



WEST WALKER SPORTSMAN

P.O. BOX 141104, GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN 49514
0-599 Leonard NW (616) 453-5081

FEBRUARY

www.wwsc.org

2005

Big Gun Raffle

Since the newsletter is being delivered to you at the first of the month now, we couldn't get the January raffle winner included in this issue. The January winner's name will appear in the March issue. Of course, the website will have the name and ticket number posted within a week of the drawing. Good luck! ♣

Sportsman's Banquet

Make plans now to attend our Sportsman's banquet. Our 3rd annual event will be bigger and better than ever, with over 25 guns up for grabs! We'll also be giving away some great hunting, camping, and outdoor sports equipment. Our banquet will feature four blitz raffles for major prizes, table raffles, Chinese raffles, silent auctions and of course, some fun games of chance.

Tickets are still just **\$50 per person** and include a great **Damon's dinner** and a **door prize!** There will be a cash bar available. We are limiting ticket sales to 300 for the banquet, so get yours now!

A new feature this year is a special raffle for a Honda TRX 350FM four wheel drive ATV. Tickets for this special raffle are \$10 each and are on sale now. We have 1200 tickets available, and if they are all sold by the banquet, the ATV will be awarded to one lucky ticket holder. If we sell less than the 1200, we will make it a 50/50 drawing. Either way the winner takes home a great prize. Make plans now to attend the banquet. Stop in at the shooting desk during scheduled events, or see any Charter member for tickets.

♣

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Membership

1172 Associate
50 Charter
18 Honorary
2 Charter Applicants

As always, contact membership chairman, Rich Vander Meer if you have any questions regarding your membership. (616) 453-3255 or rlvandermeer@comcast.net. ♣



Archery News

WWSC in association with the Lake Michigan Archery Association (LMAA) will host a shoot on March 5 & 6. Shooting times are at 1PM and 5PM on Saturday the 5th, and at 1PM on Sunday the 6th featuring NFAA style targets. All West Walker members are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our club will also be hosting an LMAA championship shoot on April 16 & 17. Shooting times are the same, 1PM and 5PM on Saturday, and 1PM on Sunday. This event uses the FITA targets, and you must have previously participated in 4 LMAA events to qualify.

The price for either of these events is \$6 for adults, and \$4 for children Vince Schultes is available at (616) 895-5009 for more information.



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Charter Meeting Moved

Remember that the charter meeting will be held the second Tuesday of the month to make room for the Archery league. The date for February is the 8th.



A Most Memorable Hunt

You may recall that our fund raiser field day last year was a benefit to help get physically challenged sportsmen and women of west Michigan out into the field on guided hunting or fishing trips. Well, this is the story of one of our recipients, Bill Mackay. Bill happened to attend our fundraiser banquet last fall and actually won a rifle that evening. Little did he know at the time that he would be selected for a fully guided hunt at the Muy Grande Ranch in Millersburg, Michigan.

Bill is a paraplegic who drives his own specially equipped '04Chevy pickup. One reason he bought the truck was to gain more access to our great Michigan outdoors. When he found out that he would be going to Muy Grande, he was overwhelmed with the anticipation of the hunt and to be able to use his new vehicle to get him there.

It was the week after Thanksgiving as Bill headed up to the ranch. Now, as Bill would tell it, he is no slouch when it comes to following directions or finding his way to a destination. Nevertheless, he found himself pulled off to the side of the road, trying to figure out just where he had gone wrong. While Bill pondered his dilemma, the owner of Muy Grande, Glen Catt, pulled up, introduced himself, and invited Bill to follow him to camp.

A tall electric gate emerged in the semi-darkness. The two vehicles passed through only to encounter a second ten-foot high gate a short distance further. Beyond this gate lie the 1500 acres of oak timber, deep cedar swamps, and strategically placed food plots that make up Muy Grande Ranch. The entire ranch is enclosed by the double fence to insure the 100% genetic purity of their Northern and Dakota white tail deer herd. As Bill would later learn, this is truly one of a few such operations in the world.

Accommodations at the ranch proved first class. Each room has its own shower and bathroom facilities. Meals and social gatherings at the end of each day were held in the traditional ranch house. With one guide per hunter and all the attention to detail, Bill knew that he was in for a great time

A day and a half into his hunt, Bill spotted a nice buck chasing a couple of does. He figured the group to be about 160 yards away when the buck presented him with a shot. The buck took off with the crack of his rifle but another shot to
(cont'd on p.4)

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Feb**2005**

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1	2	3 Duck Hunters meet 7 to 9	4	5
6 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	7 NWTF meets 7 to 9	8 Charter Meeting 7:30	9 Archery, Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	10 Archery 6PM	11	12 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2
13 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	14	15	16 Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	17 Archery 6PM	18	19 Cowboy Shoot Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2
20 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	21	22 Board Meeting 7:00	23 Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	24 Archery 6PM	25	26 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2
27 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	28	Mar	2 Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	3 Archery 6PM Duck Hunters meet 7 to 9	4	5 Archery Tournament 1PM & 5PM Trap & Skeet 10 to 2
6 Archery Tournament 1 PM Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	7 NWTF meets 7 to 9	8 Charter Meeting 7:30	9 Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	10 Archery 6PM	11	12 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2
13 Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2	14	15	16 Trap & Skeet 9 to 12 AM 6 to 10 PM	17 Archery 6PM	18	19 Cowboy Shoot Archery, Trap & Skeet 10 to 2 7yd Range closed 9-Noon



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the vitals at 220 yards put the trophy down for good. This was the second buck that Bill had taken in his 25 years of hunting. The big seven pointer weighed in at 180 pounds. You can see the happy faces of Bill, Glen, and Tom, his guide, in the picture at right.

While Bill enjoys the venison, he looks forward to April when his mount will be ready.



A pose was carefully chosen to accentuate the buck's best side. He already has a place of honor reserved in his poolroom for the trophy.

Looking back, Bill describes his hunt as one of the top five events of his life. Many times during his stay at Muy Grande, he reflected on what a respite the hunting trip had become, the great distance it provided from the day-to-day grind that we all face. To that end, this trip was more than a hunt for whitetail deer. It was truly a memory he'll keep for a lifetime. ♣

Pole's Taxidermy

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Tom "Pole" Parauka
1041 4th Street N.W.
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Phone
(616) 456-5365

