

Check out what WWIA has been up to!



## Notes from the Field: November 2016

November is a special time of year for the US Military and our veterans. Throughout November, we celebrate Military Family Appreciation Month, along with Veterans Day (Nov 11) and the US Marine Corps Birthday (Nov 10). With bird and deer hunting seasons in full swing, November is also one of the busiest and most exciting months for WWIA. Read on to learn more about the great events our Heroes were able to enjoy this month, and all the incredible friendships made along the way.

**We're  
halfway  
there! Help  
us reach  
our goal by  
Dec 14!**



In partnership with Facebook and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, all donations made via [THIS FACEBOOK CAMPAIGN](#) are matched dollar-for-

dollar up to \$1,000! Help make a difference in the life of a Purple Heart recipient this holiday season. 100% of these donations will help fund one of our world-class outdoor sporting events.



## Events and Fundraisers



### 7th Annual SD Pheasant Hunt at Grand Ciel Lodge November 4-7

Hosts Brad and Julie Boisen hosted eight Purple Heart veterans on the pheasant hunt of a lifetime in South Dakota. The Heroes enjoyed two full days of hunting at the beautiful Grand Ciel Lodge with guide Rick McConico. Special thanks to Jim Wilson at Vern Eide Dealerships and Joe Brewster for making this 7th annual event a great success.

*This was by far the greatest hunting experience I have ever had in my life. Everything about this trip was absolutely amazing from the world class hunting to the amazing food to the kind and generous hosts. Everybody made me feel very welcome and a part of the group.*

*When I told my wife about the trip, she asked if pheasant hunting in South Dakota was good. I told her if you're a surfer, your ultimate goal is to surf in Hawaii, and if you're a pheasant hunter, your ultimate goal is to hunt in South Dakota.*

*I am beyond thankful and humbled to have been selected to participate in this trip and be a part of WWIA. I cannot say thank you enough to everybody at WWIA who made this possible for me and to the outstanding hosts who allowed me into their home and showed me such a great time. Thank you WWIA and thank you Grand Ciel Lodge for this once in a lifetime experience.*

### 3rd Annual Kuneytown



## Bucks n' Ducks

**November 9-13**

Host and WWIA Science Advisor Dr. Keith Tidball and wife Moira Tidball, along with Kuneytown Sportsmen's Club and supporters, proudly hosted the 3rd annual Kuneytown FLX Ducks & Bucks Hunt. On this once-in-a-lifetime event, five Heroes spent the weekend hunting waterfowl and whitetail in beautiful Upstate New York. They also received recipes and tips for preparing game courtesy of Dr. Tidball. Special thanks to everyone at the Kuneytown Sportsmen's Club for welcoming the Heroes. Thanks also to VFW Post #6200, Sons of the American Legion, and ProCarpet for making this event possible.



*This was the weekend that I needed. I have taken so much from all the community's generosity. I especially want to thank the guides and leadership team that provided us all this healing experience. I have especially benefited emotionally from my time here in my newfound home. Medicine and counseling cannot compare with the healing that I have received this weekend. It has allowed me to slow down and appreciate everything that I have been blessed with. God bless you all and thank you for all you do and continue to do for our Nation's veterans who need healing.*



## 3rd Annual Western PA Archery Deer Hunt

**November 10-13**

The Bevevino family hosted their 3rd annual archery deer hunt in mid-November, hosting three Heroes on their beautiful property in Western PA. Guides Steve Thacker, Jason Thacker

and Bernie Petrovsky accompanied the Heroes as they hunted from stands in the early morning and evening. Lots of wildlife was spotted, and one Hero harvested a beautiful eight-point buck! Thanks to everyone involved who made this event memorable.

*Thank y'all so much for the opportunity to get away and come to Pennsylvania. We met some of the kindest people that you could ever meet. It's very touching to have people care enough to invite us to their property and feed us, take us hunting and open up their home to us. It's really awesome and a huge blessing! Thank you!*

## 2nd Annual Prairie du Chien Duck Hunt

**November 11-14**

Host Tim Macht and supporters held the 2nd Annual Prairie Du Chien Duck Hunt in Wisconsin, hosting three Purple Heart veterans for a weekend of world-class waterfowl hunting. Accompanying the





Heroes were Paul Wait, publisher and editor of Delta Waterfowl; Matthew Cagle, Rig'em Right Owner; and Scooter Yeomans and Chico Cjeka, Hosts at the Duck Inn Lodge where the Heroes stayed. Along with the hunt, the group got to witness the beauty of the migration in process, as the section of the river they were on showed them over 3,000 Canvasback ducks their last morning. Thank you to Jim Beck, who donated taxidermy services, as well as Rig'em Right and the Duck Inn Lodge for their warmth and hospitality.

*Thanks for such a great trip! A great lodge, new adventures on the river, and a great group. Getting to hunt with such knowledgeable people has been awesome, and everyone got along so great. Lasting memories for sure!*



## **7th Annual MO-KAN Bucks and Ducks**

**November 17-21**

The WWIA MO-KAN chapter has done it again! Host Brian Roderick and friends proudly offered the 7th Annual WWIA Missouri-Kansas Ducks & Bucks (aka 'MO-KAN'). This event combined hunting for trophy whitetails with duck hunting in

both KS and MO. Along with the hunt, the eight Heroes on this event were gifted with their very own custom rifles. The MO-KAN chapter members are also superstar fundraisers, raising around \$55,000 for the Foundation at their annual dinner! Thanks to Terry Supple, Mark Williams, John Denton, James Merrow, Dave Scaggs, Shawn Vandeloo, Christopher Thompson and the whole crew for their outstanding support and dedication to our Nation's Heroes!

*I want to thank WWIA for a dream come true. Since I was a young boy, I dreamed of hunting whitetail in the Midwest. I have never hunted ducks before and now I am addicted to it. From boots on the ground it was go time. Everyone here is topnotch, bending over backward for us, making sure this was the time of our lives. I cannot express enough how grateful I am for this event. I have made some new friends and everlasting memories. Being able to connect with my Brothers in Arms through the great outdoors is just a special time. Thank you again.*



## **2nd Annual OK Grand Ranch Whitetail Hunt**

**November 18-21**

Host Russ Johnson and friends held the 2nd Annual OK Whitetail Deer Hunt, which brought four Heroes together for



trophy whitetail hunting in beautiful Leedy, Oklahoma. One lucky Warrior harvested a beautiful 145 4/8" buck (pictured), his own personal record! Thanks to the Johnson family and all their supporters for giving our Heroes a weekend they will always remember.

*Russ Johnson and his family and friends were top notch and what great Americans. This weekend went off without a hitch. A very professional outfit. Thank you and the rest of the WWIA for allowing me this golden opportunity.*



## Inaugural MN Whitetail Hunt

**November 18-21**

WWIA held an exciting new event this November, with Host Jay Kim and supporters offering the Inaugural MN Whitetail Deer Hunt. On this event, three Heroes went on the hunt of a lifetime, harvesting beautiful whitetail deer in scenic Mabel, MN. A big thank

you to our volunteers John Sitarz, Jim Nichols, and Gerald Peter. Also thank you to donors United Piping, Inc. and Pave Tech Hardscape Outfitters for making this event possible with their generous sponsorship. A great time was had by all!

*I feel like I have a new family. Everyone was super approachable and friendly. I got a chance to shoot the biggest buck I have ever shot and to be around people that love service members and truly care about everything that we've been through. I really didn't expect this much friendship and hospitality. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. This trip has been very uplifting and I couldn't ask to be around a better group of guys than this trip. Thank you again.*

## 2nd Annual BC Lynx Hunt

**November 18-25**

One Wounded Warrior traveled to beautiful B.C., Canada, for a once-in-a-lifetime lynx hunt, hosted by Doug and Julie McMann of Skinner Creek Hunts. With the help of the McManns' hounds, he harvested his very first Lynx, spotted a big male wolf, and treed a number of big cats. Doug and Julie McMann are truly great partners of the Foundation, sharing their slice of heaven in B.C. with combat-wounded veterans. To say this Hero had a nice Thanksgiving weekend would be an understatement!



**Upcoming Events**



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(813) 938-1390 | [info@wwiaf.org](mailto:info@wwiaf.org) | [wwiaf.org](http://wwiaf.org)



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