

Badger Mining Corporation's 14th Special October Gun Deer Hunt

Oh what FUN "makin' memories" with another Special October Gun Deer Hunt!!

For the 14th year in a row, Badger Mining Corporation (BMC) has been a company-sponsor of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) 9-day disabled gun deer hunt which kicks off the first Saturday of October. 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 at the St. Marie property, which is located in Green Lake County. Bob Bartol was a member of the Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (TDL) Team and recently retired in March 2014, but had been with BMC since March 1984. Bob was an avid hunter prior to being injured in a swimming accident in 1974. He is always grateful to be back out in the woods.



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 10 hunters, 5 of which were new and 5 returning hunters including Bob Bartol. Unfortunately we had 2 additional hunters scheduled to hunt, but were unable to hunt due to their health or a family member. Brad Anderson who is originally from Berlin, WI, but currently lives in Phoenix, AZ traveled the distance again this year after being unsuccessful last year to hunt with his family. Gilbert Feucht of North Fond du lac, WI tied our oldest participant at 92 years of age.

Bob Bartol hunted the first part of the season at St. Marie and finished up at Taylor. Bob enjoys hunting out of the custom built Beanstaker from New Height Technology located at St. Marie. 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! Bob enjoyed hunting this year at St. Marie with Marty Lehman, Brandon Hess, Tiffany Martin and Kenny Crump. Unfortunately, Bob did participate in the Annual Kick-Off & Sight-In Meeting and probably should have! Once again at St. Marie he was reminded how important sighting-in your gun is. Two shots at a very nice buck - The 1st shot left the buck still standing in the field eating and the 2nd shot scared him and his friends, but not enough for them to not to come back a 3rd time. No 3rd shot was taken. Bob hunted a couple nights after that, but the buck never presented itself again.



Pictured to the LEFT are Brandon Hess and Bob Bartol hunting out of the Beanstaker, which is pictured to the RIGHT.



Bob ended the season hunting at Taylor. The WDNR youth hunt coincided with the last weekend of the hunt, so Bob's son and grandson were up there for the hunt as well. Bob enjoyed hunting with Matt Hess. Unfortunately Bob wasn't able to bag a big buck this year, but as Bob tells everyone, "I am just happy to be out hunting and I don't care if I shoot one."

The St. Marie Hunt

The other two hunters that participated at St. Marie this year participated last year as well, but were unsuccessful. This year both hunters were successful!



One of the lucky hunters was Brad Anderson of Phoenix, AZ pictured to the LEFT with his buck.

The other successful hunter at St. Marie was Ross Kleinschmit of Oshkosh, WI. Ross shot a doe and a buck. Ross enjoyed the hunt with his father, Craig, and good friend, Mike Beaman. Ross is pictured with Mike Beaman, dad and Mark Hess in the LEFT picture below and with his dad in the RIGHT picture BELOW.



As Ross's dad, Craig Kleinschmit, said in his thank you to us at BMC "Ross went through hunter's safety when he was 13 and has hunted every year since. Countless hours of being cold, wet or just disappointed. Not to give up, Ross would just smile and say the deer was meant for someone else. This deer was meant for him. It wasn't the largest rack, but it was the one the Lord has provided for Ross. To him, it is a 24 pointer 295 pound buck. Dreams are dreams and this one was realized."

The Fairwater Hunt

Gilbert Feucht of North Fond du lac, WI, Howard Cleland of Kenosha, WI and Joe Palmer of Manitowoc, WI participated in the hunt at Fairwater. All 3 hunters were successful.

Gilbert Feucht is one of the oldest hunters to participate at BMC at the young age of 92. Gilbert tied our oldest participant at 92 years of age. Gilbert told us that he has another good 10 years left in him and we sure hope he does! Gilbert is pictured to the RIGHT with his grandson and son (L-R).



Howard Cleland was able to shoot a doe and buck within 15 minutes of each other. Howard is pictured to the RIGHT with Jason Wuest, Mark Strelow and Tom Disterhaft (L-R).

Joe Palmer enjoyed hunting with one of his friends. Joe was also successful in shooting a doe and buck at Fairwater. Joe is pictured with his deer BELOW.



The Taylor Hunt

Along with Bob Bartol, 4 additional hunters participated at Taylor. Two had participated previously in the Taylor hunt and 2 were new hunters. With the exception of Bob Bartol, the 4 hunters were successful.

Robert Pacocha of Fountain City, WI was successful in getting a pair of does and a nice buck. Pictured to the RIGHT is Robert with his buck.

Bradlee Ewert of Melrose, WI was our youngest hunter this year at the age of 16. Bradlee was successful in shooting a buck and a doe. Bradlee is pictured BELOW with his grandpa and Rohland Parker (L-R).



Chuck Kinser of Black River Falls, WI was very thankful to return to Taylor to hunt once again. Chuck has participated in the Taylor hunt since 2011; however, this year he was finally able to shoot buck since suffering from a stroke. Chuck was also successful in getting a doe as well. Chuck is pictured to the RIGHT with his big smile and Jerry Blazek and Chris Halvorson (L-R).



Elizabeth Massman of Taylor, WI participated in the Taylor hunt in 2012, but was unable to get a buck. This year, she almost walked away again with missing a buck, but was presented another opportunity in which she captured on. Elizabeth is pictured LEFT with Matt Hess and her dad (L-R).



An "After the Hunt Celebration" was held on Thursday, October 24th at the City Inn in Berlin, at which time MANY more hunting stories surfaced as always.



L-R - Dierks Martin, Tiffany Martin, Carter Hess, Tom Disterhaft, Parker Hess, Brandon Hess, Parker LaBuda, Bob Bartol. Chuck Kinser, Matt Hess, Rohland Parker, Bradlee Ewert, Chris Halvorson, Mike Beaman, Eric Halvorson, Ross Kleinschmit, Howard Cleland, Mark Hess & Gilbert Feucht

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

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| Brandon Hess | Tiffany Martin |
| Mark Strelow | Nathan Hess |
| Butch Seaman | Rohland Parker |
| Jason Wuest | Craig LeNoble |
| Chris Halvorson | Tom Gonyo |
| Tom Disterhaft | Brad Roehl |
| Mark Hess | Matt Hess |
| Heather Horton | Matt Sedelbauer |
| Jacob Trochinski | Marty Lehman |
| Jerry Wallace | Jeff Sniegowski |
| Randy Parker | Andy Chikowski |
| Paul Huseboe | Neil Kniseley |
| Eric Halvorson | Jerry Blazek |
| | Deanne Bremer |

