





## Shooting Picnic

Adaptive Sportsmen thanks the volunteers from our host the Schultz Resort Rod & Gun Club and our sponsor Whitetails Unlimited. Shooting was from 10:00 to 3:00 with lunch from 11:00 to 1:00. We had sub sandwiches, vegetable, cheese & sausage trays, assorted chips & salads, cheesecake & Donuts. The bucket raffle ended at 2:30. The archery area had our crossbows available for use. Some people bought their own. There is still one arrow in a tree. We used around 4 cases of trap shells. Some people brought their own shotgun, others borrowed one of the Schultz Club shotguns. The Schultz Club rifles & pistols used a brick of .22 ammunition and two boxes of 9mm. Some participants brought their own guns and had paper targets, reactive steel, bowling pins and stationary clays. Suzy Cheesecake made the cheesecake donation for the shooting picnic.

I received these comments from the participants and volunteers:

Mathew and I had a wonderful time! Thanks to Terry his volunteer who took him around to the different stations and also helped him get his lunch. Such a wonderful lady!

First time at the Adaptive shoot for me. I had a great time and appreciated everyone working together and helping out. George

The two German instructors were so nice and made me feel comfortable shooting for the first time.

By John Mitchell

## Horicon 3D Shoot

The weatherman was wrong. We had rain not a moderate chance of drizzle. Hearty members of Adaptive Sportsmen shot anyway traveling the course with the crew from the Horicon Marsh Archers. Bob Castelion took first place with a score of 173. Keith Pamperin brought his brother Leon who took 2<sup>nd</sup> with a score of 169 beating Keith with his own bow. John Martinson took 3<sup>rd</sup> with 163 one point ahead of Keith. The New York strip steaks were great along with cowboy beans, potato and green bean casseroles. The homemade deserts were too numerous to list. The festivities concluded with Mary's bucket raffle and the awards.

**Note-** next year the shoot will take place at their new clubhouse and course off of Hwy 67.

## Note from new member Samual Phillipson

My name is **Samuel Phillipson**. I am a double amputee, who attended the Adaptive Sportsmen Mercer Northwoods Adventure this summer. I came across Adaptive Sportsmen by my friend Dora Johnston and her husband, Randy Johnston, both wonderful people. I met Dora about five or six years ago. It started out I needed a ride from Rice Lake to Shiner's Hospital and my Dad had given, the hospital a call and they set us up with Dora and ever since that she's been my driver and a good friend.

I met Randy at their campsite and that's when they started talking about Adaptive Sportsman. They told me about all the activities and things that they did and I thought it was pretty interesting. This is my first camp since I was 14 years old and I think being the age now 19, I really like the more older folks than people the same age as I because I get more experience with things that they have done that they have had faced and it's not like they have to tell you that they have faced it, You can see their handicap and how they've adapted to it.

One thing with a disability there's nothing you can't do, you just have to adapt to it. There's more people than you know that have adapted to their surroundings with a disability. I want to say thank you to everyone at the camp, especially to John and Cheryl for letting me have this experience with you guys. I can't wait for next year and many more!!

## Kelly Lake Fishing by John Mitchell

Another fishing season has finished on Kelly Lake. Veterans from the VA had four outings a month. We also had our fishing picnic with another great lunch and Mary's bucket raffle. The pictures tell the story

## Booth Season

Deerfest 2024, our final booth of the year was a success considering the crowds seemed down with EAA starting up that weekend. We were able to sell \$1,100.00 worth of raffle tickets. Big thanks to all who came and helped out John Martinson, Jeff Pagels, Cory Stephan, Randy Swille, Darwin Swille, and John Mitchell. Also were able to sell a few cookbooks and get out a lot of info to folks who seemed interested in what we do.

## New Facebook Administrator

**Travis Rayala** is our new Facebook administrator. He takes over after the passing of Kristy Richardson. Here is a brief note from Travis;

I grew up in Manitowish Waters WI on a Cranberry Marsh. My dad still runs the marsh today. I've always had a strong passion for the outdoors since I was a kid. I would take our ATV all over the marsh hunting ducks and geese and exploring several fishing spots on our lake. I'm also very big into hockey and golf.

These days my world revolves around my wife and 2 boys Easton (6) and Emmett (4). I got involved with ASI several years ago when I met my father in law John Martinson. I've always enjoyed helping with the events and supporting in any way I can.

The new Facebook page is up and running. It's called "Adaptive Sportsmen Inc - ASI". Unfortunately we no longer have the ability to control the old page. Please follow and share the new page to see highlights from past events and stay up to date on future ones. **Please send pictures and stories from events to [trayala1683@gmail.com](mailto:trayala1683@gmail.com) so they can be shared on the page.**

## Passed On

**Travis Salmon** passed away in July. Archery was one of his favorite activities. He attended our 3D shoots and harvested deer at our Baraboo bow hunt. He will be missed and we extend our sympathy to his family.

## Volunteers of the Month

Some of our volunteer boat captains gathered for a picture (shown below) before one of our outings for veterans at Kelly Lake. Shown is Rick Oldenburg, John Presser, Bill McElwee & Al Delphonso with John Mitchell in front. Jim Stark & Dan Egan were not on duty that day



## Northwoods Adventure 2024

The Northwoods Adventure was held this year from Saturday June 1 to Wednesday June 5<sup>th</sup>. There were 16 members, spouses and guests present. Some people will remember this as our old ATV ride, but now we have many more activities. There is a great bicycle and walking trail stretching more than 20 miles, from Mercer down past Manitowish Waters. Pine Forest has kayaks to use, from single seat boats to three person boats. The lake is perfect for kayaking with many inlets to discovery and miles of scenic shoreline to admire. John Strati, the owner of Pine Forest, has a pontoon boat that he uses to give tours of the lake if you don't want to paddle. The fishing is good, either from the pier at the lodge, or from a kayak or the pontoon boat. For those less adventurous souls, the quiet majesty and solitude of northern Wisconsin is food for the soul and an elixir to wipe away the rush of civilization. We invite you to come up next year and enjoy what northern Wisconsin has to offer.

**Mike Gustin** was very generous, he loaned the use of two ATV's this year, The machines were great and allowed 6 people per day to go ATV riding on the awesome trails in the Mercer area. Thanks again Mike!

We also stopped at the B-47 crash site memorial near Mercer. In May of 1961 a B-47 bomber crashed in the woods several miles northwest of Mercer. In the 1980's a small memorial was placed at the crash site. Over the years the memorial has been enlarged and now it is an impressive place to visit. It can be reached by car or ATV. It has become a favorite place for us to stop and remember the sacrifices that some people make to protect us.

By Allen Neu

I had a great week up "north" at Adaptive Sportsman's Northwoods Adventure. Pine Forest Lodge has an excellent set-up for this event. My Northwoods experience included:

- ATV riding on Monday -> close to 95 miles;
- Cycling in area -> seventy miles;
- Pontoon riding -> twice and;
- Daily comradery in Pine Forest Lodge's office.

I knew of this event many years ago and I thought that I would not enjoy it. I was definitely mistaken. I had a great time enjoying the events that I listed above but also sitting around in the office talking with everyone.

Pine Forest Lodge owner's John and Cheri Stratte were so friendly and their resort is very accessible. They are so easy to talk with and we gathered in their lodge for our meals. Cheri cooked and prepared three meals per day. Her cooking was superb and there was plenty every meal. During the day, if the mosquitos left us alone, we would sit on their porch. That way we enjoyed the three golden retriever dogs there. Aloha was John and Cheri's dog, Troy brought Baxly and Reggie came with the couple from Racine. These dogs got along so well.

Ninety-five miles of ATV riding was enjoyable. It rained hard overnight Sunday which produced many puddles. Troy hit every one of those puddles. Fortunately, the rain kept the dust down so I did not come back full of dust but I did come back sopping wet. I am an avid bike rider and I brought my recumbent trike to the Northwoods. John and I were able to bike together on Sunday and Wednesday. After my ATV ride on Monday I quickly put dry clothes on and took off on my trike. I did a short ride before supper. Refer to my picture in front of Mercer's large loon. As for the pontoon rides, John Stratte would beach the pontoon and then he would have a 16 foot ramp off the front. Wheelchair users would just roll onto the pontoon very easy. John showed us Spider Lake. The iron ore in the water made the water have a reddish tint to it. On the second pontoon ride Sam tried fishing. He caught many fish but they were only five inches or less: blue gills and perch. Spider Lake is not known for its fishing.

I enjoyed the area so much. By Dennis Gogin



## Hunting Wisconsin, Bear Season 2024

Growing up in Wisconsin I can remember seeing black bears on meat pools next to white tails during the 10-day deer hunting season and when we bought your deer hunting license it stated on the tag good for one bear or one buck. Then in the early 70's that option seemed to disappear just like the black bears so any idea of me hunting bears faded away. There was a lottery option put in place for the determined hunters but that seemed like a lot of planning and hoping so I chose to stay away from that kind of dreaming.

Now in the last ten or twelve years I started hearing about and seeing interest in bear hunting once again and when a bear tag came up for a disabled hunter was made available, I applied for it and was selected for that tag. My tag was good for Unit A one of the best units in WI and near Hayward a place we all know. I was now super fired up and ready to get started planning my hunt. First, I had to find an outfitter/ Guide to help me as I know nothing about hunting bear. I started by speaking with those who had some experience in this area and by doing a little research on my own and one name kept coming up Leahy, The Leahy family has been guiding in and around the city of Hayward/sawyer Cty. for near 50 years.

I called and spoke with a Tom Leahy; I explained my condition and my abilities and that I wanted to go bear hunting, Tom said he would be happy to work with me and that he has worked with disabled hunters in the past, so I felt like I came to the right guide service, and I booked my hunt. I met up with Tom in Hayward on September 3rd, he informed me that he had two areas for me to hunt showed me photos of bears at both sites we went his plan how to get me to the stand locations and get me in the stand.

On September 4th at 1:00 pm. Tom set me up in the first stand, the plan was I was to stay there until close of hunting hours that day. I was placed in a ground blind, a dome style with a 45-yard view to the bait pile. It was a sunny day high around 84 degrees with a 15 to 20 mile an hour wind. It was a going to beautiful day, now two things came to my mind once I was alone. One, how dense the woods were and how it just seems to swallow everything up and two, how was I going to stay awake with the gentle swaying of the trees, the sound of the woods like that of the waves gently lapping the shore and the warm weather. Well, I'm hunting bear, so you would think that staying awake would not be a problem. All alone in a dark woods with bears, I can do this!

As I settled in, I was quickly joined by the forest creatures they would help me pass the time and not feel alone. The afternoon went surprisingly fast and as the shadows started to grow long and darkness started to slip in, my first bear arrived it was alone and was going through the ground pile of logs to get to the bait underneath them with ease. I watched and even took a few pictures, I noted that it seemed nervous always looking over its shoulder at the woods which it had just came from, so I waited opting to pass for now and in about ten minutes it ran off and then another bear appeared, and this was going to be the one I would harvest. I liked the way its ears were set on its head and the beautiful black coat it had. Now, with about thirty minutes left in the day I decided to harvest my first Wisconsin black bear.

I wish to thank the Leahy family Tom and Alexa his wife who tracked down my bear and loaded me up for the ride home, their willingness to work with all hunters no matter their abilities and their kindness will not be forgotten. Thank you it was a great hunt. **By Dale Nelson**



A group goes out on a ride on our pontoon boat at Kelly Lake this year



Picture of Dale Nelson and Tom Leahy with Dale's bear. See story (left)



Bob Castillon and Randy Johnston pose with the doe Bob shot this year..



Penni Kline poses with a fish she caught at the September fishing outing in Madison. Penni is also the author of a book of poems titled "Ride the Blue Wave"

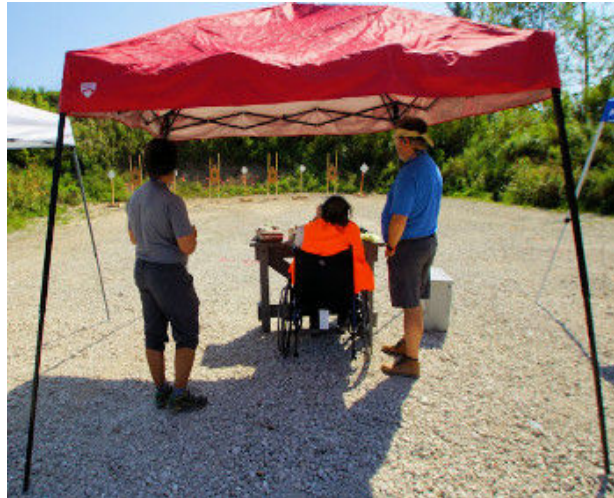


## Horicon Archery Shoot

Keith Pfeifer finishes the course at the Horicon Archery Shoot with two of the volunteer guides. (above left) Mathew Schwantes (almost hidden behind Rob Krantz) gets ready to shoot his cross bow at the target range (above right)







### ASI Shooting Picnic at Schultz Rod and Gun Club

Our annual shooting picnic was held at the Schultz Rod and Gun Club in Muskego this August. Above, from left to right, we have the Archery range, the pistol range, the rifle range, and the trap shooting stations.



### Northwoods Adventure 2024 B-47 Crash Memorial.

There is a crash site memorial near Mercer that we visited during the Northwoods adventure. (see story) to the left and below are some pictures from that memorial



Randy Johnston, Leslie Laabs, Allen Neu, and Sam Phillipson relax on the front deck at Pine Forest Lodge during the Northwoods Adventure.



Spider Lake as seen from the Pine Forest Lake Lodge at dusk during the Northwoods Adventure.



Allen Neu and Trot Kurczek check the map before going ATV riding (above left) and Sam Phillipson rides the Trak chair (right) at the Northwoods Adventure.

