



Adaptive Sportsmen Inc  
8727 W Coldspring Road  
Greenfield, WI 53228

www.adaptivesportsmen.org



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**"Our mission is providing recreational opportunities for physically challenged people."**

Adaptive Sportsmen Inc. is a Non-Stock, Not for Profit 501(c)(3) Foundation organized in Wisconsin



**2005 HDTV RAFFLE**

In 2005 we are holding a fund raising raffle to help pay for the many events that we hold. This year we decided to raffle off a **55" Sony HDTV** and **Sony Home Theater System**. Raffle tickets are \$5 or 3 for \$10 and the drawing for the TV will be held Oct. 1 at the Baraboo deer hunt. This TV and home theater system is a \$4000 value, so it's going to be a great prize to win. Everyone should contact Mary Mitchell at 414-916-2298 to get tickets to sell. We need to sell lots of tickets to help pay for our events during the year.

**If you can arrange to spend a day in front of a local Wal-Mart, Gander Mountain, Best Buy, or other retail store to sell tickets, that would be helpful. We can arrange for signs or posters to help explain the raffle and our organization's purpose. Everyone should be working to sell these raffle tickets, since it is a major funding source for all of our events.**

**The Adaptive Sportsman Newsletter**

**Vol. 7 June, 2005 Edited by Allen Neu**

Please contact at [aneu@adaptivesportsman.org](mailto:aneu@adaptivesportsman.org) with questions or comments. Ideas for events or activities are welcome. Contact John Mitchell at 8727 W. Coldspring Rd, Greenfield, WI 53228 or [aneu@adaptivesportsman.org](mailto:aneu@adaptivesportsman.org)

**Upcoming Events**

**Shoot and Run, Aug 19-21 at Sunset Pines Resort Rock Creek Disabled Outdoors, NWTf Wheelin' Sportsmen** and Adaptive Sportsmen are joining together to hold a unique event that combines several activities in one weekend. An ATV ride on the Clark County trails is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Trap shooting is set up for Saturday and Sunday and a fund raising banquet is set for Saturday night. You can participate in one event or all three. Sunset Pines is a new, fully accessible resort run by **Dale Petkovsek**, who is in a power chair himself. Check out the information on the calendar page of our website or call 715-267-6989 and remember space is limited and open on a first come first serve basis.

**Kayaking Lessons, Aug 27-28, Pine Forest Lodge, Mercer WI**

**John Stratte** at Pine Forest Lodge in Mercer WI has offered to give kayaking lessons to interested members at his resort on Spider Lake. He has several sizes and types of kayaks to use, and would be able to handle all skill levels. Reduced lodging rates are available for people wanting to stay at the resort during the weekend. Call 715-476-2241

**E-mail notices are sent out to all members about special events and opportunities that come up on short notice.** Send us your email address so that you might get a chance to participate in events that might not be in the newsletter or on the web site. Send your email address to [aneu@adaptivesportsman.org](mailto:aneu@adaptivesportsman.org)

<p>Include \$ 10 membership fee Pay to; Adaptive Sportsmen</p>		<p><b>Adaptive Sportsman Membership Card</b> <b>Expiration Date 12/31/2005</b></p>		<p>Mail to; Adaptive Sportsmen Inc. 8727 W Coldspring Road Greenfield, WI 53228</p>	
Name _____					
Address _____					
City State & Zip _____					
Phone #s _____		e-mail _____			
Please Circle One		Physically Challenged	Able Bodied	Volunteer/Sponsor	
Interests		Hunting	Fishing	ATV Riding	Boating
				Snowmobiling	Other _____



**Ralph and Jo Barton, Tom Macosiak, Craig, Al Neu, Joy and Emma Combs, Kurt, Joel and Lisa Hoedel, Doug Bureta, Holly, Rick Benvinedias, and Joan Guisto** (left to right) pose before the second day of riding in Mercer, June 4<sup>th</sup> 2005

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ATV Ride, June 2-5, 2005**

The **Pine Forest Lodge** in Mercer was the site for our second annual ATV ride June 2-5. We had total of 11 disabled riders and 9 able-bodied riders participate in the ride on Friday and Saturday. **John and Cheri Stratte** were gracious hosts and we had several other volunteers including **John Martinson** and **Dan and Shirley Jacoby** helping out. The weather was great; warm and dusty on Friday and with a warm rain on Saturday to bring down the dust and make the trails more challenging. Thanks to **Subway of Mercer, Bear Chasers Grill** for their help with the food, beverages, and gas. **Sue Lloyd** donated the elk meat for the BBQ and Cheri Stratte and Shirley Jacoby helped out with other dishes. We would also like to thank the ATV clubs for their donations; **Fifield Dirt Devils ATV Club, Baylake ATV Club, and Tri-County Trailblazers.**

Friday we had 7 disabled riders and 6 able-bodied riders start out from the resort, and we were able to put on 110 miles of trail riding. The trails were great, but it was hot and dusty. The ride wasn't too hard, except for the short ride up to an overlook, which was very difficult. Saturday we had 7 disabled riders and 7 able-bodied riders who split into two groups, with a slow group and a fast group. The rain came out around noon to make the afternoon ride easier. The fast group put on their rain suits and started out for Lake Superior. They almost made it, but were sidetracked by some neat trails in a sand dune near Saxon Harbor. Next year we'll make it to Lake Superior!



**Walter Joost, Tim Joost, and Pat Sullivan** wait to go out on the pontoon boat at the Madison fishery

**Madison Fishery June 2005**

Concentrate on the positives; sometimes I forget to do that, then I get all worked up for nothing. This year's Adaptive Sportsmen's Fishery had plenty of positives in it. The weather cooperated for us, We had a terrific turn out with **Walter Joost, Les Werner, Patrick Sullivan, Dan Peterson, Nolan Nehmer, Cliff Pheifer, Todd Jones, Mike Little** and his mom **Nancy, Steve Prieve, Charles Ande, John Mitchell** and myself. We also had some super door prizes, Thanks to a true friend of mine, **Ace Hardware** in Sauk City and **Gander Mountain, Madison.** Great volunteers and guides **Loyd and Dawn Soter, Bruce Gerhke, Scott Hogland,** my daughter **Katie** and son **Kenny,** my brother **Chris,** The chef **Tony** and his wife **Loren Plevak.** I would like to thank this years' sponsors: **Endres Manufacturing Wauaukee, American Packaging Columbus, D & S Baits Middleton, Oscar Mayers, Karen The Cake Lady Deforest, Pan of Gold Sun Prairie, Bavaria Sausage Verona, and Coca-Cola of Deforest.** A friend of mine asked how did I get all these people to volunteer and donate everything? All that I can say is that there is some good in everyone, you just have to dig it out and for the lucky ones you don't have to dig as hard! It made my day when Nolan Nehmer made a special trip over to me and said he had fun time fishing with Scott Hogland. I guess I try and imagine a perfect day but in reality there is no perfect day. However, the second annual Adaptive Sportsmen Fishery was as close as I could get to one! We even caught some fish! Take care, **John Martinson.**

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### ADAPTIVE SPORTSMEN

Check the **Calendar page** on our website for more information and application forms at: [www.adaptivesportsmen.org](http://www.adaptivesportsmen.org)

**August 13-14<sup>th</sup> Blackhawk Archers 3D Shoot**, Verona. Contact Les Werner (608) 845-8296

**August 19-21<sup>st</sup> Sunset Pines ATV Ride**, Check out the ATV ride, sporting clays, NWTF Banquet and fishing opportunities at the **Sunset Pines Resort** in Willard, Wi. This is an ASI event, co-sponsored by **NWTF** and **Rock Creek Disabled Outdoors**. Call 414-617-4870 or email [aneu@adaptivesportsman.org](mailto:aneu@adaptivesportsman.org)

**September 30<sup>th</sup>-October 2<sup>nd</sup> Baraboo Bow Hunt**. Call John Mitchell (414) 333-4745 for information.

**Oct. 7-9<sup>th</sup> and 14-16<sup>th</sup> Clintonville Bow Deer Hunt** Call Larry Drake at 715-535-2697 for information

**Oct. 22<sup>th</sup> Smith's Pheasant Crest Pheasant Hunt** Contact John Martinson 608-846-4518 for information

### OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

**Challenge the Outdoors**, has events during the year and a **Pontoon Boat on Shawno Lake** is available from May-October for day or evening fishing outings. You can check <http://www.challengetheoutdoors.org/>

for more information. Call (920) 833-6274 or (920) 766-9218 or send emails to: [ctoforme@yahoo.com](mailto:ctoforme@yahoo.com) for details

### OTHER ORGANIZATIONS (cont.)

**Aug 27 Happy Farm Fun ATV Ride** (Free) Hosted by the **Ghostriders of Grant County**. ATV safety courses and advanced lessons available. Lunch included. Contact - Dave Vaassen at 608-568-3093 or email at [djghost@chorus.net](mailto:djghost@chorus.net)

**Fishing Has No Boundaries** [www.fhnbin.org](http://www.fhnbin.org) (800-243-3462) is holding several fishing events in Wisconsin in 2005, including;

August 20-21 Chippewa Valley  
August 27-28 Lake Winnebago  
You may contact Mike Damm at 920-922-0763 or Linda Ott at 800-937-9123 for further information.

**Dunn County Sportsmen Alliance** Contact Mary Butler at 715-232-1496 or email to [mbutler@co.dunn.wi.us](mailto:mbutler@co.dunn.wi.us) for information. They offer fishing and hunting opportunities for people with disabilities.

**Visit the Wisconsin DNR "Open the Outdoors" website** for information on events, licenses, and permits for disabled hunters at: <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/at/af/open/>

Deer and Turkey hunters please remember that we currently have a pair of **hunting blinds** available from the **Wisconsin Paralyzed Veterans of America (WPVA)**. These are trailer blinds, and can be checked out from Don Fell at the WPVA office, 2311 S. 108<sup>th</sup> St, Milwaukee, WI 53227 or call 414-328-8910 for information.

#### Equipment Loans

We have a number of different blinds, crossbows and shooting supports available to borrow for your turkey or deer hunting. The Flambeau decoys will help your deer hunting. The latest arrival to our equipment loan program is two 3D deer targets from Rhinehart. Contact John Mitchell at 414-333-4745 or email [aneu@adaptivesportsman.org](mailto:aneu@adaptivesportsman.org) to check out the equipment.

#### Sponsors from April to June

**Badgerland Chapter of the Safari Club International, American Packaging, National Wild Turkey Federation.** Members and volunteers are contributing to Adaptive Sportsmen through their employers or the United Way, some anonymously and some matching gifts, including people at **Abbott Laboratories, Alliant Energy, & Quad Graphics**. Our thanks to all of you.

#### Landowner Hunts

Several generous landowners have asked Adaptive Sportsmen to help them find physically challenged people to hunt on their land. There are many good properties around the state. Contact Charlie Ande or Mike Little for information. You can get the email from the web page or type; [landowner@adaptivesportsmen.org](mailto:landowner@adaptivesportsmen.org)

#### Wanted to Buy

A nice crossbow. Contact Bill Stuber 608-393-2327.

Email or write to us with your hunting and fishing successes so that we can list them in the **"BACK TAG"**. We will try to run the back tag twice a year, so if you miss one, we can always get it in the next issue. [aneu@adaptivesportsman.org](mailto:aneu@adaptivesportsman.org)



**BAAP Spring 2005 Turkey Hunt (Many, many firsts)**  
First we need to thank our sponsors (the **Badgerland Chapter of Safari Club International, the National Wild Turkey Federation**, and a very gracious anonymous donor), the Badger Army Ammunition Plant and our many volunteers for making this hunt happen. We also need to thank **Sauk Prairie Equipment** for the use of two gators that allowed us to access many more of the areas. Four turkeys were harvested but just as important was the camaraderie with friends enjoying Wisconsin outdoors. Many of the hunters and guides saw deer and coyotes with an occasional skunk and racoon were also reported. The reports came in to the main gate where **Greg Borgwardt** had his grill and pick up truck set up in a fashion that was reminiscent of a chuck wagon on a trail drive in the old west (including the cowboy coffee).

**Rick Schaefer** was the first hunter in with his first Tom tied on top of his vehicle. It was taken with his crossbow. His guided was **Jack Shirpke** of the NWTF. His full story must be read! **John Martinson** was actually the first hunter to take a turkey. He got his first turkey using a shotgun after hunting ten minutes. When his guide **Mike Gustin** retrieved the bird it turned out to be a bearded hen. Sunday saw more action as **Duane Johnson** was able to connect on his first turkey with a crossbow. It also was a bearded hen. **Brian Graham** was his guide and knew a good place for a set up. **Mike (gator man) Kelly** served a dual role Sunday guiding **Lynn Krueger** and serving lunch at the main gate. They tagged out Sunday afternoon when Lynn left his crossbow in the truck and borrowed a plain barrel single shot 16-gauge shotgun.



**Mike Little** (right) displays the deer mount donated by **Jerry Phelps** of The **600 Club Taxidermy**. Jerry donated the mount for the biggest buck taken in 2004 by a disabled ASI Member. Congratulations Mike.



**2005 Horicon Bowmen 3-D Archery Tournament**  
New faces were present for the fifth annual Horicon Marsh Bowmen 3D tournament June 11<sup>th</sup>, which accounted for the largest turnout ever for this event. We enjoyed a beautiful mosquito free afternoon during the shoot followed by the best rib eye steaks around. A lifelike course along the groomed trails had just the right amount of challenge to it. I thought that the bedded elk was real! The gentle rise and fall of the course through the woods required concentration when estimating yardage. The little skunk target skunked several shooters. The groups that went around the course together ranged in size from two to six. Compound bows, stick bows and crossbows were in use. Some shooters walked while others rode manual wheelchairs, power chairs, ATVs or were chauffeured in John Deere gators. The last station was on the edge of the field and as the shooters completed the course you could see smiles on every face as they headed to the clubhouse. After dinner the prizes were handed out in the indoor range. My only complaint is that there were two many different kinds of desert to try them all. Thanks to all from **John Mitchell**



**Dick Fisher** is shown at the Menomonie fishing outing June 11<sup>th</sup> in Point Comfort Park, hosted by the **Dunn County Sportsmen Alliance**, with his guide **Jim Forster** who is with the Land Conservation Department in Dunn County. They won first place in the walleye Division with a walleye that weighed two pounds and was 18". The other two walleyes were 16": and 17". Also Dick won first place in the blue gill category with a 3/4 pound blue gill. The contest was attended by 37 participants. There were many wonderful prizes given out and a tasty lunch. Dick and his wife Betty enjoy taking part each year at this outing as they have met so many wonderful people that work in Dunn County and the surrounding areas, and who give so much of their time and the use of their boats for this outing.

Written by **Rick Schafer**.

This year ended a five-year quest for a turkey with the cross bow. Two of those years I was not lucky enough to receive a tag from the D.N.R. This was my first with archery equipment. Last year I shot one; it flipped over and rolled around for a couple of minutes, then laid on its back with the wings spread wide open. I thought it was dead when it didn't move for a while. I let out a big thank you Jesus! and grabbed my bag to get the camera out. When I looked up, the bird was running for the nearest cover, not a feather out of place and he was gone. The landowner, **Scott Davis**, came down to pick me up, I told him what happened and he called some friends and they looked for an hour, but they were unable to find it.

Another year I had one so close (5 steps away.) I had to try to look down the side of the scope to shoot. All I could see in the scope was a big mess of feathers. When I shot, he jumped and then went right back into full strut making a wide circle; never more than thirty yards away. I almost got another shot, but he didn't come back into a shooting lane. I did this one alone, wheeling every thing through the timber myself: decoys, crossbow, and blind material, everything loaded on my manual wheelchair. The set up was perfect. I was sitting in my chair with the camo burlap wrapped around the chair and shooting rest that I made, even though I didn't connect with that tom. It was so awesome to have him that close and He never knew I was there.

This year, thanks to **John Mitchell** and Adaptive Sportsmen, I was able to hunt the toms at the **Badger Army Ammunition Plant**. For those of you that are not familiar with B.A.A.P. it's over 7000 acres of land south of Baraboo on the east side of Hwy 12 owned by the Army. Back in 20's and 30's, the government made ammunition for the war. People lived and worked there and all the building and roads are still there. Its like a huge abandoned city surrounded by a fence. The main gate is on Hwy 12, locked and guarded 24- 7. No one can get in without prior approval. The roads are basically abandoned. The game can move in and out of the area at will and I've seen deer jump that fence with ease. The roads make it nice for people with disabilities to hunt from and it's all legal .OK, back to the hunt.

John called and said the **Safari Club International** made a donation to help with the turkey hunt and I would be one of the hunters. If I could make it, everyone will meet at the gate Friday 3:00 pm. I said, "you'll see me there." With the help of **National Wild Turkey Federation** board member **Jack Schirpke** and his son as my guide, we scouted Friday afternoon, set up the "**Double Bull** Archery" blind, and were ready for 4:30am Saturday. Jack dropped me off at the blind, got the blow up decoy's out, ("you know, there just like those blow up dolls some of you guys are dating"), and everything into the blind. I was prepared to stay all day if I had too. We were set by 5:00am. A short wait and birds started to gobble on the roost and I thanked the Lord for giving me this day, a loving supportive Wife, family and friends. After taking it all in, I started to talk to the toms with some soft clucks and purrs; they answered. We went back and forth for a while, and then a hen started answering the toms and was working her way to them on the ridge. So when she yelped, I yelped

- the toms were singing back. (The music we were making should have been recorded. I'm sure it would have gone gold.) NOW STAY WITH ME GUYS, USE YOUR IMAGINATION – THE STORY IS ABOUT TO GET INTERESTING.

I was talking as sweet as I could to them, but I knew they would join her soon. All I could do was keep sweet-talking to them and hope she would bring them to me. The toms flew down to her and things got quiet. Then I heard the two toms sing to her. It sounded like they were singing (WILD THANG). I gave a few more yelps and looked as far as I could see in the direction I heard the toms. I saw a bird walking the road towards me 200 yards away. It was the hen and two toms were with her. I called and the toms would sing (WILD THANG, I THINK I LOVE YOU, BUT I WANNA KNOW FOR SURE) as she came down the road. I could hear her say, YOU TWO JUST LEAVE ME ALONE. Then she came into have breakfast (with Gertrude, Henrietta, Jake, the decoys and I). She started talking to Henrietta ("the nerve of those two, is that all they think of? Wild thang Wild thang"). The toms stayed back near the timber doing their wild thang act. The hen stayed for about twenty minutes. We chatted, but those other three stiffs wouldn't talk to her at all. She got tired of the conversation we were having and started to walk off (GO FIGURE). I heard her say something about having an eye opener at the East Meadow as she walked through the corn stubble. Then one of the toms broke out into a SINGLE ACT looking like Tom Jones on a runway stage in a Vegas showroom singing (I THINK I LOVE YOU, SO WHAT AM I SO AFRAID OF). (Now I'm not a Tom Jones fan in any way, but THE CHICKS DIG HIM). He strutted from one side of the road to the other just a singing away; really putting on a show.

I was planning on shooting him when he got within 15 yards on the road, when Two Ton Tommy comes in from the right and starts strutting and singing his own rendition of, "He's a Bird Dog" (HEY BIRD DOG GET AWAY FROM MY CHICK HEY BIRD DOG BETTER GET AWAY QUICK) and tries to steal the show. He's coming in fast and hot. Jake {the decoy} is thinking Two Ton is going to let the air out me any second now, "shoot him, hurry". As he struts up to Henrietta, I could tell he wanted her, as she was giving him the eye, I settled the crosshairs on his neck. He was ten yards from the blind and I let er rip. Two Ton took off in flight. I watched him fly as far as I could see up into the draw - my heart sank. How could I miss that shot? A close look at the window and I could see a 1" gash in the side of the opening that wasn't there before that shot.

I pulled the bow back by hand with the butt of the stock against my chest (not bad for a gimp hey) reloaded and got ready. Tom Jones was still on the road strutting and drumming; his wings were making a racket when he would drag them on the road as he strutted. I could not see him, he was behind me and the back half of the blind was blacked out with the curtain, I could hear him in the grass now just outside the blind. As he came into view of the side window it looked like he was going to stick his head in and sing (I think I love you) again. He was that close - I could have reached out and touched him. He strutted his way out to Gertrude. She wasn't saying anything but she was giving him the eye. She was about

10 yards out from the blind. I aimed for his neck, made sure I was centered in the window, and squeezed the trigger.

Tommy took off and flew 75 yards, landed and walked into the timber. I'm thinking. "What the !#!#!# happened, did I miss?" Going over what I remember seeing, that bird looked funny when he landed, and was walking away. (His neck was all bent out of shape.) So I started calling; thinking he might stay in the area. Then I heard the thrashing where he vanished in the timber. I called Jack on the radio to come over and take a look.

He found evidence next to Gertrude that when Mr. Horton Legend spoke to the team of Carbon Express (cross bolt) and Rocket Arrowheads (hammerhead) they reacted with lightning speed and did their job. Jack followed the evidence right to the bird and retrieved it for me. Upon further investigation we found the first team of cross bolt and hammerhead twenty yards past Henrietta. It was clear they had been deflected by the blind material, there was no evidence of a hit. We looked for the other team, but we could not find them, ("now isn't that just like a disgruntled worker, they do a excellent job and just take off and you never see them again. Maybe if Mr. Horton hadn't pushed them so hard they might have stuck around").

I put the tag on "Tommy", we took a lot of pictures, blessed the bird and each other with a mini of Wild Turkey Bourbon. I said to Jack, you know it's amazing, the things those turkeys are saying when you learn to speak there language. Just then Jack let out a perfect loud hoot owl sound, with his mouth not a call, and a Tom up on the ridge sounded off with a shock gobble. Jack looked at me and said yea, I know what you mean. We loaded up the gear and, finally, I convinced a Tom to come home with me. We went to the gate for lunch and some fun with the guys. Now I know some of you are thinking, "Why aim for the head or the neck?" Well, with my passed experience I lost two birds and I hate losing game, so I figure with a turkey if I shoot for the head or neck either I miss or that turkeys going down and home with me. Good luck to everyone.

Just a quick recap on some of the products that were used;

Dick Fisher contacted the good people at **DOUBLE BULL ARCHERY**, Monticello, MN. and made arrangements for Adaptive Sportsmen to purchase some blinds for the members to use at the hunts. The guys at Double Bull were very generous with the pricing.

The **HORTON CROSSBOW** was bought from a friend of mine shortly after I was injured. "DICK ", you picked a good one.

The cross bolt arrows were a door prize from the pheasant hunt at **SMITHS GAME FARM** near Portage, WI. that **John Martinson** and **Pheasants Forever** put on for Adaptive Sportsmen.

The **Rocket Arrowheads** I bought on a tip from the guys at Double Bull Archery.

The decoys (Gertrude, Henrietta, and Jake) were Jack Schirpke's - he let me use them. They are the blow up ones (just like those blow up dolls some of you know so well.)

## Steelhead Fishing

Let me start out by saying this was simply a fantastic day - this is Charlie's day. Here's the rundown.

Charlie Ande lives about 2 hours away from the SE WI tributaries. Having lived with MS for a long time, it hasn't stopped him from fishing; Charlie is a determined angler and won't let anything get in his way. Other than angling from a boat, Charlie has never fished for steelhead, and he was highly motivated to change that.

A mutual friend put us in contact, initially to discuss access points that I thought Charlie could get to. The one thing I knew right off the bat...access on the tribs is somewhat limited if you can't walk. Even in the few spots that readily came to mind, one requirement would be a VERY LONG net.

After a couple emails, it became apparent that it might just be easier to go with Charlie and figure out some access points together, so I emailed an invite to come out and join me any day of the week...we decided on the 23rd. I wasn't entirely sure what we'd be able to accomplish...turns out that Charlie was a bit more mobile than I initially expected. As he put it at the end of our day, "You see that beach down there...if I was here by myself I might try to walk down there...problem is there's no way I'd get back". The largest challenge for Charlie's mobility is currently distance...it's just not possible anymore.

We met up around 10:30 at Kenosha Harbor - one of the sure fire spots for folks with limited mobility. Charlie got out of his truck and set up his scooter. Kenosha Harbor is all about spoon fishing...we rigged up the spinning rods and headed to the water. It was EASY to get down there in the scooter...there are ramps at both ends of the parking lot (1 block south and 1 block east of the intersection of 158 and 32). We cast for a bit, but a strong wind was making things difficult to say the least. There's nothing to stop you from going over the edge though, so be careful.

Next Stop, the mouth of the Pike River, which is just off of 32, a couple miles north of Kenosha Harbor. With the soggy ground, we didn't go down. Too steep for someone in a wheelchair or scooter to go solo, but if accompanied, Charlie felt he could get down and back without a problem. The sandy beach would be offlimits, too difficult to get to, but the lagoon offered some good access to fish.

We then headed upstream to the one spot I was sure that we could get on the river. Sorry, it's somewhat of a preferred spot in my book so I don't want to just go posting locations on-line..either do some scouting OR if you're disabled and want to try it, contact me and we'll meet up.

Anyway, we fished at the first pool for a while where we spooked a few redding fish as soon as we approached. Charlie was now geared up with spinners...perfect for the pool. He moved upstream while I continued to ply dark water with the fly rod.

Charlie was a good 30 yards away when I heard him shout and looked up to see a silver streak dancing on the water's surface. I bolted upstream, slid down the bank and tailed Charlie's first tributary steelhead...a magnificent chromer that hammered a white rooster tail spinner at the outside tail of a bend.

We went downstream a bit to another spot where

(Steelhead Fishing, cont)

I felt Charlie would be able to fish...granted landing the fish would require my help. Slushy and soggy ground made for slow going...several times we had to assist the scooter in forward motion. I have NEVER seen someone so determined to fish...Charlie's enthusiasm for exploring literally had my jaw on the ground.

I stayed within earshot and sight while leaving Charlie to work the long deep run with his spinner. My attention was then grabbed by movement at the tailout of a bend pool...STEELHEAD ON THE REDDS! SWEET! I crept up, shielding myself from view with a large tree that stood between us. There was simply no good way to cast to these fish...the best I came up with was to reach around the tree while standing behind it and hope for the best.

Well, Charlie got a magnificent show while watching from upstream...the Buck went ballistic, jumping repeatedly. He was initially fair, but in the process of fighting fouled up on the lead fly...now he's fouled. As I brought him into shore, I questioned whether to photograph the fish or not...afterall he did strike fair...I saw it, not more than 6 feet away from where I stood. Less time thinking and more time landing the fish should have been my priority, as he made one more run and jump, finally disgorging the hook in his side.

We resumed the task of probing water...I turned up a brown trout smolt and wondered if that was going to be my only fair fish for the day. Charlie and I soon decided that we should keep on moving...we already had fish under our belts and well, this day was as much about scouting spots as it was about landing fish.

Next stop, the Root River. The WDNR had suggested LINCOLN PARK as a good spot for someone in a wheelchair...I guess the WDNR doesn't fish there. I seem to recall 10' 45 degree sloped banks blanketed in limestone rip rap, hardly a good place for a disabled angler to fish. Instead, we went downstream to Island Park. Yes, there are tall banks too, but they are vertical banks...someone in a wheelchair or scooter can get right up to the shore in several of the upstream spots...all you need is a long net (or a buddy) to land fish.

Charlie and I re-rigged his spinning rod and I broke out the centerpin...it was time to do some float fishing. Drifting spawn is one of those "luck" things, as in we had an equal opportunity to catch fish. For whatever reason, I ended up landing 2 steelies in short order. Things just died down after that. One other thing became apparent - individuals with limited mobility will greatly benefit from LONGER rods. Provided they balance properly (to minimize fatigue) you'll get a longer reach, which will help greatly.

As the afternoon slowly slipped away, Charlie mused of some people he's encountered in hospitals and other facilities with similar disabilities. He relayed that one of the most common obstacles for individuals in situations such as his is depression, or maybe just the lack of motivation to get out there and do things simply because they don't know they exist. It was his hope that sharing this outing online would help others realize that they can come to the tributaries and fish. Personally, I hope the earlier picture of Charlie and his steelie is proof and

motivation to come out and hit the tribs. Sure, there are some bad seeds on the rivers, but MOST anglers in SE WI are friendly and more than willing to help out any other angler who needs it.

Well, things were starting to again get colder and darker...we still had another spot to visit! As Charlie packed up, he inadvertently threw his scooter in reverse and started backing up towards the steep bank! Without thinking, I threw my leg behind the scooter just about the same time as Charlie got on the brakes...I'm lucky I didn't get runover :). I guess the lesson learned here is to be sure to head out with a buddy, just in case.

Once packed up, we headed over to Oak Creek. We looked at the Fishing Pier down at the beach...easily accessible although one might face problems landing a fish from it. Upstream, most of Grant Park wouldn't be wheelchair/scooter friendly, but the FIRST bend pool right at the dam IS somewhat accessible with the well worn paths. We didn't try it out that night, but Charlie has since returned and was able to get down and back. He didn't mention whether he used a walker, 2 canes, or the scooter, but he DID mention that his mobility was much better thanks to dry ground. Heck, he even got back to the bend pool on the Pike where I had hooked a fish the week prior....I truly didn't think he'd be able to get back there. Charlie said it required some crawling on his part...but not much. Gettin' dirty is DEFINITELY worth it.

There are still other spots to scout out for their ease of accessibility, especially spots on the lower Milwaukee. While talking, I was also reminded of the Urban Fishery Ponds in SE WI. These ponds offer year round fishing for stocked Rainbow Trout as well as a variety of other species. During March and April, fishing these ponds is restricted to anglers under 16 and those with Handicap Licenses. Some of the ponds include [Quarry Park Lake](#) (Quarry Park, off 38, in Racine), the Oak Creek Lagoon (just upstream of the dam on Oak Creek), and Peorio Park Pond in Kenosha to name a few that I KNOW have good handicap access. Another great spot for anglers with limited mobility would be [Paradise Springs](#).

All of this got me to thinking about the Handicap Access spots on Iowa's Northeastern Trout Streams. Some that come to mind with either built out Handicap Angling access or otherwise really easy access include [Clear Creek](#), [Little Paint Creek](#), [Bloody Run](#), [Sny Magill](#) (don't know exactly where though), [Richmond Springs](#), [Spring Branch](#), [Grannis Creek](#), and possibly [Twin Springs](#).

If Charlie or I manage to get to more potential SE WI Tributary/Lake Michigan spots, you can be sure I'll come back and post them on the site. In summing it up, I gotta say that I always thought of myself as a "die hard" steelheader until I spent a day on the water with Charlie...I think he's gonna hold the "die hardest" title for a long time.

## Guillotined

By Mark Seeley

For me, it all started one late March evening when **John Mitchell**, president of *Adaptive Sportsman, Inc.*, called to let me know there was an Adaptive Sportsman member that needed somebody to turkey hunt with this spring, during the 5<sup>th</sup> period in Zone 29. I excitedly wrote down his information and called him immediately. "Hello, is Walter home," I asked. "Yes, this is Walter" was the reply. I introduced myself and a lengthy conversation ensued. A great friendship was underway.

Walter and I made plans to scout several areas in early April. We spent two fun-filled action packed weekends scouting turkeys (and seeing them), making notes of deer sign (for future use), and sighting in Walter's new crossbow he got for his birthday. I would also like to thank Wilma, Walter's wife, for all the excellent meals and great hospitality she provided whenever I was there.

Walter was going to be a "**Maverick**" upon my advice, and use the new *Gobbler Guillotine* broadheads. These heads take a bit of time to assemble and sight in, but once done, they are absolutely deadly on a gobbler's head and neck. I had field tested these heads for **Matt Fettere** of *ArrowDynamicSolutions* last year and was very impressed at their nock down power. Walter contacted Matt, who rush delivered the heads for the hunt. After watching Walter nail a dime size bullseye at 20 yards several times with the *Gobbler Guillotine*, I knew any gobbler coming into range was going for a ride home in Walter's truck.

For Walter, **Walter Joost** that is, the quest to harvest a wild turkey started last spring at the Badger Army Ammunition Plant Spring Turkey Hunt. Walter had a great time and a very nice hunt, but like so many other turkey bow hunts I have seen, his hunt ended with a bird that gets hit and can't be recovered. Thus, the decision to use the *Gobbler Guillotine* and cut the head off!

The hunt is finally here. Walter hunts all day Wednesday and Thursday in the Honey Creek area, seeing just hens. No Toms and no gobbling.

Friday the 13<sup>th</sup> (May 13<sup>th</sup> that is), Walter gets out of bed once again and heads for the woods in the Honey Creek area. Just like the other mornings he is in his *Ameristep Doghouse TSC Blind* by 4:40 a.m. set and ready. Its different today though! Thunder and lightning surround him and as it starts raining about 5:00 a.m., Walter thinks "I'm glad I'm in a blind" (nice Christmas present Walter). As luck would have it, the storm turned out to be short, and by 5:30 a.m. the rain had stopped.

Then, the first gobble heard all season erupted from the pines down below. The gobbling continued hot for the next fifteen minutes, and then turned cold. Another long fifteen minutes passed without any action. Suddenly, about 40 yards away, a couple of hens walked out from the pines with two nice gobblers in tow. Walter got ready for a shot, but "no cigar Charlie"!

The hens led the gobblers out of site into a nearby field. Walter felt somewhat disgusted thinking "There goes my chance".

But wait! Within minutes the hens reappeared, strolling back into bow range. Still following the hens, keeping 40 yards away from them were the Strutting Brother Toms. The hens walked past the blind feeding about 15 yards away. Walter hoped the Brother Toms would follow the hen's lead. But the boys stayed 40 yards away, continuously strutting. After several minutes, the toms made their way to within 20 yards of the blind but did not present a shot. If they would just get into the shooting window, Walter could get a shot. When the gobblers finally broke strut and headed through the shooting window, they walked by so quickly, our boy Walter was unable to get a shot. In desperation, Walter made a "putt" with his mouth. This stopped the gobblers instantly at about 13 yards from the blind. Walter's shot angle out the blind window was so severe, he had to act like a gymnast to get a shot off. He leaned over as far as he could, trying to keep his balance and not roll the whole blind over. As he leaned to the rolling point, he aimed his *Ten Point Elite QX4* crossbow topped with a red dot site. With the gobbler's neck stretched up and looking away, Walter placed the red dot on the turkey's neck. Just as Walter shot the tom pulled his head down, causing the *Beman Carbon Thunderbolt* tipped with the 100 grain 2"x 2" *Gobbler Guillotine* to hit high. The *Gobbler Guillotine* cut the bottom beak completely off and sliced his top beak half off and cut through his head behind the eyes blinding the gobbler.

The gobbler ran about 10 yards, and then started walking small circles. At about 23 yards from the blind he stopped. The turkey appeared hurt, but Walter was unsure if he hit him. Not knowing the extent of the gobbler's injuries (if any), Walter cranked back his crossbow and knocked another bolt, wondering if he should shoot or not. He watched the gobbler for five full minutes before deciding to shoot again. The gobbler never moved. Its mannerisms indicated to Walter the tom had probably been seriously wounded. Walter was waiting for the gobbler to die, but got worried it was going to walk or fly away. Walter told himself, "Shoot him again. This guy could walk away on you and you'll never find him. Then you won't have nothing"!

He took aim again at the neck and shot. The gobbler took a nosedive as the *Gobbler Guillotine* cut his head off! Walter excitedly walked over to claim his first turkey. What a trophy it was! A 5<sup>th</sup> period bird in one of the hardest areas of the state to kill a gobbler (Zone 29). It weighed 21.5 #s, had 1" spurs, and was double bearded (10.25" and 6") for a NWTF score of 74 points eclipsing the 70 point minimum to qualify as a record book gobbler.

Congratulations Walter on your success! Just remember, it will take a long time to beat that one's score!