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# FRONT SIGHT

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Mid-Michigan Chapter Safari Club International

October 2009, Issue 8



Copy of an original oil painting on canvas  
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Donated to our 30th Annual Hunter's Convention  
Painting enhanced to fill page

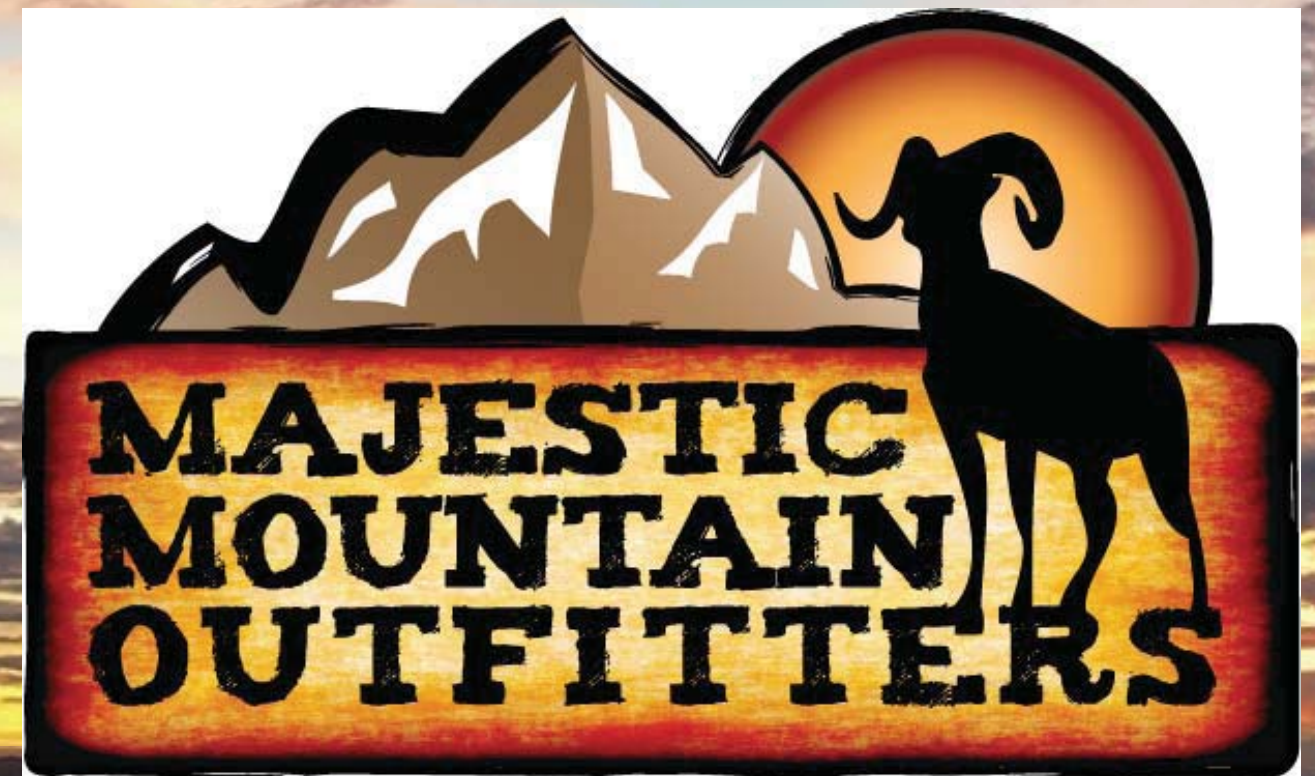


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Eric Forlee, artist from Kerrvive, Texas with Don Harter in Reno  
Eric donated an original oil to be auctioned at our convention

To submit material to the Front Sight:

Write: Mary Harter  
1375 N. Cedar Point Drive  
Weidman, MI 48893

Or call: h 989 644-2333 • c 989 506-3577

Or e-mail: [harter65@gmail.com](mailto:harter65@gmail.com)

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The Front Sight is the official publication of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International, keeping club members informed about local club activities, and encouraging and defining good sportsmanship. The Front Sight Magazine is published quarterly: January, April, July and October. Distribution 325+.

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## SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter Meeting Schedule

Date	Meeting Type	Time	Location
October 5, 2009	Board	4:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center
November 2, 2009	Board Membership	4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center Soaring Eagle Conference Center
December 7, 2009	Board Membership	4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center Soaring Eagle Conference Center
January 4, 2010	Board Membership	4:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center Soaring Eagle Conference Center
January 29, 2010	Board Big Buck Night Big Buck Night Dinner	4:30 p.m. 5:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Conference Center Soaring Eagle Conference Center Soaring Eagle Conference Center
February 26, 2010	Hunter's Convention	2 - 10:00 p.m.	Soaring Eagle Casino
February 27, 2010	Hunter's Convention	10:00 a.m. - close	Soaring Eagle Casino

**Reservations required. Please call and leave a message at 989-944-5140**



## Looking Ahead - In our next issue -- Of Moose and Men

by Michael Ritchie

## What a Hunt!

by Peter Bucklin

## Alberta Bison

by Mary Harter


## Alaskan Muskox

by Mary Harter

*And more articles, poems  
and jokes yet to be submitted.*





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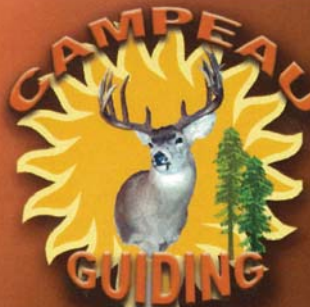
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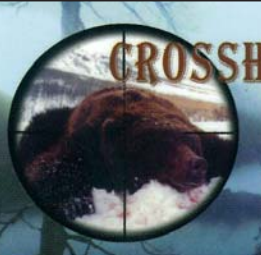


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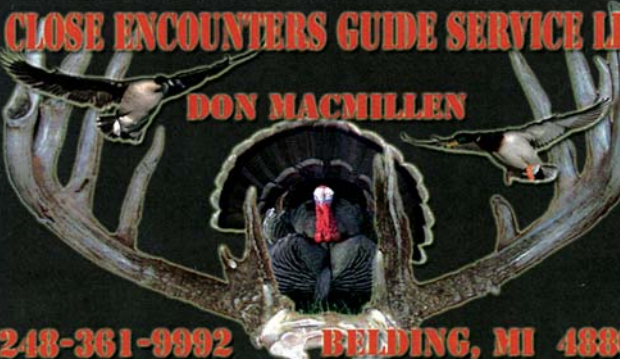
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## Message from your President

Don Harter, President

Mary and I have just returned from Tucson, Arizona where we attended the SCI August Board Meeting. The first two days we attended a Training Seminar along with Kevin Unger, Joanne and Larry Witte. We all felt it was excellent training that will help us to better perform our duties in the Mid-Michigan Chapter. We all visited the SCI Wildlife Museum in Tucson which is very well done. If any of you are ever in the area, it is worth your time to visit.

If you have friends who are not SCI members, please encourage them to join today! Give your friends a chance to say, "Yes".

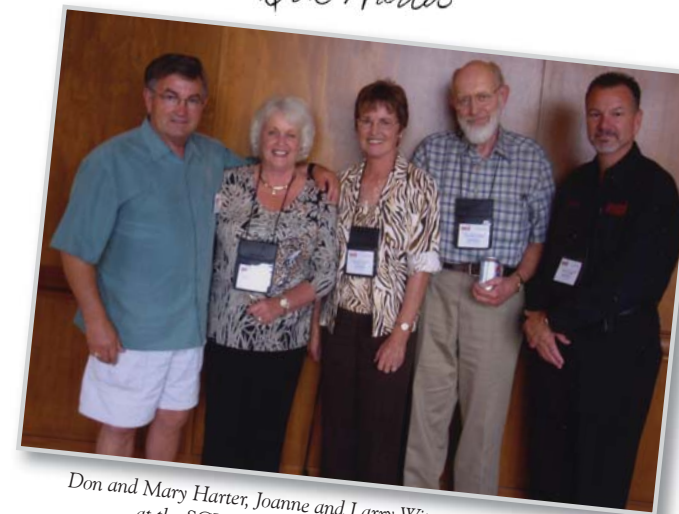
Big Buck Night is planned for January 29, 2010. It is going to be held on Friday evening so you can bring your children and grandchildren.

Mark your calendars for our upcoming convention at the Soaring Eagle Casino, February 26 and 27, 2010. We are planning another great event!!

Hunting season is here!!!

Hunt often, hunt safe!!

*Don Harter*



Don and Mary Harter, Joanne and Larry Witte, and Kevin Unger at the SCI Training Seminar in Tucson, Arizona



Don Harter with his South African Nyala



Kevin Unger, Mid-Michigan Chapter Vice President, Larry Higgins, Director at Large, Larry Rudolph, International SCI President DuWayne Schuler, Region 19 Representative, Tucson, Arizona at the SCI Training Seminar



Joanne and Mary petting Clarice, a bald python at the SCI Training Seminar

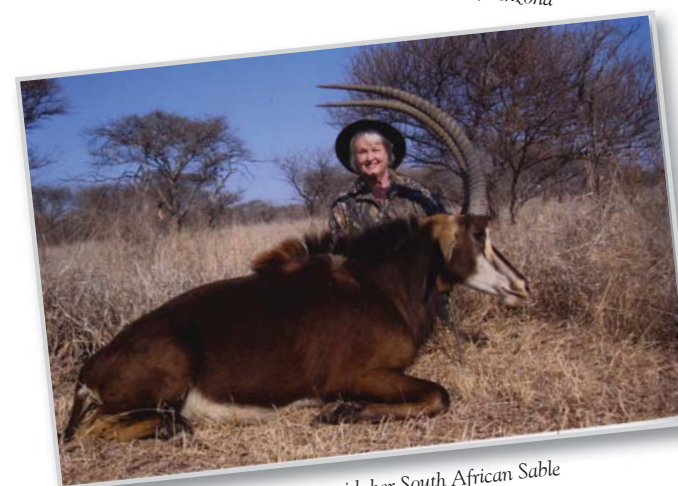
## Editor's Comments

Most of you are probably checking out our whitetails now preparing for archery and rifle season. Don has planted many food plots and we keep checking our trail cameras to see what is happening. Maybe some of you are practicing with a new crossbow. Whatever your situation. I hope you can enjoy some fresh venison soon.

Send me your stories so others can also enjoy your experiences. Also send me your wild game recipes to share with others. With a few good recipes you can enjoy your harvests for a long time.

Thanks and Happy Hunting,

*Mary J. Harter*



Mary Harter with her South African Sable

It's choice - not chance - that determines your destiny. Jean Nedetch



# Sportsman Or Slob

by Dr. Terry Braden

Spanish philosopher, educator and essayist Jose Ortega y Garret is credited with the saying, "I do not hunt to kill but I kill to have hunted". What a wonderful thought to discuss with a group of friends around a camp fire. What does it mean? We all hunt and the reason we all hunt is different; we enjoy getting out in nature, it is a challenge, we just plain love it (no reason), good exercise, enjoy eating wild game, and probably many, many more reasons we hunt. Please put another log on the fire.

As many of us that hunt and as often as we hunt, we do far less killing. As has been said above, we all hunt and for several reasons. The hunt is the enjoyment. But if we are to put a closure to the hunt for the day, or the season, or the trip, we must kill. We do not have to kill. We can continue to hunt. We can keep it in the present text. We can keep it on going, not finished. The enjoyment is still there and most of us at one time or any other have not finished the hunt, by our choice or lack of luck. But to finish the hunt, to put the period on the sentence, to move to the next chapter, we must kill.

Just like hunting, there are several reasons to kill; one does not know the difference between hunting and killing, you love to kill, you do not want to climb that mountain again, the weather is miserable. There are many more bad reasons to kill. There are only two good reasons to kill a game animal, to eat it and/or to honor it. To honor its life by ending it in Trophy Status. Here is where the sportsmanship comes in. A true sportsmanship (and I use the broad definition to include both sexes) will only kill a game animal to eat it or to honor it. There is no other reason to kill. It saddens my heart to hear of animals left in the field, dumped in the garage, hidden in the basement and never eaten or honored. If the animal is not honored and placed into Trophy Status, the hunter is not honored and placed into Trophy Status. The true sportsman will only kill a game animal to eat it or to honor it.

The Mid-Michigan Chapter of SCI makes it extremely easy to be a true sportsman and honor your kill. They have a Trophy Book of Honored Animals that is updated every year. There is no minimum size to enter your kill and there is no cost to enter your kill. Be a sportsman when it comes to hunting, and honor your kill.



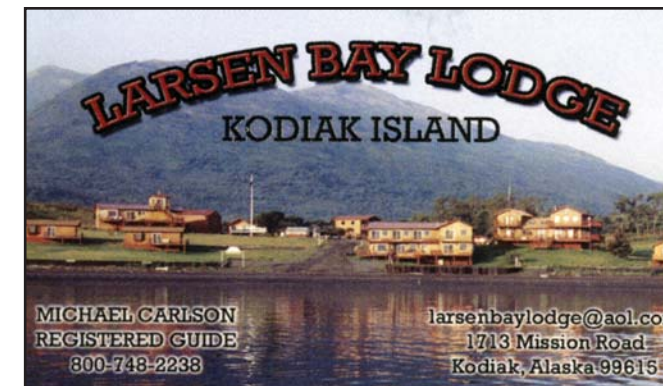
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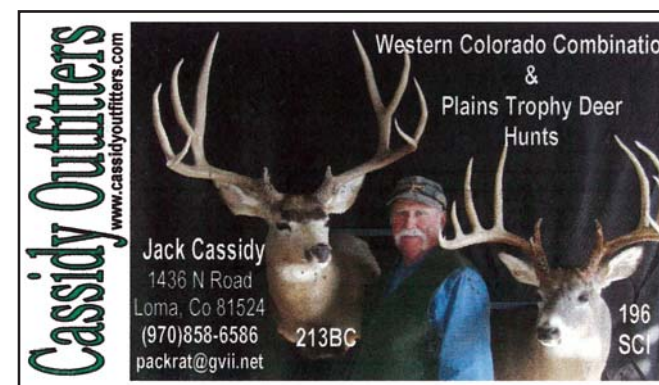
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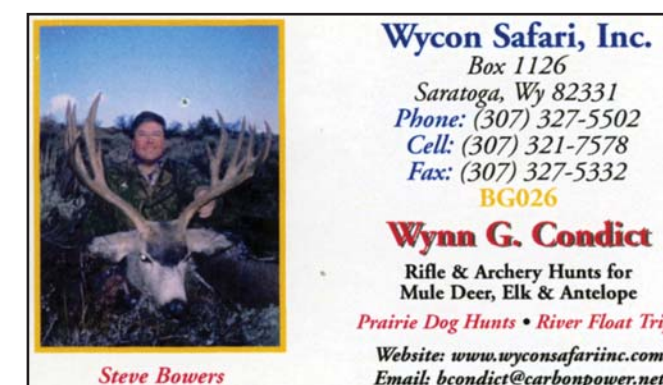


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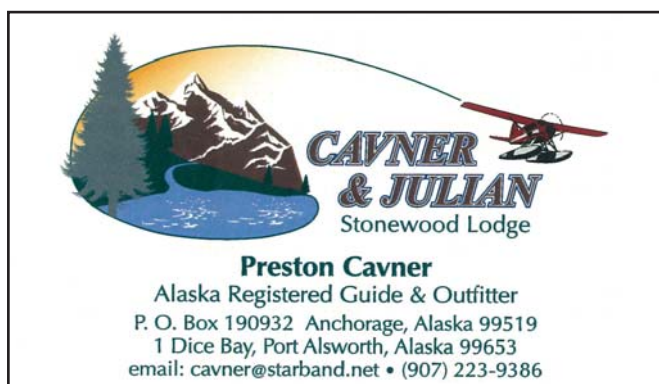
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Keep your face to the sunshine and you will not see the shadows. Helen Keller





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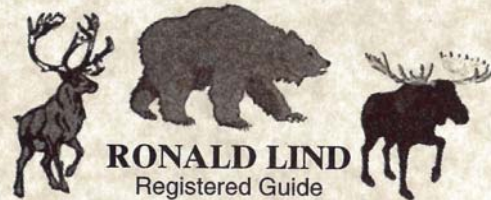
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## Mt. Pleasant Area community foundation<sup>SM</sup>

April 20, 2009

Mr. Donald Harter  
Safari Club International - Mid Michigan Chapter  
P.O. Box 486  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0486

Re: Contribution – check #6039

Dear Mr. Harter,

We gratefully acknowledge and thank Safari Club International – Mid Michigan Chapter for its generous contribution in the amount of \$10,000.00. This gift has been deposited in the Mid Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International Fund, a permanently endowed fund of the Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation. Your gift will remain in the Foundation forever. The earnings will be used to support programs dedicated to wildlife conservation, outdoor education and humanitarian services, now and for years to come.

We appreciate your support of the Foundation and the new Mid Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International Fund. It is only through the generosity of our donors that the Foundation is able to carry out its efforts to serve our community and help support important and needed programs.

If you ever have any questions about the Foundation or the Mid Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International Fund, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

*Stan Rathbun*  
**Stan Rathbun**  
Executive Director

Your gift qualifies for a deduction on your federal taxes. Additionally, because your gift will be permanently endowed, it **qualifies for the special Michigan Foundation Tax Credit**. You have received no goods or services in return for this gift. Keep this letter with your tax records as evidence of your payment.

The Mt. Pleasant Area Community Foundation maintains explicit authority to redirect earnings of any fund if distributions of said fund become unnecessary, impossible to fulfill or inconsistent with the needs of the community.

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-Thomas Jefferson



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A people that value its privileges above its principles will soon lose both.



## CONSERVATION AFFAIRS

by Larry Witte

Our Mid-Michigan Chapter, as a member of the Safari Club International-Michigan Involvement Committee (SCI-MIC), consults with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) and provides funding for a number of important wildlife activities and research projects. The following topics were discussed at a recent meeting with MDNR Wildlife Division.

### Activities

#### Trapper Education Program:

This educational program is similar to the Hunter Safety Program in that it is intended to help develop an understanding and appreciation for the trapping sport. A Trapper Education Manual has been completed and is being printed with funding support from the Michigan Trappers Association, SCI-MIC, and the SCI Education Committee. Training of program trainers and presenters is underway.

#### "Pure Michigan" Hunt Drawing:

This fund raising project is being considered by the MDNR. The concept under discussion involves an annual lottery (\$4.00) ticket with a limited number of winners (3) who would be permitted to buy any and all licenses/kill tags, including elk, turkey, bear they wished. There would be no limit on the number of lottery tickets a person could purchase. In the future a legislative change would be sought to provide the license/kill tags at no cost. Existing legislation requires the purchase of a license.

#### Graduate Student Grants:

Grants of \$1000.00 each were awarded in 2008 to 5 graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in the fields of Wildlife and Biology.

### Research Projects

#### Predator/Prey Research:

The project is intended to assess the role of predation on whitetail deer fawns in southwest Delta County and east central Menominee County in the UP. Does captured during the winter were subjected to ultrasound and blood and urine chemical analysis. Pregnant does were fitted with radio collars and an implanted transmitter that is expelled when the fawn is born and which helps locate the fawn for capture and collaring. As of early June 22 fawns were captured and radio collared. Collaring will continue until the initial target of 30 fawns has been reached. In addition 8 coyotes, 3 bobcat and 2 wolves representing 2 wolf packs have been captured and fitted with GPS collars. Bear trapping has been started. SCI-MIC has spent approxi-

mately \$55,000.00 on high tech equipment for this project since mid-December, 2008. The study, including trapping, collaring, and monitoring, will continue for 5 years. Study Partners: SCI-MIC, SCI Foundation, Michigan Tech, MSU, MDNR Wildlife Division

#### Gray Wolf Population Study:

Gray Wolf population growth and range expansion in Michigan's Upper Peninsula has been monitored since 1989. By 1973 the wolf population was estimated at 6 animals in the UP. Until 1991 there was no documentation of the birth of pups. Since that time the population has increased and expanded its range across all counties of the UP. Last winter 585 wolves were counted.

Wolves are collared to support population survey work and provide information of wolf-livestock and wolf-human conflict. Last year, of 47 collared wolves, 5 were killed illegally and 3 from automobile accidents. In 2008 wolves were involved in 14 livestock depredations on 9 farms resulting in the loss of 115 animals. Approximately 90% of the farm animals killed were small animals. (chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, domestic rabbits and game birds.) Approximately \$9000.00 was paid to farmers for livestock depredation caused by wolves in 2008 from funds administered by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and from a private fund. Non-lethal techniques were used at 6 of the 9 farms that experienced wolf depredation. During most of last year when wolves were managed under state authority, 8 wolves were killed in response to livestock depredation. Most wolf-human conflicts are solved by non-lethal methods. The MDNR and USDA Wildlife Services have killed 9 animals involving human safety since 2004. The wolf population study will continue for at least 5 years after federal delisting.

In May the wolf was taken off the federal and state endangered list and became a Michigan protected non-game animal. However, several environmental and animal protection groups sued the USFWS alleging that it had erred by not holding a legally required public comment period before taking action in May. The federal government on Monday, June 30th settled the suit by putting gray wolves in the western Great Lakes region back on the endangered species list. A 60-day comment period will be required if the USFWS tries again to remove the wolves from the endangered list.

Study Partners: SCI-MIC, Michigan Tech, and MDNR Wildlife Division.





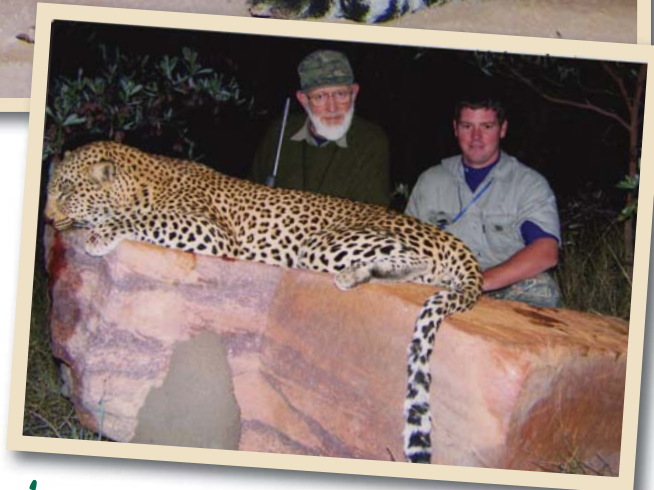
# Third Time a Charm by Larry Witte



Joanne and Larry Witte

The scouting camera had flashed 5 or 6 times in the last several minutes. It was completely dark, 6:30PM on day six of my 13-day leopard hunt in South Africa's Limpopo Province. The scouting cameras had recorded a number of night visitors--hyena, small spotted genet, civit, honey badger--at four of our dozen leopard baits. This was too early to be a leopard.

Leopards have not come easy for me. I've sat long hours in blinds in the dark and cold without talking or moving--sometimes all night--without getting a shot. Two nights previously my PH, Bart, and I sat from 4:00PM until 11:00PM in pouring rain, lightning, thunder and 40 degree temperatures paying our dues. My two earlier leopard hunts in Zimbabwe--30 days total--were unsuccessful. I've had bad leopard luck! In Zimbabwe hunts were disrupted and leopards chased off by hungry hyenas. Lions took over baits. Once cranky elephants caused us to

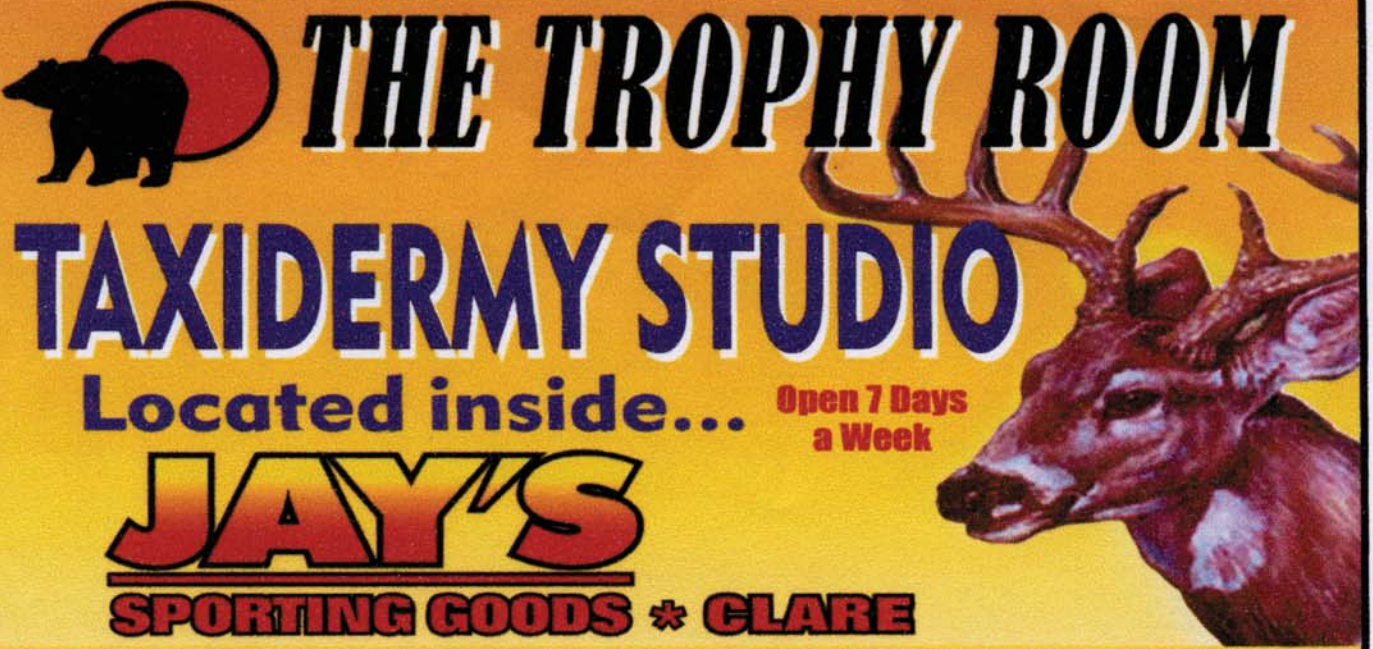


Larry Witte and Bart Grove, his PH  
This was Bart's first leopard kill as head PH

quickly vacate one blind and hungry natives occasionally helped themselves to a impala bait.

I could hardly believe it when I heard bones breaking 45 yard in front of us—a sure sign that a leopard was feeding on the impala. In the darkness, I felt Bart move next to me and the tap that signaled to get ready. I got into my





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Nothing happens ... but first a dream. Carl Sandberg



# SCI Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

## Research Arms Hunters

- There are about 18.6 million hunters in the U.S. A large percentage don't hunt in a given year and are not counted as licensed hunters that year. About 1.6 million youths under 16 and some others are not required to buy a license.
- Hunters spending supports about 600,000 jobs. That's more people than McDonald's employs.
- Federal excise taxes on some hunting equipment, plus hunting license revenue, have helped bring back dozens of species, including swans, bighorn sheep, elk, ducks, wild turkeys and white-tailed deer. In 1900 there were less than 100,000 turkeys in the U.S. vs 7 million today.

### Economic Impact

- Spending by hunters and anglers generates more revenue than Microsoft, Google, ebay and Yahoo combined.
- SCI members and other hunters spend \$24.9 billion per year.
- The average hunter spends 18 days afield and \$1,992/yr. on hunting.
- Bowhunters spend \$674 million on bows and arrows.
- Hunters spend \$2.1 billion just for food/drinks on hunting trips.
- Hunters buy duck stamps that have generated more than \$700 million for the National Wildlife Refuge System to purchase more than 5 million acres of wildlife habitat. This helps all species and is available to all citizens.

### Voting Power of SCI Members and Other Hunters

- 73% of Americans approve of hunting.
- Only 10% think hunting should be illegal.
- Hunters are among the most influential of all groups.
- Politicians and governments that invest in access, habitat and programs in support of hunting, receive more in return via tax revenue, jobs, tourism, and other economic benefits.
- More people hunt than play tennis, ski or watch ABC and NBC nightly news.

### Hunters and Anglers Combined

- 8 of 10 vote based on a candidate's position on our issues.
- Twice as many people hunt and fish than follow NASCAR.
- If the \$76 billion spent on hunting and fishing were a country's Gross Domestic Product, that "Nation of Sportsmen's" GDP would rank 57



Larry Witte and  
Dickie Slykhu's, the owner

rifle and eased the safety off. When the red lens spotlight came on there was nothing in the scope where the leopard should be standing. A quick movement of the scope down to the impala showed the leopard lying full length on the branch feeding.



The blind - 2 holes -  
one for Larry to shoot from  
and one for Bart to look out

I quickly found a spot behind the leopard's shoulder, and said a short prayer while squeezing the trigger. I momentarily lost my sight picture with the recoil and was aware of Bart urging me to shoot again. I racked another shell in, aimed and fired as the already dead cat slid head



Joseph baiting for leopard  
with impala

first off the branch and hit the ground with a loud thump.

Whoops of joy, hand shaking, congratulations, thank yous came from the previously quiet blind. We were relieved that we wouldn't have to search for a wounded leopard in the dark. Bart asked if I was at all nervous when the time came to switch the light on. I remember being perfectly calm and deliberate as I had practiced the shot in my mind many times. However, when I attempted to reload my rifle before approaching the leopard my hands shook so badly that I kept dropping the cartridges.

I used a Browning .300 WSM with 180-grain soft point Winchester Super X bullets for an instant kill. We learned later, after skinning, that both the first and second shots were double lung shots. One mushroomed bullet was recovered from under the skin on the opposite side.

We were back in camp by 7:30PM beeping the horn all the way in. It was a great night of celebration with hugs, hand shakes, and champagne for everyone followed by picture taking, supper and many scotches.

The third time was the charm! Many thanks to Joanne for non-stop support for my leopard hunting and to Dickie, Faan, Bart, and Joseph of Memories in Africa (MIA) for their hard work, skill, hospitality, and camaraderie. Joanne and I had great fun on our 13-day hunt and took a total of 17 trophy animals.





# REQUIREMENTS FOR *Trophy Record Score Sheets*

Joanne Witte  
Trophy Records Chair

## Time Period

Animals taken between December 1, 2007 and December 1, 2009 are eligible for the 2010 Awards Competition. Remember, I need to have the completed score sheets by December 1, 2009.

## Minimums

The only animals for which we have minimum requirements for listing in the Chapter Record Book are Whitetail and Mule Deer. The minimum score is 100.

## Chapter Membership

You must be a member of the Mid-Michigan Chapter when the animal is **shot** to enter it in the Competition. Once you become a member any animals you have taken in the past may be entered in the Cumulative Record Book.

## Spouses

You cannot enter an animal under your spouse's membership. You must be a member of the Mid-Michigan Chapter to enter an animal in the Chapter Record Book. Because you cannot be a member of the local chapter without belonging to International SCI, that means you must belong to both International SCI and our Mid-Michigan chapter to enter an animal in our Record Book.

## Young Hunters

Parents (and Grandparents) who are members of the Mid-Michigan chapter, if you have a young hunter who has harvested an animal, please call me. Our official membership list does not indicate the age of the hunter. Our chapter wants to encourage young hunters and we want to recognize them during our Awards Program whether or not the child is a member of SCI. With approximately 350 members in the chapter, I will not know the young hunters unless someone tells me.

Now that it is legal for children age 10 and above to hunt in Michigan we want to do all we can to encourage our young hunters.

If you have questions about requirements for trophy entries, please call me at 231-796-4927 or e-mail me at witte1939@charter.net

***Keep those score sheets coming!***

## Mid-Michigan Chapter SCI Members:

The Deadline for score sheets is:  
**December 1, 2009**

Score sheets for the 2010 February Fund raiser may cover the period between Dec. 1, 2007 to Dec. 1, 2009

Please send your score sheets to me at  
Joanne Witte Ph.D.  
11219 Birch Park Drive  
Stanwood MI 49346  
Phone: 231-796-4927

If you need help with score sheets or you need to find a measurer near you, please call me. Send in those score sheets!

The more entries we have for the Fund Raiser, the more fun it is.

***Happy Hunting!***



**SCI is the leader in protecting the freedom to hunt and promoting conservation worldwide.**

- SCI is a 501(c)4 hunter advocacy organization.
- Since 1979, SCI has spent nearly \$300 million on hunter advocacy and wildlife conservation.
- Since 2000 alone, SCI has spent \$140 million protecting the freedom to hunt via state and federal policy advocacy, litigation, and education.
- SCI's Washington, DC office includes attorneys and wildlife biologists working 24/7 on behalf of all hunters, and retains effective lobbyists.
- SCI-PAC is the largest hunter-driven Political Action Committee that supports only pro-sportsmen candidates.

www.SafariClub.org, SCI, 4800 W. Gates Pass Rd., Tucson, AZ 85745 520-620-1220

**SCIF funds and manages worldwide programs dedicated to wildlife conservation, outdoor education and humanitarian services.**



- SCIF is a 501(c)3 charitable non-profit organization.
- Since 2000, SCIF has delivered \$47 million in conservation, wildlife education, and humanitarian services.
- SCIF spends about \$5 million annually to promote science based conservation through wildfire research, capacity building in governments, youth and teacher education, and humanitarian programs that show the importance of hunters in society.
- SCIF has donated more than 1 million pounds of venison via the Sportsmen Against Hunger program.
- SCIF showcased conservation and hunting at its International Wildlife Museum.
- SCIF has delivered nearly 500 SafariCare Blue Bags to needy villagers and orphans.
- SCIF has treated more than 300 disabled hunters to assisted hunting experiences.

www.SafariClubFoundation.org





# Redpine whitetails

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Fax: (989) 731-9710

e-mail: redpinewhitetails@voyager.net

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Call Tim Schafer at 989-644-3291.

TO: MARY HARTER  
FROM: CINDY HIGGINS  
RE: DONATION OF VENISON TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES  
DATE: JULY 22, 2009

Since 2004 we have donated venison from animals harvested at our Ranch to local food pantries. In previous years many of the hunters took their meat with them or had it shipped once it was processed so there wasn't a large quantity of meat available for donation.

But times and circumstances have changed within the past three years thanks to the airline industry, which changed their policy for additional checked bags, and the overall cost of meat processing plus overnight shipping charges. Faced with these charges the majority of our hunters request that their meat be donated to help those less fortunate within our community and local areas. And thanks to their generosity that is what we have done in the name of Sportsmen Against Hunger.

Since 2004 we have primarily worked with the Joy Fellowship Assembly of God and their program Helping Hands. They are located in the Wolverine area but their food pantry extends far beyond in scope. This organization will come and pick up the carcasses at the Ranch and do all their own processing so all we do is place a call and set a time for pick-up. This makes it quite easy for us during our hunting season plus the hunters are assured that we are complying with their wishes.

Beginning in 2004 we were able to contribute 1,835 lbs of usable venison for donation. For the years of 2005-2007 our contribution totaled over 4,000 lbs. But, in 2008 because of a major doe harvest and culling of bucks our venison donation totaled 4,190 lbs. In addition to supplying venison to the Helping Hands program we also provided some venison to people in the Petoskey area through the efforts of our butcher/meat processor, Brian Neff. Brian makes wonderful sausage and some of our venison made its way to Iraq to our soldiers in the form of sausage sticks and jerky. Plus, we helped a couple of families in the Gaylord area that we knew had fallen on hard times and who had little ones to feed.

All of us at Redpine Whitetails would like to thank our hunters for their generosity in giving their meat to our local food banks in the name of Sportsmen Against Hunger. And we will continue to donate whatever and whenever we can in the years to come.

## First by Kyle Schafer Bear Hunt

One afternoon when I came home, my Dad asked me, "When does your summer class at CMU start?" I said it starts at the end of June. I thought to myself, "Why is my Dad asking me this?", not having any idea that he had a bear hunting trip planned. The next question that my Dad asked me was if I would want to go on a bear hunt and of course, I asked how much, when, and where? Before I even thought about my answer, my Dad said, "I know you are in college and don't really have a whole lot of cash." He offered to pay for my hunt and without a second thought, said I would love to go.

The hunt was in Malartic, Quebec and we were planning to leave on Saturday, May 30th of 2009 for a 13-hour trip for the hunt from May 31st through June 5th. There were six of us going. Scott Holmes, Scott's cousin, Jeremy Davis, and Mike Strobe left on Friday and Kip Cotter Jr, my Dad, and I left on Saturday. We used map quest as a reliable source for directions (but it wasn't the greatest choice). The roads in Canada are something else. Some have signs and some don't. I would definitely recommend a GPS for a trip to Canada because we managed to get side tracked and snowed upon but the roads go on forever up there with just roads, trees, and wilderness. We managed to make it to our destination in 14 hours.



*Mike Strobe with his bear*

walked into the lodge which was nice with a basement and upstairs. The basement was finished off with a family gathering area that had a fireplace, flat screen plasma TV, a kitchen, and washer/dryer. Jack Tipmann, our guide, walked out as we sat down and looked around. We started having small talk about bears and what we were hunting with and all that jazz. We finally went to bed at about 3 a.m.

The first day we hunted from 5 p.m. to dark and managed to see some bear. I saw my first black bear at about 9 p.m. It was about a 125 pound bear that must have just left his mother. Dad didn't see anything at his blind nor did Kip, Scott, or Mike. Jeremy and I were the only ones that saw some black. We got back to the lodge and sat around and talked with it being only our first night and we were still hyped.

The second day we went and did some baiting with cake and scoped out some new spots in the afternoon. We went out to hunt at about 5 p.m. and sat until dark, but someone managed to shoot a black bear. It was me. I couldn't believe that I shot a bear. It was such an adrenaline rush and hyped up feeling that I can't even explain. It's just something that you need to experience if you truly love hunting. This bear came in at about 6:30 p.m.



*Tipmann Outfitters Lodge*

When we arrived at Tipmann Outfitters, I didn't know what to expect. We pulled into the lodge at about 2 a.m. on Sunday. The first thing Kip, Dad, and I did was jump out of the truck because we were exhausted, cramped up, and in pain from such a long, frustrating drive. We





*Kyle Schafer, Tim Schafer, Jeremy Davis, Scott Holmes, Mike Strobe and Kip Cotter, Jr. with Kyle's bear*



*Tim and Kyle Schafer with Kyle's Bear*

straight ahead of me through some thick forest. He was paranoid and was scoping the place out. It was nasty out that night, raining, windy, and overcast. He ended up going back from where he came out of and for some reason I knew that he would be back. Man those bear videos do help because sure enough at about 7:15 p.m. he came back out, walked up to the food barrel, and started chomping away. I wasn't quiet sure about his size but saw his big old fat head and knowing they just came out of hibernation that they wouldn't be that big. Well, the bear stood up and put his paws on the top of the barrel and I said to myself, "I'm pulling the trigger". I then pulled the trigger on my .270 caliber rifle. Within five or ten seconds, I don't know how long it was before I heard the death moan. I was so pumped I shot a bear it was unbelievable. I couldn't sit any longer in my blind because it was so early and I wanted to get down. Scared that the bear wasn't dead made me nervous so I finally got down and ran to the truck with a bullet

in the chamber of my gun, no joke, at about 8:30 and took the truck up the trail to the old man's blind. (Tim Schafer) He heard me coming and got down and I said, "I shot a bear" and he told me "Yea, I heard the shot." He said, "Just stay in the truck for an hour and I'll be back." I said OK, OK ... feeling like I was jacked up on caffeine or something. So I waited in the truck, couldn't sit still at all to save the life of me.

Finally it was that time we all met up on the trail and talked with Jack and saw how everyone did. Jeremy and Kip Jr. had seen bear. Kip managed to get a shot at one. We tracked it for about an hour and came up unlucky. Jeremy saw a couple bear and Scott saw a big sow and two cubs. We got back to my blind and Jack put the dog on the scent to find the bear. We managed to find the bear about 20 yards from the barrel. To be honest, the first thing I said when I saw it was "Wow! It looked a lot bigger from the stand." Jack said the bear was about 200 pounds and about 7 and a half years old. Got back to camp, cleaned the bear up, and left it out because it was still pretty chilly up there in June.

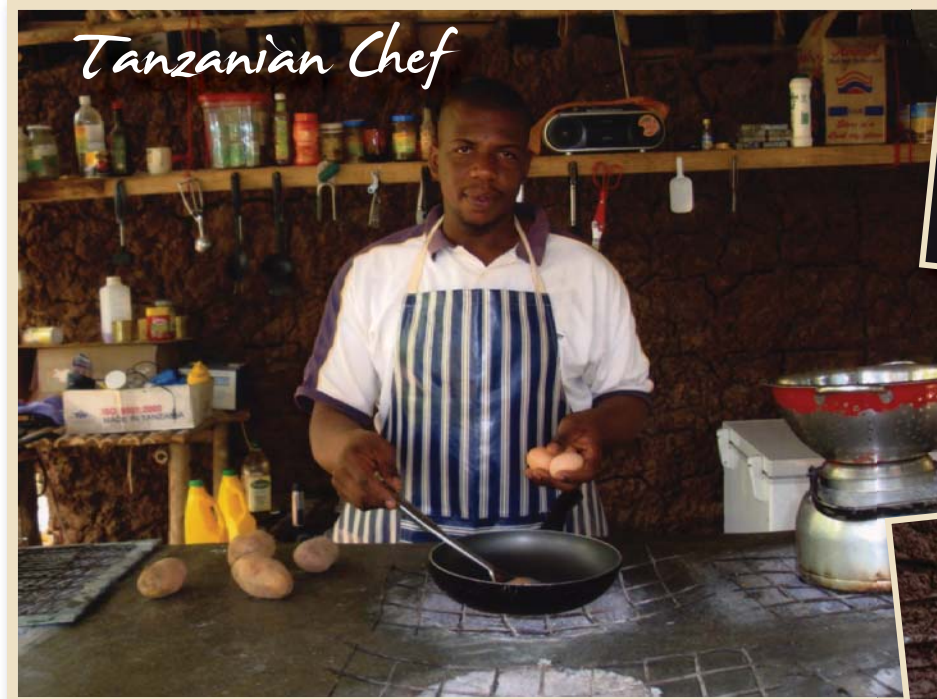
The third day, woke up and got some pictures taken with my bear. I didn't know what to do. I already shot my bear and didn't really want to sit at the lodge all night while the other guys were out hunting. The old man said to come with him. "You seem to have good luck with seeing bear." I did see four bear in only two nights of hunting. I went out and sat with Dad. Time passed and I was getting bored with not seeing anything and about 7:30 I started moving around as it was hard to get comfortable. At 9:00 my Dad spotted his first sign of black coming out straight in front of us. It was a big sow and two cubs. It was too dark to get them on film but it was nice seeing some more black bear in action. They came directly to the barrel and started chomping on the cake. That cake sure did smell good from the stand. I can't imagine how good it smelled to the hungry bears. Jack came and picked us up at dark and the bears ran off back from where they came. That night was the first night we had good weather and the bear were moving. Jeremy saw a couple of bear again. Scott saw the same sow and cubs. Mike got a shot with a muzzle-loader at a pretty decent bear, the first bear he had ever seen in the wild. Mike brought both his bow and muzzle-loader because he wasn't sure on what to use, and it paid off with the muzzleloader. We went and tracked Mike's bear, threw the dog on the scent of the bear and found it. Mike's bear was about 225 pounds. Even Mike couldn't believe how much smaller the bear looked on the ground than from the blind. We all went back to the lodge and talked and drank a couple of beers.

On the fourth day we went out and did some more

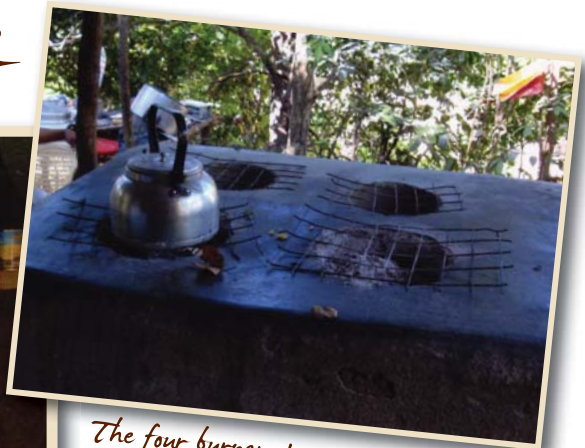


# Tanzanian Omelet

## Tanzanian Chef



*Our Tanzanian Chef, Baraka preparing to cook an omelette in his outdoor kitchen. We had this for lunch several times because we said we liked it and I have served it when we deer hunt.*



*The four burner stove was fueled by charcoal they made from ebony wood.*



*The black metal box is the oven*

## Tanzanian Omelet

I don't know the exact amounts to use but Baraka said he fries diced, cooked potatoes with diced onions in a frying pan with a little butter until the onions are done.

He mixes 6 beaten eggs, salt and rosemary and optionally, cooked bacon, diced ham, cooked green peppers, and/or cooked mushrooms.

Pour 1/2 of the egg mixture over the potatoes in the frying pan and cook until set.

Pour the rest of egg mixture over and cook until set with a lid over the pan.

I found a similar recipe on the back package of hashbrown potatoes. Turning the mixture can be a problem so I add all of the eggs at once and cover with the lid and cook until done.



*Thomas, our waiter, doing dishes in the outdoor double sink.*

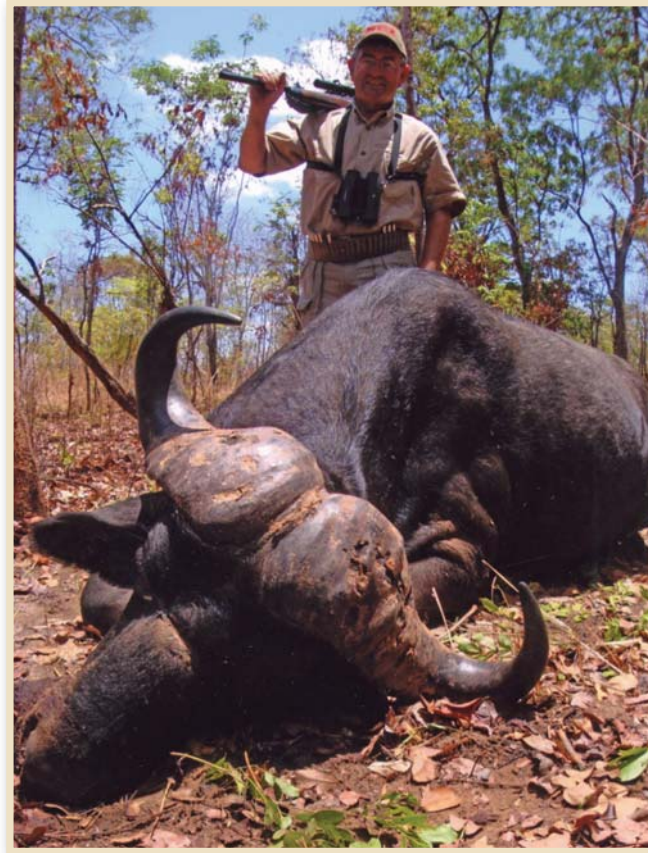




broken the steel cable and it had cut deep across his nose and a couple of places on his neck. It was good to put him out of his pain and suffering and harvest such a beautiful trophy before he became ill from these injuries. He had been injured for about a week but didn't have gangrene yet. With the pain he was probably experiencing, he would be the type to charge anything in his path as he would probably have quite an attitude. We were glad we hadn't discovered him in high grass.

A couple of days later, our very successful hunt was over and we were driven to the airstrip where the pilot had left his plane the night before. Two guards had stayed at the airstrip with the plane overnight. They piled brush around the plane's tires so the hyenas couldn't eat them. Early in the morning lions had come near where they had build a fire for the night so the guards were very happy when we finally arrived. All they had for protection was a shotgun with buckshot. I guess we had been hunting in the wrong place for lions.

What a wonderful time we had hunting in Tanzania. Johan and Human and all of the staff treated us so well, they really spoiled us. The Selous Game Reserve also spoiled us. We saw so many wonderful animals that were in prime condition. What a wonderful place to hunt!!



*Don Harter with his second cape buffalo, a huge, old, dagga boy. The nose had been cut to the bone by a poacher's snare from which he had escaped.*

## LITTLE THINGS

It's little things that mean a lot  
A buffalo tail tied in a knot  
An empty shell, a lucky shot

Morning mist, a setting sun  
Pictures of trophies fairly won  
A fireside drink when day is done

A full moon, a starry sky  
A gentle breeze, a soft sigh  
New friends, a sad good-bye

Africa, we'll never part  
You've freed my soul  
But speared my heart

From "Where Elephants Go To Die"  
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baiting and checked out a few possible new stands for the guys. We headed out at about 5:00 p.m. again that night. Mike and I went and sat in the blind where I shot my bear hoping to maybe get some bear on film and maybe see that big Mac daddy. Well time passed on and we got skunked that night. We didn't see a bear but it was good to sit out and chat with Mike for a bit. Jeremy saw a bear that night. Kip didn't see anything. Dad didn't see anything. That night no one got a bear but there was still some time left in our hunt.

On the fifth day of the hunt, Mike and I decided to stay at the lodge and relax. We sat back and watched some movies. Time passed by and before we knew it, it was getting close for the guys to get back. It was about midnight thirty and the guys arrived back at the lodge. We waited to hear the stories. Dad managed to get a shot at a big, nice, black bear they brought back to the lodge to get cleaned up. It was kinda nice enjoying the laziness and vacation knowing that I didn't have to help with cleaning the bear and doing the hard work. Dad carried on with his story and fame for the night. He shot the bear he called a



*Bait sight for a successful hunt*

Volkswagen at about 9:00. He said it came in off to his left from some thick brush. Man, you wouldn't think that such a big animal was so sneaky and stealthy. When Dad pulled the trigger on the .270 on him, he was quartering away so he put it back about 6 inches from his shoulder and shot. Dad decided to take out the .270 because the bow wasn't cutting it. I think he just wanted to show me up and knew that the .270 was dead on. It proved to be. Jeremy who was hunting with a long bow managed to get a shot at a small bear. Jeremy decided to go natural and hunt with a classic long bow. They tracked the bear but didn't find anything. Scott managed to get a shot on a big black bear with a muzzleloader. He decided to switch up from the bow to the muzzleloader after us guys all talked about what to use.

On the sixth day we went out and tracked Scott's bear through some thick, thick stuff. By this time the bugs were out and biting like crazy. We walked through some thick and wet stuff, but weren't able to find the bear. It was the last night of hunting so Kip Jr., Scott, and Jeremy went out for the last night. Kip ended up shooting a female bear that was pretty decent in size about the same size as Mike's

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*Kip Cotter, Jr. with his bear*

bear. They cleaned the bear up and got some quick pictures and threw it into the freezer because we were heading out in the morning so we could get home.



*Tim Schafer, Jack Tipmann and his dog, with Tim's bear*

The next day we left the lodge at about 8:00 a.m. and had to make a stop at Daniel's house, the guy who previously owned the lodge that Jack bought it from to pick up our bears from the freezer. We got everything packed up and we were on our way home. It took us about 13 hours to get home. We managed to make up good time and had no troubles crossing the border to get back home. This trip was a great time and Tipmann Outfitters is a very good outfitter that I would recommend. We saw a total of about forty different bear. Jack is a hoot and the area was beautiful. If you truly enjoy hunting and wildlife, I would recommend a trip to Tipmann Outfitters in Quebec. This was a once in a lifetime trip and hunt. If you ever get a chance to go, go. You won't be disappointed!





# American Bison

## When a Hunt is MORE than a Hunt!

by Senior Bow Hunter Art Street

As I left my hotel in Traverse City for the short drive to the airport, the wind was blowing hard off the bay, and the snow was falling. I would be flying to Chicago, then Denver and to my final destination, Grand Junction, Colorado.

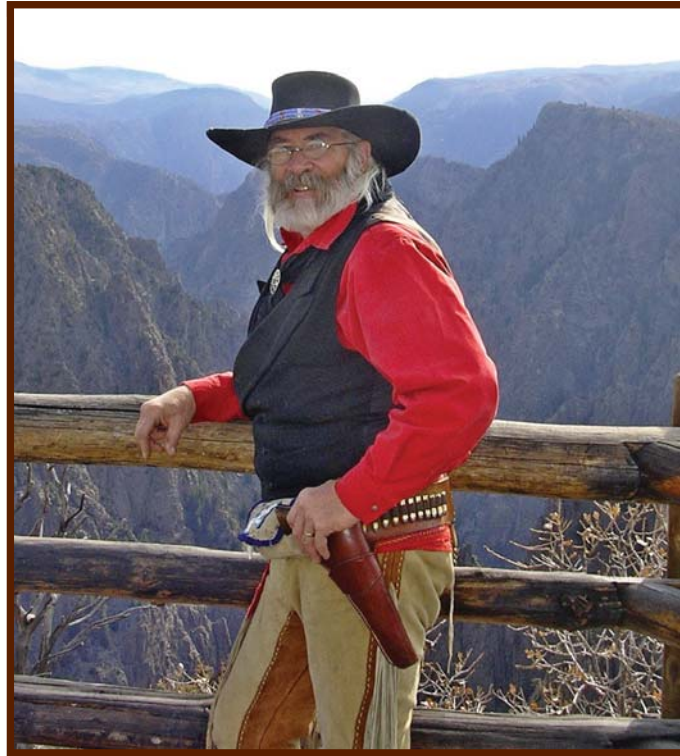
I kept asking myself if I really wanted to hunt a buffalo; I had read so many articles about hunting the American Bison, stating that it was not a challenging hunt. It would have been so easy to return to my home in Gaylord and not have to worry about missed connections, or being stuck in an airport away from home.

I had checked the weather before leaving, and it was expected to be in the sixties and sunny during my hunt, so my truck headed in the direction of the airport instead of back home.

My wife had purchased my hunt at the SCI Mid Michigan Chapter fundraiser in 2007. It was to be a traditional 1870's hunt on horseback with a Sharpe's rifle. When I made contact with the Scenic Mesa Ranch to schedule a hunting date for November of 2008, it was all set for me to hunt the buffalo with my bow and not on horseback (I had broken my back several years before and I didn't think it was wise to be on a horse).

Later, I received a call that the Scenic Mesa Ranch was being turned over by the owner, Julie Littlefield, to her son-in-law. He is a cattleman, and his plans were to remove all the buffalo on the 8,000-acre ranch. I would have to hunt in 2007, if I wanted to hunt buffalo. I quickly made arrangements for my hunt with Dan Dueter, my guide, and obtained my reservations to fly out to Colorado in November.

When I arrived, the sun was shining, and it was pleasantly warm. Tom Demsey, a ranch hand, met me and we drove to the ranch, which is 60 miles southeast of Grand Junction. The trip passed quickly, and on the way, Tom talked about his mother, Alice Dempsey, a former travel writer for the Chicago Sun. She had written a book, which was entitled "Their Heritage and Hope" about five generations of lives and times of an Oglala-Lakota Sioux family. I was later given a copy of the book which I enjoyed reading during my stay at the ranch.



Art Street's guide, Dan Dueter, Scenic Mesa Ranch.

I completed my unpacking and checked out the lodge. Dan, who would be my guide, came in with a father and his two sons. They had just completed a mule deer hunt and had taken three nice mules; they decided to do some pheasant and chucker hunting the rest of the day.

Dan had the rest of the day off, and asked me if I would like to scout for buffalo, I jumped at the invitation. We took off in Dan's pickup before you could count to 10! It took awhile, but we finally spotted some buffalo in the distance. As we rode around, Dan explained typical reactions by the buffalo when they are being hunted. The animals tail may go up when is nervous, or if agitated, it may roll on the ground, or even start to walk away. If really agitated it may spin around and charge! Dan was really starting to get my attention; I had previously thought this was going to be a cakewalk. He also said a lot of people had started out with a bow, then either gave up and switched to the Sharps or put an arrow in one and had to finish it with a rifle.

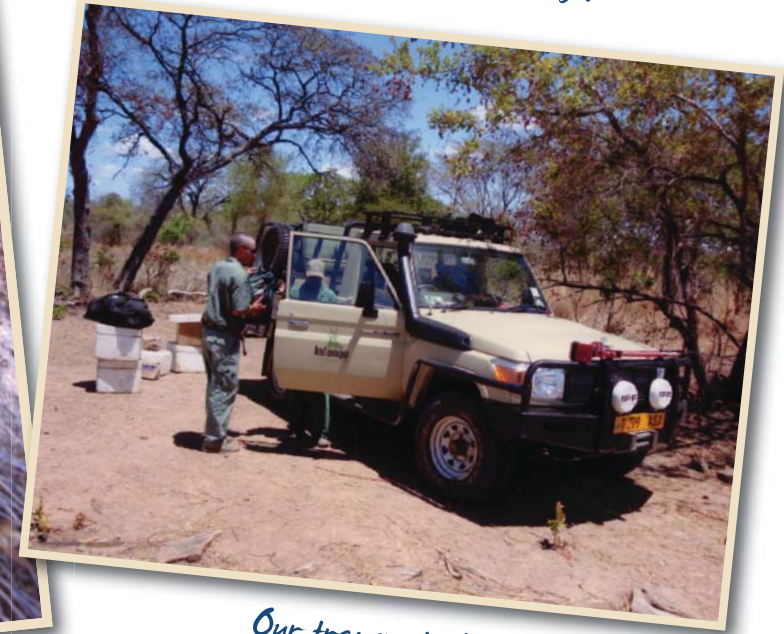


Don Harter with his first cape buffalo and our trackers, Chiva, Amos, and Ashmani, our driver, Tumbo, and the government game scout, Joseph.

Teste Flies on the cape buffalo. They would bite right through a webbed chair and blue jeans.



Henry, the camp manager, carrying me on his shoulders during a Kabubi-Kabubi Celebration after harvesting one of the big five.



Our transportation







*Many of the workers cutting and drying the meat to be used by their people after the hunt was over.*



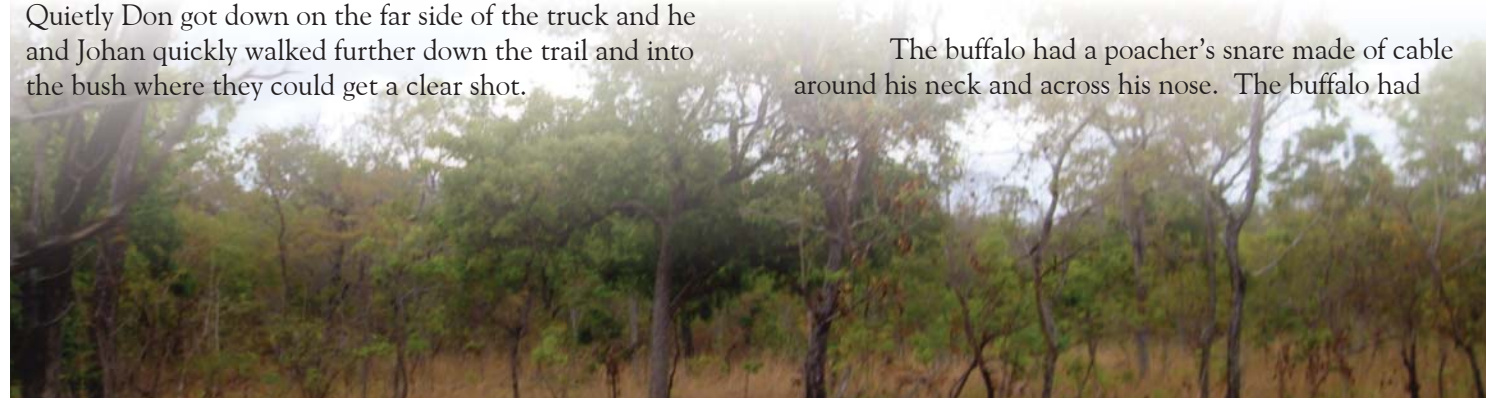
*Don Harter, Johan and Human Pieterse looking for tracks.*

three times before we actually saw them. The wind was wrong and none of the ones visible were good enough so we decided to go back to the truck.

We decided to drive to a new area to hunt for sable. Human made a comment that we were due to see some cape buffalo along the trail and not have to work so hard to find them. What did we see almost as soon as the words were out of his mouth, but a dagga boy standing alone behind three large trees and brush a short way off our trail. Quietly Don got down on the far side of the truck and he and Johan quickly walked further down the trail and into the bush where they could get a clear shot.

After all of the failed stalks, here was a huge, lone bull. Don was deserving. I knew Don could see the dagga boy through his binoculars. They were out about 70 yards from him. Johan set up the shooting sticks and BOOM! I could see the dagga boy hump up in the middle and come down stiff legged, bound a couple of times, and down he went. They cautiously approached him and Don put in another insurance shot but the dagga boy was probably already dead. The trackers quickly got to the buffalo and showed the way for the driver to bring in the truck.

The buffalo had a poacher's snare made of cable around his neck and across his nose. The buffalo had



*Art Street, Scenic Mesa Ranch, Colorado 2008 Hunt purchased 2007 SCI Fundraiser*

We spotted a lone bull in an arroyo, and Dan asked if I would like to try a stalk. He said we should walk at a slight angle, talking in a normal tone and not looking directly at the animal. We were able to approach to within sixty yards before it started walking off. Maybe this wasn't going to be so easy; I wanted a true hunt, not just a harvest, and it looked like I would have it!

After a hearty breakfast next morning, I was ready to hunt the American Bison. Dan had many years' experience on the ranch and usually had a good idea where the buffalo were on the 8,000 acres, but this was not to be the case that first morning. After an hour and a half of glassing and not seeing a thing, we decided to check the arroyo where the lone bull had been the night before. He was there and we tried to stalk him again, but couldn't get close enough for a bow shot. We climbed down the near side and up the far side of the arroyo to see which direction the bison was headed. We returned to the truck, and by the time we reached it, I was breathing so hard Dan joked that I was taking his air away! (The altitude was 7,500 feet)

After resuming our search for another buffalo, we spotted our lone bull heading in the direction of a small herd of five or six. Dan thought if we could get around him before he joined the herd, I might be able to get a shot opportunity. The timing was perfect. We intercepted him about 75 yards short of the herd, so we didn't spook

them, but my buffalo didn't stop. It was now or never! Dan ranged him at 42 yards. I released the arrow, (a gold tip XX75, 125 grain Magnus Stinger, two-blade broad head) from my Matthews Switchback, set at 70 lbs.

Before the hunt had started, Dan had advised me not to shoot too high, and even drew a diagram of the vitals. I instantly knew the shot was high, and a bad feeling came over me as I could imagine the bull having to be put down with the Sharp's rifle. Dan told me to re-nock an arrow, as the herd would quickly surround the bull. As the pushing and shoving of the herd started, the bull reappeared, and I was able to get the second shot in the vitals at 35 yards. He disappeared again, and then reappeared with his head down and ready to charge. Out of the corner of my eye, I saw Dan bringing the Sharps up. We had talked about danger, and he was going to do what he had to protect us. As Dan was bringing the rifle up to shoot, another buffalo hit mine in the rear spinning him around, providing me with a third shot. Everything was happening so fast, I probably rushed the shot, again a high shot. The circling of the group continued, and when the next opportunity presented itself, the shot was perfect!

The big bull was still not down, and I was out of arrows. I looked at Dan and asked him, "What now?" He told me that we would back out and see what happens. While we waited, he explained that the circling of the wounded buffalo is not to protect it but to drive it away or kill it. Shortly the bull moved off about 100 yards, and he went down. The herd started after him again, and this time they would go in for the kill. Dan shot in front of the herd several times to turn them and drive them off. In the mean time, my bull had finally expired. For not having high expectations, this hunt was everything I could have hoped for, a buffalo taken with bow and pointy sticks!!! (That's what Dan always called arrows.)

The rest of the day was taken up with visits to the locker plant and taxidermist, but I still had three days left. I wondered what I would do with that time. However the next day, Dan suggested we take a ride to see Black Canyon National Park. The lodge cook, Emma, would accompany us, as she had never been there. The park was well worth visiting; beautiful scenery and the warm sunny day didn't hurt either. Emma had packed a lunch for us; we ate



at Dan's home and included his wife, Ellie, who had been expecting us.

After the four of us finished our lunch, Dan asked me if I would like to see his studio. I don't have the words to describe his work. His paintings have the ability to take you back 140 years and make you feel like you were there. My wife and I had visited the Cody Museum the year before in Wyoming; Dan's work belongs there with the great western artists. At the time of my hunt, he was working on an oil painting for the cover of Uberti Gun Catalog, the painting was fantastic! He also mentioned that he would be featured in Gray's Sporting Journal on a bison hunt with the shooting editor of Gray's, Terry Wieland. It would be in the November/December issue. (When I returned home, I purchased Gray's to read the articles and see his paintings. I agree with everything Terry Wieland wrote about Dan Dueter and the American bison, including why the old-time buffalo hunters preferred to work at long range.)

Dan then asked if I would like to see the back of the property where he had reconstructed several log buildings. There was a 1880's general store, completely stocked; there were old wagons, and off to the side was a large circle of buffalo skulls, laid out like a sundial. He explained that the Indians held several pow-wows a year there, as the buffalo are sacred to them. It was like stepping back in time.

The next morning Dan asked me to join him on a tour of the ranch; he had some out buildings to check. On the back of the property is the Gunnison River, which flows into Black Canyon. He pointed out a stretch of river that former President Carter and his wife, Roselyn, fish each year. We visited two of the log homes that he had reconstructed; they had sod roofs, with deer horns and buffalo skull decorating them. As a child I had read the series of books by Laura Ingles Wilder, which included "Little House on the Prairie", and I felt like I was actually in their home!

We saw some nice mule deer and on the way back to the lodge, there was a herd of buffalo in an open grassy plain. As we both wanted some photos of the buffalo,

this was a good place to take them with the snow-capped mountains in the background. We approached and were able to get quite close. All of a sudden one of the big bulls dropped to the ground and started rolling around with dust flying. He was telling us we were too close! We took the hint and backed off but were able to get some excellent photos.

This was to be my last evening at Scenic Mesa Ranch and while waiting for the evening meal; I took a cup of coffee and sat on the porch. The evening was quite cool, but I wanted to take in as much of the beauty as possible. Dan came out to join me and as the sun set a small herd

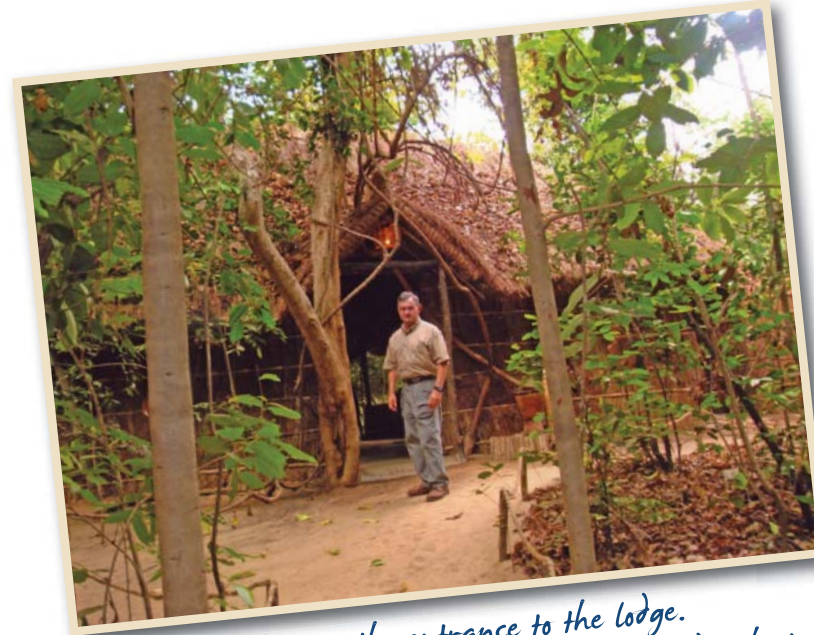


Dan Dueter at work in his studio at Scenic Mesa Ranch. Oil on easel was being worked on for cover of Uberti Gun Catalog.

of buffalo appeared on the horizon. They were outlined in the setting sun and Dan said to me, "You are looking at an American icon." I can imagine how the Native American must have felt as the great herds vanished; shortly the buffalo would be gone from this ranch, too.

Though the hunt was over, and I had no plans for the next day, Dan spent his day off acting as my guide over the Grand Mesa and to Colorado Monument National Park. It was spectacular! What a bonus when you have a guide that goes above and beyond like Dan Dueter.

As I look back at my trip I don't know which I enjoyed more, the taking of a buffalo with a bow, or spending time with Dan. I suspect it was the latter.

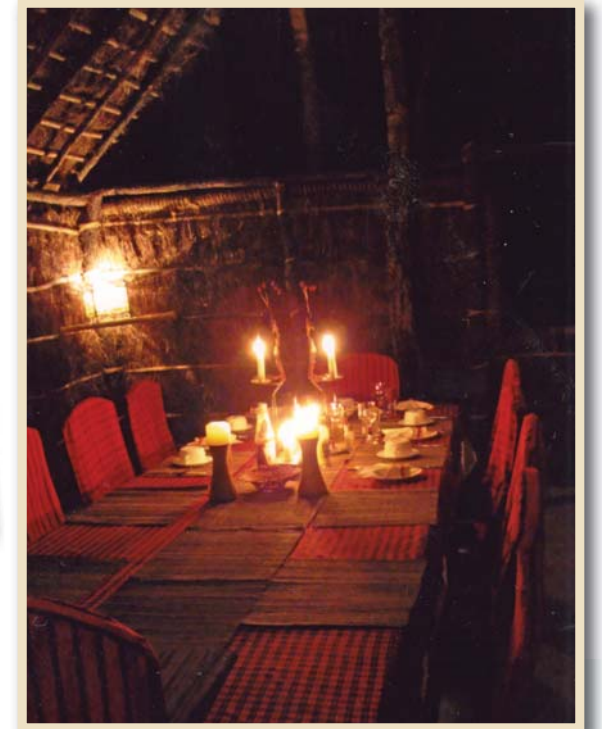


Don at the entrance to the lodge. All of the buildings were temporary and had to be torn down when the hunting was over.

We glassed the buffalo looking for a large bull and off to the side of the herd was a large bull standing alone polishing his horns on a bush. We went a little closer and Human set me up for about a 40 yard shot. As soon as the bull cleared the brush I pulled the trigger. BOOM! The bull walked a short distance and so did we and I shot again off hand. The bull went down and we slowly approached. Another shot in the spine for security and Human went up and touched the bull's eye with the end of his rifle. We took a look at a magnificent trophy as the trackers sang and danced a dagga boy tune. He had huge, hard bosses



Our accommodations were a very secure, zippered tent with separate bath in the back which included a hot shower, sink, and flush toilet.



From the outdoor kitchen to a beautiful presentation inside the temporary grass lodge. Tablecloth, placemats, and candles greeted us every night and were changed three times during our stay to a leopard and zebra decor.

with deep grooves like the bark of a tree, width, and a very nice curl. Human called for the pickup which Don was in and Don and I were both very pleased with my trophy.

On day 14 after an eland stalk, viewing two lionesses laying on a burnt off hillside, and trying to catch up with a reedbuck and bushbuck, we cut a recent cape buffalo track. The trackers found hot buffalo dung and Don was off. The buffalo were bedded down when they found them and they watched them for about a half hour. The buffalo moved again when the wind changed and finally after they traveled another half mile, the buffalo bedded down again. Don, Human, and the trackers waited for another 15 minutes for the buffalo to settle down and they spotted a good bull. They slowly worked their way to within 70 yards of him. Don could see the shoulder, got on the sticks, made the shot, and the buffalo didn't get up. Another shot secured him and another shot through the heart was for insurance. The professional hunters want to make sure a cape buffalo does not get up after being shot. You do not want to be shooting at a mad buffalo coming at you. Two down and one to go.

On day 20 we cut fresh buffalo tracks and we all were off after them. We did a long stalk and spooked the herd





# Cape Buffalo or "Black Death"

by Mary Harter

We booked a 21 day Royal Hunt with Johan and Human Pieterse in Tanzania because of a recommendation from Jackie and Dick Stockmar from our chapter. Included in the hunt were three cape buffalo and this story is specifically about our successes hunting them.

We flew into Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, spent the night, and then took a small plane to camp the next day. The grass airstrip where we landed was about 1 1/2 hours from our camp on the Luhombero River in the Selous Game Reserve, the largest in the world. We hunted in Block L-1 which consisted of 100,000 acres.

Our beautiful camp was unbelievably not a permanent one, but had to be completely torn down and rebuild each year. We slept in a large tent with a bathroom which included a sink, shower, and flush toilet. Camp consisted of several buildings - the main lodge, laundry, kitchen, skinning and storing area, and camp staff quarters. Our laundry was done daily and Thomas, our waiter, woke us daily at 5:00 a.m. with a fresh cup of coffee.

The food was wonderful and we were spoiled by all of the attention from the staff. Henry was the camp manager and Baraka was the chef. We asked to eat anything that we shot that was edible and we enjoyed ox tail soup, tongue soup, warthog shiska-bobs, plus steaks and/or chops of cape buffalo, reed buck, hartebeest, impala, bushbuck, and wildebeest. The table was set with candles and beautiful linens nightly.

We usually left camp at 6:15 a.m. every morning and spent all day out hunting, returning about 7:30 p.m. unless we had driven to the Kilombero River and then we got back later. We never tired of hunting as we never knew what excitement might be around the next corner.



*Mary Harter and Pft Human Pieterse with her Tanzanian Cape Buffalo*

On the eleventh day of our hunt after stalking buffalo many times to no avail, the trackers spotted a herd of about 40 cape buffalo and I was off after them with Human, Johan, and the trackers. Baboons started barking at us and off the buffalo ran. It seemed familiar to every other time we had started after them.

Human called for the trackers, Ashmani, Amos, and Chiva, and we began following them. We tracked them over a couple of ridges and surprisingly could see them on the side of the next ridge. Usually the wind would change and the buffalo would stay just far enough ahead of us that we could not get a shot. Sometimes we would lose the track but one of the trackers would pick it up and off we would go again. Those trackers could find tracks over rocks. Once Chiva spotted a buffalo that no one else could see even with binoculars until he moved. Human was ready to leave when he said, "My gosh, there really is a buffalo there." Chiva had vision that might be as high as 80/20. They wanted to have him tested.



## MANUSCRIPT AND PHOTOGRAPHY GUIDELINES for Safari Club International SAFARI Magazine

SAFARI Magazine was founded in 1971 as the official publication of Safari Club International. SAFARI Magazine is a bi-monthly publication that focuses on big game hunting and conservation. Circulation is approximately 50,000. SAFARI is mailed internationally to those on the SCI membership list as well as to selected individuals and organizations.

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- Big Game hunting around the world
- Ethnic and traditional hunts of a particular regions around the world
- Current or historical hunting and conservation
- Background on a particular species as it relates to hunting

We buy all rights to manuscripts, including electronic rights. Fees for professional writers are under review at this time. Non-professional contributions will receive an honorarium of \$25. No fiction or poetry accepted. Avoid sending simple hunting narratives that lack new approaches. Features need to be about 2,000 words and should be informative, accurate and designed to appeal to sportsmen and women. This is on an "if published/when published" basis. News briefs are welcomed, but are not bought.

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How to submit an article  
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photos. We need a complete photo package with photos that establish the setting of the hunt; action photos of hunt party members; interesting points such as scrapes, tracks, etc.; hunter with trophy; interesting gear such as rifle and scope, game call in use, etc.

Most important, photos must meet our production standards for quality. Incomplete submissions will be held until the missing material is submitted. Include self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of materials. Materials will not be returned otherwise.

### PHOTOGRAPHY SUBMISSIONS

(as part of manuscript package only)

We are interested only in articles that deal with legally huntable big game of trophy quality in a natural setting. We want to see more than pictures of dead animals, e.g., living animals; landscape; campsites; the hunting party while tracking, glassing, etc. Color photographs or transparencies are preferred for color and black-and-white use.

ALL SUBMITTED ART MUST BE LABELED AND CAPTIONED. Caption information must match the slides and photos; please submit a hard copy of the caption list as well as a digital version. Do not write on prints, front or back. All photos if accepted become the property of Safari Club Publications. Even though we try, the return of your photos is not guaranteed.

Digital photos: Digital cameras should be set on high resolution. All digital photo (JPEG) files should be at least 2 MB. Please add your name to the beginning of file names to avoid the possibility that your files might match another author's file name.

### Send all submissions to:

Safari Club International  
**SAFARI Magazine**  
Attn: Stan Skinner, Editor  
4800 West Gates Pass Road  
Tucson, AZ 85745





# Oops, I Bought a Hunt, but What a Hunt It Was!!

by Patrick Brennan



*Patrick Brennan and guide, Kevin,  
with his 34" antlered Axis Deer*

This hunting story starts out at the Mid-Michigan SCI Fundraiser at the Soaring Eagle Casino in February of 2009. On Friday night the Chapter was auctioning off some donated hunts. After drinking a few beers I got to bid on an alligator hunt in Indiantown, Florida donated by J & B Outfitters. I was bidding against Tim Torpey. I was trying to get Tim to raise his hand one more time but unfortunately he did not and I ended up with the hunt. I must say at the time I thought, "What have I done?" But I am so glad I ended up with the hunt.

I called J & B Outfitters and talked to Joey O'Bannon's daughter, Sam. She booked us to come down to hunt over Memorial Day weekend. My wife and I took off at 6:00 a.m. Thursday morning and got there early Friday afternoon. We hunted Friday afternoon, all day Saturday and all day Sunday and headed home on Monday, arriving home Tuesday afternoon. We had a great, great, great time.

We were treated very well. Sam did all the cooking and can she cook. The food was great. One night for supper we had axis deer. Another night we had quail. We also had beer and wine.

The alligator I shot was only 7' but the weather was not good for hunting gators. We did not have any sun for them to be out sunning themselves but I shot a very nice axis deer with 34" long antlers.

The most fun was the pig hunting. My wife says it was the most fun hunting she ever had. It was a ball.

Kevin, our guide was more than helpful with everything. We want to go back and shoot some more exotics and pig hunt again. Joe has a lot of very nice exotics. He has 4,000 acres of which 3,000 are fenced in. He also has quail hunting. They shoot 30,000 to 40,000 quail a year. He feeds 80 dogs for quail hunting and pig hunting.

I highly recommend J & B Outfitters for anyone who wants to have a great hunt and a great time. Please support these outfitters that donate to our club.



*Patrick Brennan and his Florida Alligator*



# The 50 States

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