



Connie Lawn

Connie Lawn hails from the press corp and calls herself "The Skiing White House Reporter." But she prefers writing about snowsports. Her specialty is covering skiing for the disabled.

4th Annual Wounded Warrior Weekend Wintergreen, VA - Adaptive Programs

From the top of our mountain all you see is possibility. See you at the top." This is the motto of Tom Brown, Development Director for Wintergreen Adaptive Sports, or WAS. He is also in charge of the Wounded Warrior Events. Tom works closely with Michael Zuckerman, the creative and energetic Founder and Executive Director of WAS. In their latest newsletter Michael writes, "A dozen years ago, WAS was but a humble snowball. But each year more snow is packed onto it, and now WAS is a snow boulder rolling down the slopes with unstoppable velocity." Michael also says WAS received a 3 year grant from the Commonwealth Neurotrauma Initiative. It is "aimed at enhancing the re-integration back into life of two recently spinal cord injured individuals."

Snowsports, and all athletes, are fortunate to have such dedicated men and their large team of volunteers. They work tirelessly to instruct the students and restore their zest for sports and life. They can keep their efforts going with contributions, grants, and fundraising, which culminates in their gala Mardi Gras weekend (Mardi Gras is the first weekend in March, Mar.1, 2008). Skiers and boarders descend the slopes in costume, and enjoy banquets, parties, and good fellowship when the snow festivities are done. They do so in one of the most magnificent resorts of the East. The fantastic landscapes of the Blue Ridge Mountains, with their dramatic sunrises and sunsets, are an inspiration

to all lucky enough to participate. Even the blind skiers in the program understand they are in a special place, with remarkable people.

This season's Wounded Warrior Weekend at Wintergreen takes place January 25 to 27th, 2008. Director Tom Brown tells us it is open to military service members who were injured while on combat duty. They may be active or retired. They may contact Wintergreen at 434-325-2007 or look at the Website, skiwas.org. Usually about 20 warriors and their guests attend. There is no cost for them, with the exception of transportation and personal items.

Tom Brown adds "The warriors are given the opportunity to celebrate new victories over their injuries...They reenter the world, use their bodies, increase their self-confidence and self-esteem, and are embraced by their fellow wounded warrior and the entire Wintergreen community."

I hope many of our readers will give these programs as much support as possible! ❄️

Photography courtesy of Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing

Spc. Sam Floberg lost his right leg serving in Iraq. Here he gets fitted into a mono-ski by instructors from Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing



On Jan. 27-29, 2007, 24 severely injured military members, with 16 guests, enjoyed a free weekend of skiing and snowboarding. The event was sponsored by Wintergreen Adaptive Skiing and Wintergreen Resort