

BMC's 12th Special October Gun Deer Hunt

For the 12th year in a row now Badger Mining Corporation (BMC) has been a company-sponsor of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) 9-day disabled gun deer hunt. The WDNR created the season in 1990 in order to provide opportunities for individuals with certain disabilities to enjoy deer hunting at a time of year in which temperatures are generally milder and mobility in the woods is easier.

BMC originally started the opportunity in 2001 for Bob Bartol, who is one of their very own, at the St. Marie property, which is located in Green Lake County. Bob Bartol is a member of the Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (TDL) Team and has been with BMC since March 1984. Bob was an avid hunter prior to being injured in a swimming accident in 1974 and grateful to be back out in the woods again.

In 2006, BMC expanded the hunting opportunity to the Fairwater property, which is located in Green Lake and Fond du Lac Counties, and in 2008 to the Taylor property, which is located in Jackson and Trempealeau Counties.

This year, BMC accommodated 17 hunters, 7 of which were new and 10 returning hunters including Bob Bartol.

Bob hunted opening weekend at Taylor. The WDNR youth hunt happened to coincide with the opening weekend, so Bob's grandson Bennett Bartol was invited along for the hunt. On opening evening, Bennett was able to get off some shots and connect with his 1st buck. Pictured to the RIGHT is Bennett Bartol and his dad Jeff Bartol with his 8-pointer. With one deer under his belt, Bennett decided to help with herd management and harvested a doe the next morning. He is now a full-fledged hunter. Way to go Bennett!! Grandpa Bob was thrilled to have experienced this opportunity!



Bob continued to hunt at Taylor opening weekend AND the following weekend with his guide Matt Hess. Bob saw tons of bucks, but none big enough for him to pull the trigger. As Bob tells everyone "I am just happy to be out hunting and I don't care if I shoot one." Bob was able to witness from afar AND was after the illusive buck "Twister" who tops the Hit List for 2012 as a 6 year old buck with antlers that will make anyone shake!

Bob also hunted at St. Marie one night during the week out of the custom built Beanstaker from New Height Technology, which we recently enclosed. The portable hydraulic deer stand is the ultimate stand for those with physical limitations. Hunters truly enjoy the opportunity to be elevated - something most of us take for granted!

Pictured to the RIGHT is Bob Bartol, his son Jeff Bartol and Grandson Bennett Bartol at the "After the Hunt Celebration."



The St. Marie Hunt

Lance Voeltner of Ellison Bay, WI and Gary Roth of Manawa, WI both participated in the hunt at St. Marie. Unfortunately Lance was only physically able to hunt opening night. Nathan Hess had a couple big bucks picked out for the returning Gary Roth and he certainly put in the extra effort. They saw the bucks from afar and moved in on them night after night, but the shot never presented itself. Gary truly enjoy just being out there!



Stanley Jezeski of Princeton, WI, was one of the successful hunters who shot this 13 point buck pictured to the LEFT opening night with his hunting partner Parker LaBuda. Stanley also shot a couple does later in the season.



Lavan Radichel of Freemont, WI, hunted with his brother-in-law Del. Del and Lavan are pictured to the LEFT. Lavan also had a lucky opening evening. He shot this 11 point buck under the guidance of Brandon Hess. Del, Brandon and Lavan are pictured with the monster buck to the RIGHT. Lavan also shot a doe later in the season.



Harold Dallapiazza of Milwaukee, WI returned again for the 4th year shot a doe. Harold is pictured here to the LEFT with his guide Brandon Hess.

Harold suffered a severe accident as the result of falling head first from a bow tree stand 18 years ago. The tragedy left Harold a quadriplegic and thinking that he would never get in the woods during a gun deer season let alone actually shoot a deer again. Harold is able to hunt with the use of a BE Adaptive Equipment, LLC HQ 100 Model that BMC purchased 4 years ago. The model is designed for individuals with no hand or arm movement. It can be operated completely with the chin and mouth and operated by a very slight suction on a tube.

The Fairwater Hunt

Mark Huey of Madison, WI participated in the hunt at Fairwater. Mark is pictured to the BELOW to the LEFT with the doe he shot opening day. Ken Tomic of Racine, WI returned again to hunt at Fairwater. Ken participated in 2010 with his brother Mike. Ken wasn't successful, but he was able to get out and enjoy himself. Ken is pictured to BELOW to the RIGHT. Unfortunately the hunt was short for both Mark and Ken due to illnesses.



Roger Leschke of Manitowoc, WI and Donald Leschke of Walworth, WI are cousins who returned again to participate at Fairwater. Both were successful in filling their freezers! Roger shot a doe and Donald shot a couple does. To the RIGHT, Roger Leschke is pictured and Donald Leschke is pictured BELOW with his guide Jerry Wallace.



The Taylor Hunt

In addition to Bob Bartol, 7 additional hunters also participated at Taylor.

Jim DeKay of Custer, WI made the trip. Jim participated at St. Marie in 2010 and 2011. He was still in search of a hit on a buck and was able to connect on one opening evening at Taylor. Jim also shot 3 does. Jim is pictured to the RIGHT holding his buck and with his guide Chris Halvorson and helper Parker Hess.



Walter Schultz of King, WI returned again this year for a weekend in coulee country. Always entertaining to have in deer camp, Walt was full of excitement as usual. The Taylor crew got a "pat on the back" for continuous improvement because Walt didn't have to fire any of his guides this year. "One Shot Walt" also got it done again this year by harvesting a pair of does on opening night and his biggest buck to date on Sunday morning. Walt is pictured toe the RIGHT with his buck. Big THANKS to Rollie Parker for chauffeuring and hunting with Walt!



Brabyn Wildanger of Blair, WI got his "Hanger" Sunday evening. The buck stepped out of the treeline to the far left of the field of view and the guides had to make a quick move to help Brabyn adjust his position for the shot. They were able to pull it off and trigger a killing shot in the last few minutes of shooting hours. The deer was jumped with training it after the shot, so the Team backed out and left it lay until morning. They made the right decision and were able to recover the buck. Unfortunately the coyotes beat the hunters to it and had their fill of the hind quarter. Brabyn also shot a doe during his hunt. Brabyn is pictured to the LEFT with the "Hanger" buck and to the LEFT with the Team (L-R Chris Halvorson, Rollie Parker, Matt Sedelbauer, Jeff Fritz, Brabyn Wildanger, Alanna Kosholek and hunting guide Andy Chikowski).



Later in the week at Taylor, Elizabeth Massman of Taylor, WI and Sherwin Goodwin of Madison, WI arrived at camp for the hunt. Elizabeth had an exciting hunt. She connected on a doe, but unfortunately hit a buck that was never found and saw a dandy buck that did not present a shot to her. Neil Kniseley served as her guide. Elizabeth is pictured to the RIGHT with her doe.



Also pictured to the RIGHT is Sherwin Goodwin with the couple of does that he shot.



James Hansen of Alma Center returned again to Taylor. James enjoyed hunting with his son Junior. James shot a magnum buck in 2010, which was his 1st deer ever. He had no opportunities at any bucks bigger, so he settled for a doe. To the RIGHT James is pictured with his son Junior. Unfortunately we had no pictures of James with the doe that he shot.



Chuck Kinser of Black River Falls was very thankful to return to Taylor again to hunt. Chris Halvorson and Rollie Parker had their hands full...of bullets that is. Chuck managed to get a little excited and miss 5 different bucks and a couple does. He was able to connect with a doe in the end, which he is pictured to the LEFT with. Special THANKS to Chris and Rollie for going the extra mile to give Chuck another great hunting experience.

An "After the Hunt Celebration" was held on Thursday, October 50th at the City Inn in Berlin, at which time MANY more hunting stories surfaced.



Standing L-R - Mark Hess, Tiffany Martin, Lavan Radichel, Bennett Bartol, Stanley Jezeski, Sven Fritz, Eric Halvorson, Rollie Parker, Chuck Kinser, Jeff Fritz, Chris Halvorson, Jerry Wallace, James Crowley, Parker LaBuda, Brandon Hess, Nathan Hess, Del, Butch Seaman, Tom Disterhaft, Andy Chikowski
 Sitting L-R - Bob Bartol, Jim Dekay, Gary Roth, James Hansen, Walter Schultz, Harold Dallapiazza, Brabyn Wildanger



Special Thanks to the BMC Hunt Team who have been instrumental in starting, promoting and the continued success of this wonderful opportunity. It truly could not happen without you! You touch lives in ways that you can't imagine!

- Brandon Hess
- Mark Strelow
- Butch Seaman
- Bob Bartol
- Chris Halvorson
- Tom Disterhaft
- Mark Hess
- Heather Horton
- Jacob Trochinski
- Jerry Wallace
- Randy Parker
- Paul Huseboe
- Andy Chikowski
- Eric Halvorson
- Randy Hess
- Tiffany Martin
- Nathan Hess
- Rollie Parker
- Jeff Fritz
- Tom Gonyo
- Brad Roehl
- Matt Hess
- Matt Sedelbauer
- Marty Lehman
- Jeff Sniegowski
- Kathy Perner
- Neil Kniseley
- Todd Morgan
- Linda Arzt



It has been 12 incredible years of
 "Makin Memories!!"
 Good luck to the rest of you hunters out there!
 Be Safe & Enjoy!

