



Check out what WWIA has been up to this month!



Photo credit to WWIA Guide Jeremy Smith who captured this scenic view at the 2017 Western PA Turkey Hunt.

Notes from the Field: May 2017

The month of May was an exciting time, as we had eight WWIA events ranging from fishing in Mexico, to turkey hunting in Pennsylvania, and even black bear hunting in Canada! The diversity of the locations and events that we provide for our Heroes is a testimony to our amazing hosts, donors and volunteers that give so graciously in support of our Purple Heart Wounded Warriors.



Events and Fundraisers

5th Annual Kansas Cast & Blast

May 3-8

The Kansas Cast & Blast celebrated its 5th year of serving our Warriors with another outstanding event in Cawker City, Kansas. Four Purple Heart recipients experienced six fruitful days of hunting, fishing, and fellowship with their fellow Purple Heart peers. Special thanks to Carl Suter for his continued efforts in once again hosting our Heroes, and to WWIA Guide Tyson Scott for his contributions and support throughout the event.



"I haven't felt this alive in a long time. Carl, Ted, Cole, Austin, and Herman are like brothers to me now, honestly, some of the nicest guys I had the pleasure of meeting and new lifelong friends. These 5 days of hunting and fishing have gotten me out of a slump & depression and I have a better head on my shoulders. I truly cannot fully express my gratitude!"



3rd Annual TN Turkey Hunt

May 5-8

Four WWIA Heroes took part in the 3rd Annual TN Turkey Hunt in Hohenwald, TN at DoubleCreek Ranch. This event featured guided turkey hunting over four days with plenty of time for

relaxing, connecting and forming new friendships. Gratitude and thanks to hosts Shelley Cohen and Dennis Reynolds for their steadfast generosity and support. Special thanks to WWIA Guide Derek Duplisea and local volunteer guides Jimmy Walker, Joel Crofton, and Jim Cato for their invaluable service to our Heroes during the event. Additional thanks to Sundrop for providing drinks to our Heroes, and also to local game warden Clint Newton and Barber Cylces for the use of a Kawasaki Mule throughout the weekend.

"The trip was so much more than hunting. It was great to be around guys who I could relate to who share the same struggles I have. We all talked of our experiences and I'm sure our conversations will help me through times ahead. I want to thank everyone at WWIA and the Double Creek Ranch for their outstanding hospitality and support, and their genuine care for Wounded Warriors everywhere."

3rd Annual Western PA

Turkey Hunt

May 11-14

Congratulations to Dan and Susan Bevevino on hosting another outstanding event with the 3rd Annual Western PA Turkey Hunt.

Three Heroes, one coming from as far as TX, gathered to enjoy four days of guided turkey hunting.

Aside from enjoying the camaraderie, our Heroes were able to harvest two turkeys during their trip. We extend our sincere appreciation to the Bevevino's for their hospitality and kindness in hosting our Heroes. We also recognize WWIA Guide Jeremy Smith for his assistance and service throughout the event.



"Thank you for the weekend of a lifetime in Pennsylvania. The hospitality was amazing and the company even better. Such an adrenaline rush and a relaxing time. Thank you."



8th Annual WI Cast & Blast

May 19-21

The 8th Annual Wisconsin Cast & Blast kicked off on May 19th in Rothschild, WI. This has been an amazing event for many years, and this year continued that proud tradition. Four of our Heroes took in some great hunting and fishing over the span of three days. There was plenty of camaraderie

and laughter in the blinds, on the water, and around the dinner table. Special thanks to hosts Todd and Dawn Bohm for honoring our Heroes with this event and to WWIA Guide Tim Spence for his tireless support and insight during this weekend.

"I could not have been any more happy and excited than to be on this hunt with fellow Purple Heart brothers. We've all been through some of the most difficult times any person can ever go through, and we still will. My disabilities are sometimes a setback in life, but to go out with fellow sportsmen from around this great country is a way to take our minds off the struggle and forget our problems. This is a great time to sit back and leave worries behind and spend a great time in the great outdoors."

4th Annual Texas Inshore Fishing

May 19-21

The 4th Annual Texas Inshore Fishing Event was another memorable event for our Heroes. A total of four Warriors were able to come together and experience three days of world-class fishing in Port Aransas, TX. This experience was possible due to the gracious efforts of hosts David Evetts, Chuck Tise, Travis Peace, and Eric Engquist.

We applaud your commitment and support. We want to also recognize and appreciate WWIA Associate Dixon Gunther for his talents and guidance during this weekend.



"First of all, thank you to everyone that put all this together. It was an exceptionally amazing experience. I had the time of my life. Truly memorable. I've learned things about myself, met new friends and gained new confidence in what I'm capable of. Thank you."



4th Annual Dave Harris Memorial Billfishing Tournament

May 19-23

Mexico is the place to go for world-class Billfishing, and seven of our Heroes flew to Puerto Aventuras, Mexico to catch some great fish and make some lasting memories! Our Heroes were treated to five

exciting days of fishing and fun in the sun. They experienced some great catches on the water. We want to express our gratitude to Dan Harris for graciously hosting this event, and to WWIA Guide Mark Broda for ensuring that our Heroes had first-class support and guidance during this exciting excursion.

"There are so many people to thank for making this amazing trip happen, I couldn't possibly list them all; but I have to thank the Harris brothers for their incredible program! Mark, you have done a stellar job making sure we have all been well taken care of. And, to the many friends made on this trip, I hope to see you all again soon. I feel very honored to be a part of such an awesome group of people."

Inaugural Maine Spring Fishing

May 25-29

WWIA was proud to roll out our inaugural fishing event that took

place in Wytopotlock, Maine at WWIA's Northeast Healing Center. Four Purple Heart Heroes were able to forge bonds over a period of five days through fishing, sharing their stories over meals and enjoying some down time in a beautiful setting. Special thanks to Vann White for hosting our Heroes and to WWIA Guide Derek Duplisea for serving and supporting our Heroes throughout this event.



"I would like to say thank you to WWIA and to our host for giving me the opportunity to come out and spend some time with other Warriors. These past days I have been able to share and hear stories with other Warriors, even though it was the first time we met. It was like we knew each other for years because we went through very similar experiences. I was able to fish in a location that under normal circumstances I would not have had the opportunity to do. I am thankful for the incredible generosity from the hosts and the guides."



6th Annual BC Black Bear Hunt

May 28 - June 4th

WWIA celebrated our 6th year of serving Heroes on a Bear Hunt at Tatlayoko Lake, BC. This event hosted two WWIA Heroes and one of their spouses over eight days in beautiful British Columbia. This is a unique hunt and an exciting opportunity for our Heroes. High praise to Doug and Julie McMann for their

thoughtfulness and dedication in hosting this event, and also to WWIA Guide Jake Whipkey for lending his skills and support during this event.

"You gave me an opportunity to meet an amazing family and another great Wounded Warrior. Forget the excitement of hunting a black bear with dogs, forget the amazing food and lodging, forget the long hours and very tough treks through the woods, forget all of that and focus on what you have been able to give me back after 10 years of being wounded. You gave me a way to find someone who was somewhat lost, with little sense of camaraderie left. You brought Jake not to be a Guide, but to share our experiences, our ups and downs, for that I thank you more than you can ever imagine. Thank you!!!"

Upcoming Events



Sponsors and Friends

Hides for Heroes & Waupaca Foundry, Inc.

Appreciation to Hides for Heroes and Waupaca Foundry, Inc., as they donated \$10,000 to WWIA by collecting deer hides during the 2016-17 deer hunting season. Led by Waupaca Foundry, Inc., Image & Gauge Controller Dave



Hintz, his team of volunteers and Sandra Dykes, Hides for Heroes has donated \$24,000 to the foundation since 2012! Thank you for generously supporting WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes!

Dairyland Fence



WWIA would like to recognize and thank our friends at Dairyland Fence for their generous donation of \$3,000 in support of the Bayfield Cast & Blast which will take place in the fall of this year. We appreciate your faithful support of our Purple Heart Heroes!

Donate Today

Purple Heart Patriots



Become a Purple Heart Patriot by donating monthly to WWIA and the Heroes we serve! Monthly contributors receive an introductory gift and mention in next month's newsletter.

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(813) 938-1390 | info@wwiaf.org | wwiaf.org



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