

Sportsmen Assisting the Nation's Disabled Sportsmen



SANDS Goes NATIONAL

After nearly a year of negotiations, SANDS has crossed the river to Iowa. The Iowa DNR is now offering SANDS as part of the services they offer their residents and outdoor participants.

As a result, Iowa is now in need of an Events Director and four (4) Field Coordinators. In addition, SANDS is developing its guidelines for non-profit status and working toward the creation of a board of directors.

In the coming months, SANDS will be making contact with most of the Central States as well as others interested in the program.

If you or someone you know is interested in helping to contact certain individuals, please let us know.

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SANDS Banquet—February 23rd

The SANDS Banquet is just around the corner. The banquet will be February 23rd from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Chalco Hills Visitors Center at Wehrspan Lake.

There will be plenty of free food, door prizes, presentations from the Game and Parks Commission, a raffle for a .50 caliber black powder rifle and a **silent auction** throughout the evening's festivities.

Please call Dave Burgess at (402) 559-3743 or (402) 650-0211 to get your tickets to the SANDS Banquet. Your ticket number will be your bidding number for the silent auction.

The SANDS Banquet is open to everyone, so bring your friends and family to share in the festivities. Again everyone is welcome and can join in the bidding.

WANTED: Your Pictures!

Do you have pictures of yourself while you're out on your fishing or hunting trip?

We need your photos for the newsletter! If you have some pictures of hunting or fishing events, send them to sandsnebraska@yahoo.com or you can send them to the newsletter editor, Mike Freel at freel@tconl.com.

We really want to show off your smiling face to all the participants, so send us your best.

New SANDS Website and Forum page

We have a new SANDS website, with some new tools to help make contacts. It is the SANDS Forum. This is an on-line forum where you can discuss any outdoor related topic. Please be adults about the forum. There are a few rules to remember. There will be no foul language on this forum. Anyone caught using foul language will first be given a warning about their conduct, and if it happens again you will be banned from the forum for life. I will not tolerate rude behavior, foul language or any other behavior that is not above board at all times. You can use the forum to line up hunts, fishing trips or pass on notes about an area that you went to and much more. It is all up to you on what you post.

The new website address is <http://www.sandsusa.org>. We have installed some security features so when you go to the members link you will have to sign in with your e-mail address and your zip code. If you have any questions, call Dave at (402) 559-3743.

Guided Spring Turkey Hunt Available

If you would like the chance to go on this wheelchair accessible hunt in Glenwood, Iowa, you need to sign up with Dave for the drawing. This hunt requires an Iowa Spring Turkey permit (recipients obligation) and the desire to go for a huge tom. The landowner states that he grows them big over there, so don't let this opportunity pass you by. Dave can be reached at (402) 559-3743 office, or (402) 650-0211 cell or at sands@sandsusa.org.

Good luck to the winner, and remember to take a camera along. We would love to see pictures of your bird.





Cal Campbell with Turf Cars of Council Bluffs, Iowa and the Safari Club International has donated one of their special turf cars to SANDS. This car will come with hand controls to operate the car so that individuals with spinal cord injuries or people with mobility issues and paraplegics can use this cart to get into the field to go hunting. It also comes with a roll bar, oversized tires, a camouflaged paint job and is battery operated.

The car will be transported by trailer to your hunting location. However, you must be within 150 miles of Omaha to use the car or come and get it and then bring it back under your own means of transportation. Unfortunately we are not able to transport the turf car throughout the State of Nebraska. Anyone with a valid drivers license will be able to sign out the vehicle. The person signing out the vehicle will be responsible for any damage to the vehicle.

Lonnie Makes a Memory

September 2007, the day is just beginning and already Lonnie is jumping with joy. Today is going to be all about him. Lonnie won a pheasant hunt at Pheasant Bonanza, and Trent, Mike, Josey and Frosty have all gotten together to help make a dream come true for Lonnie.



Pheasant Bonanza is located just north of Tekamah, Nebraska. Trent Leichleiter, General Manager, has donated pheasant hunts to the SANDS program for the last two years, and works very hard to assist people with disabilities to get out and hunt. The staff and crew of Pheasant Bonanza work hard at breaking down the barriers keeping people with disabilities from the field. Lonnie needed a little help with getting around, so the guys loaded up in a four wheeler and away they went. Frosty led the dog out into the field and the hunt was on.

Lonnie was driven behind the dog and when the time came for him to make the shot, Mike would get him into position and Lonnie did the rest. Lonnie spent the morning of his hunt working on memories for a lifetime, while his wife, Judith, waited for him in the clubhouse.

Lonnie didn't shoot a bird, but that was not what the day was all about. It was about spending time outdoors and making new friends. Trent and his team presented Lonnie and his wife with a couple of pheasants for Lonnie and Judith to enjoy, and remember the day that Lonnie lived a dream.

