

2025 Dan Fout Memorial Disabled Veterans Hunt

a Success at AOA's Marsha Gunder Schneider Preserve

in Pickaway County



Once a year, at the end of October, the Gabriel Farm southeast of Circleville has served as the focus for the annual Dan Fout Memorial Disabled Veterans Hunt. Event organizers Bill Frost and Don Gatwood spent countless hours organizing this event and preparing the Gabriel Farm, and other nearby properties, for this year's Dan Fout Memorial Veterans Hunt.

What was once a small group of Pickaway County Veterans looking to provide safe and supportive hunting access to their disabled companions has steadily grown into a regionally recognized event with over 120 hunters, volunteers and hunting aides at this year's gathering. As interest in the event grew, the Gabriel Farm could no longer accommodate the number of hunters who wished to participate. Looking to expand the huntable acreage, Bill Frost contacted Appalachia Ohio Alliance (AOA) several years ago about utilizing the nearby Marsha Gunder Schneider Preserve to help meet the groups' natural area space needs.

According to hunt coordinator Bill Frost, “it is important that we have natural areas that are available for our disabled veterans to be able to get out into nature and enjoy hunting opportunities. We are grateful to the Gabriel farm, Mullens farm and AOA MG Schneider Preserve for working with our group to meet this need.”

The MG Schneider Preserve is a 280-acre riparian corridor conservation Preserve along the Scioto River south of Circleville. It includes a mix of deep bottomland forests and open fields, restored to native habitat by former owner Joe Schneider. This site is ideal habitat for White Tail Deer and hosts a large herd on the property which needs thinned to relieve browsing pressure on native species.

The relatively flat ground and existing paths on the MG Schneider Preserve site provides easy access for disabled hunters. Ground blinds set up by volunteers allow hunters to sit in cover while waiting for their opportunity for an Ohio White Tail. Many of the participating hunters grew up with a rich tradition of harvesting deer to feed their families. However, due to injuries, getting into the woods is difficult for some, and impossible for others. By providing transportation and assistance on the ground, the dedicated Dan Fout Memorial Hunt volunteers can provide a safe hunting experience for 14 veterans on the MG Schneider Preserve. Five deer were harvested on the site by disabled hunters during the October 25/26 weekend hunt.

AOA is a local non-profit land trust dedicated to the conservation and stewardship of Central Ohio’s land and water resources for the benefit of our communities. As part of its mission, AOA provides hunting opportunities for local sportsman on its Preserves. According to AOA President Steve Goodwin, “AOA is glad to be able to collaborate with groups such as the Dan Fout Memorial Disabled Veterans Hunt and to help serve the outdoor recreational needs of the local community.”