

Sportsmen Assisting the Nation's Disabled Sportsmen



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SANDS Year End Banquet



What a great way to spend a Saturday night, at the SANDS Banquet. This years banquet was a huge success, with over 200 people attending the event it was a night to remember. First let me say thank you to all the sponsors who helped make the evening such a huge success, people like Chris from Hy-Vee and the people from Bass Pro Shop and Cabela's. We could not have had the banquet without you. I also want to thank the volunteers for all their hard work, the Boy Scouts from Troops 395, 377, 812 and Troop 80. As well as the Girl Scouts from Troop 5293 and the AmeriCorps people from the Munroe-Meyer Institute. We could not have held this event with out all of you being there to assist. So Thank you one and all and a special thanks goes to Randy Yates who headed up the Boy and Girl Scouts and Jodi Schmulitz who helped out with the her AmeriCorp people. This year we handed out 250 door prizes, 27 silent auction items and 1 .50 Cal. black powder rifle donated

by Larry Yost of the Whitetails Unlimited for the raffle. All together we raised \$2555.00 THANK YOU!!! A portion of the money has been used to purchase the Be Adaptive Model HQ 100 universal mount. This device is used by quadriplegics and people with little or no use of their arms or hands to hold a rifle, shotgun or cross-bow and fire the weapon with a puffer switch. You attach the device to a persons wheel chair and with the use of a puffer switch the person can fire their weapon on their own. This adds realism to the hunt for people with disabilities. I also want to give a special thanks to Nick Syracuse, who really took the raffle tickets and ran with them. Nick worked real hard at selling all the tickets he possibly could (Great Job Nick). I want to thank Christy Christenson, Cathy Burgett, Lanny Burgett and Danielle Burgess for all their hard work. They made sure that everything went as smoothly as possible from behind the scenes. The nights Grand Prize was won by Tony Tellez of Bellevue, Nebraska. Tony had the winning ticket for the black powder rifle and I know he will get some great use out of it, by the look on his face when they called his number. Congratulations Tony. Pictures are from Lani Baker and Mike Freel who went around taking everyone's picture. They really captured the night for all of us to remember. Thanks to everyone for a great evening...



Spring Turkey Hunts

Spring has come and that means buds on the trees, green grass and turkeys. We have had a couple of hunts offered for example go on a hunt with Christy Christensen or down at Rocky Oaks. Paul Malone over in Glenwood Iowa has a hunt for disabled Vets and Kevin Werts offered to take some one out as well. These hunts are going fast so get your name in the hat. Drawings for all these hunts will be on April 1st. I know that is not much time but if you get your name in and get your turkey tag it will give you a couple of weeks before the season opens. People with disabilities if you need help getting your turkey tag let me know. SANDS will purchase your tag for you. We are able to assist with getting one tag per year. And if you don't get picked as one of the lucky winners you can still get a tag and go hunting on your own with a mentor of your choice. We will help with that as well. The main thing here is to get out and enjoy yourself. Don't just sit around the house. Contact Dave at 559-3743 or 650-0211 to get your name in the hat. Good luck and good hunting...

WANTED: Your Pictures!

Do you have pictures 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.

SANDS New Equipment

The SANDS program has lots of different equipment for people with disabilities to use to make their time in the field or by the lake much more enjoyable. This equipment like SANDS is free for anyone who needs it. There are no fees for you to use it. Pictured at the right is our latest purchase. It is the HQ100 adaptive device. It will hold a shotgun, rifle, black powder or crossbow. It is battery operated device to allow quadriplegics to hunt. With the use of an actuator arm and a sip & puff

you can move the weapon to your target and then shoot it with very little assistance.

We are trying to get the feel of hunting back to you. We also have a limited mobility device and an extra sip & puff switch that can go on any weapon. To use these pieces of equipment you will have to fill out an equipment request form and you will be allowed to use the item for one week. If know one else wants it at the end of that week you can extend your use of it by one more week and then it must be turned in. If you have any questions or to sign it out contact Dave at 402-559-3743 or 402-650-0211.



Guided Spring Turkey Hunts Available

We have a couple of turkey hunts available. 1st is Rocky Oaks, at Nehawka Nebraska. Vern and the guys are offering a spring hunt for April 12th and 13th. If you would like to get in on this hunt you need to sign up with Dave and get your name in the hat for the drawing. A winner will be chosen on April 1st. Next is for an Iowa Disabled Vet. The hunt will be near Glenwood Iowa. The landowner states that he grows them big over there so don't let this opportunity pass you by. Spring turkey season is open to Iowa residents only. So if you want to hunt this land contact Dave at 402-559-3743 office, or 402-650-0211 cell or at sands@sandsusa.org

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



SANDS has a new website www.sandsusa.org and it comes with lots of new features. 1st we added a forum for everyone to use, (please remember that there are women and children in SANDS so let's keep things clean). You can use this to talk with people about any topic related to SANDS or hunting and fishing. You can look for help with getting out and going hunting or fishing. The possibilities are endless. 2nd we have added some security measures to the participant's link with your names and contact information. It is now secured in a page that you must sign in to get to it. To sign in you must have an email account, your user name will be your email address and your password is your zip code. If you don't have an email account you will need to call Dave at 559-3743 or 650-0211 and he will have to create one for you. Once you are in you can change your user name and password to whatever you want them to be, by clicking on the my account link at the top right corner of the page. Once you have made the changes you want click the update bar at the bottom of the page and you will be set. We are doing this to protect your privacy and to make sure that no one can get your information to use it in a bad way or to harass you in any way. We don't need people getting your address or phone number then making obscene or harassing phone calls to you, or to the women and children in the program. It is the best way we know how to help keep you safe. If you have any problems getting in please call Dave at 402-559-3743 or 402-650-0211. These measures are being provided by Matt our website designer and Paradigm Solutions. I want to thank Matt for all his hard work in getting our page up and running and making it safe for all of us.

The Hunt of a Life Time

Are you disabled, but still like a challenge? Are you able to take care of your needs around the house or in the field? Would you like to go on the hunt of a life time? Then read on. If you like the challenge of a hunt and like the adventure of going some place new then this is the hunt for you. The Safari Club International held its banquet on February 8th and 9th 2008 at the Holiday Inn Central (72nd & Grover) in Omaha, NE. Last year the club donated a deer hunt with a mount that Dave Duncan won. This year the club donated a huge hunt to SANDS. There are some conditions that you must meet in order to put your name in the hat for the drawing of this hunt. You must be able to travel by air and ground. This hunt is a long ways away and you will have to spend some time in an airplane. You must be able to go away for 7 days plus travel time. You have to be able to take care of all your needs with out an attendant. That means being able to totally care for yourself before the hunt, during the hunt and after the hunt. If you have made it this far get ready here it comes. The Safari Club has donated a 7 day African Safari to go to one person with a disability. You must be DISABLED!!! This hunt includes your air fare that is paid for as well as your hotel and meals. You will be able to hunt 1 impala, 1 warthog and 1 blesbok (similar to antelope). After your hunt you will want to have something to remember the event so Steve Evers of Wildlife Creations has donated mounting 2 of the animals your choice. The only other condition is that the hunt must be used in one of the following months, October of 2008, March of 2009 or October of 2009. If this sounds like something you would like to do then call Dave at 559-3743 and put your name in the hat. The drawing for this hunt of a life time will be held August 20th of 2008. So don't waste any time getting signed up for this wonderful prize package.



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

A new idea was given to me recently and I would like to share it with you. 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 perspective 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 Saturday evening 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.