

Check out what WWIA has been up to!



Notes from the Field: Winter 2016

Looking back on 2016, we reflect on all the incredible things WWIA was able to accomplish thanks to our dedicated partners, donors and volunteers. December was full of great opportunities for our Purple Heart veterans, from whitetail hunting in Tennessee to bobcat hunting in Oregon. Thanks to the incredible event hosts around the country, our Heroes spent their holiday season on world-class outdoor sporting activities that assisted in their recovery efforts all at no cost to them. Read on to learn more about what WWIA was up to last month.

Founder's Corner: 2016 Summary

I founded the Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation back in 2007 in order to serve our Nation's combat-wounded Purple Heart veterans through the power of the great outdoors.



We've come a long way over the past decade, thanks to supporters like you who work hard each and every day to make the WWIA mission a reality for our nation's Heroes. Moving into our 10th year of operation, I would like to share with you some of what WWIA accomplished in 2016:

Last year, WWIA served 280 Purple Heart recipients on 53 events across North America. We also held the world's first interdisciplinary outdoor Guide School for Purple Heart recipients, fully funded and endorsed by the VA, which trained and certified 8 WWIA Guides during our 10-day course. In 2016, WWIA hit and surpassed the million-dollar mark, raising around \$1.2M! What's remarkable is that the vast majority of these donations came from small contributions from individual donors who care about the wellbeing of our nation's combat-wounded. You wanted to make a difference in their lives and you truly have--thank you!

So what's on the horizon for WWIA in 2017? In addition to Guide School, we are adding exciting new programs and events to our calendar, so stay tuned for more news on these great initiatives. We are also launching a new website, which will go live very shortly. Most importantly, 2017 means honoring and continuing to serve many more deserving Purple Heart recipients through world-class outdoor sporting events that contribute to their recovery and overall wellbeing. We wish you all health and happiness in the coming year and thank you again for your continued support of WWIA and the Heroes we serve.



Thank you, WWIA MO-KAN Chapter!

The WWIA MO-KAN chapter has done it again! This amazing event combined world-class hunting for trophy whitetails and ducks in both KS and MO, as well as a successful Heroes Trapping College. The WWIA MO-KAN event is made up of over 100 dedicated volunteers operating many different components and lasting 5 days. The Heroes stayed at the world-class Napier Hunt Club in Napier, MO whose members rolled out the red carpet, making the Heroes



feel at home. We can't thank Napier Hunt Club and its amazing members and friends enough for the support given to the Heroes & the Foundation. On Thursday, Nov. 17th, the Heroes attended a special dinner sponsored by Green Head Farms at The Club in Mound City, MO and special thanks to Ryan Schultz, Al Landis, Randy Herzog, John O'Rourke and Herzog Contracting Cooperation. Friday, Nov. 18th, the WWIA fundraiser banquet was held at No Place Bar in St. Joseph, MO with well over 500 supporters of the Foundation in attendance. The banquet was a huge success and enjoyable for everyone. The banquet was sponsored this year again by Western States Fire Protection. Deep and special thanks to the banquet committee members and Banquet Chair Cari Evans. Saturday, Nov. 19th, the Heroes attended a special dinner prepared and hosted by the Christian Fellowship Church and the Missouri Department of Conservation. On Sunday, Nov. 20th, the Heroes attended a special dinner at Napier Hunt Club. Terry Supple and Ryan Schultz spearheaded an amazing fundraising effort involving the Mound City, MO area duck clubs to raise money for the Foundation and secure a custom WWIA Henry .22 rifle for all the Heroes. A special thanks goes out to the 139th Airlift Wing for providing all the transportation from Napier Hunt Club to the guides and providing tables and chairs for the banquet. **The MO-KAN Machine raised over \$55,000 this year!** Thank you MO-KAN volunteers for all your hard work, expense and hours each of you so tirelessly allow for our Heroes!

MO KAN Dinner Committee

A special thanks to these committed volunteers that make the fundraiser possible:

Brian Roderick -- Cari Evans -- Kyle Evans
James Merrow -- Austin Handke -- Steve Cotter
Eddie Helsel -- Christopher Thompson -- Casey Schultz
Doug Pfugradt -- Joyce Rawlings -- Renee Bottorff
Lance Cornelius -- Terry Turner -- Joe Worsham
Craig Sinclair -- Bob Shalz -- Dave Weber
Brad Herbert -- Michael Thorton -- Steve Griffin

MO KAN Donors

Thanks to these incredible sponsors:

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MO KAN Honor Roll

Thank you to these dedicated supporters:

Aaron Ziph -- Alex Heim -- Andy Supple -- Art Van Meter -- Bart Watts
Bob Thompson -- Brad Smith -- Brandon Cordry -- Brian Grimm -- Bruce Schmitter
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Ryan Van Meter -- Scott Jordan -- Scott Van Meter -- Shane Gillenwater
Shawn Vandeloo -- St. Joesph FFA Chapter -- St. Joseph Boy Scouts -- Steve Roberts
Terry Supple -- Thomas and Catherine Kerwin -- Tim Collins
Tom & Judy Richmond -- Tony Botts -- Travis Klien -- Travis Milne -- Tyler Derr
Tyler Turner -- William & Ann Grace -- Zac Cornelius -- Zach Self



Events and Fundraisers



2nd Annual Newfield Whitetail Deer Hunt

December 2-5

Four lucky Purple Heart recipients got to experience whitetail deer hunting on 200+ acres in the scenic hills of Newfield, NY. The weekend kicked off

with dinner courtesy of the Arnot Forest Archery Shop, followed by a presentation of head-to-toe gear donated by Cabela's. The Heroes then enjoyed two full days of whitetail hunting with the Cook family and local guides, spending the evenings at the Wilderness Bed and Breakfast. Many deer were harvested on this beautiful property and fun was had by all.

Special thanks to Subway and Firehouse subs, Napoli's pizza and Pudgie's

Pizza, the Shoe Inn, Seabring Inn, and of course Carol Cook and family for their hospitality, friendship and beautiful handmade quilts made by Donna Cook and Shirley Weeks that were presented to the Heroes at the event.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to learn so much, this being my first time ever hunting. The low-key environment provided the best experience--I learned how to track and field dress a deer, which is something that I have always wanted to learn. Special thanks to the family who provided this trip!"

Inaugural Ponfeigh Farms Whitetail Deer Hunt

December 7-11

WWIA came together with host Maximilian Merrill of Ponfeigh Farms to organize this inaugural event. Wounded Warriors Jake, John, Ricky and Douglas spent two full days hunting whitetails with local guides in idyllic Meyersdale, PA. These four deserving Heroes stayed in a restored lodge built in the 1930s and hunted a variety of stands overlooking deep woods and wide open fields. Taxidermy and meat prep were also provided. Thank you to Ponfeigh Farms for welcoming the Heroes with open arms!



Inaugural AR Bucks n' Ducks

December 8-12

WWIA proudly hosted this duck and deer hunting event at the Red Oak Plantation northeast of Marianna, AR with the help of hosts William French and Lance Green, along with former NFL Coach and Superbowl winner, Bill Muir. On this event, four Heroes hunted flooded timber for mallards in the morning and trophy whitetails in

the evening. Red Oak Plantation is a 2200-acre private farm in the middle of the MS Flyway. Ducks, Geese, Deer, Hogs, and Coyotes all call Red Oak Plantation home.

The Heroes stayed in a new, fully-appointed cabin on the property, allowing for a private getaway with no commute to the hunting areas. They also enjoyed home cooked southern meals with all the amenities. Ducks and deer were harvested and everyone enjoyed the trip of a lifetime. One Hero even topped his own personal record with a beautiful 8-point! Thanks to our hosts and the Red Oak Plantation for making this

weekend possible.

"I want to start out by thanking WWIA and everyone involved with the organization. It's nice to be able to connect with other vets, especially when you are getting to experience the outdoors together. I also want to thank Bill Muir, Lance, and especially William French for taking five days off to show a couple of vets a great time. William was an amazing host, and it really speaks to his character that he would open his home to four strangers and let them hunt his land. Overall it was an amazing event that I'm honored to have been a part of."



Inaugural Oregon Bobcat Hunt

December 8-12

Mike Martell and Fern Ridge Tree Hound Club (FRTHC) hosted the Inaugural WWIA Central Oregon Bobcat Hunt. On this hunt, four Purple Heart recipients enjoyed a fast-paced bobcat hunt over hounds in the Central Oregon Cascades. Not only were the Heroes chasing bobcats for harvesting, they also enjoyed the scenic beauty of the snow-capped mountains in Oregon's winter wonderland.



FRTHC Lodged the heroes at the Suttle Lake Lodge in Sisters, Oregon and provided a home-cooked breakfast each morning, along with lunch for in the field and a nice prepared dinner when they returned in the evening. Along with the hunting adventure, FRTHC offered bobcat tannery services. Thanks to everyone at Fern Ridge Hound Club for providing a truly world-class hunting event to aid in our Heroes' recovery efforts.

"The opportunity to take part in a world-class hunting opportunity was only the beginning of the experience. Being surrounded by wonderful and caring people, as well as the gamesmanship of the Fern Ridge Tree Hound Club was top notch. I have never had the opportunity to work with hounds before and to see working dogs in action was a truly amazing experience. The lodging and chow was incredible and the hospitality and welcome of this group is something I will carry for a very long time. I have walked away with not only more connections with other Wounded Warriors, but also friendships of local outdoorsmen. Thank you for the opportunity and experience of a lifetime."



4th Annual Great Creek Hunt Club

December 9-12

In conjunction with Hosts Andy Wilson, The Great Creek Hunt Club and Supporters, WWIA was proud to offer the 4th Annual WWIA Great Creek Deer Hunt. On this beautiful weekend of hunting in Virginia, four lucky Warriors hunted whitetail from blinds and over dogs. All experienced once-in-a-lifetime hunts and Hero Jose was able to

harvest his first deer ever! The camaraderie, hunting, food and facilities were all topnotch. Thanks to the host and hunt club, our Heroes had the opportunity to experience a time-honored tradition, from a club that was started by host Andy's grandfather. Thank you, Great Creek Hunt Club, for your warmth and hospitality and contributing to the overall healing of our combat-wounded veterans.

"This has been one of the most amazing times that I have ever experienced! I have never hunted deer with dogs before, but I am definitely a fan! Everyone in Virginia welcomed us with open arms, very friendly atmosphere! I really felt like I was part of the family here. Amazing hospitality!! Top notch hunting! I'm very honored to have been selected for this event and to have made memories and friends that will last a lifetime!"

3rd Annual TN Whitetail Rifle Hunt

December 16-19

With property that covers both Lewis and Wayne Counties, DoubleCreek hosted its third annual whitetail rifle hunt for WWIA. Dennis Reynolds and Shelley Cohen were the hosts for the event, which welcomed Purple Heart recipients from Texas, Michigan and Florida, including the first female Purple Heart veterans to attend a DoubleCreek event. These Heroes enjoyed a world-class hunting opportunity with local guides over a full weekend. Financial support for hunting licenses was provided through a generous grant from the NRA Foundation and travel costs were donated by the Tennessee Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus. Big thanks to these outstanding supporters, and of course to Dennis and Shelley, whose dedication to WWIA and our Heroes continues to amaze.



"God does work in mysterious ways. Shelley, Dennis, Joel, Jason, Nicole, and Derek were absolutely amazing. This event changed me. I was able to grasp onto something I loved doing as a kid. I felt at peace. I was able to be myself. The hosts are true American patriots and the love they show for strangers is doing God's work. Thank you WWIA! Look forward to more hunts."

Upcoming Events



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