

# *partner* *in action*

*Issue No. 31*  
*2018*





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## partner in action

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## Capable Partners

Capable Partners was conceived in the early '80s and incorporated in 1986 as a non-profit organization whose volunteers provide outdoor activities for the physically challenged. We serve those who used to hunt, fish, and enjoy the outdoors but are no longer able to without additional support. We bring together friends, family, and other capable partners to remove the barriers to participation. We are dedicated to making participation affordable and members are able to have fees waived when needed.

Today, our organization, with a membership of 240 individuals, about half of whom are physically challenged, thrives with events every month of the year. We have successfully partnered with the Minnesota DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for greater access to hunting areas; we testify on behalf of legislation that might impact the disabled hunter; we continually improve the organization by seeking ways in which the physically challenged can better experience the outdoors with the help of their capable partners.

### Mission

Capable Partners' purpose is to provide opportunities for personal growth and independence for physically challenged persons and able bodied partners through participation in fishing, hunting, and related outdoor activities.

### Our Values

- Helping individuals realize their potential
- Promoting ethical hunting and fishing
- Enhancing relationships with family and friends
- Creating more accessible opportunities
- Increasing the number of people we serve
- Building the organization from within

### Our Methods

- Create accessible outdoor opportunities for more participants, with more locations, and events.
- Develop our membership through experience and teaching to obtain skills needed to organize member activities. These individuals will become the future leaders in the organization.
- Include, encourage and assist new and existing members to participate in outdoor activities.
- Educate about issues for the physically challenged and advocate for change, increased access, and solutions.



***Our organization defines physically challenged as, “a physical impairment that substantially limits a person from participating in outdoor activities.”***



## Letter from the President



The past year saw us expand our program to include two Lake Michigan salmon fishing trips, an additional pheasant hunt, camping, and a new picnic location. We were able to do this because we had your support: member support through participation; financial support both non-cash and money; and volunteer support to coordinate and work at our events! For example, when we put out the call for more volunteers to work the annual banquet, you responded in droves! Expanding our program with your support means more opportunities for personal growth and independence for our members.

Capable Partners, a non-profit, volunteer run organization, has been making the outdoors accessible since 1986. We have an eleven member board, more than twenty event coordinators, and many volunteer partners. Look at what a fun, exciting organization the volunteers have built! Here

are some facts.

- We have 240 members.
- We have over 40 opportunities to get outdoors each year.
- We have events all twelve months of the year.
- We are the largest organization of our kind in the USA.

In 2018, we will continue to look for ways to grow and to enhance the lives of physically challenged outdoor enthusiasts. We are planning a large ice fishing event, guided fishing on the Rainy River, more camping, and even more of the popular Lake Mille Lacs launch trips. In addition to the events we coordinate, many of our members have taken advantage of hunting opportunities outside of Capable Partners.

Opportunities available to physically challenged members include:

- MN Broken Wing Connection – two days of pheasant hunting in the field, trap shooting, and 3D archery. All expenses covered once you arrive. Capable Partners members have attended many years! They need participants for September 2018.
- United Federation for Disabled Archers – guided archery deer hunt near Park Rapids or Rhinelander. All expenses covered once you arrive. Capable Partners members participate and have a great time every year.
- Chairbound Hunters in Wyoming – mule deer and pronghorn hunting with guides. Licenses and meals are covered once you arrive. Capable Partners members have had great experiences!
- SilentAbility.org – seeks to help individuals continue in hunting and shooting sports by providing recoil reduction and other equipment to physically challenged shooting enthusiasts.
- Twist of Fate – 4-day guided archery deer hunt near Fargo/Moorhead. All expenses covered once you arrive. Two Capable Partners members got bucks in 2017!

We can direct you to other events and experiences to increase your enjoyment of the outdoors.

Our volunteers often say they get more fulfillment from volunteering than they put into it. It takes thousands of hours each year to run and build Capable Partners. Each person can help. We need volunteers to work at booths, help with the banquet/picnic/game fair, serve on committees, and help at events. Get involved! There are many roles to fill. Please volunteer to make the organization better!

In April of 2018, I begin my third and final year as President. It is my honor to serve with dedicated, good-hearted, and talented people. I have gained a lot from this organization and look forward to many more years of participation and making the outdoors accessible in future volunteer roles.

Best Regards.

*Evan Newton*



## Medicine Lake Ice Fishing



Ice fishing remains a popular activity, getting us outdoors during the cold-weather months of January and February. The “Little Brown Shack”, which we place on Medicine Lake in Plymouth, is a mainstay of our program.

Regular readers of this magazine will remember that getting our shack on the ice, keeping it warm, and getting it back off the ice at the end of the season has, at times, been challenging. Not so this year. The Little Brown Shack didn’t present a pre-season attitude, had no flat tires, and made an uneventful trip from its summer home at Nate Sjolín’s Grandma Edie’s. It made no demands for locksmiths, carpenters, or furnace repairmen (though we did replace the regulator for the propane heater). Even the end-of-season removal from the ice proved uneventful. No plowing it out of deep snow drifts, no wading through up-over-the ankles water, no driving rainstorm.

January and February 2018 proved to be a good year for lake ice. Our shack was on the ice January 9 and stayed there until March 2, the day before our annual meeting and banquet. We started with about 18” of ice under the shack and kept making ice all winter. The ice depth still measured more than 27” on the date we had to pull the shack off the lake.



Capable Partners Little Brown Shack

With no concern about ice conditions, our shack was available for 52 days this year, though the periodic, seemingly weekly snow storms followed by extreme cold snaps affected the accessibility. At times we had to wait for the good folks at Harty’s Bait to re-open the ice roads in order for anyone without a true four-wheel drive pickup truck to get out on the ice. Altogether, fourteen individuals managed to make it out to our shack this year on sixteen different dates, for a total of 33 days of fishing, catching nearly 200 crappies – but no sunnies, perch or



Bob Lindig Ice Fishing Coordinator



Evan Newton





## Medicine Lake Ice Fishing



northern pike. We were never skunked, making for good fishing, and a good number of the crappies measured 9", making for tasty eating.

We again thank Nate Sjolín's Grandma Edie's for letting Capable Partners store the Little Brown Shack at her property until next year. I'm already looking forward to coordinating another ice-fishing season.

Story by Bob Lindig Ice Fishing Coordinator



Josh Roach



Craig Simpson



Troyce and Ryan

### When Troyce Wanted to Go Ice Fishing

When Troyce W. wanted to go ice fishing, his Lifesprk care manager contacted Capable Partners. We were able to arrange for Troyce and his son Ryan to join us at our "Little Brown Shack" on Medicine Lake for the afternoon of Sunday, February 18. Troyce caught the first fish, reeling up a crappie before the rest of the party had even baited their hooks, and Ryan caught the biggest crappie of the day, measuring a full 10".



Belle and Doug Link



## Ice Castle Ice Fishing



We had mixed success in the Ice Castle this year but always had fun. Early in the ice fishing season, the Ice Castle fish house was on walleyes on Lac qui Parle (LQP) in western Minnesota! Nate Sjolín, friend Jimmy, friend Jeff and Jeff's two sons brought shiner minnows to see what they could coax out of the holes. They had some luck with four eater-size walleyes on bobbers in the fish house. On tip-ups outside they caught a 38" northern pike.

Mid-season the Ice Castle was on Buffalo Lake, where Nate was catching crappies while trying to improve the location of the fish house. I went out with George Peters, Brad Mientsma, and Bob Lindig to see what we could catch. We caught some crappies and a perch. Brad ("Mr. Tip-up") was not able to connect with any outside of the fish house. George baked a couple of frozen pizzas in the oven for us.

Later in the season, I heard there were big crappies and maybe some walleyes on LQP. I also heard our Ice Castle fish house was going to be out there for the annual Ice Castle tournament on Saturday, February 10, 2018. I talked with a couple of friends about going out to LQP to ice fish and spend a night in the fish house. While those friends weren't able to make the dates work, my brother Kerrick, who had never been ice fishing before, was willing to go on an overnight adventure! So, I booked the days with the coordinator Nate.

There was a good Capable Partners turnout for the tournament with Warren Albrecht, Chad Albrecht and family, Lance Tebben, Nate Sjolín, a couple of his friends, Dean Petersen and family, and Brent Kosbab. There were so many people, the able-bodied mostly fished outside. While not many fish were caught, it was a fun day on the ice.

After the tournament, Dean agreed to move the fish house around to find fish for the various members who were going to fish during the week. The house was moved three times during the week, but the four disabled anglers and nine able-bodied weren't able to pull any fish through the holes. Sunday, February 18th, Kerrick and I arrived to find Dean Petersen and Erica opening up the fish house and holes. Nate had asked us to purchase and bring a new generator because the previous one was malfunctioning. With the new generator humming away, the fish house was well lit and warm.



Dean Petersen



Mike Pawelski



Lance Tebben with his 13 1/2" crappie and Kendall





## Ice Castle Ice Fishing



Kerrick got me, Dean, and himself setup to fish with fathead minnows and wax worms. The Vexliar fish finders showed fish stacked on the bottom in 12 feet of water. After a little while, I started feeling bites on my spring bobber with a wax worm but I missed them. Then I got a hit, set the hook and started reeling. I had been fishing on Medicine Lake in the “Little Brown Shack” in 33 feet of water so I was prepared for a long time reeling in. Before I knew it, the crappie was in the hole. It looked big. Kerrick grabbed it and measured it at 13” long, which is a nice fish and maybe my best crappie ever through the ice. Then Kerrick caught one, and Dean caught one too. Later on, we had a visit from Lance Tebben, and Chad Albrecht with his wife and two daughters. Lance caught the biggest crappie yet at 13 ½” long.

I brought a pizza that was too big for the oven but we baked it and ate. I had hoped for some loud ice cracking to unnerve my brother but our overnight stay on the ice was uneventful. We caught a few crappies the next day and left in the afternoon.

My brother and mother both love to eat panfish. These were big enough to filet, but I remember scaling the potato chip sized fish we caught as kids that Mom would batter with cornmeal and pan fry. I’ll have the two of them over for a fish fry to celebrate our good fortune at not only having an adventure but catching some good fish.

Thanks to Dean for coordinating the fish house while at LQP and putting it on fish! Thanks to Nate for hauling the fish house and coordinating it in the metro.

Story by Evan Newton



Evan Newton



Dave Carpender, Maxus and Darren Dorn reeling in a crappie



Kerrick Newton





## LQP Ice Fishing



Nate Sjolín with his walleye



Lance Tebben with his walleye and Dean & Kolton Petersen



Jimmy with a 38" northern caught outside the Ice Castle

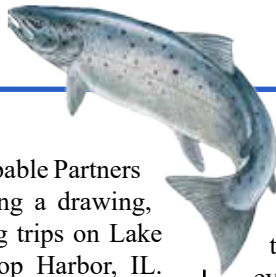


Connie Pawelski





## Lake Michigan



And the winners are...!

Every member, who attends the Annual Capable Partners Banquet, has the added benefit of entering a drawing, for two separate all-expenses paid, salmon fishing trips on Lake Michigan. In 2017 the first trip was to Winthrop Harbor, IL.

Six winners per trip are drawn which fulfills a bucket list item for most. Two days of guided fishing are included on the big lake. Also included are 1st class accommodations at the Hilton Pleasant Prairie in Kenosha, WI, a 20-minute drive to the harbor.

The weather was sunny but windy. Keeping wheelchair users steady was a challenge for the Capable Partners. The fish, however, were cooperative. We caught our 60-fish limit: 57 Coho salmon and 3 lake trout. One lake trout proved to be quite a trophy for Mike Torkelson, weighing in at 21 lbs. and 35 inches long, a real beast. It was fun to catch and fun to watch.

The second trip, about a month later, was 173 miles north on the shores of Lake Michigan, in Algoma, WI, which is in Door County. The weather here was not as cooperative, which shortened our fishing time. Choppy seas' causing sea sickness was brutal. What's more, the fish didn't cooperate. Due to high winds, the boat was not able to get us to the favored fishing spots. Traditionally the fish here are larger but tougher to catch than down in Winthrop Harbor.

We have chosen to do both trips in Winthrop Harbor for 2018 sacrificing the larger fish for better weather and better quantity. This area of Door County is beautiful. The companions, who took the ride up and did not fish, enjoyed shopping. A couple even took a Segway tour through the woods of the State Park, which was an enjoyable way to pass the time while others fished. After fishing we met the boat and found some local restaurants to dine in and enjoy each other's company. We all had a fun time.

Story and photos by Laurel Bauer



Dean Lopez, Terry Hanson, Perry Bauer, Mike Torkelson, Doug Bermel and Laurel Bauer



Mike Torkelson with his 35 inch monster lake trout



Doug Bermel reeling

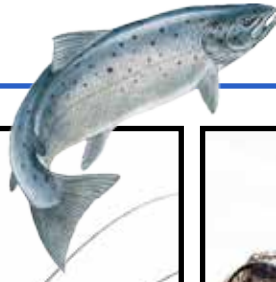


Terry Hanson reeling





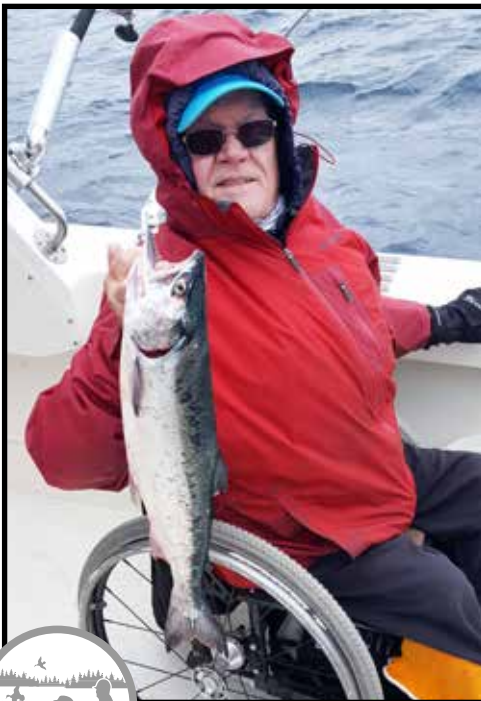
## Lake Michigan



Doug Bermel and Terry Hanson



Perry Bauer, Doug Bermel, Dean Lopez and Mike Torkelson



Terry Hanson with a nice coho



Laurel Bauer and Captain with a coho salmon



Doug Bermel with a nice coho salmon





## Lake Michigan



Wow! What a nice catch of fish for the day



When the waters are too rough, you sit down and have a nice breakfast



Terry reeling in a coho with help from Mike and Dean



Terry, Laurel, Perry Mike, Dean, and Doug



Frank Walther with a big coho



Jackie Savage with a coho





## Annual Banquet

Our largest banquet ever with over 260 paid dinners took place on March 3rd, 2018 at Banquets of Minnesota in Fridley! Our Banquet and Annual General Meeting is a chance for members and guests to support the organization, socialize, have a great meal and win prizes. Our biggest, best banquet yet is a good indicator of a vibrant organization.

### Official business:

- The 2018 officers (Evan Newton, Darren Dorn, Bob Lindig, Craig Simpson, and Nate Sjolín) and the 2018 board members (Perry Bauer, Violet Foster, Greg Hance, Pat Kellin, Scott Linder, and Terrie Schrank) were announced.
- The President, Evan Newton, gave a state of the organization speech showing we are healthy and strong but also asking for support both financial and volunteer.

Before and after the President's speech, we viewed a slide show (projected on the wall for all to see) of all the many activities. We had more than 40 opportunities to get outdoors with an event every month of the year. What sets Capable Partners apart is the breadth of activities throughout the calendar year.

Merchandise Coordinator Laurel Bauer offered many apparel options with embroidered logos at low prices. Hats, t-shirts, and lightweight fishing shirts are a great way to show your support of Capable Partners. Wear them proudly and tell people about how much fun you have at our events.

We put out a message calling for more volunteers this year to help at the banquet by selling raffle tickets, registering guests, and providing information. Members and supporters responded and we were able to staff every post and even rotate people. Many hands make the work more fun!

Thanks to Scott and Linda Linder, each table had event-based centerpieces with pictures. New this year, there was a photo booth where you could get a strip of silly pictures taken. As always, we had a silent auction and great prizes for members and guests to win.



Check in: Bob Lindig, Steve Scheunemann, Nick Linder and Sarah



M. C. Perry Bauer and President Evan Newton

Reminding me of the VFW hall we used to use, the sound system gave us trouble but I have been assured the system has been replaced and will be ready for next year's gala. Banquet Chair Violet and her committee excelled at preparing, organizing, and making sure we all had a great time. Thanks to the banquet committee for all their hard work and months of planning. Thanks to all who helped make the banquet a success!

By Evan Newton



Violet Foster

### Outstanding Coordinator and Volunteer Awards



Nate Sjolín



Tom Fix accepting for Chad Fix



Dale Tribby



Lance accepting for Chad Albrecht





# Annual Banquet

## Certificate of Achievement



George Peters



Terrie Schrank



Gregg Runyon, Jerry George, and Glenn Picha



Laurel Bauer and Becky Newton



Dick, George, Darren, Matt, Kelli, member and Justin



Bob LaFavor and Deb Tribby



Faith Hirdler and Samantha Graubeger



Robert, Annie, Jimmy, Cory, Hanna and David



Raffling off four beautiful guns



Cabela's cooler loaded with great items



Funds for Fun bonus table





## Annual Banquet





## Annual Banquet



New centerpieces made by Scott and Linda Linder

Costume dress-up photo

DiAnn M., Paula H., Steve H. and David M.



David, Sofie and Jessica Behm



Jill, Irv, Dan Cooper and Becca Snyder



Ryan, Mark, Dave and Cesairo



Don Cornwell, Ann and Lance Tebben



Doug & Lori Link; Laurie, Marty & Amy Sykes



Justin, Kelli, Ethan, Bryan and Doug



Arlene and Dave Martti



Taylor, Isla, & Josh Roach



Mark Bowman and Wayne Stang



Stan K., Tom G. and Ray P.



Matt Blesi and Gary



Ruth and Pat Moore



Mike Torkelson and Jake Howard



Mike and Toni





## Mark Ryan Turkey Shoot



**F**orty Birds on the loose! Turkey here, turkeys there, turkeys, turkeys everywhere! Where, you ask? The Mark Ryan 20th Annual Capable Partners Turkey Shoot at LeBlanc's Rice Creek Hunting and Recreation in Little Falls on May 7, 2017. Tom Gindorff and Ray Peterson, who have attended every year, can attest that this event is more than just fun. It's a blast; lots of blasts from shotguns. Even though this isn't a wild turkey hunt, the anticipation and adrenalin rush of scoping a tom in your gun sight is addictive.

This year 40 shooters were safely and strategically situated in blinds on the 500-acre preserve. Waiting, waiting, and then it happens. Boom, boom, boom! Fun, fast and furious - excitement beyond words! The sounds remind one of the Wild, Wild West. This year I was honored to have veteran turkey hunter, Bill Vice, as my Capable Partner. He became my eyes and ears, alerting me to turkeys close by. We saw some, but none that would come into range. Violet Foster, aka Annie Oakley, and Jerry George to our left capitalized on eight birds and generously let us tag two from their bounty.



Ken Johnson

After a couple of hours afield, owner Joe LeBlanc rounded us up for lunch, and the turkey shoot was finished, or so I thought. Bill and I explained we had seen three birds escape over a hill and down a ridge. Joe said, "We can't let them flee free! Hop in my four-wheeler and we'll go get 'em." I rode shotgun with my shotgun, and Bill hopped in the back. Off we flew, Joe managing the narrow rutted trails with speed, skill and ease. He called out that he saw them up ahead galloping down the trail. He told me to take a shot at the first one, to the right. Boom, one turkey down. He then directed Bill to get the next one to our left, but the tom cut in front of the ATV to my side. Boom, two turkeys down. I felt like I was riding an Indian pony and chasing game just like the Wild, Wild West. The third skirted into the woods on the right, and Joe deftly closed in on it until we were neck and neck; and boom, I got the hat trick. The rush of this hunt was the most exciting I had ever experienced.

Thanks so much to Joe, his staff, and helpers for the great day, and Violet for the great lunch, and to Tom and Gregg Runyon for organizing this excellent event for Capable Partners. While only 35 of the birds were harvested, everyone gets a bird to take home. Rather than taking a cleaned bird, I opted to take one of the three I had shot and process it when I got home. I had never had the experience so I decided to follow the adage that you're never too old to learn. However I have decided that in the future I will gladly take a dressed bird. The cleaning wasn't that bad, but big surprise – my turkey that did flee, had fleas! We'll let the professionals handle that job from now on!

Story by Terrie Schrank



Bill Vice and Terrie Schrank



Dean Clapp



Darrell Erickson





## Whispering Emerald Ridge Pheasant Hunt



For those who missed it, April 22nd was a great day for Capable Partners pheasant hunters and a bad day for the 120 pheasants released in the fields. The day had sunny skies, mild temps, and lots of birds for all the hunters. Whispering Emerald Ridge Game Farm near Menomonie, Wisconsin and Washington County Pheasants Forever sponsors a day each year for physically challenged pheasant hunters. This year they partnered with Capable Partners to fill the capacity of the hunt, which was 24 physically challenged hunters. We had 29 hunters participate!

If you have never pheasant hunted out of the back of a four-wheeler, it was the closest thing to "real pheasant hunting" that I've done since I was able to walk. The volunteers load wheelchair users into the back of UTV's, secure the hunter in the wheelchair and drive them out to the fields where other volunteers have planted pheasants. Dog handlers with pointing dogs move through the field with you and when the dog goes on point, everyone gets into position for the best possible shot. They flush the bird and the hunters shoot. Paired up with Carlos Martinez as my wingman, nothing seemed to get by us!

The volunteers worked hard and got every one of the hunters into the field either by sending a third shift in UTV's or by taking advantage of some hunters' heavy-duty wheelchairs. The helpers were great and the dogs (Pointing Labs, Brittany's, and others) were even better. After the hunt, we went in for a really good lunch! The physically challenged hunters could go out in the morning or early afternoon, and all did very well. I can't wait till next time and remember, to sign up early; spots fill up fast for this event.

Thank you both Whispering Emerald Ridge and Pheasants Forever for partnering with Capable Partners for this hunt.

Story by Ken Johnson



Dog handler and Darren Gilmore hunting with a Action Trackchair



Volunteer driver, Carlos Martinez and Ken Johnson



Paul Vorderbruggen, Perry Bauer, Evan Newton and George Bruhn, Jr.



Scott Linder in Trackchair





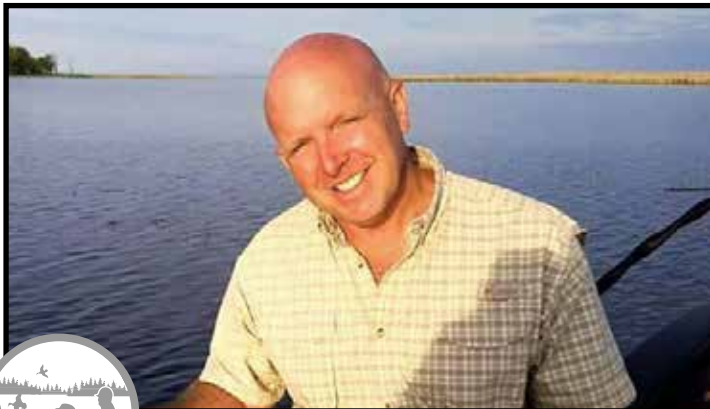
## Lake Minnetonka Muskies



This year was the first time that our muskie outing didn't happen on the day planned. I was stressed the day before, watching the weather, and trying to decide if I was going to call it off or not. I made the tough call to cancel. Do I think the weather predictions are ever correct? NO. However, I know we would have made the news if a bunch of wheelchairs were on the dock when 70-mile hour winds come through. I need to add that I, the coordinator, still haven't landed a muskie yet, but I won't stop because it's fun trying. This year I asked my co-coordinator Paul to reflect on my decision, which he did below.



Wes Rodenborn with his 32" northern



Paul Hartman co-coordinator

The 2017 Muskies Inc. outing with Capable Partners was a beautiful fall day that was a perfect day for fishing. The event has been every June for the past 25 years but this year Rod called me the night before the event and said he thought we should postpone it due to weather.

The decision was brilliant as the next day at 9 a.m., the Twin Cities was hit with one of the most devastating storm fronts we've seen in years. That Sunday morning my house sustained more than \$45,000 in hail damage in just under five minutes. I called Rod praising his great judgment and speculating how disastrous this could have been if all of our participants had been out on the lake when this storm hit. Golf ball-size hail driven by 70 mile an hour straight-line winds could have been dangerous beyond imagination.

The outing was rescheduled for a Sunday in late September. We ended up with a beautiful sunny, calm day with 15 Capable Partners members participating in nine different volunteered boats. The unseasonably mild weather brought out lots of recreational traffic as well. In all the fishing was not quite as good as what we typically have in June but a number of nice northerns were caught.

With its being a muskie fishing outing, the results were somewhat slow. Participants did have a number of muskies follow their lures and a few bites but ultimately no muskies were landed. The fish had received considerable fishing pressure the day before with Muskies Inc. having a tournament on Lake Minnetonka at the same time as the Professional Musky Tournament Trail was having their world championship on the lake. Those anglers did land a number of fish but reported the bite to be tough during the tournaments.



Rod Guthier co-coordinator





## Lake Minnetonka Muskies



Most of the Muskies Inc. participants in this event have developed long-lasting friendships with other long-time attendees. It was great to enjoy the beauty of the lake on such a perfect, sunny fall day. The highlight is always the lunch which is prepared back at Surfside Park in Cook's Bay in Mound on Lake Minnetonka. Once again Muskies Inc. brought in all sorts of homemade dishes along with grilling up T-bones and pork chops. The food was delicious and the camaraderie was even better. Everybody there is already anxiously awaiting the outing back on Lake Minnetonka on June 10, 2018.

A special big thanks to Muskies Inc. volunteers and guides for what is now a quarter of a century of outings totally sponsored by the club. WOW!!!

Story by Rod Guthier & Paul Hartman Muskie Fishing Coordinators



Ramp to get wheelchair easily down dock



Hungry fisherman and guides enjoy a great lunch from Muskies Inc.



Karl Anderson, Gracie, Rod Guthier and Kevin Affolter



Members loading with the help of guides and volunteers



Members finishing up a fun day of fishing





## Lanesboro Trout Fishing



On Friday, June 16th, 2017, 22 members from Capable Partners headed down to Southern Minnesota to the small town of Lanesboro to attend a trout fishing event in Sylvan Park put on by the DNR. The week of the event, the DNR stocks the pond with 2,000 yearling Rainbow trout for three days of fishing. There's a pier along one side of the pond, which allows easy wheelchair access.

Capable Partners caught 150 total trout, all of which were gutted, gilled and packed on ice by Steve Erickson and other DNR fisheries employees such as Area Fisheries Supervisor Ron Benjamin. At one point, Assistant Hatchery Supervisor Derrick Casper was helping a member to land a fish (that had come off the hook) by diving to the ground and almost rolling into the pond. Good catch Derrick! We're glad you stayed dry.

The bait of choice was minnows with some members also using night crawlers, both baited on a plain hook, sinker and bobber. After four hours of fast and furious fishing, everyone

gathered for a delicious picnic lunch provided by long-time member Kerry Sobieck. It included chicken, ribs, chips, soda and various side salads. President Evan Newton presented Louie Bernier with a certificate of achievement for harvesting his first white-tailed buck the previous fall.

The event was on a beautiful sunny day, but that turned out to be the calm before the storm. Despite forecasts of only a 50% chance of scattered thunderstorms later in the day, a strong thunder cell moved through the area producing 60-70mph winds, golf ball-sized hail and torrential downpours. We saw a large amount of damage including downed trees, root damage, and flooding in Sylvan Park where the trout event had been held just hours earlier.

Thank you to the organizers, fisheries employees, and other volunteers that made this year's trout pond event a success. Everyone is definitely looking forward to attending again in 2018.

Story and photos by Danielle & Ben Uden



Members enjoying a morning of trout fishing at the Sylvan Park pond



Kerry Sobieck



Rick McCoy and Nikki Akehurst



Louis D. Bernier and Louis C. Bernier





## Lanesboro Trout Fishing



Evan Newton and Bill DNR helper



Perry and Laurel Bauer



Jim Vorderbruggen



Scott Linder



Linda Linder



Don Savage



Jim Purtle



Steve Erickson



Frank Walther



Danielle Uden

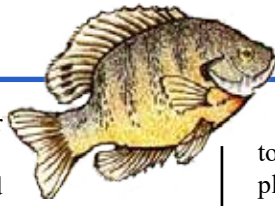


Justin and Stella





## Prior Lake



Here we are, another year on Prior Lake! As usual, we had a great turnout! While everyone was arriving and getting ready, we were monitoring the skies.

What we thought would be a stormy or washed out trip turned out to be a great day! It started off with dark skies and a light breeze. As time went by, we were granted off-and-on sunshine which I believe pleased everyone!

As usual my niece Trinity caught the first fish and continued showing the rest of us off. I managed to catch one out of the whole trip and was barely worth the picture! I just had to prove I caught something. The rest of the crew managed to join in with Trinity filling the buckets!

After a fun day of fishing, we went over to the park for a great picnic. We couldn't ask for a better time from the Prior Lake Sportsmen's Club!

They provided food and drinks while we had great volunteers to fillet our fish. All members who wanted fish were able to take plenty of yummy fillets home.

We are looking forward to another great trip on June 2, 2018

Story by Brigitte Kurkowski Prior Lake Coordinator



Trinity



Volunteers





## Lake Minnetonka



A bright sunny day greeted us for our annual Lake Minnetonka outing. The group arrived on time, and the crew from Rockvram Marina helped us load onto the pontoons.

Our pontoon captains this year were Perry Bauer, Brad Peterson, and Darryl Nerson. We all enjoyed the trip from Rockvram Boat Yard to our favorite fishing spot in Forest Lake Bay.

We caught some big sunfish and a few nice crappies. Faith Hirdler and Brigitte Kurkowski caught several nice bass. I think

everyone caught fish. We fished until 1 p.m. and then went back to the Rockvram Boat Yard. We were greeted by our volunteers Sandy Korlath, and Judy Hildman who had lunch ready. We dined on Subway sandwiches and ate too much.

We all had a great day and are looking forward to our next Minnetonka outing on August 4, 2018!

Story by Dave Heidtke Lake Minnetonka Coordinator



Brigitte Kurkowski



Frank Walther



Coordinator Dave Heidtke



Trinity



Glenn Picha



Brigitte Kurkowski





## Lake Mille Lacs



On our first launch trip of the year, it was warm and sunny with a slight breeze. There was no promise of fish, just a good day to be on the lake. The best we could hope for was a few fish to catch and release, and bragging rights for those who catch the big ones. Captain John, Nitti's Hunters Point, took us to several good spots.

We did catch several walleyes; most of them were between 18 ½" and 23". By the end of the day, seven walleyes were caught and all were released as soon as pictures were taken. As all of you know, "a day on the lake is better than any day at work." We passed the time catching up with friends we hadn't seen since the banquet and getting to know new attendees.

Thanks to Perry Bauer for doing the cooking and Laurel Bauer for helping with the food.

Story by Violet Foster Mille Lacs Coordinator



Laurel, Violet, Dave Scott, Greg, Perry, Terry, Irvin, Darrell and Ken.



Terry Hanson



Raymond Hibbard and Captain John



Members eagerly await for their poles to bend



Ken Johnson



Captain John, Ken Johnson and Darrell Erickson



A beautiful Mille Lacs sunset





## Lake Mille Lacs



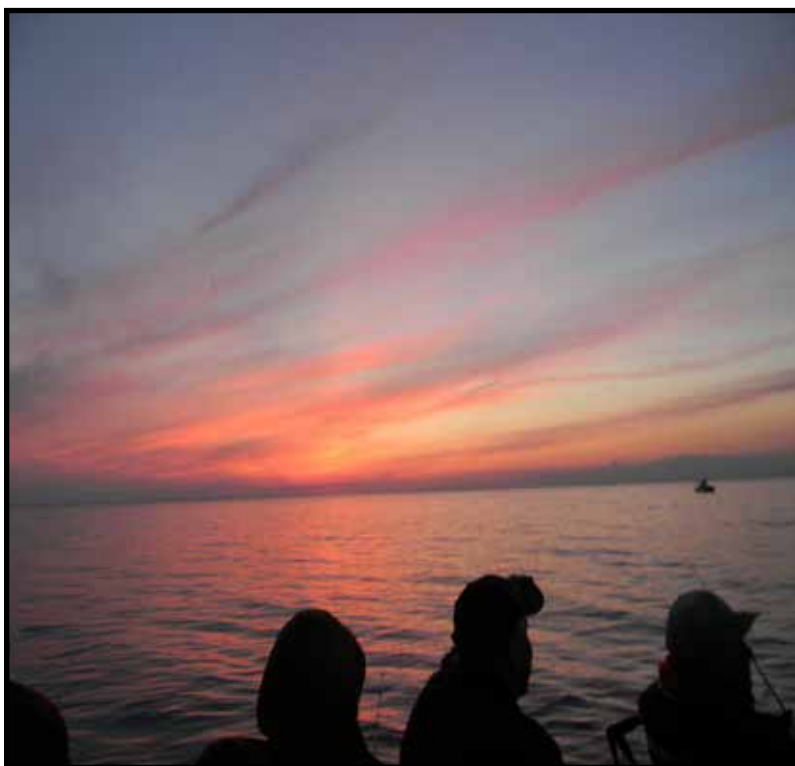
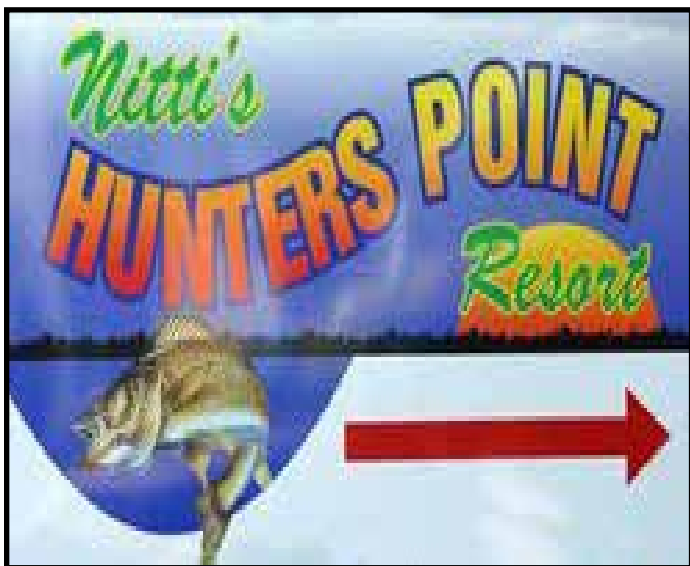
We finally got back on the big lake on September 9th after two trips were rescheduled because Mother Nature was having temper tantrums earlier in the year. I wonder why they just happen to be on our fishing weekends? I have no idea what we did to make her angry.

Finally, it was time to go out on the launch to try to catch some fish. It was another beautiful day to be on Lake Mille Lacs, where hopefully the fish were biting. Captain John, Nitti's

Hunters Point, did his best to find the fish but they were not in a biting mood. He used every trick he knew. We just could not convince the fish to bite.

Although there were no fish caught, it was fun being on the lake and enjoying the company of new and old friends. There's always next year, hopefully the fish are in a better mood and give us the thrill of catching the big one.

Story by Violet Foster Mille Lacs Coordinator



Members enjoy the sunset on their ride back to Nitti's



Captain John





## Birds of a Feather Flock Together

Early on the morning of September 17th, 2017, the second day of the special shotgun deer hunt in Dakota county near Rosemount, was about to begin. My able-bodied partner, Wade, and I wondered at the sound of an infant crying in the meadow. As daylight progressed, there he was, 15 yards out, perched on a twig; a handsome catbird sounding like a distraught baby. I quickly grabbed my camera, but it took some patience to steady my hand for the perfect shot in the dull light. Wade rolled his eyes and cautioned me that I should be holding my shotgun and not the camera.

As he took the camera and handed me my 20 gauge, he scolded, "We're here to shoot deer, not birds!" I told the catbird to go and find me a "deer" friend. Moments passed in the stillness of the morning Wade glanced to the right and whispered, "A Buck!" "Boom!" I didn't need patience or a steady hand. The buck was so close I didn't even really aim, just pointed and pulled the trigger. The deer spun around from the impact, spraying us with blood and dropped dead next to the little twig where the catbird had been perched and singing less than ten minutes earlier.

A little bird had led his buck buddy right to me. I couldn't believe it all happened so quickly, my first buck on a Capable Partners hunt.

He had a four-point atypical rack on his right side and a four-point typical on the left. The day before, Wade had found a four-point antler shed nearby, and we wondered if that rack belonged to this fellow last year.



Catbird

A buck from a previous year had been nicked in the butt, and we also wondered if our guy might have been him, since wounds can cause atypical antler growth. While those questions remain a mystery, there is no question that there will be venison in the Schrank family freezer this winter! Thanks to Wade for helping me stay grounded during this hunt when my multiple sclerosis can make me flighty.

Thanks to the DNR folks who help with so many things at this hunt. A special thanks to hunt coordinator Gregg Runyon for another wonderful fall hunt, and thanks again to my little catbird friend.



Terrie Schrank and Wade Wiebold



Cory Klopp, Jim Kotsmith, Kevin, Terrie Schrank and Gregg Runyon



Story by Terrie Schrank



## Major Ave Pheasant Shoot



A brisk breeze, cold temperatures (low 40's) and clouds challenged 17 disabled Capable Partners' (CP) members and their 14 able-bodied (AB) counterparts to shoot their best at the 125 released pheasants on this day more suited to ducks than pheasants! Those of us who rotated at the ten stations surrounding the silo downed 106 birds for a respectable 85% kill ratio. After the field action, we were treated to a familiar "brat banquet" prepared and served by Myra Martin, her son, Dave, and her granddaughter, Sharelle.

The great turnout is testament that these events sponsored by CP are well-planned and a lot of fun!

Thank you to all of the volunteers (both CP members and non-members) who perform "in the background" to make our events run smoothly, effectively and successfully. For this activity alone, the food for 40 people needs to be purchased, prepared and served (and the clean-up that follows). How about the birds that are crated, transported to the silo, taken up the silo and intermittently hand released? The harvested birds are then collected, cleaned, bagged and iced for us. And then there are the many tasks of the coordinator; for this event we thank Greg Hance. Greg scheduled a date that worked for both CP and the Major Avenue Hunt Club. He collected participant names, collected fees, paid bills, and communicated with each participant and volunteer to ensure the success of this outing.

Another group that gives so much to the success of this day is the volunteer dog handlers and their retrievers. These guys often say, "Being here is good for us and good for our dogs." In

reality, their being here is GREAT for US and extremely necessary for bird recovery! So, here's a "shout out" to Jerome Mohs and "Hattie," to Dan Larson and "Max," to Dick Jorgenson and "Skye," to Rick Willoby and "Shell," to Matt Jensen and "Gauge," and to Brent Wiehr and "Recon" for giving up a significant part of their Saturday for our benefit.

Of course, there are others who should be named for their part in making this event so successful. Every one of the AB's should be named because while CP makes these events available, you make them doable! To all of the named and unnamed who contributed in any way to the enjoyment of this activity, thank you!

Story by Russ Eigen



Ken Johnson



Rod Guthier and Kevin Affolter



Gunnar, Nick, Stan and Dog handler





## Annual Picnic

As reported by Terrie Schrank & Willow Schrank, mobility assistance dog

The Annual Picnic was held July 29th, 2017 at the Isanti County Sportsman's Club in Cambridge, MN for the first time. This was also my first time participating, and while I hadn't been to a picnic in Buffalo, this venue was fantastic, with ample parking, a great clubhouse, an open picnic pavilion and well laid out activity areas.



Jack Harrold

As we were driving, my Alpha male Jerry saw a sign with incorrect grammar and shared the tale of an elementary student's grammar error in a story about pandas. The child wrote: "A Panda eats, shoots and leaves!" The child meant: "Pandas eat chutes and leaves." I am the color of a panda, and I noticed that was exactly what Capable Partners (CP) members get to do: eat, shoot and leave (with a good amount of camaraderie, fellowship and prizes mixed in).

Entering this enchanted place, I was captivated by the aroma of numerous nummies: pulled pork, venison jerky, and smoked salmon, oh my! They even had strawberry lemon cake!



Jerry, Willow and Terrie Schrank

back at the Game Fair. Just like then she was busy selling CP raffle tickets. They must be a good deal for a good cause; Mom bought two books of them.

We got to sit with long-time members Jack and Nancy Harrold and Craig Simpson during the wonderful lunch. Nancy and Jack gave me lots of loving attention because they have a puppy like me back at home. While we were enjoying the delicious food (well, while the humans were – I had to wait for "chow time" when I got home), Perry Bauer conducted drawings for door prizes. Many folks got some great treasures just for being there.

Craig was excited about getting to try a muzzle suppressor adapted to his .308 rifle. He reported it did a great job reducing recoil and dampening noise. The shooting was very exciting. People were shooting to sharpen their marksmanship for the upcoming sight-in dates. There were trap shoots, plenty of archery action; and Bill Vice brought his handmade long-barrel muzzleloader. As the afternoon waned, it was time for this panda-looking pup to leave.

Many thanks to Violet Foster, the Picnic Committee and the Isanti County Sportsman's Club for a great day. I know I am among many excited for the upcoming picnic on July 14, 2018!

Story by Terrie and Willow Schrank



Linda Linder and Laurel Bauer



Delores, Mario and Dean Lopez and Kevin F.



Sandy Runquist



Terry Hanson





## Annual Picnic



Robert & Jim Hamlin, Kevin Affolter and Jeff & Judy Anschutz



Dave Heidtke, John Padden, Faith Hirdler and Rick Waldeland



Violet Foster shooting Bill's muzzleloader



Terry Hanson shooting his 22



Karl Anderson, Claudia and Harry Perkins



Scott Linder and Bill Vice



Members enjoying an afternoon shooting a few rounds of clays



Pat, Jason, Dean C. and Dean L.



Janie DuBois and Jeff Jacobson



Bob Lindig



Linda Linder





## When the Blind See



We're all doubting Thomas whether we like it or not. The impossible, in our mind, is always impossible. It takes the miraculous to shatter our perception of impossibility; we need to see it to believe. It took the "Minneapolis Miracle" to realize that sometimes the football gods take pity on us Vikings devout. Most of us, even after seeing it play out before us, didn't believe it until watching it for the seventh or seven hundredth time on replay. I didn't need a replay after witnessing an even more miraculous moment occur last November. I believed when I saw it, but I did need to pinch myself a few times. It all started with a phone call from my disabled buddy, Steve, the day before.

I was wearing my He-Man onesie running to the garage to see my old man in his vintage, TreBark coveralls dropping the tailgate for me to check out a deer he just arrowed. There Mike sat – decked out in the same camo. Atop that was a classic, brown camo vest all us duck hunters wore before camouflage became a fashion statement in the blind. I, nevertheless, had my suspicion; there are some "old school" hunters still out there, albeit few and far between. There's vintage and then there's Mike

It wasn't until after a warm handshake and the introductory small talk when I realized how long it had been for Mike in a duck blind.



Mike Hanson and Chad Fix

"Hey, sorry to disturb while you're working, but I've gotta talk to ya," Steve greeted, but before I could get in a word, his excitement continued, "Is there any way you can take tomorrow off work to be our 'Able-Body' for us disabled guys? Mike, a guy who's legally blind, wants to go duck hunting – it'd be great to get him on some birds – he's been to some of our shooting events in the past and has done well with a helper, so don't worry, you'll be his eyes – he'll tell you how to position him to shoot." "Well, yeah! I don't know how this is going to work, but I'd be thrilled to help him. Has he been out at all this year?" "Yah know, I haven't a clue? My guess is it's been awhile."

He asked me if I'd be so kind to hand him his shells under his chair. In a wink, I pulled out a box of Federals I hadn't seen since I first started shooting my Wingmaster. He graciously handed the box back to me once he grabbed his three shells and began to load his shotgun. As I began to put the box back, I saw a sticker on it that read: \$7.99 GALYANS "Where'd ya find this box – behind the rusted paint cans in your garage?!" I chided. "Oh, what do you mean?" Mike humbled.

I read him the sticker price and went on, "I haven't shot a box of these Federals in probably 20 years! Heck that's around the same time when Galyan's was bought out by Dick's Sporting Goods, right?" The chuckles coming from our fellow blind-mates – Steve to our left and my old man to our right – were hushed by mallards' wings whistling overhead. All I could do was smile; I was glad he came. It had clearly been awhile for Mike.

It sure looked that way once I was able to hunker down in the blind after setting out a super spread of dabblers, geese, and a few dozen divers (for good measure). At first sight of him I was taken back to the days when





## When the Blind See



What didn't take long was a pair of greenheads that broke off from the flock. The drake backpedaled perfectly into the pocket in just one pass. Before I was able to position Mike properly, a shot was fired in the blind next to us. I exchanged some kind words with the fellas to wait a bit longer when the next opportunity comes – not everyone in the blind had shot a limit of mallards like they did a few days before. Lesson learned for them. Not so for me! I didn't fully grasp the concepts of moving Mike into position to put a swing on the birds coming down (each time his gun barrel would clang on the front of the blind and stop our downwards motion before we could fire off a round). It wasn't until after a 2nd apology on a corresponding flock that I stopped and practiced more than the two minute crash course he put me through before shooting light.

I needed to garner the mentality that his arms, shoulder, and torso were an extension of mine. I had to sit closer behind him while looking over his shoulders and down the barrel's spine – meanwhile pivoting his arms and upper torso like a crane (in order to get him to properly swing on birds). The movements were mechanical – not entirely smooth, but manageable. It felt like I was operating a WWII anti-air gun. It was then that it seemed the birds knew of their demise; not a single bird was seen for two hours. Remorse took its course – I wish I had practiced with him earlier to work out the kinks. The sentiment festered for another forty minutes until a bogey was finally spotted.

"Mark at 2 o'clock," Steve whispered from his wheelchair. I gave a few quacks to get its attention. "Yep, he's cupping up. Mike, let's get you in position." I readied. Seconds later, it swooped down at 30 yards. "He just dropped down like a rollercoaster from right to left, Mike. It wasn't a good shot for any of us righties. He'll come around, though." I reassured. It only took a few more quacks from my call for the drake to demonstrate his commitment. "Alright, Mike, you're getting this guy – he swung around and is now making his approach along the shoreline to our left...He's cupping his wings." Sitting right behind him, I reached my left hand around his shoulder and gripped his forearm. Next was my right on his right. Taking a deep breath, I pivoted Mike's torso up and to the left and began to put a swing on the drake.

"He's coming in with his landing gear down. You've got a perfect bead on him." I whispered while looking over his right shoulder and down the barrel. I took another breath just as the drake started to back pedal into the X and then exhaled, "Three. Two. One. Take'em!" BOOM!

My pupils dilated at the spectacle that the 20 year old Federal steel just unleashed upon the fat drake: his Dorothy slippers were doing the death kicks while he laid flat on his back. He wasn't going to Kansas this migration! "YOU DID IT! YOU DID IT! YOOOU DID IT!"

I exclaimed while hugging him like we had just won Game 7 of the World Series.

"YUUESSSS!!!! What did I shoot?" Mike enthusiastically responded.

"A majestic, male, red-tailed hawk! He's a stud!" I sarcasmed. "NO!!" Mike anguished.

"NO!" I confirmed while giving a devious look to Steve and my old man.

"NO??" Mike disarrayed.

"NO!" I joked (as the rest of the blind erupted in laughter). "I'm sorry, I couldn't resist. You've got a dandy, drake mallard on the ice. He's an absolute monster!"

"Oh my goodness, I was going to say..."

"Haha! Mike, all joking aside, I'm at a loss for words – I've never experienced anything greater in a blind than what I just did now."

I left it at that with him so I could go make the retrieve; I was too excited to bring it back for him. Upon return, I put the full-curved green head in his hands. The feathers confirmed what his fingers were telling him. His beaming smile said it all to us in the blind: he bagged a trophy. After he had his moment, I grabbed his right hand with mine and shook it while saying, "I can't thank you enough for coming out this morning. You're a testament of possible."

I was blind, now I see.

Story and photos by Chad Fix

### Post Script –

*I was always under the impression that you can't hunt if you don't have the legs to take you and the arms to bear a weapon. I was proven wrong three years ago. It was then when I got a glimpse of what's actually possible while on my first hunt with the disabled folks at Capable Partners. During each hunt I experience the antithesis of disabled: they've all been able to continue to pursue their passions – one just has to have the fortitude to do it. Mike, along with the rest of them, exemplify it each time I'm graced in the blind with them.*





## Carlos Avery Duck Blind



There is not much to say about the waterfowl hunting in 2017. It was very poor. There were only four ducks harvested all season. But on a good note, I will be having the blind pad moved to the east and replacing it with a low-profile blind. There will be a lot of work to be done this spring and summer, but that should increase the duck hunting opportunity for sure this year.

If anyone wants to hunt it, please feel free to contact me to book a day. I will have pics of the new blind on Facebook once the work is started. Anyone that would like to help please contact me.

Story by Darren Dorn Waterfowl Coordinator



Inside old waterfowl blind



Old waterfowl blind



Low-impact River Valley blind, this will be the projected blind setup for Carlos Avery waterfowl site in 2018





## Game Fair



Patterned after European Fall Festivals, Game Fair, in Ramsey, MN, is an annual tradition for families to come together and enjoy the great outdoors. For us, it's a place to reconnect with supporters, to see all the sights and have fun. Every year we talk to hundreds of people, explaining how our organization is helping the physically challenged to reconnect with the outdoors.

Many of the visitors know someone who is physically challenged. Many of them had no idea the physically challenged could continue their hunting or fishing. Most of them do not have anyone who has the knowledge or can take the time to take them hunting or fishing. Most are surprised at the number of events we offer for free.

It's also a time to talk to all who stop to ask questions or just buy gun raffle tickets. There are many who have been buying raffle tickets for years and stop to give us grief because they haven't won. My thought is they really don't care; they only want to know how to help us accomplish what we do.

Many of our members work the Game Fair every year. For some it is like an annual vacation they take. They really enjoy the idea of being with other members and talking to all the folks that stop by. I am very thankful for their help, without which, we would not be able to accomplish our gun raffle ticket sales goal, which is a major fundraiser for Capable Partners. In 2017, we sold the



On left, Loral I Delaney, Darrell Erickson, Don Savage, Dick Ransom, Jackie Savage and Violet Foster

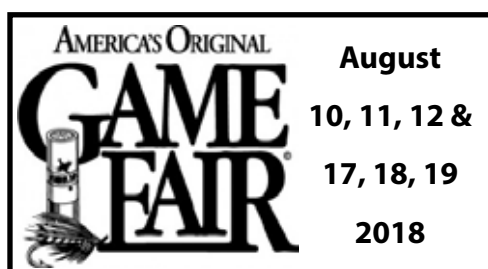


Lance Tebben and Don Cornwell winner of gun

most raffle tickets ever. We even sold out of raffle tickets at noon on the last day. In all the years I have worked Game Fair that has never happened before.

Those who work Game Fair get time to go around, watch activities, visit other booths, and see the sights. Of course, there's a wide variety of food available. Buffalo burgers come to mind as they are my favorite. If you are an early bird, you can get breakfast. No matter what your favorite food is, you should be able to find it or something real similar to relieve your hunger. If you would like to join the fun, give Violet a call at 763-444-4427.

Story by George Bruhn, Jr.





## MN Valley NWR Duck Blind



It is my favorite time of year! Waterfowl season at the Minnesota River Valley gets my heart pumping. The season started off slow with hunts scheduled for both days of opening weekend, September 23 and 24. We only had one blind that four people could hunt from but we shot 12 ducks and a goose.

Tom Fix on a hunt where Mike was able to shoot a “monster” drake mallard. This wouldn’t seem like a big deal to most, but as many of you know Mike is one of our blind members and for him shooting a flying bird is a huge accomplishment! You can read about it at: Fix, Chad. “When the Blind See.”



Leo, Jeff Kaley, Rob Klett, Stan Koich, Brian DesLauriers, Steve Scheunemann, Greg Hance, Jacie and Chad Fix

The next weekend, we had two more hunts and managed to shoot our limit on Saturday and 16 birds on Sunday. Then came the split in the season which was supposed to be ten days but with heavy amounts of rain and the blinds being flooded out, it turned into 25 days. The next few hunts were very poor because of the high water and the mid-season wait for migrators to show up. Then we hit November, often the best time of year down there. Things started to pick up and the hunts were more successful as more birds headed south.

On November 14th, Mike Hanson and Joe Yaritz joined Steve Scheunemann and able-bodied helpers Brian DesLauriers, Chad Fix, and Tom Scheunemann, Jim Vorderbruggen, Zephyr, Steve Scheunemann, Jacie and Chad Fix



Tom Scheunemann, Jim Vorderbruggen, Zephyr, Steve Scheunemann, Jacie and Chad Fix

Partner in action, Issue No. 31, 2018, pp 32-33.



Mike Cleveland, Nate Sjolín, Craig Simpson, and Pat Kellin

The next day we had the annual Mark Holden birthday hunt where we achieved our limits on mallards by 9 a.m. Another great hunt! The next week and a half of hunting was filled with limits, or close, of mallards again. We ended the season with 295 ducks and only five geese shot, but it was one of the best years we have had down there in the past five or six years.

I’d like to give a big THANK YOU to all the helpers we had getting blinds put in, deploying decoys, and retrieving the birds.

Story by Nate Sjolín Waterfowl Coordinator





## MN Valley NWR Duck Blind



Brian DesLauriers



Bella, Nate Sjolín, Stan Koich and Drake



Jacie coming back with a beautiful drake



Matt Jensen



Wild retrieving a big greenhead



A nice limit of mallards





## Saints Game



It was a night of firsts on July 13th. It was the first time many of us had been to a Saints game, first time at the new Saints stadium, and first time Capable Partners went to a Saints game. The idea was that spouses of members could socialize and get to know each other.

It was a great night for baseball - 66°, overcast and great seats along the 3rd base line in this stadium where you are much closer to the action than at a major league stadium. 22 Capable Partners members enjoyed the evening game, local

food vendors, craft beers and good company. The line to get inexpensive beer was too long for most of us but the bratwursts were easy to get and great tasting. Unfortunately, the Saints were swept by the Sioux Falls Canaries and lost this game 6-4.

It was an enjoyable evening so we've decided to do it again. This year's game will be July 26, against the Wichita Wingnuts. Thanks to Perry Bauer and Scott Linder for arranging this great event!

Story and photos by Scott and Linda Linder Game Coordinators



Back row Bob, Marcia, Linda, Perry, Jackie, Clay, Jamalla, John, Lia, Laurel, Becky, Deb and Scott

Front Terry, Ann, Maggie, Craig Don, Evan, Faith and Dave





## Saints Game



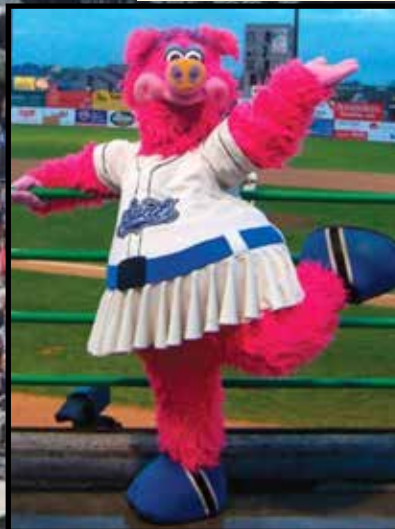
Scott & Linda Linder



Bob Lindig, Evan Newton and Don & Jackie Savage



Perry Bauer and Terry Hanson



Four-Legged Pig Mascot



Scott Linder and Laurel Bauer



Craig & Ann Simpson, Dave Heidtke and John Padden



Lia, Jamalla, Deb and Becky





## ATV Ride

### 16th Annual Red Top Trail ATV Adventure

**O**n August 5, 2017, I had the great pleasure of coordinating the 16th Annual Red Top Trail ATV Adventure. The skies were perfect, temps near 75°, and with the rain we had the night before, the trails had no dust. Capable Partners had a much larger turnout this year, 22 riders in all. Once again we were blessed to have Leo's South supply three side-by-side, two-seaters, with the mischievous brothers, Jerry and Alvin, driving. Thanks also to the volunteers from the South Metro ATV Club for helping supply rides. I hope to see them next year.

Mark Weber and Mark McCallum, from the South Metro ATV Club, suggested we split into two groups because we had both Class 1 ATV's (50" wide or less) and Class 2 ATV's. Class 2 ATV's can't go on some of the trails because they are too wide. I took the Class 2 ATV's and Darren Dorn led the Class 1's.

Riding down the trail, I monitored the progress of the other machines, keeping us all together. On one of my glances, I noticed Jim Purtle and his driver Ben Scheibe disappear behind a wall of water with a lot of laughing soon to follow. When we stopped at the shelter area and they got out, we all had to laugh. The only clean place on Jim was where the seat



belts had been, and yes, he was wearing white. Why do I call Jerry and Alvin the "Mischievous Brothers"? Well, I think they set up one of our riders to get her wet again. She was put into a full windshield ATV to help her stay dry and to give her a sense of safety that was soon dispelled. Alvin went left of the puddle while Jerry passed through the center of the puddle, splashing and soaking the intended victim. Maybe next year she will stay dry...

Once again, upon making it through the Red Top Trail, we decided to go back on the same trail rather than taking the shorter Soo Line back. All met back at McQuoid's and then went out to Dave Ice's entertainment barn for the barbeque. All came back with smiles on their faces and maybe a little dirt.

Special thanks to IMED Mobility for sponsoring this event, McQuoid's for the parking and staging of the event, Violet and Jerry for helping with some of the provisions, and Bob and Mark, friends of Dave Ice, who help cook and clean up. And, finally, thanks to Dave Ice for graciously lending Capable Partners the use of his barn. This would not happen except for the people who volunteer a little of their time and talents to make it happen. Thank you all!

Story by Ken Johnson ATV Ride Coordinator





## ATV Ride



Irvin and Jill Cooper



Ken Johnson



Mark McCallum



Scott and Linda Linder



Water challenge, but you can go around



Jim Purtle and driver Ben Scheibe



Faith Hirdler and Alvin Bedeaux



Dave Ice's, red barn turned into lunch hall



A little water on the trail





## Marsh Lake Duck Shoot



My first Marsh Lake duck shoot by Nicole Fortuna

Duck hunting was as foreign to me as dress shopping probably was to Annie Oakley. So when my boyfriend, Chad Fix, asked me to participate in the Marsh Lake Duck Shoot, I was a bit reluctant.

equates to more misses than hits), the feelings immediately subsided by boisterous laughter. It came from the onlookers, in the peanut gallery, flinging insults at those on the line missing the easy shots. In time, those same mudslingers were quickly shamed when they got into the shooting galleries.



WOW! What a great turnout of members for the Marsh Lake duck shoot

Born into a third generation dairy farm in northern Wisconsin, deer hunting was passed down through the generations as synonymously as the American family heirloom of grandma's apple pie recipe. If my father found free time from tending to the lengthy laundry list of farm chores, he pounced on the chance to get into the woods with his bow, my two sisters, and me.

It wasn't that I was never exposed to various forms of hunting – anyone raised on a farm gets their fair share of it. But bird hunting was not at the top of the laundry list for my father. So it was for me.

Although I hemmed and hawed a bit about the notion of going to the duck shoot (mostly because shooting birds generally

Nerves took in when it was my time to step up to the shooting line. After a few volleys of misses, I found my groove – just before the peanut gallery could muster their bombardment in my direction. I dodged the mudslinging and earned my place in the ranks.

Regardless if I hit anything or not, though, I quickly felt like I belonged. That's what's so great about Capable Partners. Our life stories are all different, but we all share common ground: to sling as much mud as possible and, if we're so fortunate, dodge it when we can!

Story by Nicole Fortuna



Louis C. Bernier



Karl Anderson





## Marsh Lake Duck Shoot



Mike K., Jerry Z. and Greg H.



Get ready! Greenheads coming in



Micah Vorderbruggen and Frank Walther



Chris Decker



Chad Fix and Nicole Fortuna



Jim Vorderbruggen and members





# THE GALLERY



*Frank Walther MN Northern*



*Karl Anderson MN Eastern Gobbler*



*Scot Bowman MN Pheasants*



*Craig Simpson WI Black Bear*



*Ken Johnson KS Whitetail*



*Tara Carlson MN Mallards*



*Susan Therrien MN 13" Crappie*



*Pat Kellin Mentoring Young Hunter*



*Bill Vice MN Eastern Gobbler*



# THE GALLERY



Pat Kellin MN Eastern Gobbler



Scott Poehler Mille Lacs Walleye



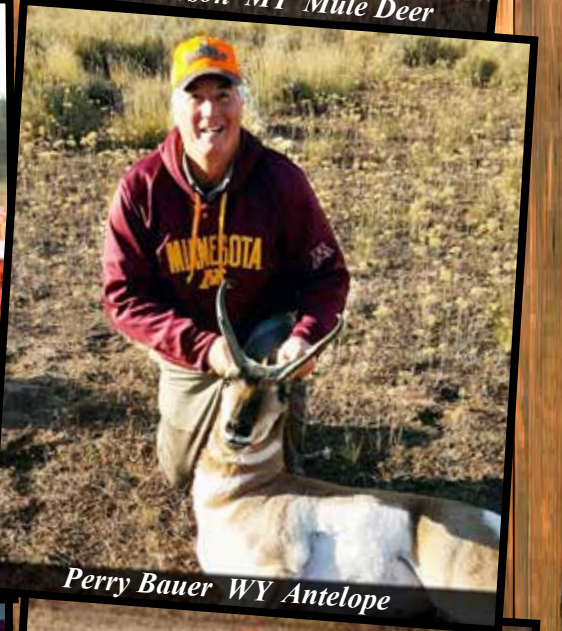
Karl Anderson MT Mule Deer



Doug Link MN Northern



Brigitte Kurkowski Pheasant Hunt



Perry Bauer WY Antelope



Nick Schons MN Whitetail



Scot Bowman MN Crappies



Emery & Scott Balts MN Whitetail



## Dakota County Deer Hunt

As I was driving down to Dakota County on the morning of September 16, I could see the lightning to the south. As I drove closer to the garage to meet the hunters, the lightning got worse, and I could tell the wind was picking up. We had enough hunters to fill the stands but with the wind and lightning, I didn't feel comfortable about using the metal elevator stand. So, we got all the hunters in the stands before the rain, which really came down hard at times.

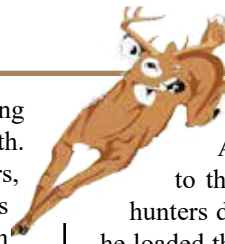


Gregg Runyon with a great buck

Even with as bad as the conditions were, Ken Johnson scored on two does, Carlos Martinez got a doe and Barry Hite got a doe, which is a little story in itself. I heard Barry shoot. We can use our phones to let the helpers know if we have a deer down and come and help. No call. It was early, but I couldn't believe Barry missed. So after about an hour I decided to do a drive by the end of the trail leading to Barry's stand. I stopped and watched for a few minutes. It looked like he was looking the other way. He didn't motion for me to come down; I didn't want to disturb his hunt. So I drove off. Just as I drove off, Barry saw me. He waved his hand, but I didn't see it.

He had shot a deer that was down. He had forgotten his cell phone in his backpack which was brought back to the garage. So, he had to sit there for a couple of hours before we went to pick him up. I think a flag backup system might be needed to indicate that a hunter wants us to come in.

Sunday was a little slower with only two deer being taken. Terrie Schrank took an unusual buck. One antler was normal, but the other one was all deformed. It was a really nice buck. We did find an injury to the leg on the opposite side of the deformed antler, where it looked like it might have been hit with a broadhead before. The other deer was a doe fawn taken by Dale Schons.



We had the second season setup for October 21. Again, as I was driving down I could see the lightning to the south. Bob Fashingbauer decided he could get the hunters down the hill to the two stands on the field below. So, he loaded the guys up and down he went. Well, it was a lot more slippery than we thought. The truck grabbed the mud and across the field he went. We got the hunters out and he made it back up the hill. After that we used the Ranger UTV with tracks to get a couple of the other guys out. Kyle, one of our young helpers, was assigned the task of running the Ranger with tracks. Not a bad way to kill a weekend - running a Ranger with tracks up and down the hills, and through the mud to get the hunters out. Way to go Kyle!

Dale Schons scored first on a real nice 7-point buck. On Sunday the weather was a little better. We talked Evan Newton into trying the field down the hill. This meant we had to strap him into the trailer and pull him with the tracked Ranger down the hill and across the field. It paid off. He saw a nice 8-point buck. He took a shot and called in for help. We sent trackers down to look for it. As he was waiting, he saw another 8-point buck, but couldn't shoot, not knowing if the first one was down. We couldn't find it. Because the hunter numbers were down for Sunday, I decided to try and get out. Man was I happy! I shot a dandy 8-point.

We had a lot of helpers to thank. Of course, Bob Fashingbauer and Kevin for all their work getting the stands out, and trails opened up. Dale Tribby had a big crew. I hope I don't miss any one. Cory Klopp, Jim Kotsmith, Gus Muench, Kyle Schultz, John Schultz, Josh Rauenhorst, Bob Tribby. We also had Joel, Jerry George and Trapper Bob. And of course, the helpers the hunters brought. So, thanks everyone for another great hunt.

Story by Gregg Runyon Dakota County/Vermillion Coordinator



Dale Schons's nice buck



## Carlos Avery Hunt

We had a team (Jerry George, Trapper Bob, Rich Fleming) out to open the stands up and make them ready. The food plots looked great, the corn and beans looked really good. Rich said they had recently turned the rye fields. With the corn, beans, and rye looking good, I thought we were going to have a great season. We just needed a little rain to green up the fields.

As usual, the rain hit at an inconvenient time. There was a downpour on the night of the pre-hunt meeting and I was surprised by how many hunters showed up. We opened the season on Saturday, October 7th with a light crew for the morning but a bunch more hunters coming out for the afternoon. In all, we had 15 hunters sign up for the hunt. Carlos Martinez scored first. He called in and said he had downed a fork buck. After we got it into the garage, we had our official scorer check it out. He said it would score four and a half points. Carlos said it was the biggest antlered deer he had ever taken. He was telling us how he planned on cooking up the different parts of the deer. It didn't sound like much was going to be wasted!

Then, as usual, the wind kicked in, and the deer didn't seem like they wanted to move much. We hunted hard for the week with just a few shots taken. It seemed the deer



Carlos Martinez



Carlos Avery deer blind

knew how to stay just out of range of our hunters. A few deer were seen and shots taken with little success. I thought Thursday might be a good chance for me to get out with only a few hunters out. I had a doe and two fawns come in. I waited and had the doe within 30 yards before I shot. The next day, the guys came out to find my deer and I told them where I had seen it

last night. She was right there. Good "tracking job" guys! With Friday looking like a real bad weather day, we decided not to hunt. We hunted again on Saturday and Sunday. Deer were seen and some shots taken. Again, the deer seemed to know what the safe distance was. So, we ended up with only two deer total.

Here's an interesting story from the hunt...We had a new hunter, Ron Kogler from Forest Lake. His wife Christy Kogler was going to be his helper. We put them out on a stand and we drove their car back to the garage. We told them to call when they wanted to come in. The phone rang with a good half hour of legal shooting time left. We told Christy this, but she said they were done.

So, the next evening we put them down the road watching the swamp, where she could get to her car on her own. Well again, a half hour before shooting time ended, they showed up at the garage. We again explained they were leaving in prime time. It was then that Christy told us she was scared to be in the woods after dark.

Well anyone that knows me knows I couldn't leave this alone. So as the hunt went on and they would come in early, I would pick on her about coming in early. Ron could only hunt until Monday. So, Monday we put them out on stand, and I told her what the end of legal shooting time was. To our surprise 15 minutes after legal shooting time (it took them that long to load up), Ron and Christy showed up at the garage. She got out of the car saying, "I stayed until the end of legal shooting time. I was going to show you I could." We all did high fives. Way to go Christy! I sure hope you and Ron had as good of time hunting as we all did having you out. Hopefully this fall we can get you both out again, and we can show you how to field dress a deer, which would be another adventure for Christy.

I want to thank Jerry George, Trapper Bob, Rich, Jeff Anschutz and Bill Vice for helping out on the hunt this year as volunteers.

Story by Gregg Runyon Carlos Avery Coordinator





## LQP Deer Hunt

We had a slow Deer season at Lac Qui Parle this year. With eleven hunters out on the stand, we managed to shoot six does and one spike buck. On opening morning, I saw a monster buck but was unable to get a shot on him. There are going to be some changes out there this year. Dean Petersen will be taking over as head Coordinator. I will stay on as an assistant Coordinator.

We will also be doing some repairs to blind and ramps. Blind ten will be rebuilt and moved to a new location. We hope to improve the hunt for all our members. If you have any questions or need help in any way, please let the board or your Coordinators know. We will do our best to make this or any other event the best and accessible for you.

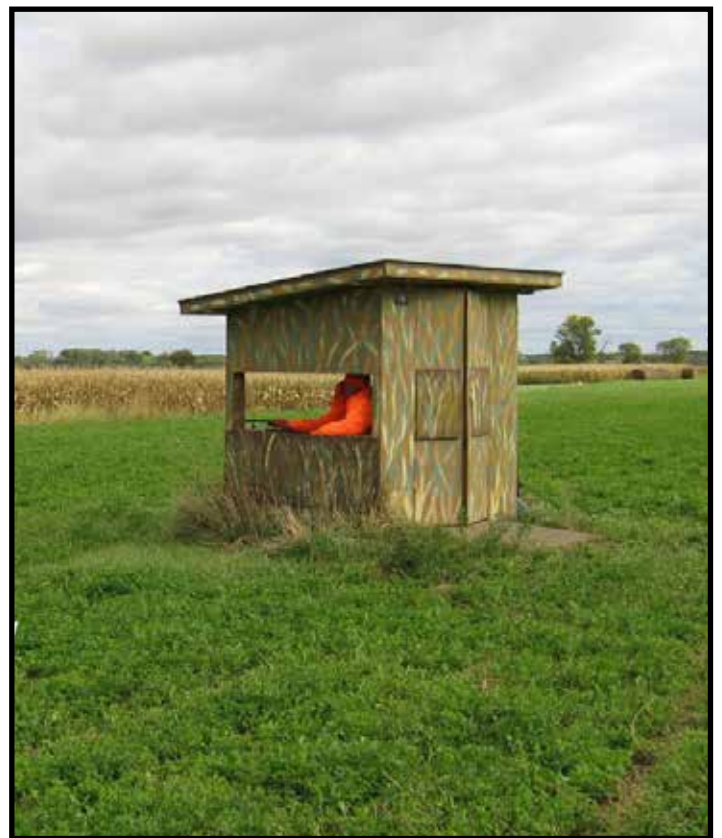
Story by Nate Sjolín LQP Coordinator



Claudia Perkins with a nice doe



A nice 8pt whitetail buck and doe



LQP blind over looking alfalfa and corn fields





## Becklin Homestead Deer Hunt

It was the first day of the 2017 deer hunting season at Becklin Homestead Park in Cambridge. I took last pick of the blinds because I had hunted there every year from the start and wanted to give others the chance to hunt this great spot that I have been blessed to enjoy.



vitals and pulled the trigger. I could see I had made a good lung shot. The buck ran only forty yards and fell.

I told Shane, "that was in memory of Greg Waite and Allen Buss," whom I had told Shane all about during the afternoon of our hunt. They were the CP members who originally worked to get the Becklin Homestead Park property for us to hunt.

I would like to say thanks to Bill Vice, Jeff Anschutz, Gary Anderson, our coordinator Scott Linder and all our other helpers that I might have missed. Scott ended up being sick during the hunt, so we hope he is able to join us next year.

Story by George Bruhn, Jr.



George Bruhn, Jr.

I was lucky enough to have the help of Shane Peterson. It was the first time we had met and we hit it off. After we were set up in the blind, I waited to load my gun until Shane returned from parking his car away from our blind. He told me all about his grandparents, and it was very interesting. His grandparents were the Becklins who left the proper to the DNR wish create the park it is today. They had a rough life, but the grandchildren would come out every weekend for cookouts and chopping wood because that was the only way to cook and heat their house.

After visiting for a while, he pointed out a fawn standing in the woods and we watched it walk by. About an hour later, a spike buck was standing where the fawn had been, and my heart started racing. It was a young deer, just the way I like them. I am a meat hunter rather than hunting for big antlers. I haven't shot a deer in two years. I decided to take this deer if I could.

The buck started walking towards the blind. I picked out a spot up ahead of it where I thought it would walk, but it walked too fast and I didn't get to shoot. So, I moved the gun ahead to the next shooting lane, but again I couldn't pull the trigger in time. Now I had to pick the gun up and move it around a post. I hit the post but the deer must not have heard it because it was still walking right to the blind. I pointed the gun right out in front of me; the buck was at 25 yards. So I put the crosshairs on his



A nice 8pt whitetail buck



Becklin Homestead deer blind





## River Valley Archery Deer

This is my third year with Capable Partners, an organization that has changed my life. I am grateful for the opportunities to be outdoors and hunting – a lifelong activity for me. It is so nice to just sit, watch, and enjoy the fall while the seasons change. It's even better when you have the chance to see and harvest a deer!

I can remember two hunting seasons ago, before I was a member of Capable Partners, all I was doing was staying home and going to doctor appointments. I was not doing much and thought there was nothing I could do physically, like play basketball, set up to ice fish, and work. I started to get depressed. Then one of the staff at the MN Valley National Wildlife Refuge, where I volunteer, mentioned Capable Partners.

I went to the meeting at the refuge about archery deer hunting and met the coordinator Evan Newton. He told me about Capable

Partners and the archery deer hunting program. I was hooked. During that first deer season, I hunted with Evan and he gave me tips on how to hunt the area. Now I look forward to getting down into the river valley as often as possible. In 2017, I hunted 29 times, which was just over half of the total 57 visits by all hunters.



Selfie taker Dale Schons and Tony Gutzwiller with his big doe

This year, I hunted all three locations included in the MN Valley Archery Deer Hunt – Long Meadow Lake (LML), Bloomington Ferry (BF), and Chaska (C). I've hunted in all four months of the archery deer season – September through December. I have seen my share of deer in September while there are still leaves on the trees giving the deer cover and plenty to eat. I have seen deer in October after the leaves have fallen. I have seen deer in the snows of November and in the bitter cold of December.

At LML there is a game trail right where the blinds are. Morning or evening, it doesn't matter because you will see deer either as you are hunting or as you are driving in. Even though I haven't taken a deer yet, I would say the deer are abundant. Our task is to get a buck or doe and help control these urban deer!

Now BF is a different situation, because there are high weeds until the first frost. There I have seen bucks, does, and fawns. Even though it's not a hard-packed trail, the two blinds (new this year) are easy to get to either by walking or by wheelchair. It's peaceful. You have a choice of which blind you want to go to. For the capable hunters in November and December it gets a little better because the stinging nettles have died back. The deer are up and staying warm looking for food. Keep a watchful eye because it's an urban hunt; you may run into off-leash dogs, and people. Just remember, safety first.

I only hunted Chaska one day this year when there was deep snow. I saw deer as I was driving in but none while I was hunting. It was late season and really cold. I'm glad that I have better gear to keep warm while it is zero degrees and blowing.

On Christmas day 2017, I hadn't gotten a deer yet so my helper and I decided to go hunting at LML. In the morning, he loaded



Capable Partners archery blind





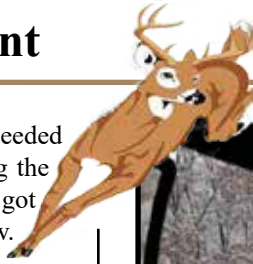
## River Valley Archery Hunt

my gear into the truck. We drove to the LML gate and proceeded into the refuge on the gravel road. While we were driving the two miles in, we saw about 40 deer crossing the road. We got to our hunting area, parked, and I grabbed my crossbow.

As we were walking on the trail to the third platform, I saw a buck and a doe grazing about 40 yards away. They did not see me so I unzipped my crossbow case. They stayed grazing. I pulled out my rope cocker to cock my bow. They stayed grazing. I cocked the bow. They stayed grazing. I put the bolt in the bow. Still they stayed grazing! I raised my bow to aim and clicked off the safety. By the time I went to get one in my sights, the deer were gone. I couldn't believe it!

I love going into the valley to hunt deer. Let's get out there and enjoy the outdoors!

Story by George Peters



## Spring Turkeys



Dave Martti with MN Eastern turkey



Scot Bowman with MN Eastern turkey



Craig Simpson with Merriam turkey



Greg Hance with MN turkey



Jay Fiegum & Pat Kellin with MN Eastern turkey



Lee Zeman with MN Eastern





## LeBlanc's Pheasant & Pigeon Shoot



It was a new place for pheasant hunting for Capable Partners (CP) with a new approach for our pheasant and pigeon shoot. What a great place to be? CP has a turkey shoot here so it always feels like home when we come to LeBlanc's Rice Creek Hunting and Recreation near Little Falls.

We went out to the field with birds hidden in the trees. We lined up around the trees spaced apart so there is no chance of shooting another hunter. The pheasants are turned loose a few at a time. Boy, are they fast!

Some of us did real good and some of us need more practice. If you think the pheasants were fast, try shooting at the pigeons! They are nearly supersonic. If you blinked, you missed them.

Everyone went home with cleaned birds. Many hunters are talking about next year. Most say they intend to bring more shells. A great time was had by all attending.

Story by Violet Foster Coordinator



Back row: Greg, David, Mark, Darrell, Jim, Jeff, Jerry, Ray, Louis D., Louis C., Karl, Jerry, Gregg Front: Don, George, Ken, Reece, Violet



George Bruhn, Jr.



Don Savage



Louis C. Bernier





## LeBlanc's Pheasant & Pigeon Shoot



Violet Foster with a table full of birds



Members heading out to shoot



Olie and Gregg Runyon with Tom Gindorff's new machine



George Bruhn, Jr., Ken Johnson and Darrell Erickson



LeBlanc's dogs doing a great job, helping retrieve birds for members





## My First Elk

My elk hunt began by contacting Big Al McCarty of Chairbound Hunters in Wyoming in the winter of 2016. Al replied the next summer to tell me I was the lucky hunter to be picked to receive a Wyoming elk tag! Al explained he wasn't comfortable with my using my .243 caliber rifle for elk. With the rotator cuff tear to my right shoulder, I was not excited about trying to shoot a larger caliber rifle, but I was excited to purchase another weapon! I told my friend Pat Moore of Silent Ability that I was looking for recoil relief. He let me try his .308 with a suppressor. I have to admit I was a little ignorant as to what a suppressor was - and it's potential. After shooting it, I was pleasantly surprised by the recoil relief. The suppressor had less recoil than my standard .223. I was sold on buying the .308 and adapting it with a suppressor.

With such a short time period to purchase the rifle, we were under some pressure to have it adapted with my bite trigger and the suppressor. Fortunately I already had a cable, housing, and aluminum-machined bite trigger in my garage. With the help of Jon Fettig at Engineered Silence, I purchased the gun, mounted the scope, and installed the bite trigger and suppressor. On top of all this, there were also two or three times Pat and Jon took off of work to help me sight in. Scott Linder also was nice enough to help me sight in. I had everything completed with two days to spare, before I left for my hunt of a lifetime.

I made plans to leave Minneapolis, Minnesota on September 14, 2017 with my wife, Ann. I am no longer able to drive long distance because of a torn rotator cuff, so she offered to drive. It was a good excuse to get away with her as well. The first day we drove 600 miles and stayed in a beautiful motel in Custer State Park, in the Black Hills of South Dakota, with an amazing view. We were up bright and early the next day and arrived in Wheatland, Wyoming in the afternoon. We met Big Al, Sharon, and Marv of Chairbound Hunters later that day, and signed all my licenses. We made plans to meet them at 3:30 a.m. the next morning. The first day the weather did not cooperate. It was raining heavy, with up to 30 mile-an-hour gusts. We drove to the elk hunting parking area, and for over an hour, we watched the rain and the sunrise.

After a while, Big Al made the decision that the weather was not even ideal enough to sit in the blind, and chances were not good that the elk would move. So, the plan was to go antelope hunting the remainder of the day. The antelope definitely did not want to cooperate with the high winds and were very skittish. We saw several nice bucks, but they did not offer a shot.

The second day the winds decreased and the rain had moved out of the area. We decided to go antelope hunting in the morning, and



Craig Simpson with his first elk, 6 x 6 bull

elk hunt out of the blind in the evening. Again, we saw quite a few antelope bucks, but no shooters within range. That afternoon we went up to the elk blind. I was so pumped up for my first opportunity to harvest an elk! My tag allowed me to harvest a bull or a cow, but I really wanted to harvest a bull. If it was big enough I would mount it. Marv, Ann and I were in the blind. We sat there for 3 hours and watched a beautiful sunset with a few mule deer off in the distance.

The third day we decided to do the same thing; antelope hunt in the morning, and elk hunt out of the blind in the evening. I don't know what it was, but the antelope were nowhere to be seen. Word must have gotten out that we were in town (lol)!





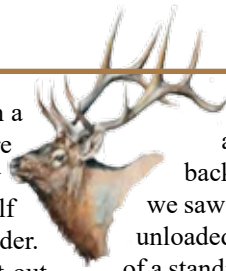
## My First Elk

We had a beautiful drive to the elk blind. We must have seen a dozen antelope and a few shooters, but unfortunately they were not in my harvest area. While sitting in the blind with Marv and Larry, it was an uneventful evening until an hour and a half before sunset. Then, "Eagle Eye" Larry tapped us on the shoulder. Larry points straight out and whispers, "we have elk straight out at 509 yards!" I pulled up my scope and had elk in the crosshairs for the first time in my life. How exciting! It was a 3 x 3 bull with a cow and a calf. Unfortunately it was too far away and was on private property that we did not have permission to hunt. We glassed them for about 20 minutes hoping that they would move down within shooting range and onto our hunting property. They never did, and that's why they call it hunting. We were still very excited and very encouraged that we were able to see some elk from the blind.

The fourth day was like the first day. The weather was not cooperating. We had a light drizzle and extremely high wind. Like my father always said, "Craig, you're not going to harvest anything sitting on the couch." The game plan was for me to get up on the ridge looking down into the canyon. Fred and Larry would work the heavy timber in hopes of pushing some elk off their beds and up the canyon for me.

While waiting for Fred and Larry to get in position, Al was glassing a nearby mountainside and spotted a beautiful elk. It was a 1050 yards away though. But let me tell you, when you put your crosshairs on something that large, even though it's that far away, it gets your heart pounding! Getting the elk up and out of their beds was definitely the right thing to do, but the elk had other ideas about coming up through the canyon and offering me a shot. In all, there were 13 cows and calves counted, and one small bull, not counting the big one we saw off in the distance.

On the way back home that evening, we decided to do a little antelope hunting in hopes of spotting a shooter, and getting into position for a shot. We did spot some nice antelope bucks, but I wasn't comfortable with the high winds and how far my bullet might drift horizontally. The day ended with a lot of stories about the elk that we saw that afternoon. On the 5th day we made the decision to go to the blind just as it was getting light out. We hadn't tried that yet with rain and



high winds. As we rolled up slowly to the blind it was already 10 minutes past legal shooting time. I was in the backseat of a 4-door pickup prepared to shoot, just in case we saw something out in the meadow before we were able to get unloaded to sit for the morning hunt. It's legal for me to shoot out of a standing motor vehicle if you have the proper permits, which I do. As we were creeping up to the blind, I feel the vehicle stopped



Sunset from the Wyoming elk blind

suddenly. I see Al glassing off to the left in the meadow. The next thing I remember hearing is Al stating we have a nice bull elk off to the left at 125 yards. Extremely exciting! I shoulder the gun, and with the weakness of my shoulder, the gun flopped on its side for a moment. It takes me a few seconds to get it to my shoulder again. The bull is extremely nervous. He is a wild elk, and in no way is this a fenced in hunt. I have the gun shouldered, but he has started to moving and trot off. Fortunately, Al whistles, and the elk stops at 200 yards. I know within seconds this bull is going to start running again and be out of sight. I'm

definitely not comfortable taking a running shot. I focus on putting the crosshairs on the bull's vitals, and I bite down slowly on my trigger, making sure not to jerk it. The gun goes off. Still looking through the scope, I see the bull drop right in his tracks!

Inside the truck, celebration erupts with elation and excitement from everyone. Lots of high fives, and we thanked the Lord for everything coming together for this incredible harvesting of such a beautiful 6 x 6 bull elk. My biggest regret is this is the one morning my wife Ann decides to stay back and sleep in. I harvest this elk without having her experiencing it with me. I did have my hunting buddy with me in spirit. My father was the biggest influence in getting me involved in this great sport of hunting at the age of 10. I owe it all to him for creating the drive within me to go on these hunts that are so challenging for a quadriplegic of my level.

Unfortunately my father passed away August 23, 2017, just prior to this hunt. However, his spirit was with me helping me focus on my shot and guiding my bullet to a successful harvest of this incredible animal. I do miss being able to share my elk hunt with my father. He would have been hanging on every word of my story. If I recall correctly, I think he asked me



Continued on page 56





## My First Elk

things about my upcoming hunt every time I saw him- the last few months before his passing. And that's what life is about; a father and a son creating lifelong memories.



With all the celebrating, I still heard Big Al say the bull elk was one of the biggest ones that he had seen in the area. We were all so excited that it took us a while to figure out what we were going to do next. It was 41 degrees out, so there was no rush to get it field dressed. The number one thing was trying to figure out how we would get me down there. We tried a few different spots, but were unsuccessful getting the pickup over to the elk. Then we had Larry unload his four-wheeler. He went over to check out the elk and was fortunate enough to find a trail that we could drive the pickup right to it. Now the fun starts. We get me unloaded out of the pickup. Marv has been busting his butt doing the fireman's carry with me the last 5 days and helps me into my wheelchair for pictures.

Everybody is reliving what just happened, with big smiles on their faces. After taking pictures, and field dressing it, it was still a struggle to get the beast loaded into the pickup, even though the pickup was right there. After getting it tagged properly, we headed to town to pick up my wife Ann, and then dropped off the elk at the butcher. I had it caped out for a shoulder-mount, and the meat would be ready in two days.



A beautiful view from the Wyoming elk blind

The day was still early. I think it was 1:00pm and I still had my antelope tag left. I told Al at the beginning of this adventure that it would just be a bonus if I was able to harvest an antelope. The number one thing was to harvest an elk. We had lunch and ventured out to the antelope hunting grounds, with Ann along this time. Hopefully we would experience harvesting an antelope together. It didn't take long before we spotted a shooter. Fortunately the rut had just started, so the bucks were a little distracted, worrying about fighting off rival bucks. With Al's knowing this country like the back of his hand, he weaved us around hills and over rocks. We popped up over this hillside,



Craig Simpson and Big Al McCarty

and there it was standing broadside at 200 yards! I'm reliving what I had just done seven hours ago - putting the crosshairs on the vitals, gently biting down and holding it there until I see the animal drop or take off. I witnessed the antelope drop to the ground in my scope.

What an unbelievable day! When I woke up this morning, I could have never imagined harvesting two beautiful animals. It was a total group effort, and I owe many thanks to my wife Ann, for driving and for all her great care. I also would like to thank and recognize Big Al; all these hunts would never have been possible without his year-round, dedicated work!

Also, Sharon, Marv, Larry and Fred at Chairbound Hunters. They worked so hard to make this an outstanding hunt of a lifetime. To Pat and Ruth Moore at Silent Ability, thank you for talking me into trying Pat's suppressed 308,. They convinced me to not give up on my dream of going on this incredible hunting adventure, despite the recent passing of my father. Also, Jon Fettig at Engineered Silence, for mounting the scope, installing the bite trigger and mounting the suppressor.

Last but certainly not least, I am thankful for the generosity of a particular family who help me on this trip. I have never met Brittany Isle, or her father Brian K. Olson. Brittany lost her father June 25, 2017. She wanted to do something special in memory of her father, who would have loved to be able to go out west on a big game hunt. Because of her donations to Chairbound Hunters to help a disabled hunter fulfill their hunting dream, my hunt was in memory of Brian K. Olson.

Story by Craig Simpson





## Wyoming Hunting Opportunity

Chairbound Hunters is a nonprofit organization designed exclusively for persons who are wheelchair bound, blind, or terminally ill. Wounded Veterans are also welcome. These persons are taken out to hunt antelope, deer, elk and /or turkey by one of our board members or a qualified helper.

We request that our hunters be actively chair bound. Paraplegics must be able to maneuver well in rough terrain for short distances, perform transfers, etc. Quadriplegics are welcome, but please bring an attendant to help assist.

Why only chair bound? We realize there are many different disabilities; however, not being able to use one's legs at all gives the hunter a distinct disadvantage. Also, we feel that, although there are many wonderful organizations helping chair bound hunters, there are just not enough. We will consider each individual on a case-by-case basis.

The persons selected must have hunting and shooting experience/practice at distances of as much as 400 yards. First and foremost, we want to be absolutely safe, we also owe it to the game that we hunt to be as humane as possible and put them down quickly.

No alcohol or illegal drug use of any type will be tolerated while hunting. If a hunter is caught with any amount, he/she will be immediately dismissed from the hunt. We will hunt out of pickups (the hunter must have a permit through Wyoming Game and Fish to shoot from a vehicle), side-by-sides, and/or ground blinds.



Most of the area that we hunt will be rugged, so keep in mind it won't be a smooth ride. Chairbound Hunters is a small group of people committed to helping give the chair bound hunters the opportunity to experience quality hunting in beautiful Southeast Wyoming.

Our reward is seeing the enjoyment our clients receive.

All donations are appreciated and are tax deductible.

If interested, please contact  
Big Al McCarty 307-331-1143

[www.chairboundhunters.com](http://www.chairboundhunters.com)





## Silent Ability Recoil Relief

**S**ilent Ability came about when its founder, Patrick Moore, realized one of his long-time friends, Craig Simpson, was going to pass a chance to go on his first elk hunt due to a shoulder injury making it impossible for him to use a large caliber rifle without permanent damage to his shoulder.

Pat had suppressors he had acquired for recreational purposes but quickly realized they could be a very necessary piece of medical equipment for his friend. So Pat set to work doing the legal paperwork and finding the machinists and engineers needed to outfit Craig with a shooting rest for his wheelchair and suppressor to go hunting. From this first project, Silent Ability was born.

Now Pat and Craig wish to help others benefit from their knowledge of outdoor equipment. Pat and Craig are joined by a small group of dedicated volunteers who desire to help one physically challenged person at a time outfit for their dream hunt. Silent Ability is a non-profit organization that is committed to helping physically challenged people remain active in outdoor sports, especially hunting and shooting. We recognized the use of suppressors (aka silencers) on firearms can be essential to people with physical challenges due to the reduction of recoil as well as the obvious reduction in noise.

Many people with physical challenges suffer from upper body injuries that prevent them from shooting firearms that recoil significantly. The use of suppressors can allow these people to continue to use the firearms they need to pursue their dreams of remaining active in the hunting and shooting sports. Silent Ability shall promote the legal use of suppressors and help outfit people with physical challenges who can benefit from the use of suppressors and any other mobility equipment needed to maintain their participation in hunting and the shooting sports. Silent Ability will draw on its attorney, engineering, and machinist resources to use donor money to outfit physically challenged people.



President Pat Moore

If you would like to fill out an application and read success stories, please visit: <http://silentability.org/>

If you have question, contact Pat at [pat@silentability.org](mailto:pat@silentability.org)

Story by Pat Moore



Craig Simpson and Jon Fetting





## TraxxForce All-Terrain Power Chair

The TraxxForce all-terrain power chair from Northern Engineering and Manufacturing, Inc (NEMI) in Zimmerman, MN is designed to help people have the freedom to get off the paved path. The sturdy, steel frame, extra-large front casters, and Power Soccer Shop Traxx technology allow the chair to tackle mud, sand and uneven terrain with ease.



It's powered by two 12-volt rechargeable gel batteries. It runs using a joystick and a highly adjustable five speed controller. It has a shroud covering the joystick with a hand warmer to help keep your operating hand warm. One of the options available is a power seat that allows you to adjust your weight while going up or downhill. There are also seating and armrest options.



Testing this chair I found it had plenty of power and was able to handle tough terrain. I took it into the woods and was able to go over eight inch logs with no problem. What impressed me the most was the maneuverability because I was able to go around trees and brush just like a person walking. This unit's compact size easily fits into a ground blind and it is also narrow enough to go up the ramp on my accessible van. I could go up and down hills without slipping. If you are looking for an all-terrain power chair to help you navigate the outdoors, the TraxxForce might just be the answer.

For more information or to see this chair in action call Douglas Bermel at 612-750-2826

## Pheasant Recipe

### Gayle's Barbecued Pheasant

Gayle Grossman – Little Moran Hunting Club, Staples, MN



- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon freshly ground pepper
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- 2 dressed pheasants (or substitute 1 ½ to 2 ½ lbs each), cut up, skin on
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 2 tablespoons margarine or butter
- SAUCE:**
- 1 ¾ cups catsup
- ½ cup salsa
- ½ cup finely chopped onion
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
- ½ teaspoon dry mustard

Per serving: Calories: 573  
Protein: 44g  
Carbohydrate: 41g  
Fat: 25g  
Cholesterol: N/A  
Sodium: 1143 mg  
Exchanges: 1 starch,  
5 medium-fat meat,  
2 ¾ vegetable,  
¾ fruit, ¼ fat

Heat oven to 325 degrees. In shallow dish, combine flour, salt, pepper and garlic powder. Dredge pheasant pieces in flour mixture to coat. In 12-inch non-stick skillet, heat oil and margarine over medium-high heat. Add half of pheasant pieces. Cook for 10 to 12 minutes, or until meat is browned, turning occasionally. Transfer pheasant pieces to 13 x 9 inch baking dish. Repeat with remaining pheasant pieces.

In medium mixing bowl, combine sauce ingredients. Pour sauce over pheasant pieces. Cover dish with foil. Bake for 1 to 1 ½ hours, or until meat is tender and juices run clear.

YIELD: 6 to 8 servings





# 2018 Calendar of Events

For updated calendar go to  
[www.capablepartners.org](http://www.capablepartners.org)



April 2018			
April 7	Pheasant Shoot at Major Ave Glencoe, MN, able-bodied can shoot, all \$10 ea Must wear orange and safety glasses. Hearing protection is suggested.	Greg Hance	763-258-4293
April 14	Pheasant Field Hunt at Whispering Emerald Ridge Menomonie, WI Must wear orange and safety glasses. Hearing protection is suggested	Ken Johnson	651-792-2079
<b>MN Spring Turkey Season</b>	Turkey Hunting at Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN	Dean Clapp	763-856-2946
	Turkey Hunting at Sand Prairie Wildlife Management Area St Cloud, MN	Gregg Runyon	763-441-2834
	Turkey Hunting at Carlos Avery State WMA Blinds Available Columbus, MN	Call Refuge	651-296-5290
	Turkey Hunting at Becklin Homestead County Park / WMA Cambridge, MN	Pat Moore	612-790-3737
	Turkey Hunting at Maple Grove by Archery Only for pre-qualified members	Lee Zeman	763-913-2778
	Turkey Hunting at Chaska by Archery Only MN Valley NWR Chaska, MN	Evan Newton	952-831-6758
May			
May 6	Mark Ryan Turkey Shoot at LeBlanc's Rice Creek Hunting Little Falls, MN Ablebody can shoot, all shooter pay \$35 each	Gregg Runyon	763-441-2834
May 19	Lake Mille Lacs Fishing 4pm -10pm Nitti's Hunters Point Isle, MN ☞ In Memory of Bertha Hanson ☞	Violet Foster	763-444-4427
June			
June 2	Fishing at Knotty Oar on pontoons Prior Lake, MN With the Prior Lake Sportmen's Club providing boats, poles, and bait.	Brigitte Kurkowski	651-734-8961
June 2	Lake Mille Lacs Fishing 4pm -10pm Nitti's Hunters Point Isle, MN ☞ In Memory of Martin Simpson ☞	Violet Foster	763-444-4427
June 10	Fishing with Muskies, Inc. on Lake Minnetonka at Surfside Park Mound, MN Variety of boats, trolling available, lunch provided	Rod Guthier	952-888-6494
June 15	Trout Fishing at Sylvan Park pond (show up at 8am) Lanesboro, MN Equipment and bait available, no trout stamp needed, lunch provided	Evan Newton	952-831-6758
June 23	Lake Mille Lacs Fishing 4pm -10pm Nitti's Hunters Point Isle, MN ☞ Sponsored by Winkley Orthopedics ☞	Violet Foster	763-444-4427
July			
July 14	Picnic at Isanti County Sportsman's Club Cambridge, MN There will be free shotgun shells Trap, Archery, Rifle and Pistol ranges open	Violet Foster	763-444-4427
July 26	Baseball Game Saints vs Wichita 15 ablebody & 15 disabled ticket \$20 each	Scott Linder	763-486-3192
August			
August 1	Lake Pulaski Fishing at Pulaski West Park Buffalo, MN	Jim Zumbusch	320-963-5879
August 4	ATV Ride at Isle, MN Bring your own machine or rides available ☞ Sponsored by Leo's South and Walter's Recycling ☞	Ken Johnson	651-792-2079
August 4	Lake Minnetonka Fishing at Rockvram Boat Yard Spring Park, MN	Dave Heidtke	763-535-2718
August 10-12 & 17-19	Booth Game Fair Ramsey, MN A great opportunity to help Capable Partners and attend for free	Violet Foster Dick Ransom	763-444-4427 320-274-5196
August 28	Sight - in all weapons at Monticello Rod and Gun Club Monticello, MN	Jim Vorderbruggen	763-497-3330
September			
September 4	Sight - in all weapons at Monticello Rod and Gun Club Monticello, MN Qualify for big game hunts (Rifle, Slug gun, Muzzel loader, and Archery)	Jim Vorderbruggen	763-497-3330
September 6	Sight - in all weapons 2 - 7 PM at Isanti County Sportsman's Club Qualify for big game hunts (Rifle, Slug gun, Muzzel loader, and Archery)	Bill Vice	612-232-2495
September 8	Pheasant Shoot at Major Ave Glencoe, MN able-bodied can shoot, all \$10 ea Must wear orange and safety glasses. Hearing protection is suggested	Greg Hance	763-258-4293
<b>Please contact the listed coordinators at least six weeks ahead. New member preference cut-off is one month in advance.</b>			

Updated Calendar: [www.CapablePartners.org](http://www.CapablePartners.org)  
If a phone number has changed, email: [info@capablepartners.org](mailto:info@capablepartners.org)  
Main phone #: 763-439-1038



# 2018 Calendar of Events

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September (continued)			
September 9	Pheasant Shoot at LeBlanc's Rice Creek Little Falls, MN Able-bodied can shoot, all shooter pay \$10 each Must wear orange and safety glasses. Hearing protection suggested	Violet Foster	763-444-4427
September 15	Lake Mille Lacs Fishing 4pm -10pm Nitti's Hunters Point Isle, MN Sponsored by Winkley Orthopedics	Violet Foster	763-444-4427
Sept 15 - 16	Vermillion Dakota County Deer Hunt Morning & Evening Rosemount, MN	Gregg Runyon	763-441-2834
Sept 15 - 23	Lac qui Parle Deer Hunt at Lac qui Parle WMA Watson, MN Contact Dean by July 15, 2017 to get into blind drawing for first weekend	Dean Petersen	612-388-0156
Sept 15 - Oct 19	Archery Deer Hunt at Becklin Cambridge, MN (closed during gun season)	Pat Moore	612-790-3737
Archery Deer Season Sept 15 - Dec 31	MN Valley NWR (must pre qualify) Bloomington and Chaska	Evan Newton	952-831-6758
	Maple Grove (must pre qualify and attend city meeting every other year)	Lee Zeman	763-913-2778
	Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN (closed during gun season)	Steve Rein	320-293-6366
September 15	Duck Shoot at Marsh Lake Hunting Preserve Victoria, MN	Andy Akins Steve Scheunemann	612-868-4587 952-445-0213
Sept 22 - TBA	MNRV Waterfowl Hunting Jim Vorderbruggen 763-497-3330 Darren Dorn 763-301-0538	Steve Scheunemann Greg Hance Nate Sjolín	952-445-0213 763-258-4293 763-286-9086
Sept 22 - TBA	Waterfowl Hunting at Carlos Avery WMA Columbus, MN	Darren Dorn	763-301-0538
Sept 22 - TBA	Waterfowl Hunting at Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN	Dean Clapp	763-856-2946
September 25	Sight - in all weapons at Monticello Rod and Gun Club Monticello, MN Qualify for big game hunts (Rifle, Slug gun, Muzzleloader, and Archery)	Gregg Runyon	763-441-2834
October			
October 1	Carlos Avery Hunt Meeting at Carlos Avery Machine Shed Columbus, MN Required for those who intend to participate in Carlos Avery deer hunt	Gregg Runyon	763-441-2834
October 6 - 14	Deer Hunt at Carlos Avery State WMA Columbus, MN	Gregg Runyon	763-441-2834
October 18	Becklin Homestead Hunt Meeting 6:00pm at Isanti Co Sportsman's Club	Scott Linder	763-486-3192
October 20 - 21	Deer Hunt at Vermillion Dakota Co. Morning & Evening Rosemount, MN	Gregg Runyon	763-441-2834
Oct 27 - Nov 4	Deer Hunt (rifle) at Becklin Homestead Co Park Cambridge, MN	Scott Linder	763-486-3192
November			
Nov 3 - Nov 11	Deer Hunt (gun) at Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN	Steve Rein	320-293-6366
Nov 5 - Dec 31	Late Season Archery Deer Hunt at Becklin Homestead Co Cambridge, MN	Pat Moore	612-790-3737
Nov 24 - Dec 9	Muzzleloader Deer Hunt at Becklin Homestead Co Park Cambridge, MN	Pat Moore	612-790-3737
Nov 24 - Dec 9	Muzzleloader Deer Hunt at Sherburne NWR Zimmerman, MN	Steve Rein	320-293-6366
2019			
January - March			
Jan - Mar 2019	Ice Fishing Fish House # 1 at Medicine Lake Plymouth, MN	Bob Lindig	612-224-6330
Jan - Mar 2019	Ice Fishing Fish House # 2 Ice Castle variety of lakes in western MN	Nate Sjolín	763-286-9086
March			
March 2, 2019	Banquets of Minnesota in the Grand Olympian Ballroom Fridley, MN Social hour, prizes, silent auction, awards	Violet Foster	763-444-4427
Please contact the listed coordinators at least six weeks ahead. New member preference cut-off is one month in advance.			

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# MEMBER'S TRAIL CAM GALLERY



Big black bear



8pt whitetail



Doe and her two fawns



9pt & 8pt whitetail facing off



9 pt whitetail in velvet



Beautiful red fox



10pt whitetail



Sandhill crane



8pt whitetail





# Capable Partners, Inc.



*Providing hunting, fishing and related opportunities for the physically challenged*  
*capablepartners.org P. O. Box 27664 Golden Valley, MN 55427-0664 p.(763)-439-1038*

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND DONATION FORM

**Complete this form online or manually and print, then mail to the address above**

What if you were to become physically challenged and couldn't hunt or fish anymore? What if you are physically challenged and you want to go hunting and fishing again? Now you can have a partner to renew or inspire your love of these sports and to provide access to a safe and exciting adventure in the Great Outdoors!

### MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Capable Partners updates only)**

Optional - Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you work full-time? Yes ☐ No ☐

What is / was your occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have transportation? Yes ☐ No ☐

### EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_

*In the event of an emergency, please identify any information to be relayed to an emergency caregiver:*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### I AM: (check all that apply)

☐ PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED

What are your limitations? \_\_\_\_\_

☐ ABLE BODIED ☐ SCOOTER ☐ CANE

☐ WHEELCHAIR ☐ WALKER ☐ CRUTCHES

### INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS or DIRECTED CONTRIBUTIONS

☐ FISHING (Summer) (check all that apply)

☐ FISHING (Winter) ☐ DUCK/GOOSE

☐ ARCHERY DEER ☐ PHEASANT

☐ SHOTGUN DEER ☐ TURKEY

☐ RIFLE DEER ☐ ATV RIDE

☐ MUZZLELOADER ☐ VETERAN

**NOTE: To be eligible to be a physically challenged deer hunter, you must have proof of a Hunt from a Standing Motor Vehicle Permit.**

HSMVP Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Contributions are Welcome! All contributions and donations may qualify as tax deductible. Capable Partners is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. A contribution can be designated for a specific outing, purchasing fishing or hunting gear or underwriting other activities such as the newsletter, annual picnic, annual banquet, or general fund.

☐ I have enclosed a \$25.00 fee for membership

☐ I am requesting a scholarship for membership

☐ I have enclosed \_\_\_\_\_ as a contribution

☐ Specific outing contribution \_\_\_\_\_

☐ If you have a boat or land for Capable Partner's use, please check this box.





Capable Partners, Inc.  
P.O. Box 27664  
Golden Valley, MN 55427-0664

