

# Truly a hunt of a lifetime in Florence County

A dream came true for two young men this September. Simon Moore-Watson and Harrison Abbe both have a passion for hunting and the outdoors, but face severe health problems. Simon has spina bifida and a tethered cord, which means he uses a wheelchair to get around. Harrison was diagnosed with spinal cord astrocytoma tumor and underwent 14 months of chemo and had to relearn to walk after surgery.

In the summer Wild Rivers Guide, organizers from the Hunt of a Lifetime organization asked for bear tags for the boys, and two Wisconsin hunters stepped up. Francis "Buck" Robertson and Joseph Friede gave up 12 years of accumulated points to transfer their tags to Simon and Harrison.

The hunt was on. Wayne and Kevin Wilcox, whose son Collin went on a hunt of a lifetime a few years ago, provided the camp and land in Florence County for the hunt as a way to pay forward the gift. Craig Soderberg, owner of

Nicolet Lodge in Florence also provided free lodging for the families.

The boys arrived up north in time for opening day and were chomping at the bit to get started. "Opening morning both boys wanted to go out hunting even after we told them it was much better late afternoon," said Tim Jahn, Wisconsin Ambassador for Hunt of a Lifetime. "Well, Simon proved us wrong when he shot his boar bear with one shot at about 10:30 a.m."

"Buck, who donated the tag was with him and said that it was the best hunting experience he had ever had, when he told the story with tears running down his face," said Jahn. Simon was able to help drag the bear out with his Action Trackchair, a heavy-duty, all-terrain wheel chair he used for the hunt, thanks to TSS Equipment. Simon also helped to gut the bear.

"This hunt gave him bonding with the volunteers from Hunt of a Life-

time," said Simon's family. "He also made new friends, and grew with the courage to keep fighting."

It was getting late on Friday as the group waited for Harrison and his brother, Ethan, to come out of the woods, and then they heard the single shot from his stand. They knew Harrison was a good hunter and would make a clean shot. After over 30 hours Harrison and Ethan spent in the woods it paid off with another boar. That Friday night at the Wilcox cabin, many that were involved in the hunt gathered to congratulate the boys.

"This was truly a hunt of a lifetime for two boys with disabilities who didn't want to be treated differently," said Jahn. "We never heard a negative word from two teenagers that have something to complain about with the hand they were dealt."

In addition to the everyone who provided lodging and tags, the family and organizers want to

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The group with Simon (in Trackchair) and Harrison (to left of Simon).



Harrison bagged this boar on Friday, September 15 after over 30 hours in the woods.



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