

Sportsmen Assisting the Nation's Disabled Sportsmen



Inside	
SANDS Year End Banquet	1
News Letter	1
Pictures Wanted	2
Tony Takes Jeff on the hunt of a lifetime	2
Spring Turkey Hunts Available	2
Hunt of a Life Time	3
Participating in SANDS	4
SANDS Meetings	4

SANDS Year End Banquet



January kicks off a whole new year of events. Late deer season, Spring Turkey season, and a brand new season of expo's and county fairs, and the SANDS Year End Banquet to name just a few. You heard right this year the SANDS Banquet is going to be January 31st from 5pm to 10 pm at the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). The PVA is located at 7612 Maple in Omaha. If you need directions give me a call or drop me an email and I will get you what you need to get there. The first year we had about 75 people show up for the event. Last year the Banquet had over 250 people attending. This year we are estimating the turn out to be between 350 and 450 people, so we went to a larger location to hold everyone. This is not a banquet for just people with disabilities. This get together is for people with disabilities,

able-bodied mentors, and every ones friends and families. Remember the more the merrier. Like last year we will have tons of food and drink and we will be holding a raffle as well as a silent auction. We are trying to raise money to purchase more equipment for people with disabilities. The pictures you see here are from last years banquet. I wanted to remind every one of all the fun we had. It was a great time to relax, munch on some good food, and have a good time meeting others in the program and work out the details for the up coming hunts and fishing trips. If you have not come to one of our banquets I urge you to attend. See what it is all about, and join in with meeting new people and making new friends. We will have door prize's for everyone. We will have a raffle for prizes and a silent auction, where you could win a painting, feather art and much more. So don't let this one pass you by. Mark your calendar for January 31st. The days event will begin at 5pm and go to 10pm. LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

THERE!!!



SANDS Newsletter

Hello Everyone,

I wanted to let you know that the SANDS newsletter will be coming out on a quarterly basis. Because of the cost of mailing all the newsletters we had to make some changes. Hopefully this will work for everyone and we will be able to cover the costs. If you have some ideas for a story that you would like to see in the newsletter please get it to me at least two months in advance of the next issue. We would also like to see some of the pictures that you have taken this last hunting season. This newsletter is for you, and about you and your accomplishments. So share the mountains that you have climbed to get your deer or turkey.

WANTED: Your Pictures!

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

We need your photos for the newsletter! If you have some pictures of hunting or fishing events, send them to sands@sandsusa.org

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

Tony Takes Jeff on a Turkey Hunt of a Lifetime

Tony has worked very hard in the SANDS program to assist people with disabilities, to get out and live in the out doors. For the last two years he has taken Aleah Baranek out on a spring turkey hunt. And not only has she been able to get out and go hunting, the two of them have become really good friends. This story is about Tony and his friend Jeff. They have been hunting together long before SANDS got its start. Here is a picture of Jeff Burke of Grand Island with his trophy Rio Grande Gobbler taken up at Calamus this spring. We held our annual SANDS (Sportsmen Assisting the Nation's Disabled Sportsmen Inc.) spring turkey hunt at Calamus Lake April 18th & 19th. We stayed at the Calamus Outfitters Lodge up at the North East corner of the lake. They have a fully handicap accessible facility and they offer guided hunts of all types along with fishing, canoeing, horseback riding, etc. They even have a general store right between the lodges. Jeff and I first set up in the Jones canyon area early saturday morning. We got Jeff into his all terrain extreme fully camoed wheel chair and we headed up into a canyon off of an alfalfa field where the turkeys had been seen strutting nearly every morning.



Spring Turkey Hunts Available

We have a couple of turkey hunts available. The first hunt is around the St. Paul Nebraska area. St. Paul is located north of Grand Island, Nebraska. The hunt will be for one hunter and the mentor of their choice. The winner can pick someone from the lists located in the SANDS participants section from the website. The person donating the hunt is Lowell Poland. The second hunt is in the North Loop River Valley area, around Elba, Nebraska. This hunt is donated by Tony Morrow, and it will be for one hunter only. Tony will go with you to assist. You will need to contact Dave at 402-559-3743 or 402-650-0211 to enter in the drawing for these hunts. If you have any questions please contact Dave at 402-650-0211. The turkey seasons run from March to May. Good luck to everyone, remember to take a camera along with you we need your pictures.



The Hunt of a Life Time

I loaded my double bull blind, decoys, camera and Jeff's gun on my back. I then walked on up into the canyons with Jeff following close behind in his extreme machine. The turkeys were gobbling all around us while we were setting up the blind. We got settled in just as the sun was cresting the East canyon ridge. What a wonderful site! I gave a series of calls on my box call. We heard gobbles all around us! We were surrounded by gobblers. I settled down into my calling routine a series of yelps purrs and cutting using the box, slate and my mouth calls all at the same time. I felt like a 1 man band. Finally the rumble of a big gobbler came closer! He was just around the corner of the canyon! If he just comes around the corner he will see my stutter B-Mobile decoy (Bubba) and come on in! I would call he would cut me off with a loud echoing gobble as he came closer and closer. Finally there he was strutting right up the canyon towards us. He was at 75 yards then 60 yards then in range 45 yard. Jeff was getting ready for the shot. Suddenly the Tom came out of strut and was walking away from us to the right. Jeff tried to adjust but could not turn far enough to the right. We both watched in frustration as he walked out of range. He had seen something that he did not like. The Sun was bearing down on us from the East. Maybe the glare off of the gun barrel, our glasses or the video camera, we don't know but what an exciting morning we had. A catch and release as I call it. We got loaded up and headed back to the lodge for lunch.

After lunch we headed to a windbreak just on the East side of the lake. We had seen some gobblers there when we went by going to lunch. We pulled in the gate swung around next to the trees and I started to unload Jeff. I looked over my shoulder and I saw several turkeys in the trees. I told Jeff that we would have to do this the old fashioned way and load him in his conventional wheel chair (Old Blue) as I would not have time to unload the Extreme Machine. I Got Jeff out of the suburban and into Old Blue and I flipped him back on 2 wheels and drug him backwards through shelter belt over logs, brush and into the cedars on the North side of shelter belt where it opens up into the rolling sand hills on the East side of the lake. I spun Jeff around in the shade and faced him towards the pasture. Jeff suddenly raised his arm and pointed towards a ridge 75 yards away! There they are he said excitedly! Don't move! I exclaimed as I hurried back through the trees to the vehicle grabbing Jeff's gun, possible bag and the Double Bull Blind.

I crawled back through the trees, popped up the blind, loaded and handed Jeff his gun and set the blind over Jeff and myself. I took several minutes to regain my breath asking Jeff where the birds were. They had walked back over the ridge into the pasture. Don't worry I said they were not really spooked we will give them some time and I will try calling them back. I told Jeff to relax while I dug the sandburs out of my knees and hands. Fifteen minutes had passed and I saw a red head out in the tall grass in the pasture. I started purring and clucking on my slate call. His head came up and he went into a 1/2 strut. He was coming our way! I kept on calling softly and he came across the pasture from 200 yards all the way up to a lone cedar which stood 50 yards out in front of us. I could see him standing in the shadows next to the cedar I told Jeff to get his gun up and focus on the East side of the tree. I kept purring and doing soft contented hen sounds on my slate call. Suddenly he stepped out from the cover of the cedar and took several steps towards us then he stopped at 45 yards and raised his head looking right at us. It is now or never I whispered to Jeff. He is not coming any closer. Jeff used the support on the side of the blind to steady the gun. Put your bead right on his head I whispered intently, just squeeze the trigger when you are on him. Jeff tried to calm his breathing, lined up the bead and squeezed the trigger. Boom! I watched as the bird jumped in the air took a few steps and went down. Wow! You got him!, I ran out of the blind and sprinted to the tall grass where I had seen the bird go down. There he was I picked him up and ran back with him to Jeff and the blind. We where both so exited. The bird was a 4 year old Rio Grande with 1" spurs, 10-1/4" beard and weighed in at 23 lbs 5 ozs. What a trophy! And what an exiting hunt we both had. It is memories like this that make the SANDS program so successful. Catch you in the outdoors! Tony Morrow

Participating in SANDS, You get out what you put in!!!

SANDS is different from other organizations in lots of ways. 1st. because it's not your money I want, it's you; the disabled, the able-bodied and the land owners. All of you are what the SANDS program is all about. People helping people to get out and live life to the fullest, by offering a helping hand when needed. Not a hand out, but a hand up. Participation in the program is very important and we must keep it alive. 2nd. Everything we offer through the SANDS program is free. Since all the hunts and fishing trips are given to us we can give them away to the participants of SANDS at no cost. Sign up for the events, take an active part in the program. Don't fall back into the old rut of hiding indoors never getting out or doing anything new. Live life, don't just exist on the face of the earth. Signing up is just the first of many new steps that you will be asked to take. First, you signed up for the SANDS program. Next you have to get the latest list of names and contact information so you can be giving people a call. Keep track of who you call and how things went. If you are able to get out with a few of the participants you will be off to a great start. If you need help with deer or turkey tags or with hunting and fishing license call me and we will get you taken care of. Organizations like Whitetails unlimited and Nebraska Bass Federation give SANDS donations to pay for those licenses for people with disabilities. There is no shame in needing a helping hand. But it's a crime to run and hide, never getting out and existing instead of living. Don't let it suck you down and break your spirit. Sign up for the hunting and fishing events. Be a part of a program that is there for each of us. I can't make you get out of the house, but if all you want is a chance at getting out there just reach out and take a chance. We need to get participation in the program up and going. We don't want to loose what we have all worked so hard to get. Outdoors living life, not locked away behind some heavy door or glass panes just waiting for the day when we just fade away into nothingness. Don't let SANDS die!! If you have some ideas on how to increase participation or ideas on anything with SANDS please give me a call at 559-3743 or my cell phone at 650-0211 I really want to hear what you have to say. Together we can make this program work, but it will take all of us working together to get it done.

SANDS Meetings

The idea was given to me last year and I would like to find out if there is any interest in the idea. The thought was to help raise awareness and boost participation by holding a monthly SANDS Meeting. I thought that this might be a great opportunity for us to get together and share ideas, get some new prospective on SANDS. Where do we want SANDS to go? Where and what do we want out of SANDS? Questions like that. Or whatever questions you may have. These meetings will be held on a Thursday or Friday evening from 7pm to 8pm at a local venue that we can get donated to use for the meetings and the possible number of people. I encourage all of you to write down your questions and ideas and if you are not able to get to the meeting then mail them to me and I will read your ideas or questions or comments to the participants that are at the meeting. I will take down the response to your thoughts and get them back to the person that sent them. If you are able to come to the meetings then you will want to have a list of questions or comments ready for everyone to hear. So writing things down will only help you to remember what it is you are wanting to say. Any questions or comments are welcome positive or negative but remember positive or negative all questions will be answered. So lets try to remember we all have feelings and no one likes to get their feelings hurt lets try to keep things civil. More information on the exact date and time and location will come in either an email or a letter to you. If we are interested in holding a monthly meeting please contact Dave any way you can to let him know your feelings on the matter.