

Badger Mining Corporation's 17th Special October Gun Deer Hunt

"Makin' memories" and an escape from reality with another Special October Gun Deer Hunt!!

Badger Mining Corporation (BMC) recently wrapped up its 17th year as a company-sponsor of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources' (WDNRs') 9-day disabled gun deer hunt, which kicks off the first Saturday in October. The WDNR created the season in 1990 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 in Green Lake County. Bob Bartol was a member of the BMC Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (TDL) Team and retired in March 2014. Bob was an avid hunter prior to being injured in a swimming accident in 1974. Unfortunately, this is the first year since BMC has been a company-sponsor that Bob was not able to hunt this year due to some health issues. Bob was greatly missed, but we thankful to hear that he has been out bow hunting since.



BMC expanded the hunting opportunity to the Fairwater property in Green Lake and Fond du Lac Counties in 2006, the Taylor property in Jackson and Trempealeau Counties in 2008 and Merrillan property in Jackson County this year. Throughout the four properties, BMC accommodated 16 hunters, 12 of which were new and 4 returning hunters. The hunters ranged in age from 17 to 70 years old and came from every corner of Wisconsin to participate.

THE FAIRWATER HUNT

Issacs Kuhls, 17, of Fond du Lac, WI, shot his very first deer and it was a buck. Isaac is pictured to the RIGHT with Butch Seaman, Jerry Wallace and Dustin Hodge (L-R). Isaac was very thankful to Dustin and his daughter, Aly, for loaning him her rifle and bullets when his dad forgot his bullets.



Perry Flood, from Waupun, WI, is pictured to the RIGHT with one of the two does he shot.



Douglas Thiele, from Omro, WI, enjoyed hunting with his son Ryan once they were finally able to get out. Doug and Ryan are pictured to the RIGHT (L-R). They had a bit of a rough start to the season with Doug getting a late discharged from the hospital opening day. How dare the hospital do that! On their way to hunt the second day, they lost a couple lug nuts on the wheel of their van, which prevented them from making it there. Thankful that was all that happened! Doug was successful in shooting two does, which he is pictured with one of them BELOW.



THE ST. MARIE HUNT

John Cain, from Watertown, WI, was the successful on the third evening after a couple of misses, which is part of hunting. John is pictured with Parker LaBuda, who served as his main hunting partner, to the RIGHT (L-R) with his very nice 9-point buck.



Paul Hartel, from Waupun, WI, enjoyed hunting with his friend Sam Duer. Pictured to the RIGHT and BELOW (R-L). Paul enjoyed a very successful hunt with a buck and a couple of does. Paul said, "The experience will last a lifetime."



Craig Kleinschmit, from Oshkosh, WI, enjoyed hunting with his son, Ross, and friend, Mike Beaman. Craig's son, Ross, participated in the hunting opportunity in 2013 and 2014. Craig was also very successful in shooting a buck and a couple of does. Craig is pictured to the RIGHT and BELOW with his son Ross (L-R).

They have a lot of smiles in the hunting stand too. Pictured BELOW is Ross and Craig and Ross and Mike Beaman (L-R).



James Crowley, from Omro, WI, also known as "Horseshoe" was one of BMC's 3rd hunters to participate in our Special October Gun Deer Hunt. James started hunting with us in 2005 at the age of 12 and improved upon the success of his buck for several years hunting at the St. Marie and Taylor properties, which is the reason he has been nicknamed "Horseshoe." James last participated in the hunt in 2010 at Taylor, but has always helped with the St. Marie hunt every single year that he did not participate. Hunters truly enjoy his company and we all appreciate his giving back!



With Bob Bartol and another hunter unable to participate and the other 3 hunters tagged out early, James was asked to participate in the remainder of the hunt. James humbly and graciously accepted the opportunity. James enjoyed hunting with his dad Jim. From photos we received, James's dad enjoyed snacks, bird watching and naps. James did have a miss, but came through with a very nice buck on the last evening of the season. James is pictured to the RIGHT with his dad (R-L).

To the RIGHT is also a part of a picture collage that James presented BMC at the "After the Hunt" Party.

THE MERRILLAN HUNT

Billy Thomas, from Racine, WI, is pictured to the RIGHT with the doe he shot.



Wade Hawkins, from Merrilan, WI, was also successful and is pictured BELOW with his doe he shot.



THE TAYLOR HUNT

Cal Popp, from Fond du Lac, WI, was the successful with this great buck and a doe. The Hunt Team even managed to get him out to where they found his buck. Cal is pictured to the RIGHT with them Neil Kniseley, Matt Hess, Andy Chikowski, Chris Halvorson, Cal Popp and Paul Huseboe (L-R).



Kevin Mortenson, from Taylor, WI, had a nice buck get away. Kevin may not have been successful in getting a deer, but the opportunity of getting out in the woods certainly had an impact that will last a lifetime as he indicated to use that "it was the most fun I've had hunting, EVER." Kevin is pictured to the RIGHT.



Tony Blazek, from Hixton, WI, had a nice buck get away too. Tony was able to get a couple does. Tony is pictured to the LEFT with his brother, Randy Blazek (R-L).

Loren Parker, from Merrillan, WI, BMC Associate, shot a couple of does. One that the coyotes got and he is pictured with his dad and hunting partner, Rohland Parker, with the other doe to the RIGHT (L-R). Loren also seen his share of bears while hunting this year.



Stephen Toth, from Madison, WI, shot a buck that unfortunately was never found, but is pictured to the RIGHT with the couple of does he was successful in shooting. Stephen is pictured with Jim Friess, Jason Wuest's Father-In-Law, Stephen Toth and Don Ross, Katie Fritz's Grandfather (L-R).



Katie Fritz, from Kendall, WI, is pictured to the LEFT with her buck she shot.

John Mitchell, from Greenfield, WI, is pictured to the RIGHT with his very nice buck.



An "After the Hunt" Party was held on Monday, October 30th at the Berlin Conservation Club, at which time MANY more hunting stories surfaced as always. Eleven of the sixteen hunters attended the celebration.



L-R - Stephen Toth, Mike Burgess, Don Ross, Katie Fritz, John Caine, Craig Kleinschmit, Ross Kleinschmit, Jerry Wallace, Paul Hartel, Aly Hodge, Perry Flood, Dustin Hodge, Aaron Kuhls, Isaac Kuhls, Brandon Hess, Cal Popp, John Mitchell, Tiffany Thoma, Parker LaBuda, James Crowley, Andy Chikowski, Craig LeNoble and Mike Beaman

Badger Mining Corporation was also honored for the annual Special Gun Hunt and presented the 2017-2018 Hometown Hero Award in Madison by Representative Joan Ballweg on behalf of the Wisconsin State Assembly. The Wisconsin Hometown Hero program "seeks to identify and recognize individuals from around the state how give of themselves to make a difference in our communities and the lives of those around them." Tiffany Thoma, BMC Environmental Team Leader, who has been involved with the Special Gun Deer Hunt since its inception at BMC accepted the award on BMC's behalf. Pictured BELOW is James Crowley, Representative Joan Ballweg, Andy Chikowski, Loren Parker, Brandon Hess, Tiffany Thoma, Nick Bartol and Representative Treig Pronschinske (L-R). Outside the Capitol after accepting the award pictured BELOW is Nick Bartol, Tiffany Thoma, James Crowley, Brandon Hess, Loren Parker and Andy Chikowski.





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!

Dustin Hodge
Randy Parker
Tim Wallace
Mark Strelow
Brett Liesch
Jerry Wallace
Butch Seaman
Craig LeNoble
Scott Kaufman
Mark Hess
Brandon Hess
Tiffany Thoma
Jason Wuest
Loren Parker
Rohland Parker
Chris Halvorson
Jim Powell

Randy Blazek
Steve Roseth
Paul Huseboe
Daryl Hjernevik
Andy Chikowski
Matt Hess
Brule Werlein
Neil Kniseley
Mike Bradley
Bob Passow
Jon Hemp
Ryan Flick
Floyd LaBar
Mike Bradley
Ryan Johnson
Jamie Morden



It has been 17 incredible years of
"Makin' Memories!!"

Good luck to the rest of you hunters out there!

Be Safe & Enjoy!