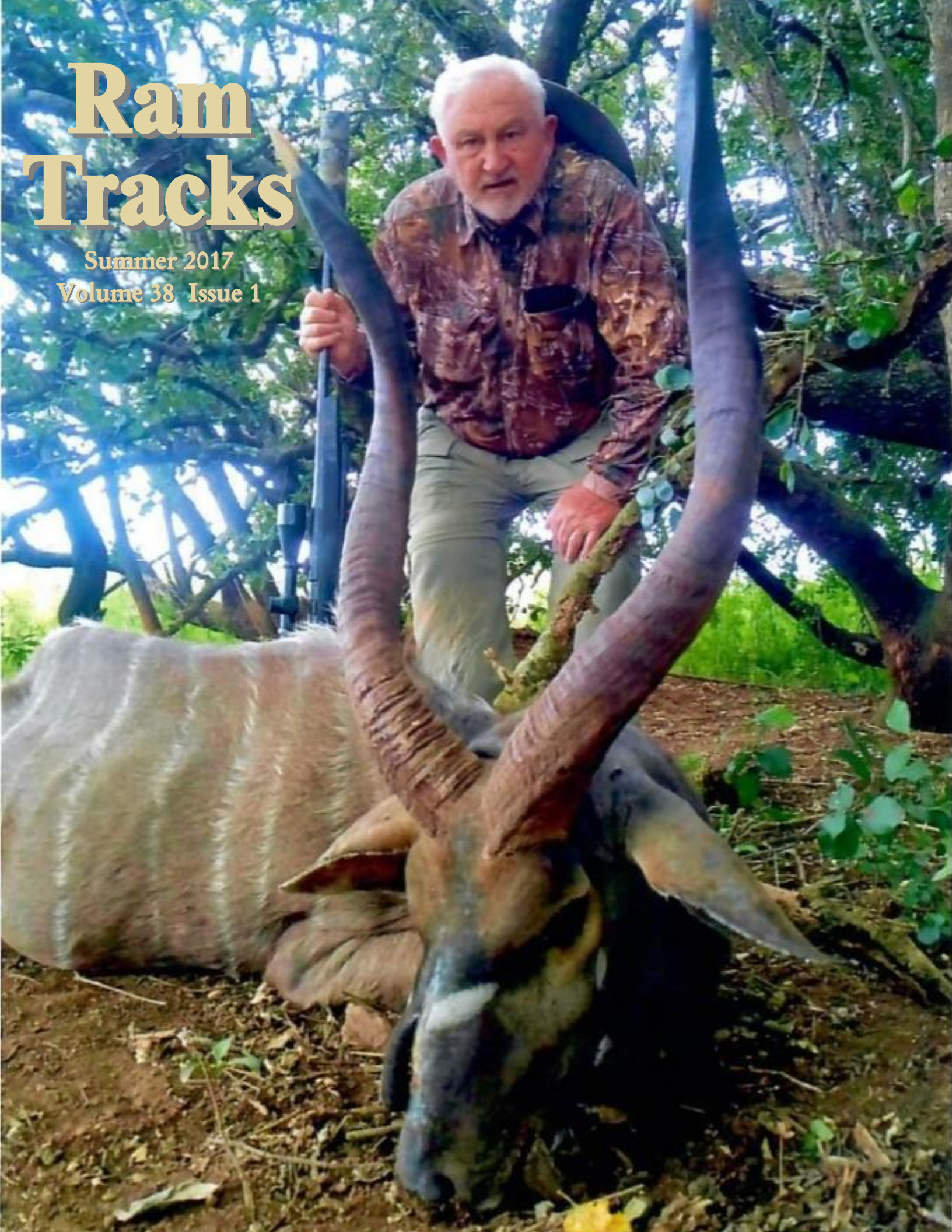


Ram Tracks

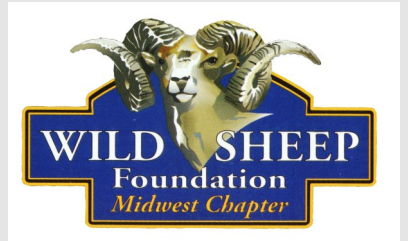
Summer 2017
Volume 38 Issue 1



Ram Tracks

Summer Newsletter 2017

Volume 38 Issue 1



Wild Sheep Foundation- Midwest Chapter Officers and Directors

PRESIDENT

Nick Negrini
13970 47th Lane NE
St. Michael, MN 55376
(763) 238-6333
nick.negrini@outlook.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Bouton
1448 E lake Drive
Chaska, MN 55318
(208) 949-4510

TREASURER

Andy Otte
2630 270th Street East
Randolph, MN 55065
(507) 301-8655
crisbickman.otte@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Edward Schabert
5258 185th Avenue
Wyoming, MN 55092
(612) 961-9706
eschabert@firenetsys.com

DIRECTORS

John Coulter
201 Craig
Tracy, MN 56175
(507) 829-2304
coulterj@iw.net

Tyler Donahue
15522 Hummingbird Street SW
Andover, MN 55304
donny856@hotmail.com

Scott Hauer
2512 Valley View Road
Shakopee, MN 55379
(612) 803-8753
scotthauer12@yahoo.com

Lee Ledford
102 First Street
Bellechester, MN 55027
(507) 990-5882
ledford_01@yahoo.com

Steve Powelson
2607 Hulett Court
Faribault, MN 55021
(507) 334-7413
powie_s@yahoo.com



Wild Sheep Foundation Midwest Main Office

Patti Murry, Executive Director
1806 Aspen Court, Northfield, MN 55057
Phone/fax (507) 645-8811
patti.murry@gmail.com

In This Issue

- 3 **President's Message**
by Nick Negrini
- 4 **2017 Live Auction Results**
- 6 **2018 Banquet and Fundraiser**
by Mike Bouton
- 8 **The Power of One - Your
Chance to Help Our Chapter
Grow** by Dan Adler
- 9 **2017 Fundraiser Recap**
- 10 **3-2-1 Turkey Hunt**
by Wade Johnson
- 12 **Roland West's Africa Hunt**
- 13 **Black Bear Hunt**
by Al Holland
- 14 **Welcome New Life Members**

MISSION STATEMENT

To enhance, expand and preserve wild sheep populations; to educate the public about wild sheep and conservation efforts surrounding wildlife; to encourage lawful hunting and protecting hunters' rights; and to encourage youth participation in hunting.

Check Out Our Website:

www.midwestwildsheep.org

Facebook: Wild Sheep Foundation Midwest Chapter

Twitter: WSFMidwest

President's Message

To all WSF Midwest Members-

I hope your spring and start to the summer have been enjoyable. With the 2017 fundraiser in the rearview mirror, I wanted to take a few minutes to let you know where we have been, where we are and where we would like to go.

The 2017 banquet was a success. We had our second most profitable fundraiser in the recent past and it was only a few thousand dollars away from being the top!! It was a fun event with great auction items and entertaining speakers. This successful event would not have been possible without hard work and fantastic level of support from our members, donors, and board. So, what I say is THANK YOU!!.... Thank you for your time, donations, and your bidding! The sheep also thank you for funding all the programs and activities that make their conservation possible. As we have seen in Africa and other areas around the world, it is the hunters who are on the forefront of conservation. It is you who will make sure that the sheep are around when your grandchildren are looking to draw that special tag.

Within the Board we have had some changes the last few months. Former Presidents Brian Helm and Curt Babler decided to let their terms expire and transition off the board. During the transition period, we have been lucky enough to have three new individuals join the board: Tyler Donahue, Lee Ledford, and Scott Hauer. They have various skill sets and a willingness to work as a cohesive team that will aid the board and help us to create an amazing 2018 fundraiser.

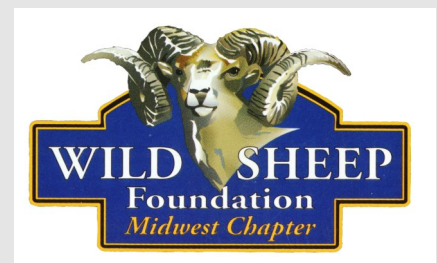
Having had a successful fundraiser last year, we had a great baseline to start our 2018 planning. Our goal for 2018 is a simple one....Quality. We want to give you all an amazing auction, informative speakers, and a fantastic time. We are working towards putting together the best auction list that we have ever had...More great tags, hunts, and experiences. We are putting together a lineup of speakers that will be first class. I will let you know that we already have Jason Carter and Adam Bronson from Epic Outdoors committed to addend. If you want to learn about where to hunt and who to hunt with in the west, you will want to attend and hear from Jason and Adam. We are also working on a keynote address from one of hunting and conservations greats. All I can say right now is to keep your eyes on Facebook and your email for updates soon!!



We had a good 2017, we are working towards a great 2018. I want to get this chapter back on course to be the leader we have been in the Wild Sheep community. The one thing we have that no other hunting and conservation groups have is you!! The people of the Midwest chapter are a special group who amaze me every year. If fact we have been able to fund \$1,420,664 the last 5 years!! All this money that goes back directly to Sheep conservation! This is a pretty amazing number and you all should be proud of what you have done.

Thank you for your support in 2017 and let's have a great 2018 Keeping the sheep on the mountain.

Nick Negrini
President



2017 Live Auction Results

Wild Sheep Foundation – Midwest Chapter Life Membership

Donor: WSF-Midwest
Buyer: Nick Negrini
Buyer: Jeff Furstenau
Buyer: Scott Massmann

Wings North Membership

Donor: Wings North
Buyer: Calvin Haines

Sitka Gear

Donor: WSF-Midwest
Buyer: Brian Helm
Buyer: Tom McConnell

Sable Bull Hunt

Donor: Africa Maximum Safaris
Buyer: Arthur Newcombe

Lawrence Bay Fishing Trip

Donor: Lawrence Bay Lodge
Buyer: Roger Van Raden

ONCA Gear

Donor: Onca Gear
Buyer: Nathan Somero

Endowment Rifle

Donor: Roger Van Raden
Buyer: Chad Hughes
Buyer: Oscar Carlson
Buyer: Ronald Lehner

Alberta Bear/Wolf/Coyote Hunt

Donor: Sherwood Outfitters
Buyer: Gary Bartsch

WSF 2018 Sheep Show

Couples Registration

Donor: Wild Sheep Foundation
Buyer: Nick Negrini
Buyer: Marvel Cosner

Taxidermy Credit

Donor: Buck's Taxidermy
Buyer: Steve Tibble
Buyer: Greg Wagner
Buyer: Jay Link

Montana Archery Elk & Deer Combo Hunt

Donor: Lazy J Bar O Outfitters
Buyer: Ed Schabert

South Dakota Archery Whitetail Hunt

Donor: Western Ranch & Outfitters
Buyer: Dennis Spence

Lake Michigan Salmon Fishing

Donor: Kinn's Sport Fishing
Buyer: Cris Bickman Otte

Warthog, Impala and Blue

Wildebbeest Hunt

Donor: Bosveld Jacobs Safaris
Buyer: Mike Bickish

Woodland Santa

Donor: Millie Locke
Buyer: Kay Currier

Spain Hunt

Donor: Giuseppe Carrizosa
Buyer: Grant Dalquist

"The Warrior" Giclee

Donor: Joshua Spies Fine Art
Buyer: Joey McMahon
Buyer: Greg Jensen

Remington 870 Express Endowment Shotgun

Donor: Stewart Shaft
Buyer: Jeff Lindgren

Remington 710 Endowment Rifle

Donor: Roger Van Raden
Buyer: Robert Greene

Fairmont Chateau Lake Louise

Donor: WSF – Midwest
Buyer: Roger Pearson

FNAWS Logo Letter Jacket

Donor: John Coulter
Buyer: Jeff Lindgren

Sheep's Camp – Hunting Scene by Michael Sieve

Donor: David & Loretta Zacharias
Buyer: Jeff Lindgren

Taxidermy Certificate

Donor: Leland Ledford Taxidermy
Buyer: Chad Hughes

Pheasant Hunt

Donor: Wings North
Buyer: Mike Bingen

Cape Buffalo Hunt

Donor: Africa Maximum Safaris
Buyer: David Schenck

Mountain Lion Hunt

Donor: Cayuse Outfitting
Buyer: Andy Otte

Whitetail Deer Hunt

Donor: Northern Alberta's Whitetail Camp
Buyer: Jeff Lindgren

Winter Predator Hunt in Alaska

Donor: Midnight Sun Outfitters
Buyer: Jerry Gross

Pagato Lake Outpost Camp Fishing Trip

Donor: Lawrence Bay Lodge
Buyer: Scott Hauer

Private Wine Tasting

Donor: Africa Traditions
Buyer: Kay Smythe

Sportfishing Trip in BC

Donor: Nootka Island Lodge
Buyer: Kenny Alameda

Horseback Adventure

Donor: Teton Horseback Adventures
Buyer: Kyle Shoman

Russell Moccasin Boots

Donor: Russell Moccasin
Buyer: Tom Sellin

Drop Camp Elk Hunt

Donor: Horn Fork Guides
Buyer: Corey Stockstad

Hacienda Cerritos Get-Away

Donor: Cerritos Beach Resorts
Buyer: Angela Korf

Dall Sheep and Mountain Caribou Hunt

Donor: Widrig Outfitters Ltd
Buyer: Kevin Hurley

Aoudad Hunt

Donor: Point Blank Hunts

Buyer: Lisa Olson

**Nebraska Combination License
Deer & 2 Turkeys**

Donor: Nebraska Game & Parks

Buyer: Frank Tuma

**British Columbia Elk & Moose
Hunt**

Donor: SaskAdrenaline Outfitters

Buyer: Austin Caves

South Dakota Bison Hunt

Donor: Jim Scull

Buyer: Thomas Stewart

National WSF Life Membership

Donor: National WSF

Buyer: Jeanine Steffens

Buyer: Hugh Pettit

Private Cabin Use – Ontario

Donor: Don Dusick

Buyer: Nathaniel Wobig

Buyer: Scott Olson

**Black Bear and Walleye Fishing
Combo**

Donor: Harvest Lodge

Buyer: David Carlson

Jerry Johnson Custom Knife

Donor: Jerry Johnson

Buyer: Andy Otte

Warthog, Impala and Kudu Hunt

Donor: Boxveld Jacobs Safaris

Buyer: Craig Christenson

Alberta Waterfowl HuntDonor: Bouton Brothers Whitetails
and Waterfowl

Buyer: John Carlander

**South Dakota
Bighorn Sheep Skull**

Donor: SD Game, Fish & Parks

Buyer: David Zacharias

South Dakota Bighorn Sheep Tag

Donor: SD Game, Fish & Parks

Buyer: Scott Boekelheide

Alaska Brown Bear Hunt

Donor: Alaska Outfitters Unlimited

Buyer: Andy Otte

Trophy Mule Deer Hunt

Donor: Alberta's Little Mountain

Guiding

Buyer: Brett Wiedmann

Buyer: Steve Eicholtz

Gun Safe

Donor: Reed Custom Gun Safes

Buyer: Calvin Haines

Endowment Rife

Donor: David and Loretta Zacharias

Buyer: Greg Jensen

Youth Cow Elk Hunt

Donor: Wagonhound Outfitters

Buyer: John Sotiros

Taxidermy Certificate

Donor: Barr Taxidermy

Buyer: Al Burke

Lion Head Drawing

Donor: Taylor Hall

Buyer: Coltin Tix

**North Dakota Governor's Rocky
Mountain Bighorn Sheep License**

Donor: ND Game & Fish

Buyer: Robert Griego

Devil's Lake Fishing Package

Donor: Roger Kenner

Buyer: Tim Russell

**Wyoming Governor's Rocky
Mountain Bighorn Sheep License**

Donor: Wyoming Game & Fish

Buyer: Doyle Fredrickson

Wyoming Antelope Hunt

Donor: Western Gateway Outfitters

Buyer: Joseph Lynch

Long Range Shooting School

Donor: Mike Colpo & Scott Olson

Buyer: Marc Chiodo

Mountain Goat Hunt

Donor: Coastal Mountain Outfitters

Buyer: Michael Snider

Greenland Musk Ox Hunt

Donor: Point Blank Hunts

Buyer: Ray Guthrie

Wiley Coyote

Donor: Millie Lock

Buyer: Steven Eicholtz

**Table for 10 – 2017 WSF-Midwest
Banquet**

Donor: WSF-Midwest

Buyer: Loretta Zacharias

Drive and Shoot Sherman Tank

Donor: WSF- Midwest

Buyer: David Hill

Lab Puppy

Donor: Piddle Creek Kennels

Buyer: Taylor Bickman

2018 Waterhole Sponsors

John Babler

Steve Bruggeman

Oscar and Val Carlson

David Currier

Joe Currier

Howard Deters

Steven Eicholtz

Jeff Furstenau

David Hill

Al Holland

Jodeph Jakab

Jeff Lindgren

Lisa Lynch

Jack and Kay Smythe

Loretta Zacharias

Wild Sheep Foundation

Fundraiser Sponsors

Ed Schabert

Oscar & Val Carlson

Tom Lenort - Tom's Taxidermy

Doug Sinniger – Riverland

Taxidermy

THANK YOU
to everyone who
donated items,
purchased
items or
attended our
annual
fundraiser!

You made it a
success!

Wild Sheep Foundation-Midwest Chapter 2018 Banquet

March 16-17, 2018

Dear Midwest Members,

Hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer with family and friends. I've been looking forward for some time now to write about our **2018 Wild Sheep Foundation-Midwest Chapter** banquet. There has been more preparation done at this stage of the year than in any prior year, but much more work is to be done! Our banquet once again will be held at the **Marriott Southwest in Minnetonka on March 16-17, 2018.**

Over the years we've been able to remain one of the top conservation funding Wild Sheep Foundation chapters out there. That is a credit to the commitment of our members that support this chapter each year. **The commitment to "Put and Keep Sheep on the Mountain".** With a new vision and focus this year, we're committed to put on a show that our members can say that they got their moneys worth! I'm going to be frank, in the past several years we've had more room in the banquet hall and exhibitor hall than this chapter deserves. That will change with this year's lineup.

I'm excited to be able to announce that one of the leading voices for conservation and ethical hunting around the world has accepted the invitation to be part of our Midwest Chapter's banquet in March, 2018. You will have an opportunity to say hello and listen to one of today's most respected journalists, conservationists and hunters in our industry. **Craig Boddington will be part our 2018 Banquet.** A familiar name and face to most whether you've read one his two dozen plus books he's authored or 4,000 plus articles he's published or as a television personality. Craig has taken numerous species of wild sheep and goats throughout the world, including two "FNAWS" making up part his roughly 300 big game species taken on all six continents. As I mentioned earlier, we are very excited to have Craig Boddington be a big part of our show in 2018.

Another big addition this year will be having the two top leaders in western big game hunting bring their expertise and passion to share with our members in March. These two gentlemen are **Jason Carter and Adam Bronson of Epic Outdoors.** These two are also familiar names and faces with most through their expertise on western big game consulting/application service and through their own personal DIY big game hunting successes. Jason has personally taken 16 bucks over 200 inches, including 4 between 237 – 271 inches. Adam is also an accomplished hunter, as well as a licensed big game outfitter. Each year Adam guides hunters to some of the biggest animals in the western U.S. Adam is also the current President of Utah FNAWS. With the knowledge, passion and successes of Jason and Adam, it's no wonder Epic Outdoors leads the way in consulting of western big game hunting and hunter application services. We look forward to those attending our banquet having the opportunity to take in what these two gentlemen have to say.

Each year we work hard to put together the best auction out there! How do we top that this year? We got the best auctioneer out there! **Nationally acclaimed auctioneer, Les Ohlhauser** each year works the top national conservation conventions and PRCA rodeos in the country as he has for over 38 years. We're thrilled to have Les Ohlhauser as our banquet auctioneer this year.

Another focus for the 2018 banquet is more top **Quality Outfitters** to go along with the top outfitters that support us each year. Making a larger variety of species available and regions (states/countries) they are located in is a priority. Being back to a two-day banquet gives exhibitors and attendees more quality time together.

The backbone of our event is the **Quality** of our **Auctions.** Top quality hunts that lead to high success rates in the field bring high value which then enables us to "Put and Keep Sheep on the Mountain". This year will be no different. Top quality hunts, fishing, destination vacations, world-class artwork, outdoor gear, etc.... is our goal and will be available to you.

Yukon Dall Sheep & Mountain Caribou Hunt with Widrig Outfitters – It Could Be You!

As they say, sometimes you have to go backwards before you can go forward. For many years one of the highlights on Saturday night was the anticipation of who would be the lucky **Sheep Hunt Raffle Winner!** This year that same anticipation will be felt on Saturday March 17, 2018 and some lucky hunter will be headed to the Yukon only five months later. A beautiful mountain hunting rifle and a pair of top quality binoculars will be giving to the 2nd and 3rd tickets pulled in the sheep hunt raffle. In addition, there will be a quality selection of raffles (guns, archery, optics, jewelry, clothing, etc..) throughout the banquet to take a chance on.

Those that appreciate us being back two a two-day show the most may be our Taxidermists. The **Quality** of our **Taxidermist's** work that you will see throughout the banquet hall and hallways is second to none. Many of them have supported our chapter for many years and we truly appreciate them displaying their work at our banquet.

The **Fun Ladies Event** is back on this year after being absent last year. I can report that the planning is underway and more details will be included in the next RamTracks. Certainly, wine tasting will be a big part of the event along with gifts and prizes.

One thing that we ask every year is that you bring someone to help grow our chapter or introduce someone to sheep hunting or maybe even a new hunter or conservationist. This year it will be worth the extra phone call to invite someone to join you. If you bring someone that has never attended one of our chapter banquets you will be entered twice into our **Attendance Raffle**. If you bring someone that hasn't attended in over three years you will be entered once. Three winners will be drawn and the first ticket drawn will receive **two full registrations** to the **Midwest Chapter's 2019 Banquet** along with a current **\$500 raffle ticket package**.

Before I end my message, there is another individual that needs to be mentioned that is a friend and familiar face to the WSF–Midwest Chapter and it's members. Our chapter has been fortunate to benefit year after year from his generosity and donations. Our chapter is proud to be able to say that we watched a tremendously gifted and humble young man become one of the top wildlife artists in the world. He is a Signature member of the Society of Animal Artists, recognized as having attained the highest level of ability in the field of animal art. Numerous chapter members proudly display his artwork in their homes and businesses. A big **Thank You** to **Joshua Spies** from the Wild Sheep Foundation-Midwest Chapter.

“ My passion is helping wildlife in wild places, by using the talent God gave me.” - Joshua Spies

Our **Wild Sheep Foundation-Midwest Chapter Banquet on March 16-17, 2018** is taking shape to be the best event in many years. Many of you remember when the “Banquet Hall was Full”, those were the good ol' days and they just might come back! I look forward to working with the chapter's board of directors throughout the remaining year in an effort to **Make Midwest Great Again!**

Enjoy the rest of the summer and have a great fall!

Sincerely,

Mike Bouton
Vice President—Banquet Chairman



The Power of One

Your Chance To Help Our Chapter Grow!

by Dan Adler, Diamond Outfitters of Arizona

It's hard to believe that spring is already here in the Arizona desert and that it has been more than two months since we were all together. Your board and its volunteers really out did themselves! It was a real honor to be your keynote speaker this year and I am very proud of the contribution each one of you have made to our mission, to "Put and Keep Sheep on the Mountain"!

Before leaving the stage this year at the Saturday night banquet, I asked the audience to applaud if they were willing help our chapter grow by next year's banquet and furthermore I asked for your permission to hold you all accountable to that growth. The response was overwhelmingly positive and I am excited to see how many more seats we will need by next year's event!

The challenge for those of you that may not have been able to attend or maybe simply forgot did not involve you writing a bigger check, donating more of your time or playing a larger role on the board than you may already do. In fact, the entire reason for my challenge was to show a manner in which each and every one of you can contribute to our chapter's growth without a big impact to your wallet or calendar.

I asked then (and I am asking now) that everyone invite/bring a new person to our 2018 convention. They can be a hunter or a non-hunter of any age and any socio-economic background. Simply by ensuring you bring a guest with you that has never been exposed to our chapter we will double our attendance in one year! Let's be that chapter! I don't know if that has ever even been done in our WSF circles.

It's not hard to do, it costs you nothing and takes very little time! Simply invite, invite, invite! That simple act will make as big an impact on our chapter and our mission as almost anything else we can do. Plus you have months to satisfy this challenge so start inviting now please!

The challenges to wild sheep, wild sheep hunting and global hunting in general are at all time highs. We must win the small every day battles to eventually win the hearts and minds of the millions of people who are on the fence trying to decide if they favor science/biologist based hunting as a conservation tool. The animal rights

fanatics are a lost cause so let's focus our efforts on the 80% of people that identify themselves as "uncertain" in their view of hunting as a wildlife management tool.

When you expose new folks to our chapter, we open their hearts and minds to just how important our cause really is. This past week at a dinner I was explaining my excitement for a Purple Heart hunt in South Africa for a Unites States Army Sergeant I am hosting in June. During the course of that conversation I actually had an individual tell me they didn't believe in killing animals....while they ate chicken nachos!

While that may seem like a punch line, I wasn't joking. This "dummification" of America should concern us all. This ideology starts at the top with our leadership in Washington D.C. While this new administration gives us cause for some euphoria, we still have to be accountable to our cause, we can't give up in frustration as we may be tempted to do for as the saying goes, "no vote-no voice". Don't be that person, our purpose and our planet's God given resources, our wildlife, is depending on each and every one of us.

As we are now in the late to final stages of making our fall hunting plans, I wish all of you a safe, fun and successful outing. I hope you are rewarded for your genuine interest in conservation, our purpose, our mission and the future of this privilege we call hunting.

Lastly, please do not underestimate the power of one. The power of that one new attendee you are bringing to our 2018 banquet. After all, if they in turn bring someone to the 2019 banquet we will grow in triplicate in two years! That's powerful!

God bless you and your families, God bless America and our privilege to hunt! I hope to see you on the mountain!

Yours in conservation,

Dan Adler
DiamondOutfitters@gmail.com



Diamond
OUTFITTERS

2017 Banquet and Fundraiser

We held our annual fundraiser on March 17 and 18, 2017 at the Minneapolis Marriott SW in Minnetonka, MN. Our two-day event was well attended and we netted over \$300,000 that can be used to fund projects to keep putting sheep on the mountains!

We had some new attractions this year including our first ever Sportsman's Garage Sale. Everything for this Garage Sale was fully donated and we were able to raise over \$4,000 for our Endowment Fund! Thank you to everyone who donated items and to everyone who purchased items from the garage sale! John Coulter is willing to take on the task again for 2018, so be sure to let him know if you have something you want to donate!

Our Life Member Breakfast was fun and attended by many. The live performance by Hitchville was outstanding and our speakers (Dan Adler, Gray Thornton, State Biologists) delivered great messages. We had informative seminars, fantastic meals, and great socializing as well as two awesome live auctions, great raffles, and silent auction!

Thanks to all the donors, buyers, attendees and everyone else who helped with our event!

Plan to attend the 2018 Event at the Minneapolis Marriott SW on March 16-17!



3-2-1 Turkey Hunt

by Wade Johnson

Friend Jared Mertes and I hunted with Russ and Wanda Roberts of Western Gateway Outfitters during the first four days of the 2017 spring turkey season. This was my second time hunting with WGO and Jared's first.

WGO hunts in some of the most beautiful parts of the west, including the Black Hills region of both South Dakota and Wyoming. The area is teeming with big game and turkeys.

As with my first hunt with WGO in spring 2015, Russ and Wanda again went out of their way to make the hunt memorable and successful. They provided what I call "Signature Service," which started during the booking and application process, in which Russ took care of all paperwork, including submitting the needed license applications for both Wyoming and South Dakota.

The Signature Service continued when, upon arrival, I was greeted with a warm welcome and a hearty meal. From that moment on, Russ and Wanda looked for ways to make my stay comfortable, memorable and successful. (Due to flight delays resulting from bad weather in the southern U.S., Jared actually arrived the afternoon of opening day, missing the opening morning hunt.)

Wade's Hunt

Day 1 of my hunt, April 8, started in Wyoming, where Russ had pre-scouted a spot near a well-used roost. From a pre-set Double Bull blind, I was fortunate to take a beautiful white-tipped Merriam's turkey with my trusty Mathews bow by 7:20 a.m. the first morning. Prior to shooting my bird, I lost count of the number of gobblers and hens that had walked or strutted past my hide, some as close as five yards. I do know I had eight strutting toms in front of my blind at one point, all of them jockeying for position as some hens fed nearby. During my 27 years pursuing wild turkeys in five different states, I had never had so many toms so close for so long. Thank you, Russ, for the memory!

After my first morning success in Wyoming, Russ and I headed to South Dakota to continue the hunt. While in South Dakota over the next few days, I had



Russ Roberts and Wade Johnson
Wyoming 2017

a couple of close calls – and a couple misses, including what should have been a "lay-up" shot – but wasn't able to fill my SD tags. Russ certainly did his part. I didn't do mine.

Jared's Hunt

Russ, a smile on his face and a 'Sure glad you made it' attitude, picked up Jared at the Rapid City airport and then whisked him back to the South Dakota camp so Jared could get in a quick afternoon hunt on April 8. Though Jared had missed the morning hunt, he more than made up for lost time over the next 24 hours. In fact, Jared completed what we now call the 3-2-1 Turkey Hunt.

Around 4:30 p.m. on April 8, Russ and Jared pulled in to Russ's South Dakota camp just long enough for Jared to change into his camo and grab his gun and gear. Then off they went to a nearby property. During Jared's afternoon hunt, they had lots of birds working the area but only two jakes wandered close enough for a potential shot. No shots were fired. (In case you're wondering, Russ has a strict policy against shooting jakes because they represent his future crop of long beards and there are plenty of older birds to bag. It's a sound game management strategy.)

That night, Jared and Russ headed to the Wyoming camp, with big plans for Jared to get a bird in The



Jared Mertes
Wyoming 2017

Cowboy State early on Sunday morning. As scripted, the two of them got it done when a large gobbler silently approached their calling position the next morning. At a mere 12 yards, Jared's shot was true. The bird never knew what hit him, as evidenced by the damage done by Jared's 3 ½" turkey payload. (This bird ended up winning the Big Bird Contest among all birds taken at both camps during our hunt period. Congratulations, Jared!)

The weather took a downturn late morning on Sunday. Spitting rain before noon turned to driving rain in the afternoon. The driving rain continued all afternoon. The weather didn't stop Jared and Russ, however, who braved the miserable conditions.

Late in the day, Russ and Jared trudged through the pouring rain for more than 40 minutes to reach a favorite roost site, where Russ had a suspicion the birds might want to be as fly-up time approached. Russ guessed right. About an hour after setting up against two trees, the two caught sight of a large group of birds heading their way through the fog that was now settling in with the constant rain. As the birds closed the distance, Jared flipped off the safety on his Mossberg turkey gun. Soon after, he fired, dropping a plump 2-year-old gobbler in its tracks.

Realizing they were in a place where the birds wanted to be, the two stayed put. After a few more minutes, more turkeys came on the scene. The loud shotgun blast just moments before clearly hadn't spooked them. Jared repositioned himself as the birds drew near. After a short time, another dose of Federal copper-plated turkey load was on its way and found its mark.

Soaked to the skin, Jared and Russ were all smiles as they went about making the two waterlogged turkeys look suitable for the necessary photo shoot. As they positioned the two birds, their shared success over the past 24 hours became clear. Together, they had bagged **three** birds in **two** states in **one** day (3-2-1).



Jared Mertes
South Dakota 2017

Conclusion

Russ and Wanda are warm and extremely hard working, the accommodations in both states are comfortable and feature hunter-friendly décor, the food provided is hearty and plentiful and the properties hunted are beautiful and game rich.

In fact, I like WGO so much that I'm already booked for spring 2018; my father and I will once again be pursuing the white-tipped Merriam's turkeys of western South Dakota and northeastern Wyoming in April. I cannot wait. I just hope my dad and I can come close to duplicating Jared's memorable 3-2-1 Turkey Hunt. Actually, my goal is for a 2-6-2-4 Turkey Hunt next year (2 guys shoot 6 birds total in 2 states over 4 days). It's good to set goals!

Life Member, Roland West's March 2017 Hunt in Africa

Caliber .270 Winchester

First column: Red Hartebeest, Blesbuck, Blue Wildebeest

Second column: Impala, Nyala



Black Bear Hunt

by Al Holland

My good friend, Bruce Sitko, arranged a black bear hunt with the legendary sheep guide, Mike Mell, from Arizona. Mike has guided close to 90 sheep kills in Arizona. Mike has a bear hunting concession in the White Mountains and has been hunting black bears for many years. Bruce and I were accompanied by Larry Holland also from Arizona.

We traveled to Mike's camp on the 9th of May for a week long hunt. Mike's camp is one of the finest I have ever been in. He has a full time cook, cook trailer, shower and excellent wall tents with all the gear. The area we hunted is vast as I only saw one other person in a week of hunting. Mike's guides to a great job of baiting and set trail cams so the hunter knows what is hitting the baits. We passed on a number of bears before this mature boar came into the bait. I had one hour left of my hunt.



The bear is a cinnamon color phased bear estimated at 12 to 14 years old. He weight approximately 550 pounds and has a 42" neck and 56" chest. I was amazed at the hair quality and no major marks on his face or ears. Below is Mike's contact information:

Mike Mell, Ram Riders Outfitters - ramriderguides@gmail.com - 575-574-8006 (Mike's cell)



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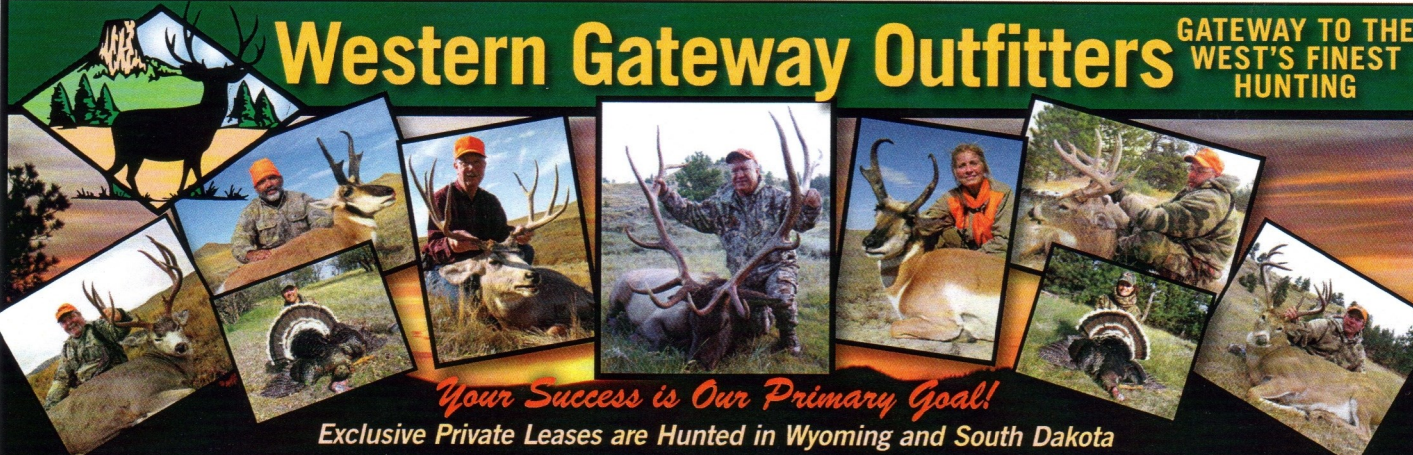
Many of you have quality items that have had minimal use or maybe you've upgraded or have never used. This is an opportunity to make a tax deductible donation on an item that you may not need and give another individual a chance to buy a quality item they're looking for. Contact John Coulter (507) 829-2304 for more information.

SHARE YOUR HUNTING STORIES!

We often hear many of you say, "I'd love to help out, but I really don't have a lot of time". We have an answer for you and it doesn't require a lot of time! Share an experience you've had with the membership (brag a little!). It's important to us to put out an informative, interesting and entertaining Ram Tracks newsletter. We need stories of your adventures (hunting, fishing, travels, an outdoor experience, awarded with an honor, etc..) even a brief description with a nice picture. Whether you've hunted the Nile for crocodiles or caught a nice pike this summer at the cabin or on vacation, we want to hear about it! If you see an article or information that would be a good addition to our newsletter, let us know or send it to Patti at our office. We all have a past experience or adventure worth sharing. Let us share yours!

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Wild Sheep Foundation - Midwest Chapter
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