous hunter, visiting all three locations, with five partners, and 41 days hunted!





## Warren's Last Hunt

Story by John, Johnny D. Albrecht

Uncle Warren's last hunt is a special, special memory for me that I will cherish for all time. Uncle Warren died on January 22, 2020. He called me a few weeks before the Capable Partners Rosemoen Island Hunt on Lac Qui Parle, where he had hunted many times, and asked if I could be his able-body helper. I told him ABSOLUTELY; I would help him out! I stopped by his garage a few times before the hunt, and we got things figured out for the opening morning.

I was at his house nice and early opening morning and we headed out to Rosemoen. We got to the gate blocking entry to the island, and soon Lance Tebben and my brother, Chad, pulled up. Warren and I headed out to the stand Lance had assigned us. We got all settled in for the nice morning. He was telling me all about his previous hunts out there. It was a great start to what turned out to be a beautiful day!

As it started to get light out, we saw a few deer way off to the west, by the lake. Then, to the South of us, I saw a deer through the binoculars, 200-300 yards away. It was walking our direction. Slowly, it walked towards us, coming in a straight line. I told Warren, "there's a deer walking our way!" I could see in the binocs that it was a buck! He lined up the scope on his 20 gauge and took a look. I smiled when he said, "it's a small one..." I said, "Small one...Smile!! It's a nice buck!"

It got a little closer and Warren perked up and said the rack is outside the ears!! I smiled and said, "Yep!" As it got closer, I wondered if he was going to take this buck. The buck kept walking towards us slowly as if he were on a rope. Warren was all ready for the shot. I was watching through the binocs as the buck turned broadside at just over 40 yards and stopped. Smile!!

BOOM! It looked like a great hit!! The buck took off running as Warren swung, taking another shot! The sun was right in his eyes and he said, "I can't see it!" Then he saw it. "It didn't go down!!" He shot again as the buck kept running...

I kept watching the buck run across the field surprised that it didn't drop yet...Then I saw it go down! Warren was catching his breath, and I told him the buck went down. He was happy!!

We waited quite a while to be sure it was dead. Warren said that I should track it across the field and he would drive his truck around the field. So, I headed out across the field tracking the nice blood trail! It was an awesome feeling when I came upon the buck laying there with a perfect hit right through the vitals! It was an EIGHT POINTER!

Warren drove up. Chad and Lance came up next! I got the buck gutted and into Warren's truck. What a great morning! We drove back to Warren's garage. Processing the deer was a family affair. Warren, his wife Annette, Chad's sister Joy, and I skinned the buck and got the venison in the cooler!

We all talked about the great hunt, and I feel so good that I was able to help my favorite uncle Warren on his last hunt!!!

God Bless uncle Warren!!!

In memory of Warren Albrecht: September 15, 1948-January 22, 2020



Warren Albrecht 2019



Warren Albrecht 2010



Warren Albrecht 2013



Warren Albrecht 2012





## Becklin Homestead Deer Hunt

Story by Scott Linder Becklin Deer Hunt Coordinator

Bucks were seen during the archery season at Becklin Homestead WMA/County Park. So, after the mandatory pre-hunt meeting on October 10th to gather shooting qualifications and review rules, optimism and excitement were in the air.

Opening day, October 26th, couldn't get here soon enough. Ten hunters signed up for the seven permanent wood blinds of this afternoons-only, nine-day hunt.

Opening afternoon was warm, a great day to be in the blind. Over the next nine days, an unprecedented six bucks were taken along with two does, for a total of eight deer.

Special thanks to Mike Grundstrom, Jeff Jacobson, and Co-coordinator Violet Foster, without whom our hunt wouldn't have gone as smoothly as it did



Jeff Jacobson with a buck



Greg Hance with a buck



Ralph Bieniek with a buck



Larry Schuerman with a buck



Jeff Jacobson's big doe





## LeBlanc's Pheasant Shoot

Story by Violet Foster LeBlanc's Coordinator

**T**hirty hunters were anxious to have to shoot pheasants even if it meant sore shoulders for a few days. It was raining as we all arrived but everyone seemed excited.

Most hunters used at least two boxes of shells. LeBlanc's, the proud owner of a track chair, were kind enough to let Louie Bernier, Jr. use it for the hunt. It made it a lot easier for him to get around and support his gun for the hunt. Several members brought their dogs to help.

They all did a great job, and it was fun to watch the dogs work finding birds.

At lunch there was a lot of bragging going on about who was the better shot and who downed more birds. I think that was nearly as much fun as the hunting. Each hunter went home with five pheasants.

After the clouds cleared, it was a wonderful day.

Thanks for a great time at LeBlanc's.



Louie Bernier, Jr.



Darren Dorn and Maxus



Jeff Jacobson



Ken Johnson





## Youthful Exuberance

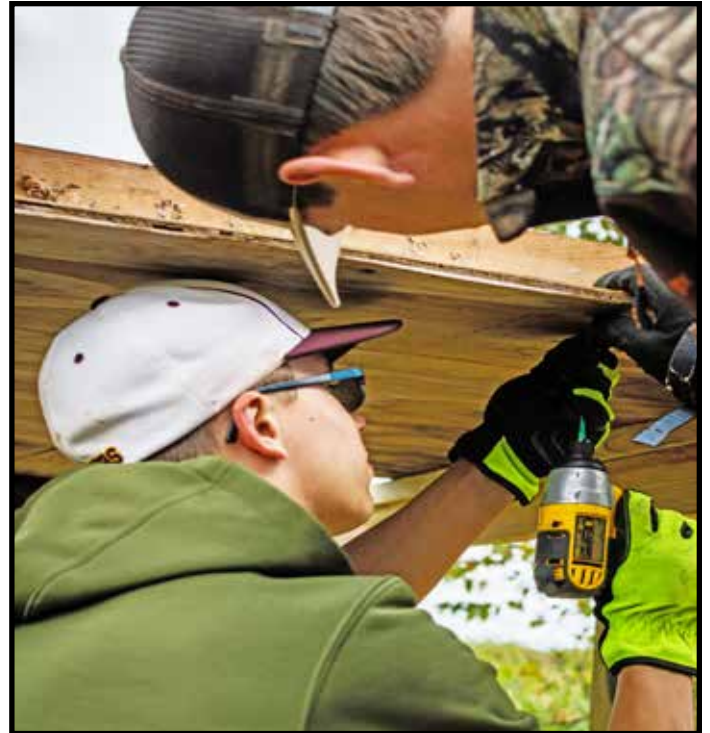


### Story by Chad Fix Waterfowl Coordinator

Sixty years ago, an individual of significant influence made a poignant speech “ask not what your country can do for you — ask what you can do for your country.” Sometimes we take our abilities for granted. Sometimes we take others abilities for granted. Instead of asking what our organization and members do for us, maybe we should be asking what we can do for our organization and fellow members. Maybe we should look for ways to partner with other local groups and organizations -- you never know how many lives you may change for the better when you look out instead of at only yourself.

That’s exactly what a 14-year-old did after seeing a rickety waterfowl blind in Carlos Avery; he came up with a project idea that dramatically changed access for our members. Cooper, a Boy Scout, decided one day that enough was enough after his parents drove past the blind on the way to their nearby home. For his Eagle Scout project, he wasn’t going to build new dugouts in the local park’s ball fields or flower pots to decorate the local municipalities (no discredit intended). He elected to build a 100-yard boardwalk to, in turn, move the blind further away from the road where gawkers couldn’t negatively impact the hunt.

This boardwalk was no cake walk either. With assistance from the rest of his troop, they muscled in piles of 4x4s that’d be pounded six feet down in the mud to be used as the footings, laid hundreds of boards down, and went through thousands of screws to finish it off. The boardwalk project also called for the installation of a railing and wheel guards to prevent our members from going off track. **continue to page 62**



Dominic and Nick



Boardwalk with railing



Darren Dorn and Maxus





## Youthful Exuberance



Construction crew Cooper, Boy Scout troop 114 and parents

Without their hard work and Cooper drumming up generous donations from the Anoka County Pheasants Forever Chapter, our members wouldn't have shot near as many birds -- including a few trophy wood ducks. The greatest success of the season, though, was when Joe and Justin Lang took their disabled uncle out -- who hadn't gone on a waterfowl hunt in over 20 years. Joe mentioned, after the hunt, the youthful spark he saw in his uncle's aging eyes. Recruitment and Retention are critical to our successful influence in the outdoor spectrum, but there's nothing sweeter than Reactivating old-time hunters in a pursuit they once loved.

Thank you, Cooper and Boy Scout troop 114, (and parents) of Columbus for all your invaluable work to make the outdoors accessible to our members of all ages. It already has changed so many lives in just one season!



Two beautiful drake wood ducks



Brushed in blind





## Youthful Exuberance



Another youth movement occurred for the first time in the MN Valley last season: we hosted three youth hunts. Nine kids (primarily from the trap team that Stan Koich coaches) attended the hunts where they went through almost a flat of shells to drop 11 ducks and four geese. Success also came in learning the spectacular essence of duck hunting operations: a smattering of elbow grease; they helped build temporary blinds, pick up massive decoy spreads, and tote heavy decoy bags in a mucky swamp. Venison chilli (courtesy of Stan and Paul Wiik) was served afterwards to provide a little social hour that was a great way for the kids to get to know our members that helped coordinate the hunt. An objective set in place prior to the season was to get kids involved with the organization under the premise that it won't be long for them to take the baton for our future hunts in the decades to hunt. After seeing how much of a success these hunts were, we're looking to try to double the number of hunts next season.



Shane, Andrew, Nate, Lauren, Nick, Zander, Dominic and Jacie the lab

Some may ask, why them and not more of our members? Because there are 60 days in a season, why can't we invest in our future membership by providing 1/10th of that to them so they can learn a thing or two by hunting alongside our disabled members. Those hunts will naturally impart life lessons of not taking things for granted, hard work, and willpower -- all tenets that our disabled members embody.

It certainly has been demonstrated in these anecdotes the power our youth can have, if given the opportunity; all it takes is belief and a dash of inspiration. Instead of asking what the organization can do for us, let's look to what we can do for its future, its legacy. Let's be their inspiration. They certainly demonstrated they're up for any task at hand and, in so doing, they may even kindle a youthful spark in our aging eyes.



Shane, Zander and Andrew



Lauren with a Canada goose she connected on



Dominic



Zander and Shane





## MN Valley NWR Duck Hunting



### Story by Chad Fix Waterfowl Coordinator

**Y**ou need to come check it out...In the four hunts from September, we shot 29 ducks and 18 geese...Yeah, October is usually a little slow from the early split season and all the flooding...But you know what the Valley is like in November when small bodies of water are starting to freeze... Two days ago we shot 10 ducks and 6 geese...And it's only going to get better with this nasty, cold front that may even freeze up the majority of lakes by this weekend...I've got a honey hole that I discovered last year that'll be just the ticket for any unassuming migrant...Blue (Lake) may seem to pale in comparison to Rice, but it has a lot more promise than we gave its due credit.



Jacie, Steve, Tom, Zephyr, Stan, Joe, Rod, Maxus, Garrett, Doug, Darren and Syed

This was my dialogue in a nutshell to a member (we'll label them "Doubting Thomas" for posterity's sake) one night in early November who hadn't set a wheel or foot in a Capable Partners' blind in the Minnesota Valley for nearly two seasons. Doubting Thomas nodded their head in a leery, Minnesota-nice agreement; you know they're not that interested -- no matter your sales pitch -- they're just too dang nice to stop the conversation far earlier in the dissertation by thanking the sales person for their consideration, but there's simply no interest.

That "nasty, cold front" I had mentioned did arrive -- just as the weatherman said -- and, with it, came a state of 10,000 frozen lakes. Without open waters to nestle into, more migrants arrived. I was licking my chops for the three days of deep freeze and a well-rested lake.

"This was the best thing that could happen to our prospects on Blue; I'd bet my rusty Tundra and my wife's Benelli on it!"

Yet another one of my dialogues in a nutshell -- except this was with Quinn Willmarth while we were driving

to Blue to figure out a way to best get those in wheel and powerchairs down to the only spot with guaranteed open water. Quinn loves cutting trees and killing ducks, so, if there ever was enough incentive, this would be it.

We sneaked up on the spot to witness close to 150 birds contently cozied in and tip-toed back to our trucks to figure out a game plan for finding a safe enough path to clear in the morning. Somehow, it'd only be a few fallen trees that he'd need to be cut along the path; surprisingly it'd be flat and dry; "Should be no sweat," Quinn confirmed.

My text to Doubting Thomas: "Lakes are iced and there's a +150 birds nestled in the honey hole; You'd be a fool to not come out tomorrow."

That was just enough for them to acquiesce. That next morning, I made sure to help pull the Doubting Thomas down the path that Quinn, John & Scott Rotter, Tom Scheunemann, and I cleared. In a matter of a few hours, we had nearly filled our 8-man limit of mallards, so I slung my shotgun around my shoulder and made out with my pup, Jacie, down the shoreline to where a wounded mallard had sailed.

"You know what's going to happen now that you're leaving?" Darren Dorn questioned.

"Not a chance!" I jested.

"Guaranteed banded bird...HAHA!" Darren joked.

A volley of shots boomed out as the pup and I were walking back. Seconds later I received a phone call.

"Mr. Fix. Guess what they shot?" Quinn asked.

"Black ducks! We shot a pair of black ducks!" Darren Dorn yelled into the phone.

"That's better than the banded bird you said you'd get...The DNR estimates just 1,000 of them are harvested each year!" I cheered





## MN Valley NWR Duck Hunting



and continued, "How's that for a hunt, Doubting Thomas?! The wariest of all waterfowl species in the world just landed on your lap!!"



Drake black duck

Doubting Thomas came out 4 more times to witness and help shoot 196 ducks, 33 geese, and 10 mergansers for the season. He, along with a few other disabled members, even went so far as to pilot an idea I had to get our disabled partners in layout boats and kayaks (provided by Rob Klett and Joe Lang) to get even closer to the action -- a crucial aspect to our season's success and something to continue to use as a strategy in the seasons to come.

Sometimes it takes some goading by filling game straps with fattened, late-season mallards. Put the Doubting Thomases on black ducks and you'll have them for life.

"Where was this honey-hole?" you ask. I'd love to tell you. But I'd rather take you there in-person for you to see for yourself.



Jacie with nine beautiful mallards



Jacie, Levi Glines, Nate Sjolín, Chad Fix and James Swaggert



Steve Scheunemann, Nate Sjolín, Darren Dorn and Maxus



Darren, Maxus Chad, John, Leo, Chris, Jacie and Stan



Jacie and Steve Scheunemann





# White Whistlers



## Story by Chad Fix Waterfowl Coordinator

There is a certain calm that comes after a blizzard that's unlike any other. Stilling silence covered the land in such a way that as soon as I took my first breath to lock my front door behind me, I knew what had happened overnight without even looking. A blizzard's aftermath chills to the bone, and, in turn, grips the soul.

It's introspective for all living things; a hard night was endured. Reprieve comes by a stilling sigh. The sounds of life slowly awaken with a tattered, oak leaf breaking away from its mighty tree -- an act so delicate, yet is amplified from the aftermath's effects as it crashes down through the tangled understory below. Every creature in a mile-wide radius hears it. Surely the entire county knew when The Legend (Rob Klett) and I rummaged through the 3" of slush and 4" of heavy snow in our trucks as we made way down the dirt road to Blue that dark, whitened morning.

The pre-shooting-light itinerary was as packed as the precipitation below our waders. First we'd tackle The Creek with a weather sheltered spread of a couple dozen mallard floaters, a dozen full bodies along it's sand bars, and a vortex near the kill hole. The goal: to give the impression of birds cozying up with their other fake, mallard kin.

Next agenda item: high-tail it a half mile east to the main body of the lake that somehow had open water to put out an entirely different spread for another group of disabled hunters. Goldeneyes had finally come down in full wintering numbers, and we'd be damned not to go after these near-mythical birds of the north.

A decoy raft of six goldeneyes would be the focal point of the spread with two, mini long-lines of a half dozen goldeneyes branched off the raft in a "V". Accented behind the raft, to serve as a final blocker, were 6 black duck blocks (for contrast) paired off loosely that angled toward a dozen mallards huddled in a small bay next to a giant, fallen cottonwood that gave the impression of them taking shelter from the ensuing, forecasted winds from the east.

The Legend was wrapping up the finishing touches on them as I made haste with a small pod of 6 buffleheads -- placed in between

the raft of goldeneyes and the shore to lure in the more indiscriminate goldeneye on migrant wings.



Decoy raft



Small pod



The decoy raft "V" on a much calmer, clearer day

Off in the distance -- towards the road -- we could hear Darren Dorn firing up his four wheeler. Soon enough, we could hear the caravan of vehicles making their way down the trail that he was plowing. Timing was of the essence.

After the decoys were set, the rest of the pre-shooting-light preparation is, for the lack of a better term, controlled chaos. There's a very small window of time between getting the disabled hunters from their vehicles to the blind location (augmented when it's along a slushy, deer trail instead of a salted and paved trail), brushing them in, getting their gear in order, and ready to hunt. It's amplified when coordinating two different blind locations and having a slight shortage of abled bodies to help support the operation.

Once I helped with the goldeneye blind, I made my way back to The Creek to help Doug Dorn pull the three disabled (Darren, Stan Koich, and Steve Scheunemann) the 80 yards down the slushy, deer trail that had been cleared by Quinn Willmarth, the Rotter boys, and myself a few weeks prior.

Semi-auto bolts clapped in unison "SHHTUCK! SHHTUCK! SHHTUCK!" while Stan, Steve, and Darren finished loading up. Seconds later the distant song of whistlers pinged the land; a song so distinctly mythical that Gordon MacQuarrie once penned, "Not for nothing does the goldeneye put his muscular body against those scimitar wings. No duck that flies carries a sweeter song. All ducks are whistlers to some degree, but the goldeneye's powerful pinions place him in the front row of the celestial choir."

They're the Chant de Linos, in classic expression; the prodigy first chair flutist of the orchestra. Their sound is so uniquely unforgettable. Hemmingway likened it to ripping silk. A more modern comparison I glean from it is likened to the cadence of rapid, subtle sonar pulses from a submarine at 300 bpm.





## White Whistlers



One would think that they'd easily be able to locate them in the sky rapidly ping-pong the land with their wings. The exact opposite occurs. Your ears may turn your head to the left, when, in fact, they're well off to the right.

This is precisely how the first thirty minutes of the hunt went. All of us would look left from the distant whistling and thirty seconds later an eruption of booms came from the fellows in the Goldeneye Blind.

The whistling from their wings was as constant as the howling winds they effortlessly sang through. "Well, it may be in the best interest of the group if I head back over to their blind. With The Legend chasing down birds, Pat Kellin assisting Craig Simpson, and Dan Willenbring helping out his cousin Mike Willenbring, I may need to assist Legend with any wounded birds (especially if they go the opposite direction) -- goldeneyes take a licking and keep on ticking. With the blessing from the other guys and a nod from Doug Dorn -- the blind's designated AB, I made my way back to the Goldeneye Blind as another volley went off.

BOOM! BO-BOO-BOOM! I smiled and shook my head to the sounds while getting out of my truck with Jacie, my faithful, four-legged 'fowler.

"Time to make haste, little girl." I said to her...

Just as we trudged over to the blind, their guns barked off again. A hooded merganser was downed and being carried by the prevailing waves past the spread. The direction of the white-caps naturally brought my eyes to look off in the distance, where The Legend was rowing to pick up a white dot that had been wave swept onto an ice shelf that had formed the night before. "How many boxes have you all gone through?!" I asked. "We're making a good dent in the supply!" Craig responded. "Awesome! Looks like you have a few out there (seeing Legend paddling up the ice shelf to another distant, white dot)." "Yeah, we should have way more, but these birds are as tough



Jacie with a great retrieve on a goldeneye as nails!" Craig chimed. "No question there. This stiff crosswind doesn't give your leads any help either...glad you've bagged some." I continued. "Bird on the left," Pat called. Like clockwork, a single whistler came in and took all the abuse a steel curtain can administer at 1500 feet per second.

"Typical!" I yelled, seeing it not skip a single wingbeat and flew out of range and out of sight as violent snow began blowing horizontally to the left where Legend was paddling back into shore. I walked over to where he landed and helped carry the rowboat back into the woods.



Shot spraying a goldeneye

"Legend!" I bowed. "Lots of shooting!" "Yes, Myth, this is turning out to be a fine morning," he responded while pulling out two beautiful, drake goldeneyes. "They're coming in perfect...you can see their shot hit the water all around them...it's incredible how they shake it off and keep flying."

"Yes sir. I'd put them in the same heavyweight class as the eiders and scoters I experienced in Alaska." I answered. "I believe it..." Legend trusted as we stepped back into the blind with the guys.

Seeing the blind back to full strength, I put my gun down and picked up the camera to capture a feat I had yet seen accomplished. The veil of darkness from an hour and a half ago had been clearly lifted from the sun giving all it's might to cast light through a grossly greyed sky; I now could see what I had helped Pat Kellin out with earlier: the boom affixed to Craig's powerchair.



continue on page 68



Decoy set of goldeneyes





## White Whistlers

An a-frame extended out from the back of the chair that supported an arm, which extended along his right shoulder. The front of the arm pinned into his shotgun while the back of the arm had six, five-pound bench press weights clipped in to serve as a counter balance. This way Craig, who has limited strength to shoulder the gun, could swing on birds. On top of that, Craig's dexterity inhibits him from pulling the trigger, so he has a bite trigger mechanism that goes from his gun to his mouth -- whenever he wants to fire, he simply bites down on the mechanism and the gun goes off. Positioning him with the decoys was also critical to his success; his shotgun swing is limited to around 10 degrees, so we had to ensure he could swing through the focal point of the spread: the, for the lack of a better word, crotch of the V where the Decoy Raft of goldeneyes were. Any bird that short stopped, he wouldn't be able to shoot.



Goldeneye flipped on his back

Three volleys later, and nothing was added except more smiles and jokes from all of us. This was a waterfowler's dream: a late season hunt where most of the state's 10,000 lakes were frozen, a frigid winter mix of snow and sleet sustained from the ominous troposphere, and birds were playing with our gunfire. I relished in this for another minute when Craig spied a solo whistler winging in our direction.

Pat stepped in to ensure he'd be able to turn the safety off for Craig. Dan made a final inspection for his cousin Mike. Our eyes confirmed imminence -- game on.

Both squeezed/bit off their first shots at the same time. The string of steel flipped the dapperly adorned drake on his back in mid-air. In two wingbeats, he flipped back and kept on. I shook my head in disbelief for another second; thinking in my head that was their best opportunity -- they both punished the bird and have nothing to show for it (not even a stray feather was plucked from a grazing BB).

BOOM!



Craig Simpson with his boom

Thankfully, at that moment, Mike was able to do just that: adding another hooded to the blind's game-pouch. "Craig, how are you on your swing? Should we pivot you a little more to account for any that are coming up short?" I asked. "No, I'm good....maybe if we keep seeing it happen, but that hasn't happened all morning."



Hooded Merganser



Goldeneye going down





## White Whistlers



Craig stretched out an extra degree on his swing and DOWN GOES FRAZIER! DOWN GOES FRAZIER! To Craig's belief (and most of our disbelief), the stud goldeneye came tumbling down, but not without more of a fight; upon hitting the water, it dove. I jumped from my spot behind the blind with my camera, exchanged it for my shottie, and ran for the rowboat while encouraging the guys to "Keep shooting until it's legs are kicking the sky!"

At that point, though, the white and black bobber was too far for their shots to be effective for anything but giving the bird a little tickle. By the time I could clear the spread with the rowboat, the goldeneye was all but a little submarine with only its black periscoped head in sight. The bearing the guys in the blind gave me was just enough for me to get up to it in range, but every time it'd surface, it'd dive before I should shoulder my shottie. In that brief second, the rowboat would get swept away by the raging white-caps and I'd be out of gunshot range by the time I could get my hands back on the oars.

After the third attempt, I had to be a little more creative: instead of chasing it, I had to wrangle it.

I determined to flank the drake when he dove by positioning him between the rowboat and the decoy spread. Each time it dove, I had to guess where it was going and try to put myself as close to it as possible but still ensuring that it was still on the starboard side. The strategy premise is that it'd surface and be pushed to dive away from me and into shore, where the guys on shore could kill it.

The logistics of it all was less than stellar, but with some serious mileage accrued while zig-zagging it into shore and a heck of a lot of luck, the wrangling paid off for Dan and Legend to finish the bird off. A chorus of cheers erupted from all of us.

Not often does one bird involve the cooperative effort of 6 guys with varied tasks to get the job done. Not ever has there been a time when duck wrangling was something I witnessed. What struck me the most when I walked the dandy of a whistler into the blind was Craig chiming, "We did it!"

He asked the group if he could keep it for the wall. We all nodded in agreement; we knew this one had quite a story behind it; therein, lies the essence of what separates waterfowling from any other outdoors pursuit. Instead of the big game, upland quarry, or fish that may hang from our wall that "I" killed or caught, chances are -- with waterfowl -- a collaborative effort was made from all we sat in the blind with.

That is our kinship. This is our heritage. The white whistlers are our song.



Craig with his mounted Top: goldeneyes and hood merganser



Three goldeneyes and one hooded merganser



Leo patiently waiting for a retrieve





## Terrie Schrank Haiku Verbiage

My deer hunts normally end with a Haiku - a Japanese poem with only 17 syllables divided in three lines of 5, 7 and 5 syllables.



They traditionally include nature and emotion. It's quite the challenge condensing a whole hunt into 17 syllables!



When I Don't See Deer  
Nature Still Surprises Me  
My Hunt In Haikus

Where One Dew Drop Falls  
Coyotes Frolic and Play  
Fall's Sumac Screams Joy





## Terrie Schrank Haiku Verbiage

The 2019 First Vermillion Hunt had full moon shine. Even though I didn't harvest a deer it was fun watching the four-legged hunters.



Anticipation  
Moon, Mist, Monarch, Chipmunk  
Birds, Yes; No Deer. Darn!

Elevator Stand  
Vista Views Magnificent  
Locked and Loaded, Sit



Thanks Wade for being my Capable Partner  
and thanks Gregg for coordinating a hunt  
where so many take venison home!





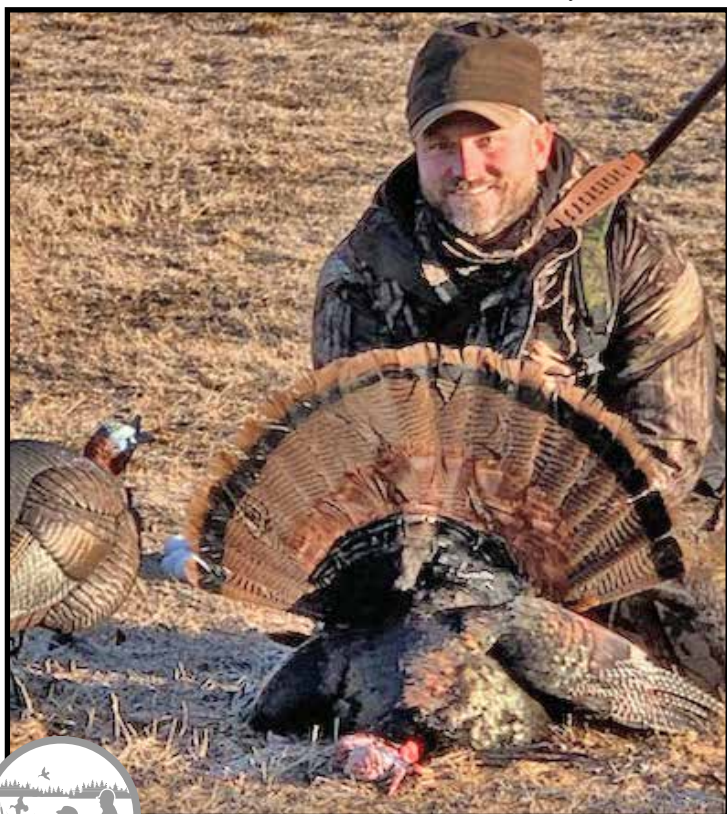
## Spring Turkeys



Lee Zeman with a MN Eastern turkey



Greg Hance with a MN Eastern turkey



Pat Kellin with a MN Eastern turkey



Curt Selly with a MN Eastern turkey





## Spring Turkeys



Dean Clapp with a MN Eastern turkeys



Craig Simpson with a MN Eastern turkeys



Pat Kellin's son's second turkey



Greg Scollard with a SD Merriam turkey





## Member's Memories



Rich Hackett's property in Killenny, MN. Opened 1986 closed 1990



Don (The Duckman) with Scooter in Brooklyn Park, MN



Terry, Perry, Capt. Dan, Terry, Dave, Natascha at Bayfield WI



Members finished a pheasant hunt at Golden Meadow early 1990's



Members enjoying a goose hunt in Brooklyn Park 2001



Rod Guthier and Roger Hauck on a SW MN turkey hunt





## Member's Memories



Vance Skane, volunteer and host Paul Wagner



Gregg Runyon with a turkey



Claudia & Harry Perkins LQP 2006



Anoka / Blaine airport deer hunt 1997



Members having a successful goose hunt in Brooklyn Park 2002



LeBlanc's Rice Creek turkey shoot 1997



Members attending one of the first Game Fair





## AmazonSmile



Do you use Amazon to shop? You can support Capable Partners through AmazonSmile.

Every item you purchase through Amazon is also available through AmazonSmile ([smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)).

Capable Partners is a listed charity on AmazonSmile, which will donate .5% of eligible purchases to us at no extra cost to you.

In 2019, we received \$130 from your making this simple change. Our goal for 2020 is \$300.

Please consider donating to us by using Amazon Smile rather than Amazon and choosing us as your charity.

## Include Capable Partners in Your Will

Estate planning is never a real popular topic to talk about, but it is better to plan now than leave your heirs wondering what you wanted to do. You can also take the time to sort out what you want to leave as a legacy. Capable Partners is hoping that you will consider us when you start your planning.

Please dedicate any amount of money, equipment, or real property to Capable Partners, Inc. You may donate to our general fund, a group of activities like fishing, and/or a specific event. We will keep that money separate and use it as you wish. From \$2 to \$200,000, any amount is good. We can memorialize your donation or let it remain as an anonymous donation.

You may donate in the form of a charitable trust. We can act as the trustee for your charitable trust if you want to transfer larger donations or real estate while retaining control of the asset during your lifetime.





# 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*

Please sign-up on our website using  
credit/debit card, PayPal or mail check

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Capable Partners updates only)*

Optional - Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you work full-time? Yes ☐ No ☐

What is / was your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have transportation? Yes ☐ No ☐

### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

*In the event of an emergency, please identify any  
information to be relayed to an emergency caregiver:*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### I AM: (check all that apply)

☐ PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

What are your limitations? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ ABLE BODIED ☐ SCOOTER ☐ CANE

☐ POWER CHAIR ☐ WALKER ☐ CRUTCHES

☐ MANUAL CHAIR ☐ PROSTHETIC  
LEG ☐ PROSTHETIC  
ARM

### INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS or DIRECTED CONTRIBUTIONS

☐ FISHING (Summer) (check all that apply)

☐ FISHING (Winter) ☐ DUCK/GOOSE

☐ ARCHERY DEER ☐ PHEASANT

☐ SHOTGUN DEER ☐ TURKEY

☐ RIFLE DEER ☐ ATV RIDE

☐ MUZZLELOADER ☐ VETERAN

**NOTE: To be eligible to be a physically  
challenged deer hunter, you must have proof of  
a Hunt from a Standing Motor Vehicle Permit.**

HSMVP Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

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

☐ I am requesting a scholarship for membership

☐ I have enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ as a contribution

☐ Specific outing contribution \_\_\_\_\_

☐ If you have a boat or land for Capable Partner's  
use, please check this box.



# 2020 Calendar of Events

For updated calendar go to  
[www.capablepartners.org](http://www.capablepartners.org)



March 2020			
March 7	Banquets of Minnesota in the Grand Olympian Ballroom Fridley, MN Lots of great items! Happy hour 4-6 p.m. Salads will be served at 5:30 Reservations must be received by Feb 20, 2020 No meals purchased at door	Violet Foster	763-444-4427
March 28	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			
April 18	Pheasant Field Hunt at Whispering Emerald Ridge Menomonie, WI Must wear orange and safety glasses Hearing protection is suggested	Ken Johnson	651-792-2079
<b>MN Spring Turkey Season</b>	Turkey Hunting at Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN	Dean Clapp	763-856-2946
	Turkey Hunting at Sand Prairie Wildlife Management Area St Cloud, MN	Gregg Runyon	612-268-2177
	Turkey Hunting at Carlos Avery State WMA Blinds Available Columbus, MN	Call Refuge	651-296-5290
	Turkey Hunting at Becklin Homestead County Park / WMA Cambridge, MN	Pat Moore	612-790-3737
	Turkey Hunting at Maple Grove by Archery Only for pre-qualified members	Lee Zeman	763-913-2778
	Turkey Hunting at Chaska by Archery Only MN Valley NWR Chaska, MN	Evan Newton	952-831-6758
May			
May 3	Mark Ryan Turkey Shoot at LeBlanc's Rice Creek Hunting Little Falls, MN No Phone Calls Until April 1, able-bodied can shoot. \$35 per shooter	Gregg Runyon	612-268-2177
June			
June 6	Fishing at Knotty Oar on pontoons Prior Lake, MN With the Prior Lake Sportmen's Club providing boats, poles, and bait.	Brigitte Kurkowski	651-734-8961
June 12	Trout Fishing at Sylvan Park pond (starts at 9 a.m.) Lanesboro, MN Equipment and bait available, no trout stamp needed, lunch provided	Evan Newton	952-831-6758
June 13	Lake Mille Lacs Fishing 4pm -10pm Nitti's Hunters Point Isle, MN ☞ Sponsored by Winkley Orthopedics ☞	Violet Foster	763-444-4427
June 14	Fishing with Muskies, Inc. on Lake Minnetonka at Surfside Park Mound, MN Variety of boats, trolling available, lunch provided	Rod Guthier	952-888-6494
July			
July 11	Lake Mille Lacs Fishing 4pm -10pm Nitti's Hunters Point Isle, MN ☞ Sponsored by Winkley Orthopedics ☞	Violet Foster	763-444-4427
July 18	Picnic at Isanti County Sportsman Club Cambridge, MN There will be free shotgun shells Trap, Archery, Rifle and Pistol ranges open	Violet Foster	763-444-4427
August			
August 1	ATV Ride at Isle, MN Bring your own machine or rides available ☞ Sponsored by Leo's South ☞	Ken Johnson	651-792-2079
August 5	Lake Pulaski Fishing at Griffing Park Buffalo, MN	Jim Zumbusch	320-963-5879
August 7 - 9 & 14 -16	Booth Game Fair Ramsey, MN A great opportunity to help Capable Partners and attend for free	Violet Foster Dick Ransom	763-444-4427 320-274-5196
August 12	Lake Minnetonka Fishing at Rockvam Boat Yard Spring Park, MN ☞ Sponsored by American Legion Brooklyn Center Post 630 ☞	Dave Heidtke	763-535-2718
August 25	Sight - in all weapons at Monticello Rod and Gun Club Monticello, MN Qualify for big game hunts (Rifle, Slug gun, Muzzel loader, and Archery)	Jim Vorderbruggen	763-497-3330
August 29	Lake Mille Lacs Fishing 4pm -10pm Nitti's Hunters Point Isle, MN ☞ Sponsored by Anoka County Chapter Pheasant Forever ☞	Violet Foster	763-444-4427
<b>Please contact the listed coordinators at least six weeks ahead. New member preference cut-off is one month in advance.</b>			

Updated Calendar: [www.CapablePartners.org](http://www.CapablePartners.org)  
If a phone number has changed, email: [info@capablepartners.org](mailto:info@capablepartners.org)



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September			
September 1	Sight - in all weapons at Monticello Rod and Gun Club Monticello, MN Qualify for big game hunts (Rifle, Slug gun, Muzzelolader, and Archery)	Jim Vorderbruggen	763-497-3330
September 10	Sight - in all weapons 2 - 7 PM at Isanti County Sportsman Club Qualify for big game hunts (Rifle, Slug gun, Muzzelolader, and Archery)	Bill Vice	612-232-2495
September 12	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
Sept 19 or TBA	Duck Shoot at Marsh Lake Hunting Preserve Victoria, MN	Steve Scheunemann Andy Akins	612-597-4487 612-868-4587
Sept 19 - Oct 16	Archery Deer Hunt at Becklin Cambridge, MN (closed during gun season)	Pat Moore	612-790-3737
Archery Deer Season	MN Valley NWR (must pre qualify) Bloomington and Chaska	Evan Newton	952-831-6758
	Maple Grove (must pre qualify and attend city meeting every other year)	Lee Zeman	763-913-2778
Sept 19 - Dec 31	Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN (closed during gun season)	Steve Rein	320-293-6366
September 13	Pheasant Shoot at LeBlanc's Rice Creek 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 19 - 20	Vermillion Dakota County Deer Hunt Morning & Evening Rosemount, MN	Gregg Runyon	612-268-2177
Sept 26 - TBA	Chad Fix 763-229-1719 MNRV Waterfowl Hunting Greg Hance 763-258-4293	Steve Scheunemann Darren Dorn Nate Sjolín	952-597-4487 763-301-0538 763-286-9086
Sept 26 - TBA	Waterfowl Hunting at Carlos Avery WMA Columbus, MN	Darren Dorn	763-301-0538
Sept 26 - TBA	Waterfowl Hunting at Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN	Dean Clapp	763-856-2946
September 30	Sight - in all weapons at Monticello Rod and Gun Club Monticello, MN Qualify for big game hunts (Rifle, Slug gun, Muzzelolader, and Archery)	Gregg Runyon	612-268-2177
October			
October 3 - 11	Lac qui Parle Deer Hunt at Lac qui Parle WMA Watson, MN Contact Lance by July 15, 2019 to get into blind drawing for first weekend	Lance Tebben	320-226-8052
October 5	Carlos Avery Hunt Meeting at Carlos Avery Machine Shed Columbus, MN Required for those who intend to participate in Carlos Avery deer hunt	Gregg Runyon	612-268-2177
October 8	Becklin Homestead Hunt Meeting 6:00pm at Isanti Co Sportsman Club Attending meeting and showing sight - in target mandatory to hunt	Scott Linder	763-486-3192
October 10 - 18	Deer Hunt at Carlos Avery State WMA Columbus, MN	Gregg Runyon	612-268-2177
October 24- 25	Deer Hunt at Vermillion Dakota Co. Morning & Evening Rosemount, MN	Gregg Runyon	612-268-2177
Oct 24 - Nov 1	Deer Hunt (rifle) at Becklin Homestead Co Park Cambridge, MN	Scott Linder	763-486-3192
November			
Nov 7 - Nov 15	Deer Hunt (gun) at Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN	Steve Rein	320-293-6366
Nov 2 - Dec 31	Late Season Archery Deer Hunt at Becklin Homestead Co Cambridge, MN	Pat Moore	612-790-3737
Nov 16 - Dec 31	Late Season Archery Deer Hunt at Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN	Steve Rein	320-293-6366
Nov 28 - Dec 13	Muzzleloader Deer Hunt at Becklin Homestead Co Park Cambridge, MN	Pat Moore	612-790-3737
2021			
January - March			
Jan - Mar 2021	Ice Fishing Fish House # 1 New 8 x 16 on variety of lakes in Minnesota	Nate Sjolín	763-286-9086
Jan - Mar 2021	Ice Fishing Fish House # 2 Ice Castle on Mille Lacs out of Nitti's Hunters Pt	Jeff Jacobson	612-412-2957
TBA 2021	Ice Fishing Extravaganza Sponsored by Clam Outdoors	Check the online calendar	
March			
March 13, 2021	Banquets of Minnesota in the Grand Olympian Ballroom Fridley, MN Social hour, prizes, silent auction, awards	Linda Linder	763-486-3191
Please contact the listed coordinators at least six weeks ahead. New member preference cut-off is one month in advance.			

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Main phone #: 763-439-1038





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