

PIONEER

DODGE COUNTY

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Horicon Marsh Military Hunt

by Gayle Rydstrom

Ryan Voy and Chuck Dodge have been hunting on the Horicon Marsh since they were youngsters going

out with their fathers. A couple years ago, the two began thinking about how a duck hunt would be something they could offer to military veterans.

"We began talking about it when Chuck's friend's son got killed," said Ryan. "We thought it would be a cool way to give back to those who served their country. So we'd been talking about it off and on."

Chuck stated, "We were out scouting the marsh and talking about it. It was Memorial Day when we were out there and finally started planning the day."

Planning included finding military personnel who would enjoy duck hunting on Horicon Marsh. That was left up to Chuck's friend, Kurt Morris, since names and contact information are not released to the public.

"Kurt does a lot of work with military personnel who are from Wisconsin and Illinois," pointed out Chuck. "We used him for our contact person."

Two hunts were scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 30; one in the morning and one in the afternoon. If they wanted, the military personnel could do both. The day began at 4:30 a.m. when

the group met for breakfast at the end of Chestnut Street in Horicon. The meal was prepared by Chuck's friends. Ryan's buddies took care of the evening meal. Hunting times on October 30 were from 6:57 a.m. to 5:40 p.m.

"We had 15 vets we took out in the boats this morning with 13 guides," said Ryan.

"Everybody shot at a duck and saw a lot of them," Chuck stated.

All but one member of the military had been hunting before this event. Unfortunately, although he did some shooting while out on Horicon Marsh, he wasn't able to hit a duck. "But he said he had a lot of fun," pointed out Chuck.

Both men agreed Saturday was a beautiful day for hunting. "It was overcast this morning and that helped," explained Ryan. "It sure is easier to do things like this when it isn't pouring."

Ryan and Chuck are planning to invite military personnel for a hunt again

next year. As a matter of fact, they say the Horicon Marsh Military Hunt will become an annual event.

Wounded Warriors Project was founded in 2003 in Roanoke, VA, by a group of veterans and friends who took action to help the injured service men and women of this generation. Headquarters for the organization is in Jacksonville, FL. There are offices in Washington, DC, and New York City as well as field staff throughout the United States.

According to the Wounded Warriors Project website, the Wounded Warrior Project's mission is to honor and empower wounded warriors who incur service-connected wounds, injuries and illnesses (physical or psychological) on or after September 11, 2001.

For more information on Wounded Warriors Project, visit the website at www.woundedwarriorproject.org.



ORGANIZERS

Gayle Rydstrom

Chuck Dodge, left, and Ryan Voy organized the Horicon Marsh Military Hunt, which occurred Saturday, Oct. 30. Fifteen veterans took part in the morning hunt and had the opportunity to also hunt with the afternoon group if they desired.