



## NOTES FROM THE FIELD: APRIL 2019



This beautiful shot taken from the 3rd Annual Great Creek Hunt Club Turkey Hunt. Photo credit to WWIA Guide Nick Fox.

## Notes From the Field: April 2019

April was an exciting month as we hosted four events in four different states providing our Heroes with opportunities to harvest turkeys and enjoy some pristine fishing. As the weather warms and we gear up for even more events, we want to take time to acknowledge the tremendous support behind WWIA. There are many moving parts that go into making these events possible, and we would like to sincerely thank all of our amazing donors, Hosts, Associates, Guides, volunteers, and communities that faithfully serve our Purple Heart Heroes. Your dedication and generosity allow us to continue our mission to honor, connect and heal our Wounded Warriors!



## Events and Fundraisers

## 5th Annual DoubleCreek TN Turkey Hunt

April 5-8 Hohenwald, TN



The 5th Annual DoubleCreek TN Turkey Hunt welcomed four of our Heroes to beautiful Hohenwald, TN for a few days of world-class turkey hunting. Despite the rainy weather, there were opportunities to harvest Toms and plenty of stories and laughter shared between our Heroes and Guides both in the field and around the dinner table. The relationships formed and the memories made during this event will last for many years to come. Our Heroes had high praise for the serene environment, the incredible hospitality, and the delicious home-cooked meals during their four-day stay. Our sincere appreciation to Hosts Dennis Reynolds and Shelley Cohen for their tremendous care and dedication to our Heroes. Additional recognition and thanks to WWIA Guide Jon French and Lead Associate Derrick Oursler for their outstanding support throughout the event.

*"Thank you to everyone who made this amazing and awesome trip possible. I would like to thank Shelley and Dennis for opening their beautiful home and land to myself and other veterans. This is my first WWIA event and I am impressed by the professionalism of everyone involved. I can't thank Dennis, Shelley, Derrick, and Frenchy enough for all the hard work that made this brilliant trip possible. I would also like to thank all of the behind the scenes, unsung heroes that manage the logistics and details for an event like this. I am not a poet and I cannot adequately express how much I enjoyed this trip and the people who make it possible. I would always want a veteran who has not gone on a trip to go ahead of me, but I hope that WWIA will consider me as a candidate for future expeditions. Again, my heartfelt thanks for an excellent, memorable experience."*

## 3rd Annual Great Creek Hunt Club Turkey Hunt

April 25-28 Alberta, VA





Four of our Heroes traveled to Alberta, VA to take part in the 3rd Annual Great Creek Hunt Club Turkey Hunt. This event has tremendous community support and they always do an exceptional job of welcoming our Purple Heart Heroes and making them feel like family. In addition to world-class turkey hunting, the food and fellowship throughout the 4-day event were second-to-none. We would like to express our genuine thanks and gratitude to Hosts Andy Wilson and the Great Creek Hunt Club for their outstanding attention and care shown toward our Heroes. Special thanks go to WWIA Guide Nick Fox for his contributions and support during the event.

*"I want to thank WWIA for inviting me on the Turkey Hunt with the Great Creek Hunt Club. I cannot explain in full how much fun this hunt was, Great Creek Hunt Club put on an excellent weekend hunting experience. The Great Creek Hunt Club kept us fed and in great spirits, their respect and concern for what we did in the military were overwhelming and their hospitality was over the top excellent! I just want to say Thank you to WWIA and Great Creek Hunt Club for an experience I'll never forget. The only bad part of the whole experience is now I am hooked on Turkey hunting so I will have to go out and purchase turkey gear to add to my deer hunting gear. I guess that's not a bad thing if you think about it."*

## 10th Annual Wisconsin Cast & Blast

**April 26th - 29th Rothschild, WI**



Four of our Heroes made the trek to Rothschild, WI for the 10th Annual Wisconsin Cast & Blast. Our Heroes enjoyed time in the blinds hunting for turkeys and were also able to get in some quality fishing as well. This event provided our Heroes the opportunity to get to know one another over shared stories and experiences and form new friendships in a relaxing environment. Time spent in the great outdoors, along with the delicious food, camaraderie, and beautiful accommodations truly made this 4-day excursion a treasured memory for our Heroes. We would like to convey our highest thanks to Hosts

Todd and Dawn Bohm for conducting another top-tier event and also to WWIA Guide Derek VanBuren for his exceptional care and coordination throughout the event.

*"Dear WWIA Founder, staff and supporters, thank you very much for allowing me the opportunity to get out into the woods across the country to hunt with awesome people, who are now friends. What you do for Wounded Warriors like us means a lot to us. Especially when most of us are in desperate need for a chance in life. God Bless you and your staff's families."*

## Inaugural Missouri Spring Turkey Hunt

**April 26th-29th Cairo, MO**



The supporters of the Inaugural Missouri Spring Turkey Hunt was excited to welcome four of our Purple Heart Heroes to Cairo, MO. This new event is held on 524 acres of private woodlands and is ideal for hunting and relaxing in the great outdoors. Our Heroes loved their time in the Missouri wilderness and enjoyed being able to connect with other Purple Heart veterans through the sharing of stories and experiences. The highlight of this event is the lasting friendships and bonds formed between brothers that will carry on long after the event has ended. We would like to express our appreciation and praise to Host Brian Whetstone and friends for their outstanding efforts and dedication to our Heroes. Additional recognition and thanks to camp owners Dr. Mark and Lisa Rickmeyer, to coordinators Dave and Tracy Baynes, and Keith and Beth Ruprecht. High praise and gratitude to WWIA Guide Jake Whipkey for his tremendous care and attention throughout the event.

*"I just wanted (had) to take a minute to thank you and everyone involved for an AMAZING trip to Missouri. It exceeded all expectations. To get away and be among some of the finest humans I've ever met and learn how to hunt gobblers from legit experts like that was an indescribable feeling. The Hosts and Guides were awesome. I was overwhelmed with how well we were treated; truly an epic experience. The VA offers a lot of group therapy options and so-called mental health professionals analyzing our broken down bodies and minds usually resulting in pills and effectiveness is marginal at best, sometimes regression (not a good thing although the best they can offer). What your organization does is better medicine than what any doctor can give. What you do is important. It's easy to forget there are people out there that appreciate the sacrifices their military veterans have made for them and on this trip it was abundantly clear. To be honest, I felt like it was more than I deserved. I came out of this thing feeling GREAT."*

## The WWIA Sweepstakes is Here!



# WWIA SWEEPSTAKES

GRAND PRIZE:  
HENRY .30-30 REPEATING RIFLE WITH CUSTOM ENGRAVING  
BY BARON ENGRAVING OR \$2,500 IN CASH.



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1ST PRIZE: \$1,000	2ND PRIZE: \$500	3RD PRIZE: RAPID RIVER CUSTOM KNIFE
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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Ends 7/30/19. Open to legal residents of 50 US & DC who are 21 or older. Subject to full Official Rules (see link in text). Void where prohibited by law.



The WWIA Sweepstakes has officially begun! Go to: [wwiaf.org/sweepstakes](http://wwiaf.org/sweepstakes) to purchase your ticket for a chance to win the Grand Prize: a .30-30 Henry Repeating Arms Lever-Action Rifle with custom engraving by Baron Technologies or \$2,500 in cash. We also have other amazing prizes available so tell your friends and family, share this opportunity with others, and enter for your chance to win! NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Ends 7/30/19. Open to legal residents of 50 US & DC who are 21 or older. Subject to full Official Rules ([wwiaf.org/sweepstakes/rules](http://wwiaf.org/sweepstakes/rules)). Void where prohibited by law.

### Jerry's Bar & Grill Flash Fundraiser

April 19th Oshkosh, WI







**FLASH FUNDRAISER**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 19TH  
4-11PM**



John McDaniel: Founder & CEO of  
Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation (WWIA)

## CELEBRATING JOHN MCDANIEL DAY

MAYOR BUCK TOWER OFFICIALLY PROCLAIMED APRIL 19TH AS  
JOHN MCDANIEL DAY IN THE CITY OF OSHKOSH, WI APRIL, 2013



IN SUPPORT OF OUR  
**PURPLE HEART HEROES**



\*PLEASE DRINK RESPONSIBLY. ASK YOUR BARTENDER ABOUT THE SAFERIDE PROGRAM SPONSORED BY THE LOCAL WISCONSIN TAVERN LEAGUE\*

Jerry's Sports Bar held a Flash Fundraiser on April 19th to celebrate John McDaniel Day and help support our Heroes. Jerry's offered free beer\* (with donations welcomed) and donated \$2.00 from every 12" pizza purchased to WWIA. An impressive \$372.00 was raised on location and an additional \$770.00 raised in online donations for a collective amount of \$1,102.00! Special thanks to Julie Nikolaus, Scott Engel (Owner) and the amazing community of Oshkosh, WI for helping our Nation's combat wounded! We truly appreciate everyone that came out to celebrate this occasion and to those that generously donated both at Jerry's and online. You truly made John McDaniel Day a very special and memorable occasion. BIG SALUTE!

### Hides for Heroes 2018 Campaign

*Waupaca, Wisconsin*



[Hides for Heroes](#) continues to go above and beyond in support of WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes. For the 2018 deer season, Hides for Heroes broke the old record of 1,248 hides last year by almost 500 more! This year an impressive 1,744 hides were collected and Hides for Heroes raised an unbelievable \$7,100 from this year's collective efforts! A tremendous debt of gratitude to Dave Hintz, Waupaca Foundry, all the hunters, individuals, and businesses who generously donated hides, promoted this phenomenal annual campaign and volunteered their time to make this possible. Special recognition and thanks also to these AMAZING volunteers: McKenna and AJ Borchardt, Bob Swanson, [Steve Buck](#), [John Carlson](#), [Trent Sauter](#), [Kyle Meives](#), Jeff Williams, [Casey Williams](#), Ashley and [Katie Loehrke](#), Erle and [Brenda Towne](#), Chuck Hultman, Rachel Walters, and Matt Wilbert. Additional thanks to Paul Glodowski for purchasing hides. Our sincere gratitude to those who made monetary donations from Waupaca Foundry Inc. Scott and Deena Castle, Valley Scale, James Parins of Matrix Sensors, Bob and [Kim Spoerl](#), Waupaca Truck Stop, and Bethany Homes of Waupaca.

## WWIA April Spotlight

# HOST SPOTLIGHT



We are truly humbled by the incredible efforts and selflessness displayed by our amazing WWIA event Hosts. This month we are proud to introduce you to our April Spotlight Feature, Hosts of the Annual BC Bear Hunt (now celebrating its 8th year), and owner and outfitters of [Skinner Creek Hunts](#), Doug and Julie McMann. Doug and Julie graciously took time to answer some questions so we can get to know them better and understand their passion for serving our Heroes.

***Doug and Julie, can you please give us a brief introduction and tell us a little about yourselves and your family?***

My wife Julie, and kids Colton and Courtney have lived here at Skinner Creek on Tatlayoko Lake, British Columbia now for 15 years. Leaving the city life behind we had to develop a plan to make a go of it outside of our comfort zone. I was formerly a construction manager in the city but had always loved the outdoors and had the desire to raise our kids in a rural setting. We had the opportunity to purchase a guide concession a few years after moving. With some convincing from my wife we took the plunge and bought it becoming full-time outfitters. Having the ability to watch our kids grow up riding dirt bikes, snow machines, horses, hunting in the spring and fall and even wetting a fishing line when they wanted has been a dream come true. Outfitting has allowed us to share our experiences with others.

***How did you first get involved with WWIA?***

I had repeatedly heard the sad story of veteran suicides averaging somewhere around 22 per day and it weighed heavily on my heart and mind each time I heard this. This topic was often discussed around our table and we really wanted our kids to understand the impact of how war(s) have affected the men and women who have valiantly served to protect our freedoms. Nine years ago, I had the thought to start committing a week out of each year to host combat-wounded veterans. You would think that finding an organization to send you Heroes for an all-expenses-paid week in the beautiful Canadian wilderness would be easy! It was not as easy as I had anticipated, perhaps because of our location in Canada, but rarely would I get a callback or even a return email from organizations I had contacted. Eventually, I found the [WWIA website](#) and read how it was founded and led by a 20-year Army veteran who seemed to be personally committed to helping wounded Heroes. I sent John McDaniel a quick email that night hoping I might get a response. I could hardly believe it when the phone rang 10 minutes later, and it was John on the other end. He had called at 1:00 am Florida time and I knew right then that I had found the right man and organization to work with.

***Why do you choose to be a WWIA Host?***

Since that night on the phone when I first connected with John and the Foundation, we have had the privilege to host 9 different hunts over the past 7 years and are looking forward to this upcoming 2019 spring bear hunt. Every one of these hunts has been special for our entire family. With lifelong friends made every year with every Hero that walks through our door. It is awesome to see these Heroes come into our lives for six or seven days and leave friends. The smiles on the Heroes' faces each day, the laughter and sharing of personal stories and experiences throughout the event show us first-hand how the WWIA is changing lives.

***What has been the biggest benefit for you since becoming involved with WWIA?***

One of the greatest benefits in being a part of WWIA is meeting awesome Americans and Canadians who care and genuinely value the sacrifices of veterans and their families. The life-lasting friendships you make at each event are priceless.

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

I would recommend to any person or outfitter to get involved by either hosting an event or donating their time or money to help WWIA and these awesome men and women who have sacrificed so much for our freedoms. You will get as much if not more out of the experience than the people you are hosting. It has truly been a life-changing experience for each member

of our family.



### **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!**

#### **Donations:**

**Holland Fiberglass and Restoration, LLC \$3,250**

**Cinthia Jean Kesten (via CARS donation) \$711.16**

**Kimberly Clark (via CARS donation) \$626.41**

**Teri McGowen (via CARS donation) \$538.66**

**Donation toward 7th Annual Bayfield Cast & Blast**

**Dairyland Fence Co. \$4,000**

**Donation toward 2nd Annual Ohio Masons Lake Erie Walleye**

**Ross Environmental Services, Inc. \$2,000**

**Donation toward 5th Annual DoubleCreekTennessee Turkey  
Hunt**

**NRA Foundation \$2,700**

**Donation toward 5th Annual Western PA Turkey Hunt**

**William Decker \$500**

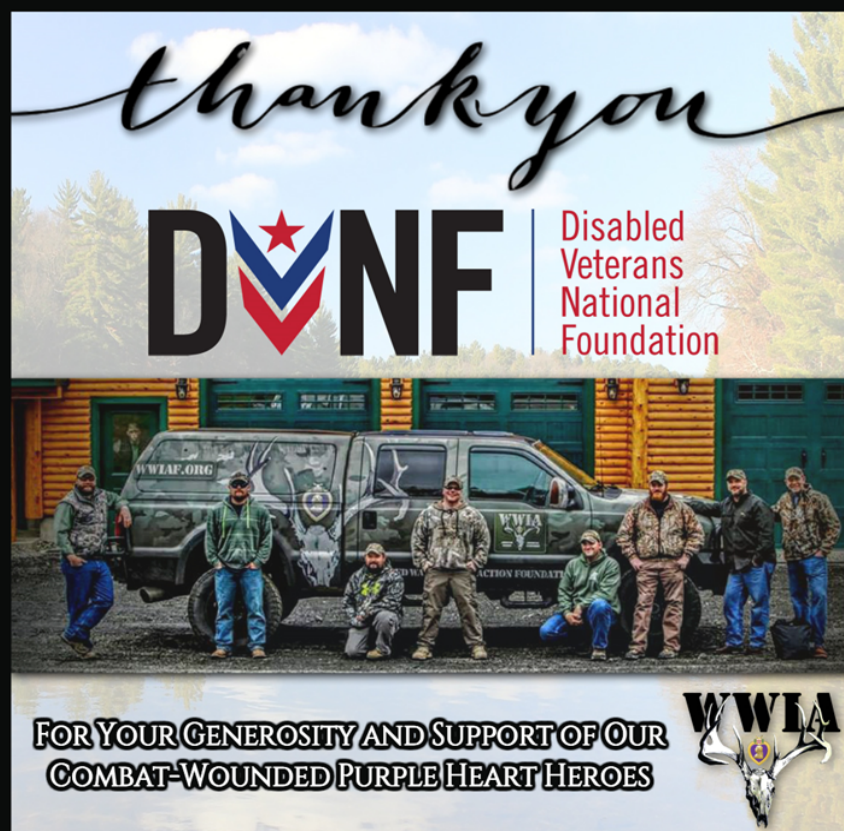
**Donation toward 5th Annual Dave Harris Memorial Billfish  
Tournament**

Donald Rains \$500

Donation toward 10th Annual WI Cast & Blast

Veterans of Foreign Wars #2687 Tomahawk, WI \$1,000

Thank you Disabled Veterans National Foundation!



WWIA would like to recognize and sincerely thank the [Disabled Veterans National Foundation](#) (DVNF) for recently awarding WWIA a grant that will assist our Heroes in traveling to and from WWIA events throughout North America. DVNF awards grants to organizations who are addressing the mental and physical recovery of veterans. WWIA is honored to have been selected as a 2019 grant recipient and is proud to partner with DVNF in serving our veterans and bringing healing and recovery to our combat-wounded Purple Heart Heroes. To learn more about DVNF and the amazing work they are doing, visit them online at: [www.dvnf.org](http://www.dvnf.org)

WWIA has Partnered with Ammo.com!

**SAVE ON AMMO  
AND SUPPORT WWIA AND OUR  
HEROES AT THE SAME TIME!**



WWIA is proud to have recently partnered with [Ammo.com](https://ammo.com). Ammo.com has an outstanding reputation for quality, price, selection, and customer satisfaction. You can find all your ammunition needs at Ammo.com while helping support WWIA and our Purple Heart Heroes at the same time! When you order from Ammo.com, 1% of your entire purchase will be donated back to WWIA when you select us as your preferred "Freedom Fighter" option from the dropdown menu at checkout. And right now, you can also save 20% off any order of \$200 or more! Simply go to <https://ammo.com/wwia-supporter> to get started and find out more information. Our sincere thanks to Ammo.com for their support of WWIA and their outstanding patriotism!

**Thank You Chippewa River Custom Rod!**

*Thank You!*



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Custom Rod



We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Tom Schenk of [Chippewa River Custom Rods](#) for his exceptional support & generosity. Tom has graciously donated his beautiful custom rods to WWIA throughout the years in support of our Purple Heart Heroes. Click [here](#) or go to <https://www.crcustomrod.com> for more information about his amazing custom rods:

**Help WWIA become a 2019 Top-Rated Nonprofit!**



Thank you for helping us become a top-rated nonprofit in 2018! If you haven't shared your own WWIA experience, would you consider leaving us a review to help us continue this honor for 2019? We appreciate your support of WWIA & our Purple Heart Heroes. Click [here](#) or go to: <https://greatnonprofits.org/org/wounded-warriors-in-action-foundation-inc> to share your WWIA story and to read what others have had to say!

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

WWIA

Wounded Warriors in Action Foundation

WWIA provides world-class hunting and sporting activities for Purple Heart recipients to assist in their recovery efforts in a fun and healthy way.

Donate Now

Purple Heart Associates

Our History

Visit us today! [WWIAF.ORG](http://WWIAF.ORG)

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!](http://WWIAF.ORG)

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

WWIA

12 YEARS 2007-2019

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