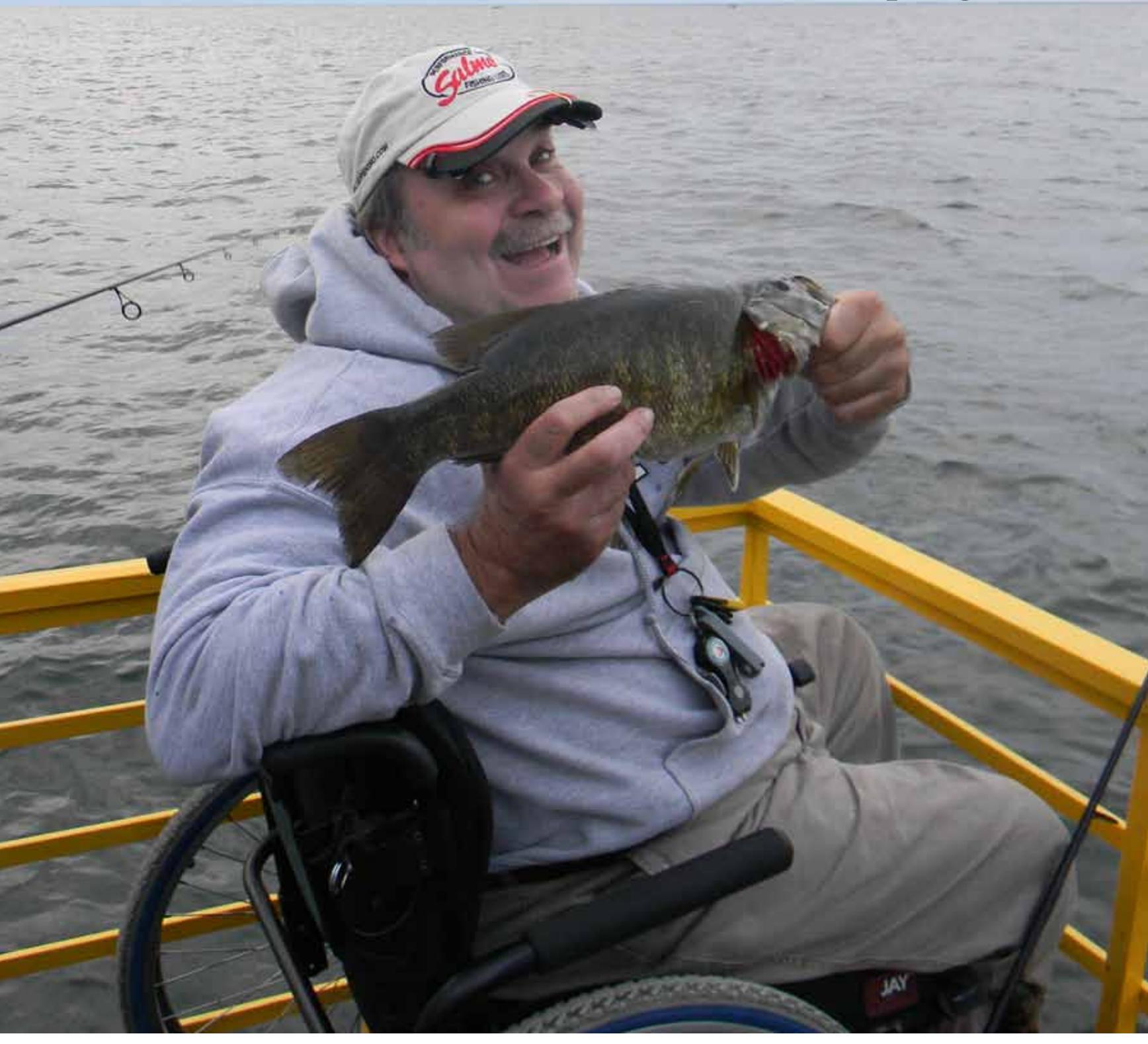


partner *in action*

Issue No 29
Spring 2016



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Outdoor News

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Wells Fargo

Whistlin' Wings Taxidermy

Wil Nordin

Wildlife Research Center

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Winkley Orthopedics

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partner in action

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Capable Partners, Inc. is in good tax - exempt
standing with the state of Minnesota
as a non-profit organization and is
registered as a 501(c)(3)
organization with the I.R.S. of the
United States government.

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 230 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.

Our Vision & Mission

The Vision and Mission of Capable Partners is to foster a well-known and respected, Twin Cities based, non-profit organization of outdoors enthusiasts who volunteer their time and talents to provide hunting, fishing, and other outdoor opportunities for the physically challenged.

Our Goals

- 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 Values

- Friendship and Fraternity
- Family participation and support
- Independence through doing
- Education and awareness
- Self-esteem through accomplishment



Our organization defines disabled as

“A physical impairment that substantially limits them from a sport activity.”

Letter from the President



Capable Partners has been making the outdoors accessible for over 30 years. I am excited to be your President and give back to this organization that has given me so much. Before hunting with Capable Partners, I hunted for seven years without getting a deer. I still haven't taken a deer outside of Capable Partners' outings. I've begun pheasant and waterfowl hunting with the club. I've done trout fishing and ice fishing with the group after a decade of not doing those activities. I am happier, I spend more time with family and friends, and I am more engaged because of this organization

2015 was a great year of activities. We had a tremendous turnout at two new activities: the Marsh Lake duck shoot in the fall and a spring pheasant shoot at Major Avenue Hunt Club. We had more participation in archery deer hunting at the MN Valley Wildlife Refuge, and waterfowl hunting at Carlos Avery WMA than any previous year. I encourage you to be more active in the club. One of my goals is to keep increasing member participation in activities. Come have fun with us!

As you will see in the articles later in the newsletter, deer hunting at Carlos Avery WMA was less productive this year with only four deer harvested in the nine day season. Deer hunting at Vermillion Dakota County continued its success with ten deer taken in four days. This hunt is a good example of how our partnering with government agencies (the DNR in this case) can help us tweak hunts to make them more productive. These partnerships are key to continuing to improve our program which enhances our mission.

We are a volunteer-run organization. Look at what a fantastic group the volunteers have built!

- We are the largest organization of our kind in the US.
- We have over 35 opportunities to get outdoors each year.
- We have activities all twelve months of the year.
- Volunteers give 1,000's of hours of time per year.
- We have eleven board members and 22 outing coordinators.

We have many volunteers but we need more to run Capable Partners. You can help whether by working a few minutes a year or by working 20 hours a week.

- In 20 minutes you could write an article for the newsletter. We have volunteers who will polish what you write but we need your initial idea.
- You could help one time with a work party to repair blinds.
- At 6-8 hours a month you could fill a volunteer role. We need volunteers in Membership, Fundraising, Website, and Fulfillment.

You have something to offer... We may call you and ask you to do something. Please consider saying "YES". Even better, call me and offer to help.

As John Heywood said, "many hands make light work." We have individual volunteers who are filling four volunteer roles but would like help either from an assistant or a replacement. Volunteering is good for you. As a volunteer you will make new friends, learn new skills, increase your empowerment, and learn about more opportunities. Get involved. Make the group better.

Lastly, we have had many generous donors over the years that have helped build this organization into the success it is today. Only 15% of our annual income comes from membership dues and fees. The rest is from member and corporate donations. I am grateful for your commitment to our mission. Thank you for making the outdoors accessible for over 30 years!

Best Regards.

Evan Newton



Ice Fishing



Ice fishing, one of our most popular and cost-effective activities, keeps us going outdoors during the months of January and February when no other club activity is scheduled. Preparation for the 2015 - 2016 ice fishing season started during the summer, with Karl Anderson's finding Mike Ubl, owner of UZ Insulation Services in Andover, to spray foam the bottom of the shack for free! Thanks to Mike, "The Insulator", for donating materials and service.

We had 23 different people, some of them fishing multiple times, catching fish on every outing. The majority of the fish caught were crappie, but there was some nice sunfish, perch and an occasional northern. Despite all of the challenges, I was very happy with the members' participation.

Sadly, with the unusually warm winter, we were only able to have the fish house out safely for four weeks. With the help of Annette Bodem and Andy Maass, and with tires chained up on the four-wheeler, we were able to remove the fish house safely, despite three inches of water in spots.

As late fall arrived, Lowell Peterson was nice enough to bring the shack to Golden Valley for some early season upgrades. The first change was an aluminum ramp, built by member Leon Fletcher. Additionally, a mounting bracket was fabricated and installed by Annette Bodem, Dave Gothe, and Raak Krost. Now we can easily remove the new ramp, when we need to relocate the shack. As some members know, the previous wood ramp worked well but installing the ramp and uninstalling it to move the fish house was a hassle. The fish house was also upgraded by adding LED lights to the fishing holes, and new running lights on the trailer.

Getting out on the ice is a completely different story. With the beautiful fall weather and very late winter, we didn't start making ice until after Christmas. Our one saving grace was that we had no snow, and once it did get cold, we made ice quickly. With the help of Greg Scollard and Jeff Frederick, the shack was pulled out on January 23rd, the latest that it has been out in four seasons. After setting up, the bite was on!



Ice Fishing



Many thanks go out to everyone that helped with batteries, propane, and treating the fish house as if it was their own. If we did not have all of this great help, we would not have this opportunity for fellowship and awesome memories made.

A special thank you goes out to Nate Sjolin's Grandma, Edie for letting Capable Partners store the fish house on her property this year.

I look forward to coordinating again next year. Let's hope that we have early ice for a long ice fishing season.

Story by Craig Simpson



Banquet

Capable Partners' annual banquet is a time for members and guests to spend a fun evening together, break bread, and, of course, raise money for the organization. George Bruhn, Jr. and Gregg Runyon, our veteran registration desk team, again checked in more than 180 banquet attendees. The evening commenced with fellowship, including appetizers and a cash bar, and spirited bidding at the silent auction, which featured a deer hunting package, a turkey hunting package, and an ice fishing package. 'Bid early and bid often' proved to be the most successful auction strategy!



Slide shows depicting our members and outings during the past year, and a brief history of the organization, were available for viewing throughout the night. As is our custom, we also presented our service awards. Dave Trauba, a long-time Minnesota DNR employee who has been promoted to Regional Wildlife Manager, earned the "25 Years of Service" award. Dave has been instrumental in arranging our annual deer hunting opportunity at Lac qui Parle State Park. Chuck Delaney, host of the long-running Game Fair in Ramsey, also received a service award for his many years' support of Capable Partners.

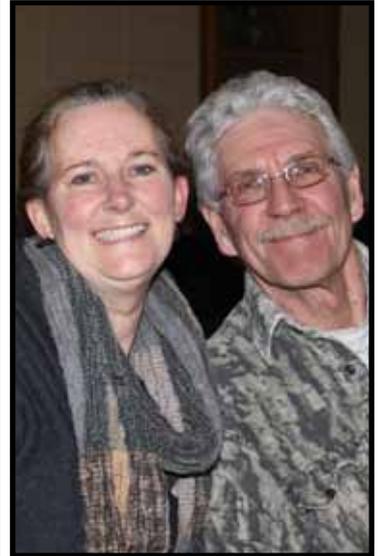


In a typical year, banquet proceeds fund about 10% - 13% of our annual budget. Between ticket sales, the silent auction, and raffles (including a three-gun 'choice' and the popular '50/50'), we raised a record amount this year, underwriting more than 17% of the 2016-2017 budget. Though space does not permit us to individually acknowledge the many donors and volunteers who made the 2016 banquet a rousing success, we do thank them heartily, one and all. Special thanks go to the banquet committee, chaired by Violet Foster, and a further shout-out goes to Perry Bauer, who emceed the program in trying circumstances with a hastily assembled sound system.

Thanks to our members, generous donors, and devoted volunteers, Capable Partners will continue to be a leader in offering quality outings to physically challenged outdoor enthusiasts.



Banquet



Spring Turkey Hunt



I hunted the H season, which opened Friday, May 29. On private property eight miles west of Princeton. I hunted all day on Friday but didn't have much interaction with birds. Around 7:00 p.m., I bumped into a tom and a jake that I thought might roost in a patch of woods on the NE corner of the 160 acre parcel. I put my blind up in a good spot for the next morning and went to Princeton to sleep at my husband, Mike's, aunt's place.

Saturday morning I owl-called from my parking spot at 4:40 a.m. and got a gobble. I was happy that it came from the direction of my blind. I walked 100 yards and hooted again. He gobbled back. Another 50 yards, hoot, gobble. He was closer to me than my blind, so I had to make a plan to hunt him without shelter.

I wasn't sure exactly which tree he was in, but I had a pretty good idea where he was. I snuck to within 90 yards of him and put out decoys in the plowed field: a breeder hen and Funky Chicken jake. I leaned back against a sawed off ash tree that had some suckers growing up around the three-foot tall stump. I was closer than I wanted to be to the field; my feet were almost in the dirt, so I didn't have much cover. I gave four or five hen yelps on my mouth call very, very softly. He hammered back! Then it was on.

He must have gobbled 75 times from his tree. I heard another hen yelping from the other side of him, so I yelped softly again and he hammered back another gobble. I listened to him gobbling away up on his limb for about ten minutes. When there was a lull in the traffic noise from Hwy 95, I took off my gloves and made flapping noises like a hen flying down from her roost. Then I stopped making noise - no more calling of any kind.

Soon after, the gobbler flew down from his roost and into my plowed field. He was only 75 yards away! "Oh my goodness!" I thought. "This might actually work!" He strutted and gobbled, strutted and gobbled, strutted and gobbled out there at 75 yards for what seemed like an hour but was probably no more than ten to fifteen minutes. He was working his way away from me at a 90 degree angle. I was starting to think about how I could sneak around and cut him off on the other side of the field.

Halfway out of sight behind a rise in the field he did an about face and full-fan strutted back in my direction. That's when I noticed two other birds had entered the field from the far side and they, too, were heading my way.

I thought, "Hurray! He's going to follow those hens right into range." But to my dismay he didn't follow them. The two new birds were feeding their way towards me, coming on a string, but the big boy wasn't following them. I looked a little closer at the two 'hens' and noticed they had red heads. It was not light enough to see if they had beards but I figured they must be jakes.

That's why the big tom wasn't interested in following them. When the two got to within 50 yards, I eased my binoculars up and searched their chests for any sign of a beard. Sure enough, they both had little toothbrush bristles sticking out. They got a little skittish when I was putting the binoculars down so I had to sit motionless until they relaxed and went back to scratching and pecking in the dirt.

All my years of deer hunting paid off now. I had my gun on my knees, so I barely had to move to grab the gun and shoulder it. I put the bead on the major caruncles of the closer bird and squeezed the trigger. He crumpled! The other bird ran back towards the big tom and then flew into the trees. I think the big tom ran off the field straight away from me. I ran out and stepped on my bird's neck for about a minute and waited for him to stop twitching.

I knelt down in the field and said a prayer of thanks. Then I looked at my watch - 5:41 a.m. What a morning! The sun was just breaking the horizon. Every bird in the woods and fields was hooting, chirping, tweeting, calling, honking, cawing or squawking. Steam was rising from the ponds and wetlands. It was great to be alive in God's creation! My bird was a jake with a four-inch beard and little nubs for spurs.

Definitely not the biggest bird ever harvested but absolutely a trophy in my book!

Story by Jane Heinks



Spring Turkeys



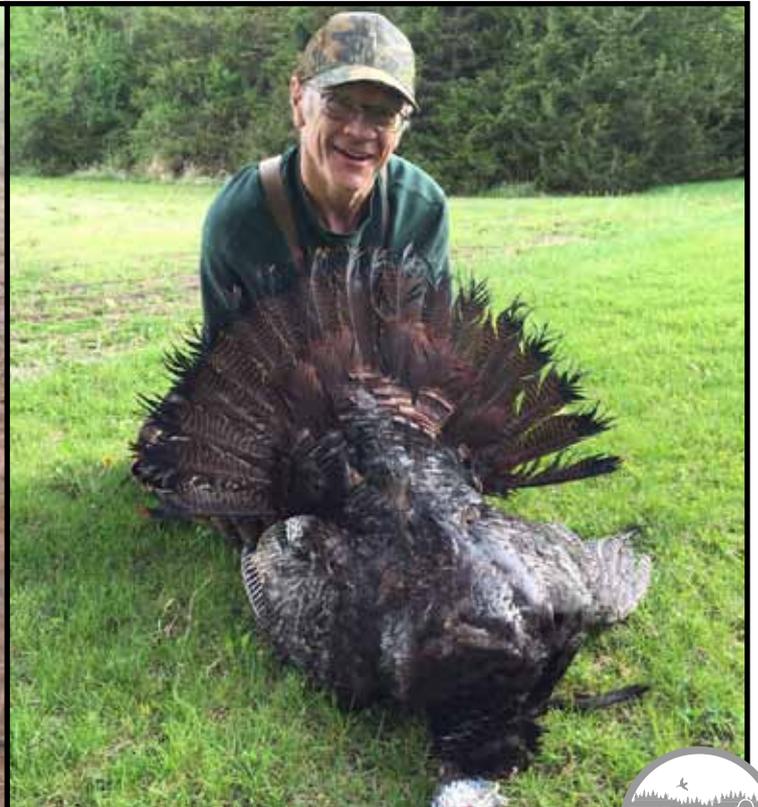
Karl Anderson Minnesota Eastern Gobbler



Craig Simpson MN Sherburne Refuge Gobbler



Bill Vice two Kansas Rio Grande, Gobblers



Dale Schons Minnesota Eastern Gobbler



Spring Pheasant Shoot



We had a first ever spring pheasant hunt put on by Capable Partners and coordinated by Greg Hance.

It was a chilly, blustery and sunny morning with a temperature of 22 degrees, but there were 24 excited hunters ready to hit the fields! Thanks to Jerry and Laure for bringing their trailer with ramps, thus providing the ability to move around from station to station. There are ten stations to shoot from. We shot at 20 birds and then moved two stations down and repeated until we shot at all 100 birds.

Thanks to the Major Avenue Hunt Club owners, Dave and Myra, for giving us the opportunity to hunt there. They also provided a delicious hot lunch of sloppy joes, beans, and chips. Thank you to the helpers: Bob, Rick, Dick and Mark for their assistance, and for bringing their dogs to retrieve the birds.

Out of 100 birds released, 90 were taken, which is pretty good. Even though challenging, perhaps our success rate explains why it can be such an enjoyable experience. All hunters went home with several birds and a memory of a very enjoyable day. Many of the hunters commented that they had a great time and are looking forward to the next hunt.

Story by Greg Hance



Lanesboro Trout Fishing



As far as I can remember, it had been ten or more years since I had gone trout fishing in southeast MN. Capable Partners got me fishing for trout again!

The city of Lanesboro has a trout pond and every year the DNR stocks it just prior to our June trout fishing event. This year they released 1,750 rainbows of the foot-long size and about 30 brook trout that were a little bigger at 18"-20".

The forecast for Friday morning was rain and 55 degrees. When I got there, it was overcast, but the temperature was a pleasant 60 degrees. The DNR folks had fishing rods and bait ready to go. In fact, Bill, who works at the hatchery, helped me fish all morning. I must have caught a dozen keepable fish. All I know is my shoulder still hurt four days after from cranking the reel to pull in fish or to check bait. Part of the way through I switched to a fiberglass extendable 16 foot rod with no reel – a modern version of the old cane pole. That worked too and was easier on my shoulders.

Fishing for trout reminded me of all the adventures my young son, Sean, and I used to have on our trout fishing trips to Caledonia, Preston, and Houston. There was the time he fell into Hay Creek on the first day of a three day trip wearing all the pants he had brought for the trip! We liked to fish Crooked Creek, Sullivan Creek and the South Fork of the Root River. One time a couple invited us to fish their private ponds filled with beautiful 18" Rainbows!



After all the members had enjoyed a morning of fishing, volunteers cleaned the fish and packed them on ice. Long-time member Kerry Sobieck provided a bountiful game lunch of pulled pork sandwiches, elk sloppy joes, and bison cowboy beans. We didn't have any pesky vegetables or fruit on the menu. After all, we are a hunting group!

Frank, Louie, Evan, Kerry, Tom and families all caught fish and all went home with a limit of rainbow trout. As I drove home, I was thinking about how to get my now 24 year-old son out trout fishing again!

Story by Evan Newton



Lake Minnetonka Muskies



On June 7th, 27 fisherman and guides met at Surfside Park on Cooks Bay for our annual Lake Minnetonka Muskies Inc. fishing trip.

With the boats and pontoon docked, we were directed by coordinator Rod Guthier that it was time to pair up with our guides, to get seated and for people in wheelchairs to load. We left the

dock on a beautiful crisp morning around 8:00 a.m. with everyone eager to start trolling or casting for those monsters of the deep.

The first muskie, a beautiful 42-inch (pictured on page 14), was caught by Gary Popek. The second muskie, a nice 40-inch (pictured top right on page 15), was caught by Bill Blanton. The third muskie, a 38-inch (pictured bottom left on page 15), was ↪



Lake Minnetonka Muskies

caught by Craig Simpson.

Before you knew it, our four hours of fishing were done, and it was time to head back for a delicious barbecue at Surfside Park.

I want to thank coordinator Rod Guthier, and the Muskies Inc. guides. I want to give a special thanks to my guides (Gus and George) for an outstanding day of fishing and to everyone who was involved in preparing the wonderful lunch.

Story by Craig Simpson



Prior Lake



The June 2015 fishing trip to Prior Lake was my first fishing trip with Capable Partners. My partner, John, and I had to be there at 9:00 AM, so we decided to get there an hour early. Thank goodness we did, because we had a little trouble trying to find the Knotty Oar Marina. But we made it there with 15 minutes to spare. They had coffee and donuts for us which was very nice. There were six of us assigned to a pontoon boat. We had volunteers help us board the pontoon.

John and I had just gotten two new fishing poles so we thought we were in good shape. We were on our way to the bay where there was supposed to be good fishing. It was a nice day for fishing, not too cold and not too warm. We were looking at all the nice homes on the lake when we hit something. As it turned out, we hit a rock and bent the propeller. Consequently, we had to be towed in to see if we could get the propeller repaired.

While we were sitting at the dock we thought we would cast out our lines to see if we could catch some fish. While John and I were casting, we found our fishing lines were very curly and the line would get tangled in our reel. Thank goodness we had an extra pole and Dorothy Balen, a member who was also in the boat, had an extra pole and let me use hers.

About an hour later, they put a smaller propeller on the motor, which worked pretty well. So we stayed close to the dock area and did some fishing. We returned to the dock about noon and we went to a nearby park where there was great lunch waiting for us. In spite of all that happened, John and I had a great time and look forward to our next fishing trip to Prior Lake.

Story by Faith Hirdler



Lake Mille Lacs



It was a beautiful day, warm, breezy, high fluffy clouds, good friends and a chance to catch fish. What more could one ask for?

We had nineteen people on board. There were a couple of new members. Nick, Scott, and Eugene were out to see if they could out fish the old timers. As a matter of fact they did a pretty good job. Nick caught the largest walleye at 25 1/8 inch. Eugene caught a 21 inch small mouth bass, which he kept to mount for future bragging. In total, there were 16 walleyes caught with just two keepers.

The sun played hide and seek a few times but all in all it was a great day to be on the lake. Eugene donated the brats for the day which was a treat of flavored meats. Along with our burgers and fixings dinner was served.

Thanks go to the girls that helped serve and clean up, to Darrell for cooking, and Captain John (on the launch from Nitti's Hunters Point) for another fun and safe trip.

Story by Violet Foster



Lake Mille Lacs



Our fishing trip on the launch from Hunters Point this year had pretty slow action. We had 18 people on board and many of us did not catch a single fish, including yours truly. During the trip, we caught about 50 walleyes, but most were small and in the 9-11 inch range.

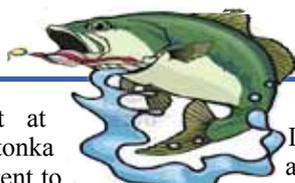
We always hold a contest for biggest fish. Ken Wagner did manage to catch a 16 3/4 inch walleye to take 1st place in the contest. Kevin Affolter took 2nd with a 16" fish, and Perry Bauer took 3rd place with a 15" walleye.

Regardless of the fish caught, we had good food, nice weather and good company. So I guess it was a pretty good trip. We are hoping for better luck next year.

Story by Joe Psyk



Lake Minnetonka



On August 8th, 22 Capable Partners met at Rockvam Marina for our annual Lake Minnetonka outing. We left the marina at 9:00 a.m. and went to Forest Lake looking for hungry fish. We caught lots of sunfish, crappies, and some large bass. A good time was had by all.

At 1:00 we returned to the marina. We were greeted by Judy Hildman and Sandy Korlath who served us lunch! They have been supporting us for 14 years! We appreciate everything they do for us!

I would also like to thank Frank Walther, Darrel Nerson, and Peter Bauer for being our boat captains, and finding the hot fishing spots!

I would also like to thank Rockvam for their help getting us on their very accessible pontoons. We will see you August for our next outing.

Story by Dave Heidtke



Lake Mille Lacs



What a beautiful day to be on the lake, a good walleye chop and sunny with high clouds.

Well, maybe the chop was a little more than good. Let's start at the top. Everyone loaded onto the launch from Hunters Point and we were on our way. We were all looking for that keeper walleye. Everyone was in a good mood and ready to have fun.

Yep, we caught a couple of walleyes but no keepers. So we decided to move to a better spot. Everyone was still hoping to catch that keeper walleye. Well, the second spot was not much better. We moved to try one more spot.

At our third spot, it was still sunny but the wind had come up. Wow, there were fish on the sonar and in went the lines. Nibbles... that was a good sign of things to come. Even with the wind, the anchor held. It was lunch time. We couldn't keep the grill lit meaning it was a cold lunch. Potato salad is supposed to be eaten cold but it would have been nice to heat up the BBQ beef.

After lunch, the anchor kept letting go of the bottom. That walleye chop was chopping at the railing of the boat.

Capt. John decided it was too much, started the engine running, and we were on our way to shore. It seemed like it was a long way away, but most of us were sure the Captain would get us to shore in one piece. A couple of our new members were unsure if we would make it. The hardy, older members knew Captain John well enough they knew we were safe in his hands.

Queasy stomachs were few but understandable when the waves were getting everyone's feet wet. It seemed like it took hours but we made it to shore safe and sound.

The next problem was that we all had to drive home in the heavy rain and the wind. Not a perfect day to be on the lake but it sure was a memorable one nonetheless. We are hoping for better weather and luck next year.

Thanks to Captain John for a safe trip. Maybe next time we will bring in a few fish.

Story by Violet Foster



MN River Valley



The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is a valued resource Capable Partners has the privilege of helping coordinate and promote hunting within our membership and amongst the physically challenged community.

This year our highlights included one of the best waterfowl harvests on record. The changes over the last twenty years are interesting. During the mid to late 1990s, our harvest was a higher ratio of geese to ducks. That ratio has flipped. For the last five years, we are harvesting ducks as our main species. This last season really reinforced that, as geese generally seemed either to not be using the lakes we hunt or their numbers are down.

Regarding archery deer hunting, for many of us, we seemed to be spotting them on nearly every outing but in most cases they were

well out of archery range. For those new members, this opportunity came to fruition three years ago after Capable Partners and the US Fish and Wildlife Service worked on it for fourteen years.

When I reflect on the effort the US Fish and Wildlife staff provides to get us into the field, it is remarkable. The three hunt sites lie within a flood plain that has had six feet of water over the locations we hunt from and we have never missed an opening day. When the waters recede, staff has to clear muck and debris from the access trails, and put things back in shape so we get to hunt.

Each year we take feedback from our hunters, compile it, and see what tweaks might be made to improve the experience.

Story by Dave Guzzi

Staying Warm



Do you get cold when sitting on stand for deer or waterfowl? I used to when sitting in my wheelchair for hours, but I don't anymore. For the last few years, I have used a "foot bag" to keep my hands and feet comfortable. Mine is a double layered fleece sewn like a gunny sack with a hand muff on top. I place a couple of chemical hand warmers in the muff to keep my hands warm without gloves. I also stuff toe warmers in my boots. At 20 degrees, I stay warm for hours thanks to my foot bag.

Don't want to sew your own 'foot bag'? Try cutting down or just folding down a sleeping bag. I have a friend who swears by that and keeps his sleeping bag in his favorite deer stand.

Story by Evan Newton



Picnic



It was time to celebrate Capable Partners' making the outdoors accessible for 30 years. For those who were here in the beginning it must seem like a long time ago or just yesterday, depending on how they view their past. For those of us who joined more recently, we are grateful for the effort of those who worked so hard to make Capable Partners the great group it is today.

The annual picnic, in July at the Buffalo Gun Club, was a celebration of those thirty years of providing accessible outdoor activities. Those who attended the picnic enjoyed the roasted pig. Nate and his friends did a great job! Members brought so many great salads and desserts. It was all so good; it seems everyone brought their favorite recipe to share.

Those who wished did some trapshooting and others dusted off their crossbows for target practice. It was a good time to start thinking about hunting season and just how good I am. Some realized how much more practice they needed to do.

We thank Jayme for all his hard work putting this event together. A new plus was a raffle. Everyone received a ticket for free and drawings were held. Most folks went home with a prize.

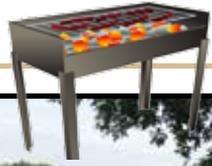
Thanks to the Buffalo Gun Club for allowing us to use their facilities. The Club House, which had been severely damaged by fire, is now rebuilt and ready for this summer.

The picnic is scheduled for July 10th. Come out and enjoy the food and the company.

Story by Violet Foster



Picnic



ATV Ride



On August 22, 2015, sixteen partners started our 14th Annual ATV Adventure on the Red Top Trail with blue skies, donuts, coffee, and fellowship. The day promised to be a very memorable one!

Initially, the event was masterminded by Craig Simpson. Three years after its start, Allen Buss and Greg Waite recruited the Brandon Lanie Ethical Sportsman's Society (BLESS). With the help of Troy Lanie, Nicole Lanie, and Karen Miller, they were able to provide machines from Polaris Industries, and they cooperatively ran the annual adventure for nine years. Sadly,

Allen Buss and Greg Waite have passed away; however, these men were instrumental in helping this event grow.

Bill Vice, from Capable Partners, who has dedicated himself to helping others, came on seven years ago. Last year, in his usual fashion, he was loading ATVs, unloading ATVs, filling fuel tanks, and still found time to cook everyone lunch!

One of my favorite stories from Bill is when he was helping Craig Simpson's rig out of one of the "ditches" that most of us would call a swamp. Bill enjoys regaling people with this tale, so feel free to ask him about it anytime; however, please ⇨



ATV Ride

don't ask Jim or Jacob Zumbusch how they got soaked. They were avoiding the water puddle that I blasted through, and in turn, I soaked my two good buddies.

A special thanks goes out to Jerry and Wayne Bedeaux of Leo's South, who chauffeured some of our members and provided ATV's and equipment. Without their support, the event would not have been possible. In addition, we would like to thank McQuiod's Inn in Isle, MN, who has allowed us to park our vehicles and headquarter the event in their space.

For those of you interested in this year's event, it will be held on Saturday, August 20th, and will feature ATV riding and most importantly food! Ken Johnson will be our event coordinator. Please contact Ken several weeks prior to the date if you would like to participate.

Story by Dave Guzzi



Carlos Avery Duck Blind



I joined Capable Partners just before duck opener this year, after not hunting for almost 13 years. My good friend, Dave, and I contacted the Coordinator, Evan, and scheduled use of the waterfowl blind on October 3rd and 4th. The blind at Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area is set up nicely. There's a gate at the road and a gravel path to the enclosed, wood blind, which over looks a pot hole.

After that first weekend, we got to use the blind seven more times, which, according to the Coordinator, makes me an avid hunter. The ducks never landed in our decoy spreads. Therefore it was all pass shooting. It's close to home so it wasn't bad if we only got a duck here or there. It just felt good for me to be hunting again. We had some days where we would shoot five to six ducks and other days where we wouldn't even fire our shotguns. All told we took 19 ducks!

It's a very mucky place, that's for sure. You need young legs to place decoys and a young dog to get through the thick stuff to retrieve your ducks. We were grateful for the blind and made do with the conditions.

I plan on hunting there again this year with a little more luck than last year. I'm also planning on volunteering to dress it up some this year during the spring and summer. If anyone would like to help me or donate materials, that would be great.

I appreciate being a member of Capable Partners, the opportunities they offer, and getting out hunting again. I plan on doing my best to help this organization be even better than it already is.

Story by Darren Dorn



MN River Valley Duck Bind



Capable Partners had another fun and productive year of duck hunting in the Minnesota River valley. For those who have never been on this hunt, it is duck and goose hunting in Eden Prairie just across the river from Shakopee. It is on federal land and Capable Partners manages it for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. It's a great metro area hunting opportunity.

Right off MN 212, west of Flying Cloud Airport, you take a short drive to the parking area and a path to the wooden waterfowl blinds at the point. We have seven different coordinators who organize and run the hunts for this location (see the calendar for info). Many heartfelt thanks go to the able bodied helpers who get us to the blinds with all our gear and then set up the decoys. They also retrieve our birds and pick up after we are done. This is a hunt where the able bodied helpers can also shoot which is a little payback for all their hard work.

It is nice having a hunting spot so close to the city and especially for me since I live in Shakopee. It was because of this spot that I found Capable Partners. After I was paralyzed in a downhill skiing accident, I found out about this spot which at the time was run by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. All you had to do was call them to reserve it. At that time you had to have your own blind and boat. Not long after Capable Partners took over the management of this spot, I joined Capable Partners so I could continue to hunt here.

You can see I have hunted here for a long time and can tell you that it is a great location. It can be very hit or miss. Depending on the weather conditions, especially the wind, you may get the chance to shoot a lot of birds. When it is good, it is very good. If not, you always get a beautiful sunrise and the opportunity to have a great time with family and friends. Hopefully you have a volunteer with a retriever to get the birds and give you a great show while doing so.

For me, and many others, it is an opportunity to get outdoors and do something we love but are not able to do by ourselves anymore. One of our members, Tim Lindbo, who just passed away at the age of 37, enjoyed this hunt many times and the photographs of his big smile tell the story. Tim is pictured on page 28. According to his family, these hunts meant a lot to him. It makes me proud to volunteer for Capable Partners. So please contact me or one of the other coordinators and try out this hunt. You will not be disappointed.



Marsh Lake Duck Shoot



It was great to have the Marsh Lake Duck Shoot back again this year. For those of you who have never been on this hunt, it is at the Marsh Lake Hunting Club in Victoria, southwest of the cities on MN 5. This hunt is for both the disabled and able bodied and I think is about as realistic a game farm hunt can get. There are five blinds set up that face a tree line with a pond at your back. The mallards seem to come out of nowhere over the trees. This makes for some challenging shots at the birds coming from all different directions.

We had over 20 people participating this year and when not at a shooting station they all are behind the shooters as a sort of cheering section. Sometimes they are giving the shooters a hard time. This reminds me of a story I tell a lot about my twin brothers Tom and Ted. When Ted was videotaping Tom, who was shooting but missing a lot, Mike Hanson, who was blind, was shooting next to him. Suddenly Ted said, "Hey Tom, the blind guy is shooting better than you are!" ➡



Scott and Tim



Karl and Shawn



Marsh Lake Duck Shoot



This hunt is also a way to get family and friends out that are not able to go on the regular season hunts. For instance, my father, who had not hunted in over 20 years, came and I will never forget his smile and joy when he shot a duck. These types of memories are invaluable. I am sure others have had the same experiences. I hope that anyone reading this will make their own memories by coming out and participating in future hunts.

I want to thank Shawn at Marsh Lake and his other helpers, both two legged and the four legged. I also want to thank long-time member Andy Akins, who started this hunt many years ago and has worked hard to make it a great hunt over all those years. This year Andy and I co-coordinated this hunt. As Andy has done in the past, he provided us with a great lunch after the shooting was done. Shawn also provides frozen and cleaned birds to take home with us.

Story by Steve Scheunemann



Cambridge Hunt

It's November 7th, deer opener for rifle hunting, and Dennis Borle, my hunting partner, came by to pick me up as we headed to Cambridge for our Capable Partners hunt. We all drew numbers for which blind we would hunt from and I picked number five, which is one of my favorite blinds. Let's face it, I hadn't shot a deer in two years and needed all the help I could get.

After Dennis and I set up in blind five, he went to park the car while I waited to load my gun. I unpacked everything else but I never load my gun until Dennis has walked back and is in the blind.

When I was a kid and my Dad took me to the barbershop for a haircut, I read a story in a hunting magazine where an old-timer said he always wears gloves when hunting because it's your hands that give off the most scent. So I slipped on my gloves and sat back to wait.

About an hour later, I saw a big doe and her yearling standing



about 130 yards off to the far right of us. She was looking right at me, so I didn't want to move and spook her, but she soon ran off.

Sitting in our blind, I couldn't help remembering our two founding members of the Cambridge hunt, Greg Waite and Allen Buss, my two best friends who have passed away. I sit with sadness in my heart and think about how much I miss them both.

A little while later, I saw three yearlings walking about 160 yards off and I lined them up in my scope. I'm a meat hunter, so I just watched them walk across the field. I kept my gun up to my shoulder and soon a 5-point buck came up from behind the blind to my right. He walked about 20 yards in front of me and I pulled the trigger. The buck walked into the woods and fell.

My heart was pounding as I gave thanks to God, Greg, and Allen for my good fortune.

Story by George Bruhn, Jr.

Dakota Co Hunt

I got a deer in 2014 at this hunt coordinated by Gregg Runyon and was optimistic for 2015. My brother, Kerrick, and I were in our assigned blind and quiet half an hour before legal shooting time. Armed with my shotgun, now outfitted with a new bite trigger, and my new TreePod® gun rest, I wondered: Would these work? Self-doubt always enters my mind.

Shortly after sunrise, Kerrick saw deer 150 yards to our east. No shot available to me. About 9:00 a.m., while we were snacking, a doe busted us and ran off. Again, no shot. Half an hour later, my luck changed. A doe came to within 35 yards and presented a good, quartering-to target. I took the shot and she dropped in 20 yards.

Jerry George, board member (aka 'The Bloodhound' because he found my 2014 doe using his nose), helped find my deer without his sense of smell. I delivered the deer to Von Hanson's Meats to make cuts, breakfast sausage and hot Italian sausage, which we have been enjoying ever since.

Story by Evan Newton



Game Fair



It is always exciting for me when Game Fair starts. I feel excited with the prospect of signing-up new members, seeing members have fun, and working alongside those members who volunteer each year to sell tickets and enjoy the fair.

The weather may not always cooperate, as we all know. This year we endured rain three out of the six days. It's quite a show when everyone is running for shelter. Some people even joined us in our tent.



The rain gives us workers a chance to get to know each other even better. A chance to share challenges and ideas of new and exciting things we are doing not only with the club, but also in our lives. I believe those volunteers that attend the fair come home with a renewed commitment to helping and enjoying what the club has to offer.

I encourage those of you who have not volunteered at the Game Fair in August to give it a try. Several new volunteers go each year and enjoy themselves. It's a chance to give back a little for all the things you enjoy doing with the club. The money we make goes to pay for the outings we all enjoy. A big bonus is getting to check out the fair, the new displays and so many choices for lunch.

If you are interested, please give me a call.

Story by Violet Foster

Dakota Co Hunt

Opening morning, I heard the alarm at 4:00 a.m., got up and dressed quickly to head out to the Dakota County hunt, near Rosemount, coordinated by Gregg Runyon. It was a blast!

Gregg had donuts waiting to help us with our sugar fix. I still cannot remember which blind I was in, but it looked like a great one. Despite the donuts, the early hour made me so sleepy I lay down on the floor of my blind and fell asleep.

I woke up right at 6:35 a.m. with a shock. I thought I had missed the opener! But I slowly peeked my head out and what do you think I saw? Three white tails sticking up. The deer were heading my way. I did not stop to think. I picked the largest one and bang! She went down immediately which is the fastest I have ever seen a deer fall.



Carlos Martinez and Bob Fashingbauer, WMA Manager

I guess it was a bad shot because I hit the neck and cracked the spine. That's why she fell so fast. After that, I could not sit still. I saw at least twelve does and two bucks. They were too far away to shoot but close enough to view their majestic beauty. I also saw about ten turkeys. That's what I call a great opener!

And yes, I was very awake after that.

A special thanks goes out to Bob Fashingbauer, WMA Manager for all his hard work to make this outing possible.

Story by Carlos Martinez



THE GALLERY



Pat Kellin With Neice's First MN Tom



Evan Newton Crappie MN Ice Fishing



Scot Bowman MN Pheasant Hunt



Nick Shov & Stan Koich Pheasants



Lee Zeman MN Whitetail



Tom Scheunemann Hooded Merganser



Karl Anderson Manitoba, Canada



Ken Johnson Texas Hog Hunt

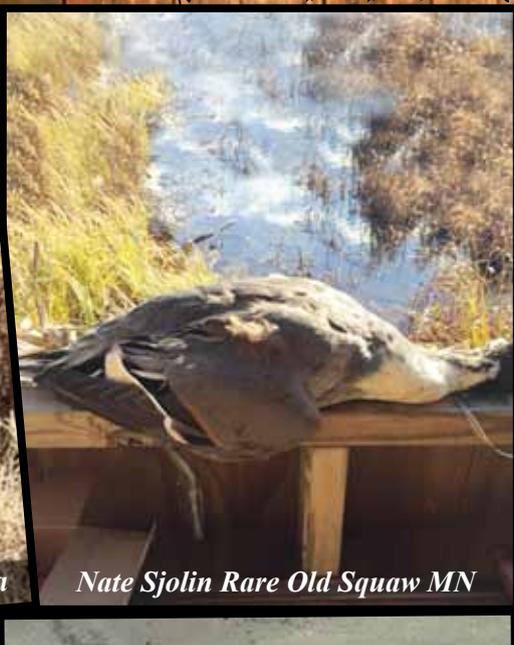


Warren Albrecht MN Whitetail partner in action

THE GALLERY



Kent Dirks Hartebeest Namibia, Africa



Nate Sjolin Rare Old Squaw MN



Jayme Welsh Iowa Whitetail



Steve Scheunemann & Chad Fix



Craig Simpson WY Mule Deer



Tony Gutzwiller MN Gobbler



Ken Johnson Kansas Whitetail



Doug & Darren Dorn WI Pheasants



Lee Zeman Minnesota Muskie

Dakota County Hunt

After a little mix up about when the season would open, we started the second year in the new area for the Vermillion Dakota County hunt. We were ready for the 2015 early season (September 19 and 20) and the late season (October 24 and 25) with high hopes after last year's success.



We had always said it would be nice to have a little rain before the hunt. This year, we got four and a half inches the Tuesday before the hunt. We even had to move stands because of the rain. We had to limit some stands to four wheel drives and some to van access only. We had a couple stands we couldn't get to with either type of vehicle but we had ten stands ready for the opener. There were enough hunters where we had a couple guys only hunt the morning and other guys came in for the afternoon.

Because of the mud, Bob Fashingbauer said, "let's use the Polaris track vehicle." We had a couple hunters that were able to get into the Polaris. That's how we got them to a new area where we had moved two stands. The access to a couple other stands was pretty muddy so we used the track vehicle to get hunters in there too.

Well, Carlos was the first to take a deer - a nice doe. He was followed by Jim Hamlin who also took a doe. I took a nice buck, but was out done by "Mr. Horseshoe", Dale, who took a dandy 8-pointer and a doe. Evan got another doe this year which closed out the early season hunt with six deer taken. Terrie hit a nice buck but after a long track we couldn't find it. We had 15 hunters sign up for the hunt.

We started the late season with 18 hunters ready to hunt. Oh, remember that rain I was talking about? It hit again and made the access roads muddier than the early season.

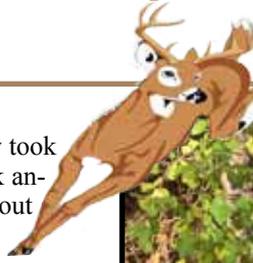
We used the Polaris again to get hunters into the stands. We were limited by hunter ability to climb into the track vehicle.

I asked Kevin, a helper who works at the Vermillion River Complex, "do you have a little trailer with some sides?" He gave me a strange look and asked why. I just told him, "you'll see." So he came around the corner with the trailer hitched to the track vehicle. I volunteered Barry Hite and Tom Gindorff to be our "test pilots".

We loaded Barry and Tom into the trailer and secured them with car straps. Off they went! We didn't really tell them about the steep hill they had to go down to get to the new field we wanted to hunt. So Jerry George, being the good friend that he is, had his phone set to video and recorded the trip down the hill for us all to see. Ask Jerry for clip. ➡



Dakota County Hunt



Well, it paid off. They saw deer, shots were taken, and they took a deer. A nice buck was taken by a new hunter and Jim took another doe. Right at the end of the hunt, I took a doe to close out the late season with four deer.

I owe a special thanks to Bob and his crew. Kevin, one of Bob's staff, was there helping us every day of our hunt. We also had Jerry, Bob, Darrell, Joel and Ole, coming down and helping out along with Dale Tribby who was setting up helpers. Thanks to all for a great hunt!

We pulled all the stands after the hunt and will be putting new plywood walls and roofs on them. Thanks to Lloyd for working with the MDHA North Suburban Chapter to get funds for the plywood and hardware. If you know someone that can use a screw gun or just wants to help on a project, give me a call for dates when we plan on doing the project.

Story by Gregg Runyon, Dakota County Hunt Coordinator



Carlos Avery Hunt

We pushed back the week of deer hunting at the Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area to October 10-18. We hoped moving it a week might get the deer moving better. The fields all looked good. Trails were cut and the stands were open for business. The WMA gives Capable Partners access to the sanctuary area that no one else hunts. The signs were good for a successful hunt.

We had windy days, but the deer didn't get the invite. We even had one day we called the hunt off due to weather and wind. We did have a lot of hunters in the stands (18), and we hunted really hard. Ken took a real nice buck. Glen and Oliver took does.

Congratulations to Scott, a new hunter, who took a doe. We ended up with four deer taken.

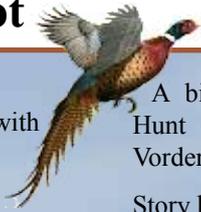
Thanks to the Carlos Avery crew for the help with the fields that were put in and all the work they do to prepare for our hunt. Thanks also to all the helpers and hunters for another great, safe hunt.

We pulled all the stands after the hunt and will be putting new plywood walls and roofs on them. Thanks to Lloyd for working with the MDHA North Metro Chapter to get funds for the plywood and hardware. If you know someone that can use a screw gun or just wants to help on a project, give me a call for dates when we plan on doing the project.

Gregg Runyon, Carlos Avery Deer Hunt Coordinator



Major Ave Pheasant Shoot



The day started out beautifully and ended just as beautifully. We had twenty-six shooters participating with thirteen being physically challenged. The wind didn't interfere with the direction the pheasants were going to fly. Following our usual practice in a tower shoot, after twenty birds were released, we moved down two stations and everyone was satisfied with the amount of shooting they had because of the number of pheasants that flew in their direction.

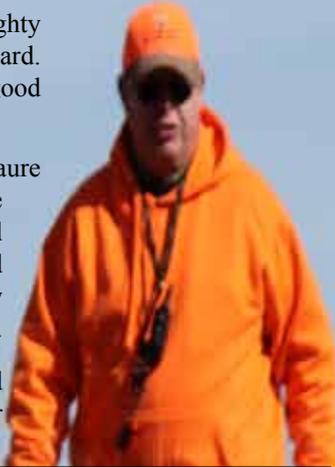
Out of one hundred pheasants released, we harvested eighty seven plus they harvested seven more scratch shooting afterward. That was the best we had ever done. Almost everyone had a good eye for shooting that day.

We appreciate the help of Jerry Zumbusch, Laure Zumbusch and Jeff Jacobson who teamed up to move the hunters with their trailer and four wheeler. Jerry and Laure have been doing this for years and Jeff volunteered to help them. The three of them were able to quickly assist hunters from station to station in between rounds.

After the shoot we were all treated to a great lunch, prepared by the Major Avenue staff. By the time we had finished our lunch; our birds were cleaned and packaged for our trip home.

A big thanks goes out to Jerry and Myra (Major Avenue Hunt Club owners), Greg Hance, the Zumbusch family, the VorderBruggen family and all the able-body helpers.

Story by Jim VorderBruggen



Caribou Pheasant Shoot



Seems the wind has it in for us. This was the second time in a row the wind was so strong that it hurt our hunt. The birds didn't cooperate either.

We were all ready to shoot, the birds were released and they flew right past us. We had eighteen hunters stationed in what are usually good spots; not this year. Seems no matter which way the birds were thrown they went up, up and away with no shot. The hunters on top of the hill had birds flying over them but were in no position to shoot them. Most birds were out of range. They headed for the trees and down into the corn field.

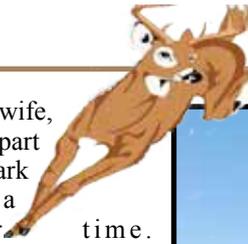
Even the few birds we shot were hard to find. Some went into the corn or the weeds and were impossible to find. We gathered up a search party of those who could walk, and began a search. We found only a few. I am sure we missed some. Even the expert hunters were at a loss to find the downed birds. Thanks to all that did walk in and try to find them. It just shows that we needed retrievers of the four-legged variety.

However, and thanks to Randy at Caribou, we all went home with birds. Next year we need those who have dogs to bring them.

Story by Violet Foster



LQP Deer Hunt



It has been a good many years that my wife, Claudia, and I have had the good fortune to take part in the hunt here at Lac qui Parle (LQP) State Park near Montevideo, MN. Though it's always been a wonderful hunt for us, a few things have improved over time. When we first hunted here, most of the stands were simply four posts in the ground with some camo netting stretched around them. Now, thanks to the DNR and others, all the stands are raised off the ground, with walls and roofs, which is really great when the weather isn't so nice. One thing that hasn't changed is the opportunity to participate in a great hunt.

This year Claudia drew stand #8 for the opener. This is the stand she hunted from her very first year at LQP and it's still one of her favorites. Opening morning was clear and cool with a slight breeze out of the southwest. We had just finished setting up when a doe and fawn walked by. They caught our scent, let out a couple of snorts, and departed in a hurry. A little after the start of legal shooting time, Claudia saw two deer coming across the field toward us. One was a buck and the other a doe. She made a nice shot on the 8-point buck at about 50 yards. He took a couple of bounds and tipped over. The doe wasn't sure what had happened and just stood there until I walked out to make sure the buck was dead.

Claudia's hunt was now over because we were limited to one deer this year. We decided not to retrieve and field dress the deer until later in the morning so we wouldn't disturb the other hunters in nearby stands. We poured a cup of coffee and sat back to enjoy the beautiful morning.

A short while later, two does came up from the lakeshore and ran behind us, followed a little later by two small bucks. The deer neared Claudia's downed buck and froze. Then they milled about for a while before heading back in the direction they had come from. A bit later still, we saw two more deer, way off across another field. The deer were really on the move that morning and we had a good time watching the show.

As always, we would like to thank Capable Partners' President, Nate Sjolin, for coordinating the hunt and the DNR Staff for preparing the island for the hunt. They all make this a great experience!

Story by Harry Perkins



LQP Hunt Update

On September 19th, we started the nine-day hunting season on Rosemoen Island. The first weekend, the blinds were filled with eager hunters, and the remaining days we had good hunter turnout. In all, we had 14 hunters who took eleven bucks and one doe.

After more than 20 years, Wildlife Manager Dave Trauba is leaving Lac qui Parle State Park. I would like to thank Dave for his tireless commitment to providing deer hunting opportunities to Capable Partners. Everyone in Capable Partners wishes him the best on his new adventure.

Story by Nate Sjolin



Sherburne Refuge Hunt

My favorite time of year is when bow hunting season begins. I have been fortunate enough to have the time and opportunity to get out and bow hunt in the restricted area at Sherburne National Wildlife Refuge (Sherburne). Thanks to Capable Partners and the Sherburne management, we get to hunt where able bodied hunters cannot.

I saw several small yearlings go by throughout the season; some just two feet from my stand. The only buck I saw was a smaller 4-point. I let them all go waiting for "Mr. Big" but he never did show himself before gun season.

As it got later in the season and the gun hunt was about to start in Minnesota, I signed up to hunt the lift stand at Sherburne through Capable Partners. I like to take my dad out hunting with me as my able partner because he enjoys getting out there in the woods as well. I always use my black powder rifle. I only get one shot, but that's all I need. We sat in the blind on opening morning hoping to see a big buck. While we saw several small yearlings waddle by, which kept things interesting, we never saw Mr. Big. We continued to hunt the same lift stand for most of the week, and still had no luck with a bigger deer. Some trips we didn't see anything, but we had a good time together, and we kept trying. We decided to try one of the other blinds that were available at Sherburne. One evening we saw five little deer all at once waddling around the open field, again nothing that I wanted to shoot.

Then we decided to go to the "Castle" on Saturday morning of the last weekend. The "Castle" is a nice big blind that Capable Partners has set up for the disabled to use on an open field along a tree line. So we got there about 6:00 a.m. and got comfortable. The sun came up at 7:02 a.m. We hadn't seen anything



in the first couple of hours and I was wondering what the next strategy might be. We decided to give it until 10:00 a.m. or so, before we made any moves toward breakfast.

I was diddling on my cell phone, checking the daily weather around 8:30 a.m., when all of a sudden two does came running out right in front of us. Like any hunter's dream come true, hot on their heels trailed Mr. Big, a nice 8-pointer. What a sight to see! My heart started pumping faster and a little shaking (buck fever!) took place. I fumbled with my red dot scope trying to turn it on while not getting spotted by making too much noise or by making big movements.

Finally the scope was turned on and I lined up my target. He was standing about 60 yards from me when I squeezed the trigger and the mighty black powder shot rang out. After the smoke cleared, we saw him running across the open field towards the swampy low land and then he took a tumble. I was so excited I was still shaking and I knew I had hit him hard. After a bit, my Dad and I got our jackets on and took a walk across the field to where we last saw Mr. Big.

There he was lying about a yard short of the marshy area. What a great feeling. I hit him right in the heart area where I had aimed. I had sighted in my black powder rifle about a week before opening day and it always hits the mark when the time comes. We didn't have to drag the deer very far, since I could drive right up to it in the open field. What an exciting season of hunting!

I am very grateful to Capable Partners for the opportunity to use the variety of Sherburne blinds and setting up hunts all around the area for the members. I also want to thank the Sherburne staff for the help they provided there. They do a wonderful job of helping disabled hunters get out and do what we enjoy. I'm already looking forward to next year!

Story by Steve "Weasel" Rein



Maple Grove Hunt

The City of Maple Grove has given Capable Partners access to and responsibility for coordinating archery deer hunting in a city park. Potential hunters need to attend a meeting before the season and pass a background check required by the city. It's a great opportunity to hunt close to home.

We will continue to improve our archery hunting opportunity within the City of Maple Grove. As in past years, dogs running off leash proved to be an even greater challenge to our hunters this year. During a member's hunt, an off-leash dog came up to and barked at the deer decoy he was using. To remedy this situation, the City of Maple Grove Parks Department has agreed to install signs this spring reminding dog owners that leash laws apply in all city parks, including the one that Capable Partners utilizes during the archery deer season. We hope it will improve deer hunting conditions.

A big thanks goes out to the Maple Grove City Council for allowing Capable Partners the opportunity to hunt year after year. This is a great metro area hunt.

Special thanks go to Sergeant Larson, who is retiring, for his dedication to the Capable Partners hunting program for the last 10+ years. We would like to welcome Officer Wareham as our new contact and we look forward to working with him. Maybe during our 2016 season, we'll harvest more than the one doe that was taken last season.

Story by Kent Dirks



MN Valley Archery Deer

Created in 1976, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, with 13 miles of river in Bloomington, is one of our nation's largest metro-based units of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The US Fish and Wildlife Service manages 14,000 acres in the "backyard" of 3 million people. It works with Capable Partners to provide hunting opportunities in the wildlife refuge for physically challenged hunters and anglers. There are blinds for waterfowl hunters in Eden Prairie and platforms for archery deer hunters in Bloomington and Chaska.

Since 2013, Capable Partners has kept the calendar for three 8 x 8 archery deer hunting platforms at sites called Long Meadow Lake (LML), Bloomington Ferry (BF), and Chaska. You drive down the dirt road to get to the platform area. These roads were challenging for my lowered mini-van which meant there were several days that I could not hunt when others with more nimble vehicles did hunt. The platforms are easy for all to get to from the parking spots because they have a gravel path.

Before each of the last three archery seasons, the Coordinator Dave Guzzi, has had a meeting to sign up hunters, go through the site rules, and make sure everyone understands where the platforms are. You do not need to be members of Capable Partners, but you do need a team of a physically challenged and an able-bodied (AB) hunter.

At this hunt, the Coordinator is not there. You call him, schedule a day, and go hunt. Most of us physically challenged hunters setup a pop-up blind on the platform for concealment. The AB can use a tree

stand but must remain within 100 yards of the platform. I used a compound crossbow while my AB used a compound vertical bow. The AB must take a doe before taking a buck. The physically challenged hunter can take a deer of either gender, and it is in the metro deer unit where you can take multiple deer.

We hunted LML, which was ten minutes from my house, and BF, which was eight minutes. My AB is an avid hunter who had some vacation time to burn, and it didn't hurt that he saw good deer from his stand. Because BF was easier to get to and more available, we hunted BF more than 20 days. We hunted only one morning but didn't see any deer. The rest of the time was evening hunting. In all, I saw deer less than 20% of the time and my AB saw deer 75% of the time we hunted. Neither of us took a deer but we both had a chance that we didn't capitalize on. One hunter took two does and a buck.

Because it is in an urban environment, we experienced some unwanted human interaction, such as dog walkers on the road, dogs chasing deer, and a skier in the hunting area. We even had a buck scared away when a man in the hunters only area walked up to my AB and started talking loudly to him. While there are some challenges, it is an unparalleled opportunity to hunt close to home.

I was a new archery hunter last year and learned a lot that I hope will improve my hunting in 2016. I am excited to hunt there again. I want to thank Dave Guzzi for working so hard on this opportunity and the US Fish and Wildlife Service for partnering with us to make it even better.

Story by Evan Newton



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



2016 Calendar of Events

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--|---|---|
| Jan - March | Medicine Lake Fishing Plymouth MN, We must have 15" of ice | Craig Simpson | 763-549-1842 |
| March 5 | Banquet Kraus Hartig VFW Spring Lake Park Social hour starts at 4 | Violet Foster | 763-444-4427 |
| Spring | Turkey Hunting -- Chaska and Sherburne Wildlife Refuge | Dean Petersen | 612-388-0156 |
| Spring | Turkey Hunting -- Carlos Avery Blinds Available | Call Refuge | 651-296-5290 |
| Spring | Turkey Maple Grove By Archery for pre-qualified members | Kent Dirks | 612-270-1104 |
| Spring | Turkey Hunt--St Cloud | Gregg Runyon | 763-441-2834 |
| Spring | Turkey Hunt--Cambridge | Nate Marks | 763-370-1733 |
| April 9 | Major Ave Pheasant Shoot Glencoe, MN | Greg Hance | 763-258-4293 |
| May 1 Sunday | Mark Ryan Turkey Shoot LeBlanc's Little Falls, MN | Tom Gindorff | 651-429-7625 |
| June 4 | Prior Lake Fishing | Terry Hanson | 763-535-9603 |
| June 5 Sunday | Muskies Inc. Muskie Fishing at Surfside Park Mound, MN | Rod Guthier | 952-888-6494 |
| June 10 Friday | Lanesboro Trout Fishing at Sylvan Park pond | Evan Newton | 952-831-6758 |
| June 11 | Lake Pokegama at Pine City, MN | Violet Foster | 763-444-4427 |
| June 25 | Lake Mille Lacs Fishing 4pm -10pm Sponsored by Winkley Orthopedics | Joe Psyk | 763-497-2062 |
| July 10 | Picnic Buffalo Gun Club | Jayne Welsh | 612-965-4686 |
| July 11 | Contact Nate to sign - up for LQP Fall Deer Hunt | Nate Sjolin | 763-286-9086 |
| July 11 | Contact Gregg to sign - up for Sept 17-18 Dakota Co Deer Hunt | Gregg Runyon | 763-441-2834 |
| July 16 | Lake Mille Lacs Fishing 4pm -10pm Sponsored by Winkley Orthopedics | Violet Foster | 763-444-4427 |
| August 3 Wed | Lake Pulaski Fishing at Griffing Park Buffalo, MN | Jim Zumbusch | 320-963-5879 |
| August 6 | Lake Minnetonka Fishing at Rockvam Boat Yard Spring Park, MN | Dave Heidtke | 763-535-2718 |
| August 12-13-14 and 19-20-21 | Game Fair A great opportunity to volunteer and enjoy this great event for free | Violet Foster Dick Ransom | 763-444-4427 320-274-5196 |
| August 20 | ATV Ride Isle, MN Rides Available Sponsored by IMED Mobility | Ken Johnson | 612-792-2079 |
| August TBA | Archery Deer Hunt sight - in Coon Rapids Dam Brooklyn Park | Craig Simpson | 763-549-1842 |
| August 29 & 30 | Monticello sight-in for LQP, Cambridge, Carlos Avery and Dakota Co | Jim Vorderbruggen | 763-497-3330 |
| Sept 8 | Cambridge sight - in all weapons 2-7 PM at Isanti Co Sportsman's Club | Bill Vice | 612-232-2495 |
| Sept 10 | Tim Lindbo Memorial Pheasant Shoot Major Ave Glencoe, MN | Greg Hance | 763-258-4293 |
| Sept 11 | Caribou Gun Club Pheasant Shoot Le Sueur, MN | Violet Foster | 763-444-4427 |
| Sept 17 | Marsh Lake Duck Shoot Victoria, MN | Steve Scheunemann Andy Akins | 952-445-0213 612-868-4587 |
| Sept 17 - 18 | Vermillion Dakota County Deer Hunt Morning & Evening | Gregg Runyon | 763-441-2834 |
| Sept 17 - 25 | Lac qui Parle Deer Hunt | Nate Sjolin | 763-286-9086 |
| Sept 17 - Oct TBA | Archery Deer Hunting Cambridge, MN | Nate Marks | 763-370-1733 |
| Sept 17 - TBA | Minnesota Valley Archery Deer Hunt Must Attend sight - in & Meeting | Dave Guzzi | 763-358-1311 |
| Sept 17 to Dec 31 | Archery Deer Hunt Maple Grove Must sight - in & Attend City Meeting | Kent Dirks | 612-270-1104 |
| September 28 | Monticello sight - in for LQP, Cambridge, Carlos Avery and Dakota Co | Gregg Runyon | 763-441-2834 |
| September TBA | Carlos Avery Waterfowl Hunting Forest Lake, MN | Evan Newton | 952-831-6758 |
| September TBA | MNRV Waterfowl Hunting | Nate Sjolin 763-286-9086 Greg Hance 763-258-4293 Jim Vorderbruggen 763-497-3330 | Mark Holden 952-451-4350 Dave Guzzi 763-358-1311 Steve Scheunemann 952-445-0213 |
| September TBA | Sherburne Wildlife Refuge Waterfowl Hunting Zimmerman, MN | Nate Sjolin Jim Vorderbruggen | 763-286-9086 763-497-3330 |
| October 5 | Carlos Avery Meeting Machine Shed 6pm MUST ATTEND | Gregg Runyon | 763-441-2834 |
| October 8 - 16 | Carlos Avery Deer Hunt Forest Lake, MN | Gregg Runyon | 763-441-2834 |
| October 22 - 23 | Vermillion Dakota County Deer Hunt Morning & Evening | Gregg Runyon | 763-441-2834 |
| November 5 - 13 | Cambridge Rifle / Sherburne Shotgun Deer Hunt | Dean Petersen | 612-388-0156 |
| Nov - Dec | Cambridge Late Season Bow & Muzzleloader Hunting | Nate Marks | 763-370-1733 |

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 CONTRIBUTION/DONATION FORM

mail to the address above

What if you were to become disabled and couldn't hunt or fish anymore? What if you are disabled 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 quality adventure in the Great Outdoors! Whether you are disabled or not, we want to insure that these activities can always be a part of your life.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Alternate Phone: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Must give email to receive news and calendar updates

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Home Phone: _____

Cell Phone: _____

Relationship: _____

How did you find out about Capable Partners?

Family & Friends Internet Search Advertising

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

I AM: (check all that apply)

DISABLED If Physically Challenged, what is your disability? _____

ABLE BODIED SCOOTER CANE
 WHEELCHAIR WALKER CRUTCHES

INDIVIDUAL INTERESTS or DIRECTED CONTRIBUTIONS

(check all that apply)

| | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> FISHING (Summer) | <input type="checkbox"/> RIFLE DEER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FISHING (Winter) | <input type="checkbox"/> DUCK/GOOSE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BOW FISHING | <input type="checkbox"/> PHEASANT |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHERY DEER | <input type="checkbox"/> TURKEY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SHOTGUN DEER | <input type="checkbox"/> ATV RIDE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MUZZLELOADER | <input type="checkbox"/> VETERAN |

NOTE: To be eligible to be a disabled deer hunter, you must have proof of a hunt from a standing motor vehicle permit

Do you have a hunt from a standing motor vehicle permit?

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 have enclosed _____ as a contribution
- I am requesting a scholarship for membership
- If you have a boat or land for Capable Partner's use, please check this box.

Please provide any comments, questions, special considerations for scholarship, or instructions for directed contributions.



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

