Making A Difference

While reading the winter 2003 issue of the Illinois Bowhunters Society, I happened upon an article by the director, Don Higgins. In the article Don asks all the readers to reflect on what will be the future of bow hunting. The fact is there is an indisputable connection between the contributions of the participants and the future of the sport for generations to come. Those who only hunt to kill the maximum number of trophy animals may help stir up interest but they do little to promote the sport's long term survival. Often times trophy hunting and taking a noisy kid hunting are not really compatible. With animal activists pursuing many school-board agendas and the hunter recruitment falling every year, we may all have to forgo a trophy hunt or two and teach America's young about the hunting heritage.

is the nation's disabled and terminally ill children. Animal activists nationwide have imposed their will on our nation's "special" sportsmen by refusing funding to organizations that award hunts and fishing trips for dream wish.

As sportsmen, we were appalled at the terrorist like activities of these activist groups having no regard to the child's wish. To us, "That is the wrong answer!" In January 2003 a nonprofit 501(c) organization called "United Special Sportsmen Alliance" [U.S.S.A.] was formed to administer the broken dreams left by the animal activist's reign of tyranny. From September 2002 to January 2003, U.S.S.A. helped coordinate 78 hunting and fishing trips for the nation's terminally ill and disabled children. With 2003 off to a flying start, U.S.S.A.'s goal is to grant over 100+ dreams for these children before the end of the year.

In addition, U.S.S.A is trying to get articles into the mainstream media explaining the fine public service these hunts provide. Non-hunters everywhere need to know that sportsmen do truly, "Give back to the sport," as said by Don Higgins. The world is full of big talkers who seem to define the words, "Caring for," to mean "indoctrination." As these children have made their own decisions, it's up to the rest of us to say NO to "indoctrination" and yes to the freedom to hunt!

Twelve terminally ill children's bow hunt sponsored by the IBS is currently on the drawing board. We believe the hunting license fee may even be waved by the Illinois DNR for these terminally ill children, and the hunting guides will come from within the ranks of the IBS membership.

People and agencies working together make a wonderful team when they work towards a common goal. We can all make a difference in improving these children's lives. Let that difference start today! God bless you and your family.

Sincerely,

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