



American Outdoor Adventure

United Special Sportsman Alliance, Inc.

Biannual Newsletter



December 2019

100% Volunteer 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Charitable Organization

- Bear hunts in WI, WV, and VA
- Deer hunts in IA, IL, LA, MI, NC, OH, and WI
- The Brittany Law used for the first time
- Deep sea fishing trip with 34 boats
- Trophy Deer Hunts in NM, MI, and TX
- Veteran fishing and hunting trips
- Mule Deer hunts in CO
- Hog hunts in FL
- Summer Fest Event and more

USSA granted over 14,800 wishes nationwide



Cooper from MS takes home WI Trophy Bear!

Sixteen Bears bagged in Wisconsin!! With the weather and other associated factors not cooperating, most bear registration reported moderate to a significant decrease in the 2019 harvest. USSA's harvest rate was remarkably above this year's state average, which is a true blessing and a testament to the guides and mentor's devotion for these fantastic kids and vets! Through the years, **USSA has granted 415 bear hunts in Wisconsin.** The actual bear harvest is secondary to the acts of kindness and generosity showed by the permit donors and hunting guides alike!

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The Brittany Law



Larry Hannum was the first person to use the Brittany Law on a **Wisconsin** Bear hunt in September 2019.



United Special Sportsman Alliance CEO and Founder Brigid O'Donoghue said, "I'm pleased to say that many people from all levels of government have joined forces with citizen conservation groups to help provide terminally ill people equal access to our state of Wisconsin natural resources. Through nonprofit charities such as United Special Sportsman Alliance (USSA), hunting and fishing licenses for terminally-ill persons will be waived under the Brittany Law."

New York to New Mexico for a once-in-a-lifetime hunt!

Hunting a majestic bull elk in Magdalena, **New Mexico** would be thrilling, but more difficult for any sportsman battling some of life's toughest challenges!



His father said, *Last week Nate went on an elk hunting trip in New Mexico (I chaperoned). We flew into Albuquerque on Monday and traveled by car to the small town of Magdalena. After two days & 20+ hours of hunting, Nate successfully harvested a mature bull elk. It was an incredible experience. Big thank you to Safari Club International and Kathy, they give one all-expense trip a year and selecting Nate from a national pool of candidates. Thank you to Brigid from USSA for nominating Nate to SCI. A huge thank you to Eric & Kelly for welcoming us into their home. Eric was Nate's hunting guide and taught Nate a lot in just a few days. Kelly kept us fed and was a super host."*

Our deepest gratitude for Safari Club International for giving Nate their Youth Pathfinder Award and his prestigious trophy hunt. Special thanks for Eric for guiding, and Kelly for the hospitality and homemade cooking! The beautiful memories will remain etched in the hearts and minds of Nate and his dad forever!

Upcoming Events for 2019 listed on page 6

Follow us on...



Twenty-Eight Boats for Twenty Eight Veterans!



USSA in conjunction with the **South Carolina** Catfish Anglers and local businesses held its 2nd annual free fishing event in Ridgeway, SC for twenty-eight veterans.

"Blessed beyond words to have the friends I have to be willing to help me

with an event like this. 28 vets with 28 captains and over 15 PB caught and released for another day. All kinds of branches of the military were here, and all had an awesome time. The good lord above held off the rain and wind till ever person had got back to the church safe and dry. Scotty Hill and ken roddy I cannot thank yall enough for the food that was provided, and none was left. The smiles on everyone's face says it all. That the good Lord above once again for allowing this to happen," said Justin Whiteside, USSA's South Carolina Rep.

Magnificent!! Eight deer down in Louisiana one-day hunt!!



USSA BOD, Andy Bishop, said, *We had our USSA hunt today on Sunny Side Exotics. Had 9 Special hunters this morning and eight this afternoon, all in all, a very Blessed Day. Eight Deer in the Freezer and lots of Happy Kids and Parents. Lots of tired workers. Thanks to everyone that helped make today a success."*



Fantastic Joint Effort!! Hard Horn Adventures sponsored its 5th annual group deer hunt in Mayville, WI. Despite the rainy weather, the USSA kids harvested three deer; doe, nub buck, and 8-pointer!

Trisha Dekkersaid, *I can't help but SMILE...My heart is so FULL. These families show up at strangers and leave as family! I am already looking forward to next year!"*

A special kids' first deer hunt is far-reaching for all the participants. The joint effort involved and, most importantly, the lifelong friendships created in the wonder of nature's beauty and grandeur will last a lifetime.

White Bear Lake boy bags Big Buck!



Andrew harvested this 18-point 170 B&C at White Ghost Ranch in Doss, **Texas**. He shared quality time and unforgettable memories in the deer blind with his mom, and guide/owner Brent Geistweidt.

Outstanding Success!! 14 deer down in two days!!

The 17th annual **Illinois** Dream hunt made the record book!! Last weekend fifteen special youth hunters visited Harrisburg, **Illinois**, in hopes of bagging a whitetail deer. It was a fantastic event with many deer sighted, and fourteen deer harvested; ten bucks and four does!

Much gratitude for the hard work and devotion of the guides, landowners, volunteers, and Ohio Association of General Baptist Camp Oxford Youth Camp for making it a memorable event.

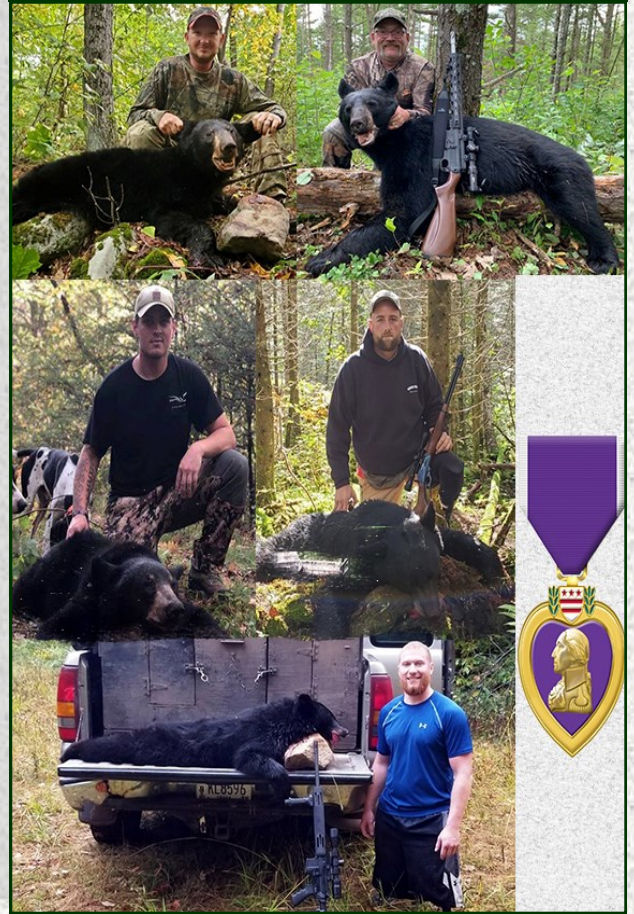


North Carolina Deer Hunt

"The 7th annual Clayhill USSA Hunt is in the books. Due to my job I missed alot of it this year but I know for a fact this very well may have been the best one yet. Clayhill always puts on the best for these families and this year was no different. Through generous donation everyone ate good and this year the club called and got all the correct clothing sizes for the children and bought everyone of them new hunting clothes so they could hunt in style and be warm. All the kids and families talked about how much fun they had and how this hunt felt like being part of a family. Lots of deer were taken and processed for the families and all were so very grateful. Thank you to all that worked so hard to make all these wishes come true. God blessed us again this past weekend with beautiful weather and lots of success. Thank you again for all the support given to the USSA. With out all of you we couldn't have such great events like we did last weekend. God Bless all of you," said Steve Tugwell, USSA's North Carolina Rep.

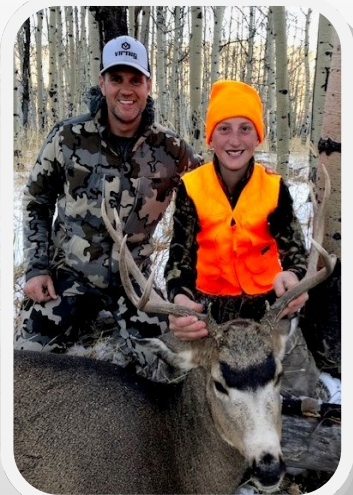


Purple Heart Veterans bag black bear in Virginia, West Virginia, and Wisconsin



Colorado Mule Deer Hunt!

This 8-point trophy mule deer was taken by Owen while enjoying the peace that only a deer stand can provide! His hunt took place in Yampa, CO, a town that began as a hunting camp! Many thanks to Eric Schmitz for guiding the hunt and giving Owen and his father treasured memories, friendships, and of course, delicious venison.



USSA's Childswish 4th Annual Deep Sea Fishing Event was the biggest one to date! **Thirty-four boats** took to the beautiful oceanic waters carrying excited anglers full of anticipation! The bright sunshine was outdone by even brighter smiles, as the USSA anglers caught a significant number and variety of fish while enjoying the fellowship sport fishing invariably produces! We are so grateful for the Captains and first mates who went above and beyond to create a fantastic fishing experience. Much gratitude for the continued support of Southport Marina, Comfort Suites, Triad Saltwater Anglers (TSA), North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, and other local sponsors.



The 4th Annual USSA Disabled Veterans Bass Tournament was held on July 20th in Shawano, Wisconsin. Over forty bass and pontoon boats attended and volunteered their time for the event.

Fishing trips are important for veterans who unselfishly served our country! The outdoors is God's creation, and the quality time spent there is peaceful and healing in the presence of its Creator!

We want to thank all the sponsors, donors, and volunteers who made this event a resounding success. A special thank you to Darrell Kauth, USSA's Veteran's Coordinator, and volunteer staff.



Ivan downs 17-point trophy in Lone Star State!

While the sun was setting on the Texas Countryside, Ivan harvested his trophy whitetail with his dad and guide, Brent Geistweidt, and Bob Samson at his side.



His father, Chad, said, "Thank you so much for this opportunity for Ivan and for introducing us to such great people. Bob made everything seamless. Also, connecting us with Brent and Pam, they are such caring, compassionate people who made us feel like we were a part of the family. They were both so helpful with Ivan. The kids even had the chance to meet Brent's daddy, "Dan," who was also incredible to hear about his experiences and stories."



Summer Fest Event - Activities during the event include camping, fishing, archery, shooting at the gun range, hunter safety classes, water skiing, tubing, swimming at the beach, water volleyball, horseback riding, arts and crafts, music-entertainment and much more. Food is donated and provided for everyone during the three-day event. There is no cost for attendees, and the entire event is run by non-paid volunteers who donate their time, resources, and services for the special kids and their families. Special volunteers from the military also come to help out. It is a significant undertaking where the payback is the laughter and smiles of special children enjoying summer fun in the outdoors.





Great Teamwork!! Congratulations to all the great young hunters, who shared both sportsmanship and fellowship as they participated in the Adrenaline Ridge group deer hunt last weekend in Bancroft, **Wisconsin**. Regardless of the inclement weather, the USSA kids harvested six deer; two bucks and four doe! Special thanks to Eric and Marilyn Beggs, the mentors and volunteers, and Vista Royale Campground, for helping make our special kids dream come true.



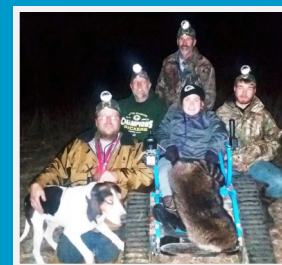
We must introduce kids at a young age to the great outdoors; by passing on our hunting and fishing heritage, we recruit the next generation.



A wish for a fish in Connecticut!

Mark's wife said, "Hi Captain Randy, Wow! What a fun day - thank you so very much for sharing today with us. Mark keeps talking about "that big fish and those hairy worms." It was such a blast to get out on the water and just simply escape for a little while. Thank you for sharing your talents, your passion, and your beautiful boat with our family today. We made some special memories."

"It's always been a passion of mine to take youth hunting. Tonight we took that to a new level. We took this amazing young lady raccoon hunting, and she shot herself this nice big boar. Disabilities have no boundaries with a huge heart like hers. Thank you Dean, Craig, and Caleb. For all your help and hard work getting Chloe to the tree and back." Tom Grasley, USSA Volunteer.



Iowa Dream Hunt - Five deer down!!



"Thank you to everyone who volunteered and donated land to help make this weekend a successful deer hunt! We had 5 deer down!" said USSA's Iowa Rep., Scott Roen.

Jena harvested this majestic and Imperial elk in the Rocky Mountains in the game-rich state of **Utah**. Thanks to the generosity of SCI, her once in a lifetime dream became a reality. Scheels in Coral Ridge, **Iowa**, surprised her, too, by having it on exhibit in their store. With a gold plaque that says, "Bull Elk, Taken by Jena Bartenhagen, "One-Shot-Wonder" Weber Co. Utah."



A dream came true for two!

USSA special hunters were chosen to attend Legends Ranch Youth Challenge Hunt in Bitley, Michigan.

"Maisy had a wonderful time at legends Ranch. She can't stop talking about the hunt; it was certainly a memory to last a lifetime," said her dad Mark.

Geroge, Anthony's dad added, "Going the Legends Ranch

was one of the best experiences not just because of the hunt but because of the wonderful owners and staff. They made us feel like family from the moment we meet each and every one of them. Thanks for the priceless memories we will keep forever."

Many thanks to Legends Ranch and Safari Club International for their generosity and devotion in making special hunts come true for challenged hunters across the nation.



Jamin, from Colorado, bags a 7-point mule deer!

While hunting with his father, and Jeff Forsberg, Jamin was able to anchor this trophy buck on a bed of newly fallen snow in Yampa, CO.

His father, Chad, said, "Jamin had a great time, and it was a really cool experience. We got the buck you see enclosed

opening morning, we got to fish some pristine fishing holes, and the range owner (Rick) took the boys shooting at 1000 yds with some pretty neat guns."



Father and daughters down hogs in Sunshine State

Wild Boar has a unique attraction to hunters nationwide. What they may lack in beauty and stealth, they more than make up in their attitude and ferocity. Hunters nationwide have been pursuing boar since the early parts of our country's history. Thanks to the SCI Naples and Ft. Myers Chapter Jade, Savanna, and their dad, Kaylen, got to experience an unforgettable hog hunt at Razzor Ranch in Zolfo Springs, Florida.

Their guide Bill said, "Had a great time guiding the family. All three of them shot their hogs with one shot. It was my pleasure allowing me to be part of there experience at the Ranch."

Kim added, "They went out of their way to make the hunt more than we ever anticipated, and the accommodations were top-notch. We went on a safari too and took pictures of bison, water buffalo, red stags, goats, ostriches, and so many other animals."



Buckeye special hunters bag two deer!



Jerry Drake, USSA's Ohio rep, said, "Two of our four special hunters got a deer in this year's hunt!"

Many thanks to the Whitetails Unlimited Scioto County Horn Hunters, mentors, volunteers, and donors, who made this hunt possible!

A special thank you to Brittani and JR Roberts for their continued effort

and dedication in making kid's dreams come true!

Congratulations to the boys on their successful hunts and all the special hunters for their fond memories and camaraderie shared with their guides and newfound friends.



Upcoming Events in 2019

Dec. 10-13, 2019 Trophy deer hunt in Doss, TX

Dec. 13-14, 2019-Bear Hunts in White Sulphur Springs, WV

Dec. 2019 - Bear hunts in Montebello, VA

The 2020 Events listed at <https://childswish.org/upcoming-events/>