



Photo credit to WWIA Guide Nick Fox for this scenic view from the 7th Annual NC OBX Waterfowl Hunt

Notes From the Field: January 2018

As we enter into a new and exciting year, we look forward to continuing to serve our Heroes through the power of the great outdoors, through world-class sporting events, through the love and support of caring communities, and through the camaraderie and shared experiences of their fellow Purple Heart brothers and sisters. 2017 was an outstanding year and we look to build upon that success in offering new events and new services to increase our outreach and effectiveness. WWIA hosted four events in the month of January, ensuring that our Heroes started the year off right with outstanding opportunities to harvest deer and waterfowl. We are also excited to announce a new feature starting with this month's newsletter. Our "Spotlight" segment will highlight a WWIA Host, Associate, or Supporter each month and present some insight into their journey, thoughts, and contributions with WWIA.



Events and Fundraisers

7th Annual NC OBX Waterfowl Hunt

January 11 - 14th



WWIA started off the 2018 season right with the 7th Annual NC OBX Waterfowl Hunt. Six of our Heroes were welcomed to beautiful NC for waterfowl hunting, great food, and bonding time with fellow Purple Heart recipients. In addition, our Heroes also received custom-made duck calls from Colt & Wayne Powell of [C&W Game Calls](#) that were crafted out of Purple Heart wood. The hunting and friendships made during this event were nothing short of exceptional. Each year, one of the highlights of this trip is the incredible community support surrounding the event. On the morning of our Heroes final day, the [NC Patriot Guard](#), [Currituck County Sheriff](#), [Currituck County Fire Department](#), a limousine company, and members of the community gathered to honor our Heroes as they prepared to return home. The NC Patriot Guard escorted our Heroes to the state line where they were met by the [VA Patriot Guard](#) who escorted them on the final leg of their journey to the Norfolk airport. Additional thanks to the all of the local businesses and restaurants that

graciously served our Heroes throughout their stay. Special thanks to Hosts Larry Beasley, Tim Brown, and Timothy Spence for once again putting on an outstanding event. Recognition and praise to WWIA Guide Nick Fox and Lead Associate Dan Berryman for their contributions throughout the event.

" I'd like to thank the entire Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation for this entire weekend. This is truly a life-changing experience you guys afforded me the opportunity to come back together with my brothers-in-arms. Allowing me to once again feel that missing bond. I will always remember this and will forever have you all in my heart and prayers. The utmost professionalism of your Guides, coupled with the love, appreciation, and welcoming of all the people involved is really a touching, heartwarming experience. Forever in your debt. "

8th Annual Russell, AL Deer Hunt

January 12-15



The 2018 Russell, AL Deer Hunt brought four of our Heroes together for four days of outstanding fellowship and time in the field. Celebrating their 8th consecutive year of honoring and serving our Heroes, this event continues to raise the bar. The food and lodging were top-notch and the game was plentiful as our Heroes harvested some exceptional deer. As great as the hunting was, the bonds made amongst the Heroes stood out as the highlight of the event. Our Heroes raved about their overall experience and conveyed their appreciation and gratitude to both the Hosts and the local community for their incredible support. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Hosts Ritchie Russell and Ira Everett for another outstanding event and for their continued support of WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes throughout the last eight years. Special recognition goes to WWIA Associate John Keeney for his support and attention to his fellow Heroes throughout the event.

"This was an amazing event! Mr. Ritchie and Mr. Ira made us feel at home and part of the family. Being an active duty soldier and getting to hang with retired Heroes has let me know there is life after the Army. The hunts were great but the fellowship and hanging out were the best! Our hosts spared no excuse to make us feel welcome and I am truly sad it is almost over. This was not an event to stroke our egos or make them (our hosts) feel good about themselves. It was a chance to make new friends, hang with three brothers and relax! Thanks, Mr. Ritchie, Mr. Ira, Mr. Shane and everyone involved! Thanks to my three new brothers and thanks WWIA! You are truly the best."

7th Annual SW Ohio Duck Hunt

January 12-15



The 7th Annual SW Ohio Duck Hunt was a welcomed event for 5 of our Heroes. This event was the perfect environment not just for duck hunting, but also for our Heroes to unwind, share experiences around the fireplace, and form bonds in the field and around the dinner table. The hunting was absolutely world-class as our Heroes harvested a generous amount of Canada Geese and ducks throughout their four days. Special thanks to [Cabela's](#) for providing our Heroes with a hat, multitool, and travel mug, and to [Miller's Campground](#) for providing lodging and outstanding hospitality. Additional appreciation to WWIA Pro Staff Richard Wright for cooking our Heroes an exceptional walleye fish fry, to Bo Bradley and his staff at [B&B's](#) for serving breakfast to our Warriors during their stay, and to [Rooster's](#) for a first-class dinner and complimentary Rooster's t-shirts. Our gratitude and thanks to Hosts Dave Studenka and Dan Doll for putting on another top-tier event and to WWIA Guide Gabe Fierros for his support and care of our Heroes throughout the trip.

"Thank you so much for this opportunity. Both days of hunting were amazing and everyone here was great. I managed to have two exciting, great days of hunting and the best time with everyone who was here to hunt and help. There is nothing I would have wished different. Gabe, you did an excellent job and were always ready to help or guide us. I can't thank everyone enough and hope to have a meet like this again."

6th Annual MD Duck & Goose Hunt

January 19-22



Six of our Purple Heart Heroes gathered in Easton, Maryland to kick off the 6th Annual MD Duck and Goose Hunt. This event continues to show our Heroes an incredible time as they experience four full days of camaraderie in the field with goose, duck and pheasant hunting. Our Heroes time was well spent as they were able to successfully harvest birds on all hunting days. Special thanks to [Talbot Rod & Gun Club](#) for allowing our Heroes to take in some trap shooting in preparation for the weekend. Additional thanks and gratitude to [Sean Mann](#) for generously presenting our Heroes with goose calls and providing lessons on how to best use them. We would also like to extend our appreciation to Hosts Brian Wegener, Matt Upperman and friends for their care and hospitality toward our Heroes throughout this wonderful event and to WWIA Guides Tim Spence and Nate Allen for their outstanding efforts and coordination.

"A very BIG special thank you to everyone who made this weekend possible. From the staff who created the adventure to Guides and support crew here, you can feel the passion and patriotism. Everything we did was very well planned and coordinated. The accommodations were fantastic, and the food was incredible. Being outdoors with other warriors enjoying time together is truly priceless. I believe that all warriors should get this opportunity"

WWIA January Spotlight



In this month's Spotlight, we are featuring WWIA Hosts Shelley Cohen and Dennis Reynolds. Shelley and Dennis are from Hohenwald, TN, 2 hours south of Nashville. They currently host 3 different WWIA events per year at their beautiful DoubleCreek Ranch. The TN Turkey Hunt takes place in the spring, while the TN Archery Deer Hunt and the TN Whitetail Deer Hunt take place in the fall and winter seasons. Dennis has a highly experienced and diverse hunting background and Shelley is an emergency nurse and educator. Dennis and Shelley have a heart for service that is clearly seen through their attention to detail, generosity, and the impeccable care they put into each of their events. Their ability to galvanize the support of the local community in welcoming and honoring our Heroes is second-to-none. Shelley and Dennis were kind enough to answer a few questions for us about their WWIA experience. Thank you both for your tremendous support and dedication throughout the years to WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes!

How did you first get involved with WWIA?

We had just completed more than 20 years working as foster parents and were searching for a different "giving back" opportunity. We have always wanted to find a way to offer support to the military and a website search led us to WWIAF. With Dennis's passion for hunting, we thought this might be a perfect fit for us. We decided to host one event and well, now 5 years later here we still are!

Why do you choose to Host WWIA events?

When you are able to combine a personal passion for a hobby with an opportunity to give back, well there is really no better feeling than that. We had a lengthy conference call, to begin with before we made the decision to move forward. This reinforced not only the expertise of those behind WWIA but also assured us of the ongoing support. We checked out the financials and dug into the mission of the organization as well and after sifting through all of those details realized this was the right fit for us.

What has been the biggest benefit of hosting WWIA Events?

This is not an easy question to answer because there are so many benefits to hosting an event. If you ask me to pick the top #1 benefit it would have to be the ability to recognize in "real time", during the actual event, the impact it has had on these individual Heroes. You see a huge shift in withdrawn behavior, emotional/physical pain, and many other end results of all they have endured. This shift becomes evident during the event and even greater by the last day. It is absolutely transformational is all I can say.

What would you say to others who are considering getting involved with WWIA as a Host or in another capacity?

Just do it! Try one event and to boost your confidence call another host who has been doing this for a while to hear from them how to best prepare. They can also answer many of your questions and offer great reassurance that not only will the event change the lives of the Heroes, but you will be changed forever as well.



Sponsors and Friends

We would like to express our sincere appreciation to the following individuals and businesses for their outstanding contributions and support of WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes:

Highland Corporation Charitable Foundation \$1,000
Toward the 3rd Annual Tennessee Turkey Hunt

Cheryl Engelking \$500
Toward the Inaugural Great Creek Turkey Hunt

Ryan Reed \$500

Jeff Janosky \$1,000
Toward the 6th Annual BC Bear Hunt

Timothy Macht \$2,000
Toward Rig Em' Right Alberta Duck Hunt

Douglas Huff \$3,000

Macht Enterprises \$2,500
Toward Rig Em' Right Alberta Duck Hunt

James Cooper \$500
Toward 5th Annual Dave Harris Memorial Billfish Tournament

Jennifer and Michael Dunlavy \$500
Toward 5th Annual Bayfield Cast & Blast

John Sitarz \$2,500

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It's that time of year again! Tax season is upon us. If you need someone to assist you in preparing and filing your taxes, Hallmark CPA Group is offering a \$50 discount for tax preparation fees to all friends and supporters of WWIA and will donate 10% of those preparation fees to the Foundation. Please contact Andrew Hall at Hallmark CPA Group (888) 675-4268 for more information or visit them online at www.hcpagrp.com. This offer is good nationwide as all information and signatures can be sent remotely through an encrypted portal. Please mention code WWIA50 when contacting them.

PLEASE SHARE your WWIA experience!



Thank you for helping us become a top-rated nonprofit in 2017! If you haven't shared your own WWIA experience, would you consider leaving us a review to help us continue this honor for 2018? We appreciate your support of WWIA & our Purple Heart Heroes. Click on the following link to share your WWIA story and to read what others have had to say!
<https://greatnonprofits.org/org/wounded-warriors-in-action-foundation-inc>

Want to learn more about WWIA, visit us on online!



Our website is full of information about who we are, how we serve our Purple Heart Heroes, and how you can get involved! Visit us today! [Click Here!](#)

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