

2020 has certainly been full of world-shifting events for all of us; however, on a positive, it marked the 20th year Badger Mining Corporation (BMC) has been a company sponsor of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) annual deer gun hunt for people with disabilities. The WDNR began the hunt in 1990 in order to provide hunting opportunities for individuals with certain disabilities at a time of year when temperatures are generally milder and mobility in the woods and fields is easier. BMC began participating in the program in 2001 for one of its then associates who was injured in a swimming accident decades ago.

Originally taking place only at BMC's St. Marie property in Green Lake County, the hunt has since expanded to include BMC's Fairwater property in Green Lake and Fond du Lac Counties in 2006 and it's Taylor Property in Jackson and Trempealeau Counties in 2008. Throughout the three properties, BMC accommodated 10 hunters this year over the 9-day season, four of which were new and 6 returning. COVID-19 unfortunately only stopped one selected hunter from participating and we are looking forward to him participating in 2021. This year's hunters ranged in age from 16 to 89 years old and came from every corner of Wisconsin.

For the hunters, the hunt represents more than just a chance to get a deer. Aside from sitting in the woods and fields, hunters at BMC's properties also share meals and strike friendships with many of the BMC Associates who volunteer to help each year. Over the 20 years, BMC has touched 106 different individuals and even though many hunters found success this year, the deer is really a bonus!

"Regardless of whether they get a deer or not, all the hunters come out of this special program with smiles, new friendships and memories that last a lifetime," says Tiffany Thoma, BMC Environmental Team and Special Hunt Team Leader. "And when the hunt is over in October each year, you cannot help but get excited for next year's season after hearing the stories and the memories made by each and every participant. Reason any BMC continues to be a company sponsor of such a wonderful program."



Kyle Camp of Berlin, WI



Pictured L-R Dave Shramek, retired BMC Associate, and Sid Daily of Independence, WI





Bryce Dombroski of Ripon, WI



Steve Beck of Berlin, WI





Chris Salamone of Racine, WI