2017 HUNTER OF THE YEAR

WILLIAM R. (BILL) HOFFMAN
Sponsored by

WILLIAM R. (BILL) HOFFMAN is a Pennsylvanian who was born in 1935 near Pittsburgh. He lived in the rural community known as Mt. Nebo, attended the one room school for 8 years before graduating from Sewickley High School and then Carnegie Institute of Technology. Big game hunting commenced in 1969 when he moved to the Philadelphia area and along with a couple buddies bought an old farm house in Center County where he and co-owner-friend Ed Nugent have been deer, turkey and small game hunting for the last 48 years. Rarely a year had passed between 1969 and 1985 whereby they did not mentor their sons plus dozens of other young teenagers on the art, customs and ethics of hunting. It wasn’t until October 7, 1974 that Bill and three friends made a journey to Jackson in hopes of harvesting some Wyoming Trophies.

Not only was the trip a total hunting success but it was the beginning of a 44-year relationship with the Taylors who owned and operated an outfitting business out of Kelly, WY now known as the Gros Ventre Wilderness Outfitters, Inc.

Bill, Caesar and Ed have had the privilege to hunt or camp with the Taylors many, many times ever since. Bill can actually reminisce about hunting, fishing, trail riding and camping with four generations of Taylors and has actually harvested an animal with Verland, Glenn, Brian and Justin. Through this relationship Bill has introduced numerous friends from Arizona, Washington, Pennsylvania, Texas and even Italy to Wyoming Hospitality and Hunting. Bill, along with son Gary plus grandsons Nick and Joe have harvested antelope with Jake Clark of Wyoming Wilderness Outfitters in Powell, WY.

In 1994, we were fortunate to draw a Sheep Tag for the Gros Ventre area and saw many legal ewes and rams but were a little too set on horn size to harvest one. Fortunately, we also had a mule deer tag at the same time and with Outfitter/Guide Glenn Taylor they found a 179 7/8 Score Typical Animal which was awarded 3rd Place by the Wyoming Outfitters Association.

We love ‘What You Do’ and ‘How You Do It’ as members of the WYOGA. Bill served several years as the RMEF Art Advisory Council Chairman plus he was on the National Board of Directors for the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation between 2002 and 2008. As a supporter of RMEF the Hoffman Family belongs to the Trails Society and Habitat Council plus each and all are RMEF Life Members. Ducks Unlimited, Safari Club International and the NRA are important among the organizations which he has been a member and supported. ‘Thanks Be to God’ this could only happen in this Great USA! Thanks also to the Taylors, the Clarks and WYOGA for honoring me with the 2017 Hunter of the Year Award.