

WYOGA HUNTING STORY CONTEST WINNER: JOHN TRUSSELL

John's 2012 Bear Hunt

John Trussell, of St Paul, NE formerly of Worland, WY has fought challenges most of his life. At the age of 12 he was diagnosed with diabetes. In 1998, his kidneys started failing and he needed a transplant. One of his four brothers, Kent, was a perfect match and donated one of his to John.

In 2003, John suffered a heart attack and had to have quadruple bypass surgery. He has had several eye laser treatments, had 3 toes amputated, and removal of skin cancer. Still through it all John continued on with his life, working and enjoying the outdoors and hunting as though nothing was wrong. Then in 2010 he was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis, after suffering a seizure, which has taken a toll on his legs and strength. "It may have slowed me down, but I still want to live my life and do things like anyone else," said John.

Being a hunting enthusiast John would watch hours of the Outdoor channel and any other hunting shows that came on. "I found a new passion," John said. "Going bear hunting. I just became obsessed with it." Hunting other big-game animals was harder now but not impossible. "The thought of him going after a bear was a little unsettling for friends and family," said Korlynn, his wife. "We were worried that John would be unable to move and get away from a bad situation should it present itself."

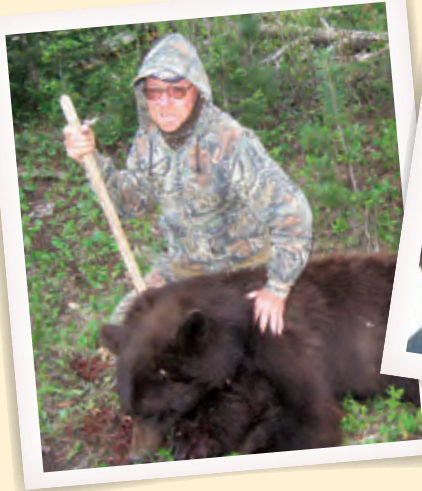
As the hunting season approached John became more obsessed everyday. Korlynn, made contact with a local outfitter to see if they would consider taking John bear hunting.

Jimmy and Tiffany Wiser of Wyoming Country Outfitters said they would take him. On June 8th 2012, the Trussell's met up with Jimmy at his ranch in Pavillion, WY. They followed him to the base camp near Jackson Hole, WY.

The following day the two men packed their gear and prepared to head up on horseback. The challenge was going to be getting John on the horse. John loved to ride horses but due to his MS he hadn't ridden a horse in about 2 1/2 years. Jimmy had a set of steps used to help people get on and off of horses. Jimmy maneuvered the horse into place. With the help of Korlynn and Jimmy, John stepped up the steps and put his left foot in the stirrup, they took a hold of his right foot and swung it over the back of the horse.

Sitting high in the saddle the two guys headed up to the spot that Jimmy had been putting bait out for the bears. Jimmy got John right in position so he could sit against a tree and watch the barrel. Unfortunately no bears came that night.

On June 10th, the men tried again. This evening they set up on a different barrel and as luck would have it a cinnamon and white bear showed up. "I wasn't prepared and the bear heard me and took off."



Turned out to be a lesson learned but they'd just have to wait and see if

that bear or if any others would even come back. On June 11th the men got ready and headed out again. "As they left I yelled out, "3rd times a charm", said Korlynn.

"At about 10:30pm I heard talking outside and opened the door to see what was going on," Korlynn said.

"Jimmy started saying they needed help and showed me one of his hands." There was blood on the hand, but whose? "Thoughts were going through my mind as to what went wrong, what happened?" Korlynn said.

"Then Jimmy asked, 'Do you know what that is? It's bear blood.'"

I asked, "So you got one? Where is it?"

"It's still up on the mountain." Jimmy needed to switch out horses and head back up to retrieve it. With the help of a neighbor Jimmy headed back up to get the bear. Once John got settled in the cabin the whole story finally came out. Jimmy dropped John off at the second barrel then he took the horses back up the mountain to wait.

After about 3 1/2 hours John caught a glimpse of legs walking through the pine trees. As he got himself ready. "The chocolate bear came around the trees instead of walking over to the barrel, he started walking towards me," John said.

"I just sat quietly continuing to watch as the bear walked closer and closer towards me," said John.

About 15 yards away the bear started to raise his head smelling the air. "I raised my gun and steadied myself and focused on the bear," John said.

"The bear had a white spot on his front chest and so that is where I placed my shot. The bear dropped and rolled around then got up and went down around the trees."

Jimmy showed up and asked if he got his bear, how he acted and where he went. Jimmy headed over and checked out the bear. He came back out of the trees with thumbs up. and boy is he big," Jimmy told

"You got him John.

The following morning the men took the bear to the Jackson Hole game and fish to have the bear measured and documented. The bear measured 6' 6" and roughly 350+ lbs. The age of the bear came back as 10 1/2. John got the official word on the score on the bear was the second largest bear in Wyoming in 2012 spring hunt.

The Trussell's would like to thank Jimmy and Tiffany Wiser of Wyoming Country Outfitters for making this hunt possible for John. 🍷

BIG GAME HUNTING

WYOMING OUTFITTERS & GUIDES ASSOCIATION EST. 1959

WYOMING OUTDOORS

Don't Miss our **BIG GAME Banquet and AWARD Presentation** APRIL 5, 2014 Jackson, WY

P.O. Box 2650 • 4704 W. Yellowstone Highway, Casper, WY 82602-2650 307.265.2376 • wyoga@wyoga.org • www.wyoga.org