



**COURAGE** (kur'ij) n. 1. The attitude of facing and dealing with anything recognized as difficult, dangerous, or painful, instead of withdrawing from it; quality of being fearless or brave.

The Tony Semple Foundation for Hope organization epitomizes this dynamism. The Muy Grande Ranch was the home of the 2011 Outdoor Adventures program held on September 15–18. Muy Grande Ranch owner, Perry Heleski, had always envisioned whitetail-hunting dreams coming to fruition when he developed this extraordinary paradise.

The TSFFH Outdoor Adventures program was created to accommodate life-challenged individuals that want to go hunting and fishing as one of their life wishes. Tony Semple added, "These young adults deserve an exceptional experience in their lives."

The 2011 TSFFH Outdoor Adventure candidates arrived from across Michigan and one (1) from Oklahoma with a multitude of ailments that seemed to di-



minish like ghosts in the woods of Northern Michigan as their spirits began to take off. The nine (9) lucky warriors included, Alex Hardy, age 17, who has cerebral palsy and is confined to a wheelchair. Elijah Woolley, age 22, who is severely paralyzed in a bicycle/motor vehicle accident resulting in a quadriplegic condition. Trent "Dozer" Beaver, age 11, who has Stage IV brain cancer with three (3) brain surgeries and 33 radiation treatments in the last six (6) months. Dylan Odland, age 15, who suffers from cystic fibrosis that continues to debilitate him. Albert Shelton, age 18, who has a severe traumatic brain injury caused by a motor vehicle accident. Jacob Tomasko, age 14, who has acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Jonathan Stiles, age 19 and Jordan Anthony, age 20, who also suffer



from the constant rigors of cerebral palsy. And lastly, but certainly not least, Shuan Williams, age 21 who was born with a disease that affected the development of his eyes and is completely blind.

"This is an opportunity for me and the others to get away from the pains of the hospital and the treatments and just have fun," explained Dylan Odland.

Mossy Oak, Lacrosse-Danner and Cabela's continued their "massive" support of the Tony Semple Foundation for Hope by outfitting the candidates with camouflage clothing and footwear. Foundation co-founder, Semple presented the six participants with NFL Lions' paraphernalia while signing autographs and bonding with the participants for the entire weekend. "This is an incredible program that literally brings HOPE to



families that have been focused on the realities of having a child diagnosed with a life threatening or life altering situation," remarked Semple. "I played nine (9) years in the NFL with some of the toughest players, but these youngsters are the epidemic of courage, they are the true fighters," added Semple.

The exuberance and every escapade were seized for a lifetime of memories. First-class accommodations, provisions, plenty of picture taking and propelling stories were told over the 4-day outdoor excursion for the participants and their family members. With over 1000 acres of God's Creation surrounding the camp, Muy Grande Ranch housed the TSFFH Outdoor Adventures candidates in the beautifully constructed 10,000 sq. foot custom-built log lodge.



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The Tony Semple Foundation for Hope, through an application process, secures potential candidates and provides this special mentoring opportunity. The Foundation also handles and provides for the animal processing, the animal taxidermy and many award presentations to each of their candidates. "This is an awesome program and a happening of a lifetime. I am so thankful to have the chance to participate," exclaimed "Dozer" Beaver.

As the final day's shadows grew longer on the forest floor, the nine (9) TSFFH Outdoor Adventure candidates awed their magnificent whitetail buck successes. Shuan Williams, completely blind, shot his first whitetail buck with the use of a very specialized piece of adaptive equipment that the Foundation helped to develop called a "Liberator".

Williams added, "I was so excited I couldn't even talk! This was my first whitetail buck. What a dream come true!" Semple went on to add, "With the Liberator, there are no physical afflictions that the Foundation for Hope cannot accommodate, including quadriplegia and blindness. It is truly a blessing from GOD."

**TONY SEMPLE FOUNDATION FOR HOPE**  
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