Notes From the Field: September 2018

September welcomed in the start of the fall season and brought a wide range of hunting and fishing events across the country for our Purple Heart Heroes, including two inaugural events. It was another exceptional month for WWIA fundraising efforts thanks to our incredible family of hosts, supporters, donors, volunteers, and patriotic communities around the country. Read below to learn about the inclusion of a Purple Heart Chapter as our new WWIA Member of Honor, Patton for their stellar fundraising efforts throughout the years. Don’t forget to check out our September Spotlight Feature and also learn more about our inaugural WWIA 5K that will be coming up in January. As we enter into the last quarter of the year, we’ve got plenty of outstanding events coming your way, so stay tuned and in touch for some amazing highlights from our reviews.

Events and Fundraisers

CFC Season is Here! Help Support WWIA with a Pledge!

Will you join us in supporting our Purple Heart Heroes? Please consider a pledge to WWIA.

WWIA


Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) season has officially begun. The CFC allows federal employees and retirees to make charitable contributions to a nation of eligible charities they personally select by directing a portion of their income or annuities payments to those nonprofits. CFC is the world’s largest and most successful annual workplace charity campaign and the pledges and contributions received help non-profits like WWIA continue the work we are doing to assist in the healing and restoration of our Heroes. As you seek to make your CFC charity designations this season, we would appreciate you considering making a pledge to WWIA and making a direct difference in the lives of our Purple Heart Heroes. Click here to be taken to the CFC Donor Pledge Site. We thank you in advance for your consideration and for your faithful support as you partner with us.

Inaugural Primitive Outfitters Black Bear and Fishing Event

September 8th - 9th
Inaugural Camp Hackett Black Bear Hunt

September 4th - 10th

WVWA was proud to host a new event at Camp Hackett where it all started 10 years ago. The inaugural Camp Hackett black bear hunt was well attended and the weather was perfect for a black bear hunt. The event took place at Camp Hackett, home of the best black bear hunting in the world. The event included a banquet and a special presentation by a local wildlife expert. The event was a huge success and we are already planning for next year. We would like to thank our sponsors for making this event possible. We could not have done it without your support.

6th Annual PA Cast & Blast

September 24

We are excited to announce the 6th Annual PA Cast & Blast event, which will take place on September 24th. This event is open to all fly fishermen and women, as well as those who enjoy the outdoors. Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a day of fishing and networking with other anglers. The event will include a meal and awards ceremony to recognize the top performers. We are grateful to our sponsors for their support and look forward to seeing you at the event.

9th Annual NY Upland Bird and Couples Retreat

September 21st - 24th

We are proud to announce the 9th Annual NY Upland Bird and Couples Retreat, which will take place from September 21st to 24th. This event is open to all hunters and their partners. Participants will have the opportunity to enjoy a weekend of hunting, socializing, and outdoor activities. The event will include a welcome dinner, a traditional hunt, and a farewell breakfast. We are grateful to our sponsors for their support and look forward to seeing you at the event.
Two of our heroes and their spouses were recently celebrated at the 9th Annual WTF Upland Bird Hunt and Clays锲猎, holding up the men's side in some first-class guided pheasant hunting at the Deer Hill Farm and Hunt Club, their spouses were pampered to a spa day and many hams complete with a chef-shuffled barbecue. Our couples were able to relax, form new friendships, and eat outstanding food during this memorable getaway. These couples were honored by the local community throughout the 4-day event and were even given a motorcycle escort to the farewell dinner by the Podiatrist Riders of "11. Each couple went home with a cover full of pheasants and a hard full of recipes to enjoy their harvested birds. We would like to recognize and show our appreciation to Mary Lou House and her amazing community of friends, family, volunteers, donors, and sponsors for hosting our couples for this outstanding event. Thank you to Lisa Pizzi and DAR: Anthony and Jenny Lavallée, Karen and Darrell Headl from Twilight on the CRC RV Resort, and additional friends to Rick Pacheco, John Niswander, and Charles Lufkin for donating pheasants for the hunt. Rob Muller Jr. and LK for rig-handling during the hunt, Shawn and Cricket for their tremendous assistance, and to Ken Yowell for his continued support. Special recognition to WWIA Associate Mill Yagle for his dedication and contributions throughout the weekend.

Just a quick note to those of you who are very much part of your work and what is going on with Lisa and the great event in Manchester. We had an unforgettable time with Kim, Lisa, Charlie, Sandy, and friends. We met some of the sweetest people and fell in love with them.

4th Annual Eagle River Muskie Chat-Luncheon
September 15th - 20th

It was an amazing three days for eight of our Heroes who attended the 4th Annual Eagle River Muskie Chat Luncheon. This area is known for its world-class muskie fishing, and this trip certainly confirmed that. Our Heroes were welcomed with open arms by the incredible community of Eagle River. They were treated to a wonderful opening ceremony and dinner on the first night where they were thanked for their service and sacrifice. Legendary Fishing Hall of Fame Angler, Joe Boutin spoke live in each Heroes’ boat sharing his expertise and providing individual guidance to each of the Heroes and also provided them with lunch and tackled from his custom line. WWIA Founder and CEO, John McDaniels was also in attendance to express his appreciation to Host Scott Daniels and the Eagle River community for their patriotism and support of our combat-wounded. He was honored to spend three getting to know the Heroes and sharing some muskie fishing with them the following day. Although the weather was not ideal for Heroes vs. the water, our Guides and Heroes were up to the task, bringing in some beautiful and sizable trophy muskie. This event was memorable not just for the fishing but more importantly because of the relationships formed between these two groups of Heroes and everyone who reached out from the local community to show their appreciation and care. Special thanks to all of the incredible sponsors! There were so many fun-hunting and thoughtful gifts from individuals, businesses, and organizations to help support this event. Please be sure to see our sponsor appreciation section below to view a complete list of those who graciously gave to make this trip possible for our Heroes. We owe a huge debt of gratitude to the winecountry fishing guides that skillfully led our Heroes. Special recognition and thanks to Host Scott Daniels for improving this spectacular event every year. Your efforts and dedication are truly appreciated. We would like to sincerely thank Eagle River Resort for their outstanding hospitality and kindness in providing first-class lodging for our Veterans. High appreciation to WFWA Guides, Joe French and Derek Dupuis for their coordination and care throughout this weekend.

If you would like to thank everyone who participated in the event a very thank you. The experience for the Heroes was amazing. It was about spending time with other veterans and sharing personal conversations. I hope you’ll join me next year to spend the day and every day with the families that have a special place in your heart. This experience has been so meaningful. Thank you for being part of this event. We can’t wait to see you again.
The 4th Annual WWIA Wisconsin Golf Tournament at Bottens Green Acres was another incredible success raising an impressive total of $11,675 to support the 4th Annual Bayfield County Italian American Social Club’s annual Poker Tournaments held in conjunction with the June 24th Charlotte St. Italian Festival.\n\n**SEPT. 1ST, 2013  LAKE NEBAGAMON, WI**\n\nThank you to the 180 participants, all the vendors, and the many local and regional businesses and organizations that made this event possible. Special thanks to our sponsors for their generous contributions to help WWIA: Bottens Green Acres, Lake Nebagamon Golf Course, and the Charlotte St. Italian Festival.\n\n**Additional Thanks:**\n- Brian Ploof, Paul Ploof, Brian Ploof, and Monica Ploof for their outstanding service\n- Additional thanks to those individual donors who contributed to the success of the event.\n
**2013 WWIA Big Bass Event at Wolfe Creek on Grand Lake**\n\n**September 14th**\n\nThank you to everyone who came out to support the 2013 WWIA Big Bass Event at Wolfe Creek on Grand Lake.\n\nThe 28th Annual Tuddy Golf Tournament**\n\n**September 21**
We would like to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to the WWIA Southern Vermont Chapter for their incredible donation of $32,256.56 raised from their 8th Annual Banquet Dinner. This is a record-setting amount for the Southern Vermont Chapter who continue to raise the bar every year through the generosity and dedication of their passionate community. With this year’s record fundraising effort, the Southern Vermont Chapter has now become a WWIA Model of Heart Health. This achievement is given to those who have raised over $150,000 collectively in support of WWIA, an amazing accomplishment. A huge thank you to Helen and Detter Davenport for their tremendous work and coordination in making those annual fundraising efforts successful. In addition, we would like to thank all of this year’s sponsors, donors, and attendees for going above and beyond to support WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes.

The Inaugural WWIA 5K is Coming!

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2019. This exciting 5K offers you the choice to run, walk, or stroll through beautiful Al Lopez Park. Our race is professionally timed and the current top male and female finishers will receive prizes. Top male and Top female finishers in each age category will also be acknowledged. Every entrant registered before December 14, 2018 will receive a race shirt and finisher’s medal. Prizes for our after-party featuring a silent auction provided by the peppers' Brewing Company; ice cream; awards, and more! Discounted registration is available for Veterans who show their military ID. Or, online, enter with a “V” symbol or packet pickup with Promo Code: VET33. Purple Heart recipients will be able to participate free with registration to WWIA by using Promo Code FFNP33. Visit https://www.wvia.org/5kregistration and complete all three steps at the top of the page. Proceeds benefit the WWIA.

WWIA September Spotlight
We are honored to feature Dr. Keith G. Tidball as our September Spotlight Speaker. Dr. Tidball serves as WWIA’s Science Advisor and proudly hosts the annual Keyesway FLX Ducks & Ducks Event which will be celebrating its 5th year this November. Dr. Tidball is an arthropod ecologist working in the Department of Natural Resources at Cornell University, where he focuses on the dynamics of natural resource management in the context of disasters and war. His experience in the military and in the field of international disaster response and relief informs his unique brand of applied scholarship, including sites throughout Asia, Africa, and the Americas. Tidball’s doctoral work focused on the role of communities-based natural resource management in maintaining resilience of New Orleans, and he continues to work in post-disaster contexts, as well as in disaster readiness, resilience, and response. He also studies how outdoor recreation contributes to and enhances resilience and recovery for returning combatants. He lives with his family on their farm overlooking Cayuga Lake in upstate New York, where he enjoys hunting, fishing, and working the land.

How did you first get involved with WWIA? Many years ago, when WWIA was basically John and his dog, he conducted a Veteriana’s Day Hunt at Whispering Pines shooting Preserve in Central New York. My colleague Eric Sigal and I were enthusiastically conducting a youth hunt in celebration of Veteran’s Day. We saw the logo on John’s pick-up and the four Purple Heart Heroes, and we approached John about what he was doing. He was very gracious, and we arranged for our youth hunters to meet the heroes and thank them for their service. This was done in the field, with unloaded shotguns over slacks, and plentifuls bagged on gamedrags, and made a huge impression on the youth, and on we the adults children. John and I exchanged business cards, and we have been partnering ever since, about 15 years. For the first few years, I served as the Science Advisor for WWIA, and witnessed a number of successful programs. I was inspired by these events and 5 years ago decided to attempt to host our own event in the Finger Lakes region of Upstate NY.

Why do you choose to host WWIA events? As a veteran dealing with my own history, trauma, and regrets, I have experienced personally the healing and therapeutic value of outdoor recreation and camaraderie in the pursuit of fish and game. It is an extraordinarily fulfilling thing to share the landscapes and pursuits that I know are full of healing with those that want it, and can use it. I also do it because I see how valuable it is to my support team, many of whom are very patriotic but have not served in the military themselves.

What has been the biggest benefit of hosting WWIA Events? The biggest benefit is the lifelong relationships built between members of our community, our sponsors’ club, and those heroes we are able to serve. These links become our members of our club and many come back to hunt, fish, or pay vacation, which is exactly the kind of connection/relationship we are trying to facilitate.

You have an incredibly patriotic community who work together to selflessly support our Heroes. How have you been able to gain such tremendous support of donors, volunteers, and supporters over the years? This biggest key is having a core of 3-4 people that have the vision and are excited to know/recruit to accomplish the WWIA mission. Those individuals help with assembling a second layer of supporting individuals, who catch the spirit of the mission. An important ingredient is recognition and acknowledging opportunities to create and nurture expert de corps. Catching fish and fishing outings go a long way in that regard.

What would you say to others who are considering getting involved with WWIA as a mentor or in another capacity? If you care about outdoors, if you know that hunting and fishing are pathways to peace and tranquility, and you want to give back to our men and women in uniform who have paid for their country, for our right to public lands and public fish and wildlife, then you owe it to yourself to get involved with WWIA.

Sponsors and Friends

We would like to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude to the following supporters for their gracious contributions and dedication to WWIA and our Heroes. THANK YOU!

**Well-Bohn Charitable Fund Grant $2,000**

**Debbie Gruber- $1,173.75 via V-Doc/CARS Donation**

**Mindy McDonald- $1,978.75 via V-Doc/CARS Donation**

**Kevin Mahaney with the support of Sun Valley Campsites- $2,500 in support of the upcoming 2019 inaugural Naples NY VFW Big Buck Hunt**
Help Us Tell Others About WWIA!

WWIA NEEDS YOU!

Would you consider representing WWIA at a CFC event in your local geographic area? Our network of federal employees (civilian & military) represent our single largest source of funding for our veterans. If you’re interested, you can find information on upcoming events and where we could use your representation printed on our Facebook page. Then, simply email us at info@wwiaf.org or message us on Facebook. Thank you for your support!

Thank You Fisher House for Your Exceptional Support!

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Thank You Marine Federal Credit Union!
THANK YOU
Marine Federal Credit Union
FOR YOUR OUTSTANDING GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT OF WWIA

Our sincere thanks to Marine Federal Credit Union for their generous donation of $1,500 to sponsor one of our Purple Heart Heroes at an upcoming event in North Carolina. Thank you for your outstanding support of WWIA and our heroes!

Help Support WWIA Through Vehicle Donation!

Help support WWIA by donating cars, trucks, motorcycles, RV’s, boats, airplanes, heavy equipment, farm machinery, etc. (running or not) to CARS.

You can help support WWIA and our Heros by donating your car, truck, van, SUV, boat, motorcycle, ATV, RV, trailer or airplane. V-Dac recently joined the CARS team to help continue providing opportunities to support non-profits through vehicle donations. You will still work with the same outstanding representatives that you have come to trust with your donation needs. Simply click here to visit the donation process or call CARS toll-free at 855-500-RIDE (855-500-7433) to have a donation staff specialist help guide you through the donation process. If you would like to learn more about how the CARS vehicle donation program works, please click here. We thank you in advance for your support.

Want to learn more about WWIA, visit us 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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