

# FRONT SIGHT



**SCI**  
FIRST FOR HUNTERS

Mid-Michigan Chapter Safari Club International

April - June 2012, Issue 18



Picture by Mary Harter  
Teepee in front of Granite Ranch  
Near Jackson Hole, Wyoming  
Ranch is owned by SCIF  
And is where AWLS (American  
Wilderness Leadership  
School) takes place

**CHAPTER MAGAZINE AWARD - SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL  
SECOND YEAR IN A ROW**



# D&L Custom House Broker

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a lion's head, looking slightly to the right. The lion's mane is a rich reddish-brown, and its eyes are a striking orange-gold color. The background is dark and out of focus.

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A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a lion's face, looking directly at the camera. The lion's eyes are a striking orange-gold color, and its mane is a rich reddish-brown. The background is dark and out of focus.

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Members of Mid-Michigan SCI or Isabella County Sportsman's Club may use the shooting range located at 2872 W. Millbrook Road just east of Winn Road. The lock combination is 2520 and changes yearly on February 15th. Please carry membership identification on you when you visit the range.



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Chairmen are listed first

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**Conservation/Govt. Affairs** - Larry Witte, Joe Mulders, Tim Schafer

**Dispute Resolution** - Don Harter, Tim Hauck, Kevin Unger

**Matching Grants** - Kevin Unger, Scott Holmes

**Front Sight Publication** - Mary Harter

**Education** - Mike Strobe, Scott Holmes

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**Sportsmen Against Hunger** - Mike Strobe

**Veteran's Hunt** - Kevin Unger, Ben Benzing

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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 400+.

Check our own [www.midmichigansci.org](http://www.midmichigansci.org) website for copies of the Front Sight, listing of events, and fundraiser auction items.

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## SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter Meeting Schedule

\* SUBJECT TO CHANGE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Type</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
April 2, 2012	Board	4:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
May 7, 2012	Board	4:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn

**Reservations required. Please call and leave a message at 989-560-7288**

Be sure to check out our website  
**[www.midmichigansci.org](http://www.midmichigansci.org)**

We received the International Award of honorable mention and a plaque.





Your President - Kevin Unger



Now that deer hunting has come to an end, this is the time of the year we start rabbit hunting. This type of hunting is a lot of fun. I have two beagles. Maggie is four years old and Molly is a year old. Tim Hauck also has a beagle named Russell that is six years old. Rabbit hunting is so much fun because you get to cover so much woods and swamps. The exercise is great. It's not like deer hunting where you sit for hours on end. You can hunt with as many hunters as you want and you walk all day. You will see parts of the woods you didn't know existed. We try to take

as many young hunters as we can. It is a great way to introduce new hunters to hunting. Any time you think you might want to go rabbit hunting, just give me a call. I would be more than happy to take you out.

Our Big Buck Night was a real success. We had over two hundred and thirty guests and scored over seventy-five racks. This year was our biggest year for big racks. We even had one that scored 201. Now that is a big buck!! If you missed Big Buck Night this year, mark it on your calendar for next year. It is a fun night.

We also have our Hunter Safety Camp coming up this summer. This is for kids 9 to 15 years of age. If you are interested, get ahold of me as soon as you can. It is first come, first served.

## Editor's Message:

We went to the SCI Convention in Las Vegas in February and really enjoyed ourselves. Vegas is a larger show than Reno and there are two floors of exhibits. In Reno if you see every booth you walk about five miles. In Vegas you walk about nine miles. Next year's show will be back in Reno. Both venues have their advantages and disadvantages so I guess the bottom line is what will make the difference. This show is just overwhelming for a hunter. If you have never been, sometime please treat yourself to this event. You will not be disappointed.

While in Vegas I attended several excellent seminars, the Sables luncheon, and visited with many outfitters. Don has hunts for us booked out through 2015. We were invited to sit at Larry Higgins' table Wednesday and Saturday night for the dinner and evening performances, so felt very special. Wednesday was Chapter Night and I went on stage to receive our Magazine Award. Thanks to all of you who have contributed to the contents of



Mary Harter receiving the Chapter Magazine Award. We also received a plaque for Chapter Website Award Runner UP

our Front Sight. It is only with your contributions that the magazine is possible. Keep hunting, keep writing, and keep sending me your interesting stories.

Thanks,

## Mid - Michigan Chapter Safari Club International • [www.midmichigansci.org](http://www.midmichigansci.org) APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

I hereby apply for membership \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST MIDDLE LAST

Fill out both mailing addresses as well as email. Please indicate by placing a X in the appropriate box where you would like to receive club correspondence.  
If at all possible we would like to utilize your email address for this purpose. ☐ EMAIL ADDRESS

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	3 Years	\$ 150 National Dues	\$ 60 Local Dues	= \$ 210
	Life	\$1500 National Dues	\$300 Local Dues	= \$ 1,800
	Over 60	\$1250 National Dues	\$300 Local Dues	= \$ 1,550

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# Book Review

by Josh Christensen

**TITLE:** Death in the Long Grass

**AUTHOR:** Peter Hathaway  
Capstick

**PUBLISHER:** St. Martin's Press

**Copyright:** 1977

**List Price:** \$24.95

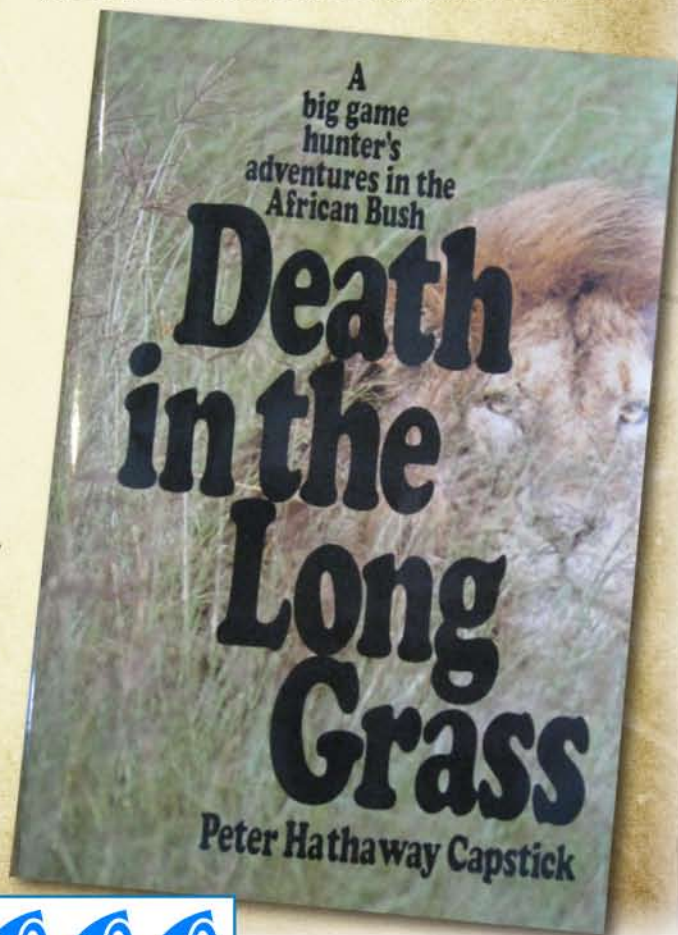
"Some things stand the test of time", this is a saying we hear from time to time and this book falls under that category. Considering the copyright date is from the year I was born, it is still as enjoyable a read in 2012 as I'm sure it was in 1977.

Peter Hathaway Capstick enlightens the reader to the fact that in Africa man is not standing at the top of the food chain. I have heard some say Capstick was guilty of being a bit over zealous with his personal accounts in the bush and his interpretations of certain events he didn't witness were a bit over the top, but as I was reading this book all accounts he mentions seem within the realm of possibility.

Death in the Long Grass is a book dedicated to the Big 5 and other animals that can end your existence in Africa. The chapter on lions has a variety of vivid details, and Capstick does an exemplary job of making the reader feel as if they are there in the bush with him. In his chapter on elephants it is explained why elephants needed to be culled or "cropped" and he takes us along on an exhilarating "typical morning of cropping". In the same respect, the reader gets to experience a story of a not so typical night quota buffalo hunt that started great, but almost ended with the author in the morgue. In his chapter on leopards, Capstick explains why he thinks the leopard is one of the most dangerous animals to hunt, especially when wounded. An interesting part in this chapter was reading about

a time when it was not legal to import leopard into the U.S.. Capstick addresses why he felt this was wrong and also explained why he thought it would never change.

There were also chapters in this book dedicated to hippos, crocodiles, rhinos, snakes and "under-rated killers". This is one of those books, whether you have been to Africa or not, that's a must read.



*This book gets 10 out of 10 bullseyes*





# Chris Mars and his Triple Success



Chris Mars, 11 years old, from Corunna hunted on private land where he shot this 9 pointer with a 20 gauge shot gun



Chris Mars, 11, with the two does he shot in addition to his huge buck



MUCC Camp in Chelsea where Chris received his Hunter's Safety Instruction



Chris Mars and friend, Cade Beach, at the MUCC Camp in Chelsea in front of the Wolf Lodge



# FRONT SIGHT Big Buck Night

## JANUARY 6, 2012 WINNERS

### YOUTH MEMBERS:

### IN STATE RIFLE:

### OUT OF STATE RIFLE:

### IN STATE BOW:

### OUT OF STATE BOW:

### YOUTH WINNER:

### YOUTH NON MEMBER:

### NON MEMBER:

### BLACK POWDER:

### OUT OF STATE BLACK POWDER:

### ESTATE:

### MULE DEER:

Andrew Sackett 116 2/8

Tyrel Hoover 53

Lynn Holmes 127 7/8

Nick Johnston 153 5/8

Casey Smith 131

Andrew Sackett 99 5/8

Tyrel Hoover 119 2/8

Jason Lowes 129 7/8

Willard Flowers 173 3/8

Randy Raymond 161 3/8

Tom Blenhorn 173

Joanne Witte 201 5/8

Bart Blystone 151 7/8

### BIGGEST OVERALL IN STATE BUCK:

Randy Raymond 161 3/8

### BIGGEST OVERALL OUT OF STATE BUCK:

Tom Blenhorn 173



Conservation Officer  
Jeremy Payne



9 year old Max Brandonloar from Coleman admiring the DNR Robo buck which our chapter purchased. Max has completed his hunter's safety with 100% and is looking forward to a buck of his own.



## Big Buck Night January 6, 2012



President Kevin Unger  
and Board Member Jim Walker



Thanks to our official measurers for  
donating their time at our event.





# Safari Club International Convention

**Las Vegas, February 1 – 4, 2012**



Mary Harter receiving the Chapter Magazine Award. We also received a plaque for Chapter Website Award Runner UP



Opening ceremonies with SCI President Kevin Anderson



Roger Froling, Mary Harter, Tim Hauck



At the Sable's Luncheon



Martina McBride, Saturday Night Entertainer



SCI Vice President Larry and Cindy Higgins



Sid and Judy Smith, Pat and Nancy Bollman



Don Harter and Ivan Carter



Dr. Terry Brayden, center, with many Lansing area members



Trace Adkins, Wednesday Night Entertainer



Stoney and Alma Bing





# Safari Club International Convention

Some of the many outfitters who donate to our chapter





Paul Harris is 12 years old and shot his buck in Haslett at 7:15 a.m. with a 20 gauge. He is a neighbor of my daughter, Ann, and lives near Bath.

# Shooting My First Deer

By Paul Harris

It was Friday night, I was packing up my back pack and getting my stuff ready. I got my hunting clothes out so I would have everything ready to go. After that I went to bed. My dad woke me up at 5:00 am. I got my stuff on and got in the truck. When we got to the hunting spot I got out of the truck and loaded my gun. Then I got my head lamp on and headed for the tree stand. When we got into the tree stand I climbed up in the tree stand, put a shell in the chamber and was ready to go.

After 30 minutes it was in shooting hours. I started to hear something. A few minutes later a buck walked right into our shooting lane. I pulled up my gun and aimed right at the shoulder and BOOM! I fired and the deer stumbled, turned and ran. I set down my gun and started shaking and could hardly talk! I was hoping I hit it. After 30 long minutes we got out of the tree stand and went to look for it. We went back to where it was standing and saw...nothing! There was no fur, blood, no signs of a shot deer. We started to walk along the trail that it ran through. After 45 minutes of searching we couldn't find anything. I was starting to get frustrated. We went to one last trail next to a swamp that we thought it might have ran by. We went to the trail and followed it a long way. We were about to give up and I was getting discouraged when my dad said to go a little farther. We took ten more steps and found some blood. We decided to let it lay down and die, so we took a break.

After a few hours we went back and asked the property owner if he wanted to help track the deer. We went back to where we saw the first blood, and we started to follow the trail. At first it was pretty easy going but after a while it was hard to find the blood and stay on the blood trail. After a hour and a half we still could not find the deer or any blood. It was looking like we were not going to find the deer so the property owner decided to give up. We kept looking but still couldn't find a blood trail so we started to search around. We still couldn't find anything and were getting really hot and tired.. There was still one more spot in the middle of a cattail swamp but it was really tight so I waited while my Dad went in. Five minutes later my Dad



said to come and catch up. I went towards his voice, then I saw it... my buck was laying there!!

I was so excited when I saw it I shouted and gave my dad a high five. I figured that I gut shot it, but we still found it. We cleaned it. It was really stinky and almost made me throw up. Then we started to drag it out of the swamp towards the truck. It was tiring because the deer was heavy. We finally got to a place where we could get the truck. We got the truck and got the deer in the back.

That is my story. I will remember that day for the rest of my life. I am going to get the head mounted because it was my first buck.



# Another Adventure with Dad!

By Brad Eldred

We had been waiting a long time it seemed for the opportunity to chase Mule deer with Majestic Mountain Outfitters (Jeff, Cindy and Josh Chadd), but the day had finally arrived. As dad, myself, and a new friend from New York (John) settled into camp and prepared for the following days' hunt, Cindy was working her magic on our evening meal, while Jeff and Josh were busy gearing up for the first morning chase.

Forsyth is a small, quaint little town in the rolling hills of Eastern Montana. Several friends have hunted the 55,000 acres Majestic Mountain leases and have always been pleased with the results. Jeff is very selective when it comes to the number and quality of bucks taken from this land every year and it is obvious that his management program is working.

While the weather continued to be mild and very comfortable for hunting, it also slows the oncoming rut down, which we all know bring out the big boys looking for does to breed. Even so we saw a wide range of bucks the first couple of days, but with Jeff we were holding out as long as possible for the trophy deer we knew were there. We spent a lot of time on the high vantage points glassing the rolling hills below in search of that special deer. What beautiful country! We could see for miles.

We made several stalks over the first two days only to be outsmarted by the bucks at the last minute. But time was on our side. Patience would be key.

On the evening of the third day we spotted a gorgeous 5 x 5 in a meadow with several does. A short distance away a group of younger bucks were keeping their distance. There was no doubt that this was the buck my dad was looking for. As the buck finally caught our movement it was too late, my dad put the bullet right on target and his first mule deer buck was on the ground! As we

approached it was obvious this was indeed the bruiser we had been expecting to show up. High fives, hugs and laughter filled the meadow as we began to celebrate the evening blessings. Of course Cindy had a great meal ready when we arrived back in camp. We had to make her feel good by eating her cookies and cakes as well! What good hunter wouldn't?



The next day started fast as at first light we spotted another mature 5 x 5 several miles off and had decide to make a play on him before he reached his daytime bed. Jeff's knowledge of the terrain got us to within shooting distance quickly. It was up to me to finish the deal. As the buck began to crest the last hill separating him from our vision, I manage to get a shot off which took him off his feet. One more following shot and this buck was mine. Once again we were thrust into the laughter of success and thrill of the moment. What a perfect morning! Our new friend John also took a big mature mule deer buck with some cool extra points making his buck very unique. Three for three on big mule deer. We enjoyed the Chadd's, the country, and the hunt so much we have decided to do it again and can't wait until next season.

If you re looking for a great mule deer hunt, this is it! Jeff also hunts Antelope in Montana, as well as moose, sheep and grizzly in Alaska. First class all the way, just ask any number of chapter members who have hunted with Jeff.

Thank you Jeff, Cindy, and Josh, we will see you soon!!



# CONSERVATION AFFAIRS

By Larry Witte

## SCI-Michigan Involvement Committee (Sci-Mic)



SCI-MIC works with the DNR Wildlife Division as a partner in providing funding support for a number of important wildlife research projects each year. SCI-MIC funding comes from pledges provided by Mid-Michigan and other Michigan SCI chapters and from the SCI Foundation.

The proposed 2012 SCI-MIC project budget is \$41,000.00 for DNR research projects and the graduate grant program.

### CONTINUING DNR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

#### Predator-Prey Project

The purpose of this continuing research project is to assess the role of predation on new born whitetail deer fawns to estimate their survival and determine the sources of predation. Phase II of the study now moves from the "low snowfall zone" in the U.P. (Delta and Menominee Counties) to the "mid snowfall zone" in the Crystal Falls area. Fieldwork will begin in the summer of 2012 with the trapping and GPS collaring of bears. Deer trapping will begin in January of 2013. Annual supplies required for the three study phases over a 12 year period include VHS and GPS collars and vaginal implant transmitters. Total project costs could exceed \$3,000,000.00

Project partners include SCI-MIC, SCIF, Mississippi State University, UP Whitetails Association and DNR Wildlife Division.

#### Gray Wolf Population Project

The purpose of this continuing project is to monitor wolf population growth and expansion to justify removal of the wolf from the federal endangered list and provide for state management. Wolf populations are strong in the UP totaling about 700 at years end. Survey work in the UP will now be scaled back during the winter of 2012 to save money. Surveys will take place every other year. Removal of wolves from the federal endangered list will provide state ability to control livestock predation. Hunting would require legislative action to designate the wolf as a game animal and the Natural Resources Commission to establish a season. Litigation by animal rights groups could again delay delisting.

This project will continue for at least five years following federal delisting. Total project costs exceed \$800,000.00.

Project partners include SCI-MIC, Michigan Tech and DNR Wildlife Division.

#### Southern Michigan Black Bear Project

The purpose of this continuing research project is to obtain information on the ecology and movement patterns of bears outside the traditional northern range in Michigan. Bear populations are increasing and more bear are entering agricultural areas in southern Michigan. Information on bear dispersal, density and habitat influences in the southern range are needed

to develop a proactive management strategy for bears in southern Michigan.

This project was initiated in the spring of 2010 by collaring one female with cubs and one male in dens in Oceana County. Four more bears including one female and three males were collared in 2011. Both females slipped their collars and two males were legally harvested. The four recovered collars will be refurbished using SCI-MIC funds and used again. Trapping efforts will be intensified in spring 2012.

This is a multistate effort in collaboration with Wisconsin which is also experiencing a southern expansion of bear populations. Total project costs are expected to exceed \$100,000.00 over the next five years.

Project partners include SCI-MIC, U of Wisconsin-Madison, and DNR Wildlife Division.

### NEW DNR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

#### Diving Duck Project

The purpose of this research is to determine the causative factors for the declining use of Lake St. Clair, the Detroit River and Western Lake Erie by migrating diving ducks. Changes in the distribution of diving ducks in Michigan may be linked to increased human disturbance, a longer ice-free period, rapid expansion and then decline of exotic zebra and quagga mussels and changes in water clarity, chemistry, and submerged aquatic plants associated with exotic mussel invasions. Also of concern is development of near shore and onshore wind energy in the Great Lakes.

This project will continue for three to five years and could include other important diving duck migration areas in the Great Lakes region depending upon funding. The current project budget is approximately \$65,000.00 per year.

Project partners include SCI-MIC, Upper Mississippi and Great Lakes Joint Venture, Michigan State Police Aviation Section, MSU, Winous Point Marsh Conservancy and DNR Wildlife Division.

#### Snowshoe Hare Distribution and Abundance Project

The snowshoe hare is an important ecological and cultural specie in Michigan. The purpose of this research project is to assess long term causes for declining snowshoe hare harvest and abundance state wide. Decline is likely associated with a number of factors including changes to forest management practices, predator abundance and distribution, land use patterns and climate patterns. The project will benefit snowshoe hare management by helping wildlife biologists, planners, forest managers and land owners understand the relative importance and interrelationship of these factors.

The project was initiated in the fall of 2011 and will continue through 2013. Total cost will exceed \$120,000.00.

Project partners include SCI-MIC, MSU, Sault Ste Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, and DNR Wildlife Division.



# "Ain't that the Truth"

## *Wisdom from the School of Hard Knocks*

Your fences need to be horse-high, pig-tight and bull-strong.  
Keep skunks and bankers at a distance.  
Life is simpler when you plow around the stumps.  
A bumble bee is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.  
Words that soak into your ears are whispered . . . not yelled.  
Meanness don't jes' happen overnight.  
Forgive your enemies; it messes up their heads.  
Do not corner somethin' that you know is meaner than you.  
It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.  
You can't unsay a cruel word.  
Every path has a few puddles.  
When you wallow with pigs, expect to get dirty.  
The best sermons are lived, not preached.  
Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.  
Don't judge folks by their relatives.  
Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.  
Live a good, honorable life . . . Then when you get older and think back,  
you'll enjoy it a second time.  
Don't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none.  
Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a Rain dance.  
If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.  
Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.  
The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with,  
watches you from the mirror every mornin'.  
Always drink upstream from the herd.  
Good judgment comes from experience and  
a lotta that comes from bad judgment.  
Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in.  
If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence,  
try orderin' somebody else's dog around.  
Don't pick a fight with an old man. If he is too old to fight, he'll just kill you.  
Live simply - love generously - care deeply - speak kindly - leave the rest to God.  
And remember: When you quit laughing, you quit living.



# Kufa Wapiti!

by Mike Davich

We saw the fast moving band of ten elk as they began to cross the valley from the adjoining ranch. After glassing from the top of the tall mesa for most of the morning, we saw that the group of elk could no longer stand it. The opening day of the 2011 Colorado rifle elk season was about to get hot. Led by the lead cow and followed by a superb bull, they seemed to be on a mission to reach the junipers on our side to give them shelter and safety. As soon as we spotted them, guide Dan Fox exclaimed, "Jump in, we've got to intercept them. Let's move!"

Dan drove as aggressively as he could to begin to descend down the rock strewn ranch road. We went from the top of the mesa precariously to the valley, hoping to get us into position for a shot. As we rounded the back side, we noticed that the band of elk had started to climb the slope in the distance and began to blend into the cover in front of them.

We quickly stopped, got out and proceeded to move forward. I had grabbed my 300 Winchester. We had cut the distance to 260 yards when I racked a shell into the chamber and snapped open the scope caps. We moved ahead as Dan set up the three legged shooting sticks in front as I quickly rested the rifle and made ready for a shot.

By this time, the dark, white tinted antlers of the bull began to emerge from the dark green junipers. He was the third animal in the herd now moving from right to left. I placed the crosshairs in front of his shoulder as Dan hissed, "Dump him!"

After whitetail or mule deer, Jack O'Connor said that elk are usually the next step up and the largest animal that a hunter will encounter. My hunt actually began by meeting with Wynn Condict and Dan Fox of WyCon Safaris ([www.wyconsafariinc.com](http://www.wyconsafariinc.com)) at the Mid-



Bull elk tracks and 300 Win cartridge

Michigan Chapter of the Safari Club International convention in February 2011 at Mt. Pleasant.

Hunting alone, I opted for a fully guided hunt as I did not have the equipment or could find companions that could take time off to hunt with. I found that elk hunting requires specialized equipment like a 4 X 4 truck or 4 wheel quads to do it myself. The trespass fee hunt was very tempting.

Wynn owns over 4500 deeded acres thirty miles northwest of Meeker, Colorado, plus private and BLM leases. The area that I hunted was vast, with differing habitats of juniper, scrub oak, and serviceberry tailing down to flat stretches of alfalfa and prairie grass on the valley floor. With multiple seeps of water throughout the property, this was perfect habitat for elk. To top it off, the property lies smack-dab in the path of the migration route in northwest Colorado. I saw impressive bulls each day I went out, either as a hunter or as a scout.

This was my second hunt with Wynn. On a previous hunt, I was successful to take a fine mule deer and outstanding antelope. I could describe Wycon as one first class operation. Wynn is a regular donor to the Mid-Michigan Chapter.







Entire herds of elk can easily hide in the juniper drainages



As I hunted on the Condict ranch, I should also explain other items of note. I had a tag for a 4 point bull or larger for the first Colorado rifle season Oct. 15 – 19. Although my first choice was for a general license, I received a second choice tag for private land only.

I hunted out of the White River Inn ([whiteriverinn@whiteriverinn.com](mailto:whiteriverinn@whiteriverinn.com)) in Meeker. Owner L.D.Grove provided super clean accommodations at reasonable rates. The hospitality they gave made my stay worth the trip.

Dan and I found that the Stage Stop Meat Market of Meeker ([stagestop123@yahoo.com](mailto:stagestop123@yahoo.com)) was the best place to butcher the elk. I was really impressed with their attention to detail from the processing of the meat to the cleanliness of their operation.



Example of varied vegetation of junipers, scrub oak, and sagebrush

My guide, Dan Fox, has guided with Wynn for 19 years. A retired Michigan State policeman, Dan is a master guide. We shared similar enjoyment as we examined rocks, plants and birds along the way. He relished in the biology of all living things. I was indeed fortunate to have his experience with me as I set up for the shot.

The bull was magnificent as he emerged from the junipers walking at a fast trot. We had moved up to 235 yards as I squeezed the trigger. I was using my favorite rifle, a Remington 700 XCR in 300 Winchester Mag. with hand loads of 68 grains RL 19 powder propelling a 180 grain Barnes X bullet. The first shot nicked the animal low and far back, just grazing his chest. The second shot responded with a dull “whock” as it landed into its solid body. The animal turned slightly toward us at the shot as I held slightly higher. The third shot hit the spine where the neck comes into the body causing the bull to collapse immediately to the ground. The months of practice, firing the magnum in rapid fire from field conditions paid off in spades.

Dan was pounding me on the shoulder as we reloaded to walk toward the downed elk. “You got him! What a shot!” , he exclaimed. I began to shake. Not every animal shot actually will grow as you approach. This one did !! The antlers were greater than any expectation that I could have had. The fabulous elk was mine!

Pictures, pictures, and more pictures were taken. I think that Dan was impressed when I offered to gut and clean the elk. Additional help arrived and the elk was safely loaded onto the bed of a 4 X 4 pickup and taken to the local Meeker meat locker.

The beer and steaks at the historic Meeker hotel / restaurant never tasted so good. Two of my greatest days as a big game hunter happened when hunting with Wycon Safari!

The antlers of this Rocky Mountain Elk were scored by Dr. Terry Braden and measured 322 5/8. This would qualify for a SCI silver medal.





# Thank You!

# You!

# You!

# You!

# You!

# You!

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December 30, 2011



Mid-Michigan Chapter  
Safari Club International  
Sportsmen Against Hunger Program  
Attn: Committee Leader  
Mike Strobe  
1100 S. Bollman Drive  
Mt. Pleasant MI 48858

Dear Friends at Safari Club International Mid-Michigan Chapter:

Thank you for your generous donation today of 238 Lbs. of venison and antelope to the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen. It is heartwarming to know of your commitment to the needy; we are very grateful to you for choosing to assist those in need through the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen. Your donation is a reflection of the care and compassion you have for others.

The Soup Kitchen volunteers and staff are able to provide an average of 300 continental breakfasts and over 3,000 hot lunches monthly to its patrons seven days per week; all of this is possible thanks to the generosity of individuals, organizations, and businesses. Our patrons deeply appreciate our services.

It is a blessing to have your support, and it is greatly appreciated since it also helps provide a safe environment for many members of our community. The generous donations of individuals, organizations, and merchants, allow the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen to carry out its mission of compassion. We are a registered 501 C(3) non-profit organization. The full amount/value of your contribution to Isabella Community Soup Kitchen is tax deductible with no portion being payment for personal goods or services. Thank you for your continued support. May God bless all of our friends at Safari Club International Mid-Michigan Chapter Sportsmen Against Hunger Program.

Sincerely,

*Genny Sobaski*

Genny Sobaski, I.C.S.K. Director

Sue Woods, Chair

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# American Red Cross



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*Serving Isabella and Clare Counties*  
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 (989) 773-3615 or (989) 539-0200  
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January 3, 2012

Safari Club International  
 Mid Michigan Chapter  
 c/o of Michael Strobe  
 1100 S. Bollman Drive  
 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Dear Friends of the American Red Cross,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to thank you for the recent contribution to the Central Michigan Chapter of the American Red Cross. We appreciate your trust in us to be there for residents of Isabella County. Your tax letter receipt will be coming from our Regional Office in a couple of weeks.

Your donation to the chapter allows us to meet the needs of families using our Emergency Food Pantry Services.

Because of your generosity, our Food Pantry will be there, when "Help Can't Wait"!

Sincerely,

*Deb Birkam*  
 Deb Birkam  
 Executive Director

*Thanks again  
 Michael &  
 Club members!*

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank You

Thank You

Thank You

# Thank You!

Thank You!



# My First Estate Deer Hunt

By Joanne Witte

"That's your deer! Shoot!" Jerry McQuestion said as he and I and my husband Larry sat in a blind on October 6, 2011. I said, "Where?" I had to lean out the window in the blind to see the deer. When I spotted it, I thought, Oh my Gosh. I lined up on it with my .300WSM, put the crosshairs on the shoulder and shot. Down it fell.

I was hunting at Jerry's ranch called Rack-A-Tack several miles from LeRoy, Michigan. This was my year to shoot a big deer. The deer scored 201 5/8 non-typical. Wow!

This all started last November (2010) when Jeff Tyson, our friend who is a taxidermist, told us about Jerry's ranch. He capes deer for Jerry and he had taken his daughter there to shoot a management buck. We met Jerry and toured his ranch one cold snowy winter day in December. We saw lots of deer and had a great time riding around in his Polaris ranger. We told Jerry I wanted to shoot something in the 190-199 range.

The ranch is about 500 acres and consists of varied terrain. There are huge fields planted with food crops, ridges of oak trees, valleys, and a water hole near where I shot my deer. Jerry has enclosed blinds that can be heated. He has spotting scopes in most of the blinds so he or one of his guides can check out the deer carefully.

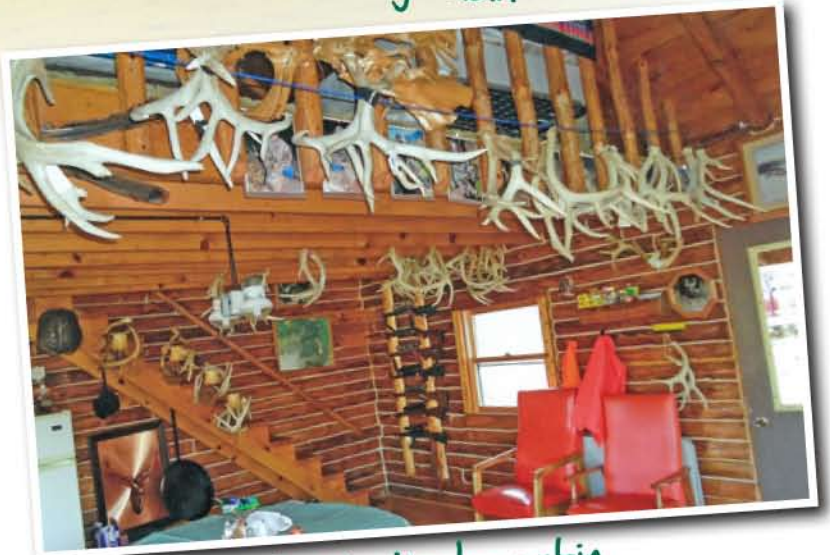
There is a lovely log cabin where hunters can stay. It is rustic with an outhouse and no electricity but there is running water in the kitchen. Since we live only about 40 minutes away we drove home at night. Jerry does not like to hunt in the morning this time of year. He said if you scare the deer out of the fields in the morning they will not come back.

We went out one evening in Sept. just to look at the deer. We saw dozens of them in a huge field. There were two very unusual ones. One had palmated antlers and the other had what almost looked like a crown on one side. Hunters harvested both deer. We met the hunter from Texas who took the deer with the crown. It scored over 220. That fellow shot an elk on another ranch that scored over 500. He had a good trip!

Jerry said to plan on three nights to get a big deer. We had some confusion about my hunt dates because of three



Log cabin



Inside the log cabin



Joanne and Larry Witte





## Joanne with Jerry McQuestion

Texas hunters who came during bad weather and took longer to get their deer than expected. As it turned out I was lucky. I had great weather.

We went out Oct. 5 and saw probably over 100 deer. We were on the edge of two huge fields. About 400 yards to the left of us there were dozens of deer. There was one big one that stayed all evening and would have given me a great shot but he was too big. Jerry thought he would have scored about 220. My trigger finger was itching. This is one time when Larry should have fulfilled his desire to give me one bullet at a time and only when authorized to shoot.

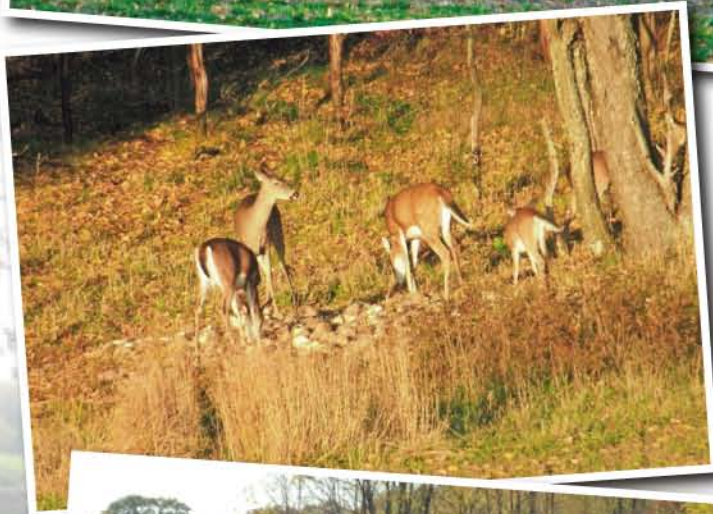
There were some sugar beets across from the blind at about 100 yards and we saw a number of beautiful deer in the 160 class. To the right of us were more deer. At about dark the deer just came running in from the woods. It was great fun to see so many deer.

The next evening we came back and settled down in a beautiful blind finished with knotty pine and carpeting that Jerry's son-in-law made for him. It was hot that day so we sat over a water hole. There were lots of deer and many fawns. At one point there were five little fawns about 20 yards in front of us. I wanted to take a picture but I was afraid I would scare the deer and everything would leave. There were at least 5 good bucks by the waterhole. I was daydreaming and thinking I am never going to see the buck I want. So many deer but not the right one. I was getting discouraged.

That's when Jerry announced my deer. You hunters know how it goes. You can be out there in the woods thinking maybe I won't get anything this trip. Suddenly there it is, your trophy!

Estate hunting is very different from free range hunting but I don't think it is any easier. You still have to wait for the right deer and then hit it!

Thank you Jerry for a great time!





# Dove Hunting in Argentina

by Ivan Carter

MUERTE' - DOUBLE!' The excited shout from Rene, my birdboy as a puff of feathers appeared and my second barrel went off, the smoke hanging for a second in the air. The two doves folded. They were high birds and right behind them was a group more and behind them some more as well. This was incredible, as much or as fast as you wanted to go. The birds kept coming. I had arrived at my designated shooting spot an hour earlier. It was our first full day. A large field of bright sunflowers in front of me and the hills behind me harboring the largest roost in Cordoba Province - underfoot was a carpet of spent shells. Jerred Peterson who was shooting with me that morning looked across at me with a huge grin. "Wow, I never thought it could be this good!" As his birdboy plopped two more shells into the waiting breech of his double, he raised up and yet two more birds folded out of the sky landing nearby with a heavy thump. The February weather had most of the group hunting in short sleeves and shorts. The ten minute drive from the lodge after a hearty breakfast was punctuated by everyone's comments on the huge and seemingly never ending stream of doves at every height and in every direction.

Yesterday evening, our first shoot, we had an incredible time at a completely different spot, also just a five minute drive from the lodge. For the first timers it was awe inspiring. For those who had been to Cordoba province before, they had never seen it so good!

Birdshooting is a very deep passion of mine, of course, at the other end of the spectrum to big game. However, it's something that truly gets me going! It's the social nature of a birdshoot, the quick windows of opportunity and the fast action that fascinates me - be it in the heart of Cordoba



Province in Argentina, a duck blind in Texas, driven birds in Europe, or rock pigeons in South Africa. A few days of birdshooting with friends is the ultimate camaraderie.

Just like in the realms of big game hunting, as you drill down into the layers of "who's who" there are certain names that keep coming to the top and certain reasons for that. That leads to the question, what makes Los Chanares different?

I think, summed up in two words - "they care".

David Perez and his team have worked for years to ensure that next year's shooting is as good or better than this year, that the lodge will see improvements, the crop rotation (planted specifically for the birds) is improved and maximized, and that the people will leave even happier. His operation is fine tuned to the last detail and the shooting and



Alex, the manager, in front of the lodge



Inside the lodge



Some of the many shotguns available to rent





Don Harter shoots



A definite hit



quality of bird presentation the same.

The fact that they own their land and are in control of their crops and roost, never shooting watering points, never the same place twice in a five day period and many other "stop losses" that are in place ensure great and sustainable shooting.

All too ominous is the story of the American passenger pigeon, from several billion birds reduced, through habitat loss, meat hunting, and disease to the point where, Martha, thought to be the last one, died on September 1, 1914, at the Cincinnati Zoo. How can the roosts of Cordoba possibly manage to survive with stories of group after group having shot tens of thousands of birds - stories of roosts being cut down for grazing and crop growing.

The truth is, they can't, not without some sustainable management in place. Interestingly though, in a chat with Martin Carranza, the properties' wildlife manager, it will not be the volume of shooting that kills the birds. It will be insufficient food and water. They will starve to death he tells me. That would be nice for the grain farmers, not so nice for the doves, and not so nice for the birdshooters and the lucrative industry that has grown up around the sport.

Like so many countries, Argentina has a wealth of tourist destinations and yet it's the hunting that draws folks from all over the world to Cordoba Province, the spread of wealth

and job creation, from lodge owners to birdboys and right on down to factory workers in the shotgun shell business. Without the steady stream of high volume birdhunters, the industry, associated jobs, and spread of first world wealth into the third world would go away.

"Land that was for thirty years valued at next to nothing, today commands hundreds of dollars an acre in spite of the thorny thickets and low agricultural value. These are the best areas for dove roosts," explains Martin. "It has given the land value and we hope that the people continue coming. Of course, the roosts themselves are areas we never shoot and this is the crux of the population."

With a cycle that can repeat itself two, three, and even four times a year and laying a clutch of two eggs a time, the population, food, and water allowing, could triple each year. Great for hunters having such a fast renewing resource. Not so great for farmers! That said, many farmers have turned to the birdshooter as an alternative to farming, a wealth of estancias with the foreign shooter in mind have sprung up, creating jobs and creating an unforeseen increase in the economy of the province.



Ivan Carter enjoying the hunt



Sunflower fields with nesting trees behind



Doves are plentiful





The hunting group with a few birds



Marinated dove breasts being seared over an open fire



These doves were absolutely delicious

Whether Marco Polo sheep, elephant, or doves in Argentina, a successful hunt is one where expectations meet reality, where the game is managed within sustainable shooting volume.

Success also hinges on two other major items of concern, choice of area and outfitter and good choice of gear and equipment, making for a comfortable and well equipped experience.

In that regard, hunting Argentina in the early part of the year couldn't be easier, cool enough in the evenings for a really good nights sleep, warm enough during the day to hunt in shorts and cotton shirts. As far as the other gear, a small bag in the field is invaluable. You don't need much, but by the time you have glasses, a cleaning kit, a spare set of chokes, gloves, sunblock, and camera, you have more than a handful of small items, so a good field bag is crucial.

A shell pouch should always be at your waist and always have a few shells in it. While Los Chanares has excellent birdboys who are also expert reloaders, you also want to have some shells with you.

Boyt Harness truly has a great selection of birdhunting gear. Tony Caliguri himself, the founder and president, is an avid birdhunter and by virtue of that very fact his "field items" are well thought out, tough, and practical - an elegant blend of leather and canvas. This is where they were designed to work!

That evening, midway through a four course culinary delight, the clinking of a wine glass halted the babble of conversation around the table. Most of it was about "that particularly high bird" or "that spectacular double" or "did you see when the flock started". Alex standing there with his clipboard, neat and elegant, a grin on his face announced the days success. There were ball caps and golf shirts inviting membership to the 1000 club, 2000 and even a couple of guys in the 3000 club, shirts that could not be bought, could only be earned, through bruised shoulders and blistered fingers!! And only here in Cordoba could you possibly hope to shoot that much in a single day. He announced that day as a group we had averaged 76% and had fired 29,000 shells - a lifetime of hunting in one day. Everyone from Denise, who was on her third day ever with a shotgun, to the most seasoned of birdhunters in the group was having a ball.

I will bring a lot of friends here, I will make a lot of friends here, and most of all I will remember the times when I stood shoulder to shoulder with a good friend and our birdboys whooped "MUERTE" and "DOUBLE" time and time again.

For additional information about hunting in Argentina, contact Don Harter at 989-644-2333 or 989-330-1065. Next year we are hunting February 17 - 20.

Follow Ivan's Adventures on facebook  
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Ivan-Carter/>





# Just a few recipes you might enjoy!

## Joanne Witte's Wild Turkey Chili

*If you are like me you end up with many wild turkey breasts and are always looking for new ways of cooking them. Here is a good one.*

### Ingredients

Grind up 1 1/2 pounds of wild turkey just like you grind up your venison  
3 Tbsp olive oil  
1 onion finely chopped  
1 clove garlic minced  
1 Tablespoon ground cumin  
2 teaspoons dried oregano  
1 tsp salt  
1/2 tsp pepper  
1 quart home canned tomatoes or one large can tomatoes  
10 oz canned chicken broth  
2 cans cannellini beans, drained and rinsed  
1 small can chopped green chiles drained  
1 green bell pepper sliced thin

### Directions

Saute the turkey in 2 Tbsp olive oil till turns white. Transfer to the slow cooker.  
Brown the onion in 1 Tbsp oil for about 4 min.  
Add the garlic, cumin, oregano, salt, pepper and brown for 1 minute.  
Add tomatoes and broth, simmer for 5 minutes. Stir in beans.  
Pour over turkey in slow cooker. Stir well.  
Cook on low for 6 hours.  
Stir in chiles, and bell pepper. Cook for 10 minutes.  
Serve with grated Mexican cheese and sour cream and salsa if desired.  
I think you could use a crock pot too but I used a slow cooker. I ground up 4 turkey breasts and put some in the freezer for future use.

## Diane Shelt's French Toast Breakfast Casserole

(Great for those early morning hunters)

### Ingredients

1 cup brown sugar  
1/2 cup butter melted  
3 tps cinnamon (divided)  
3 tart apples such as Granny Smith peeled, cored and thinly sliced  
1/2 cup dried cranberries  
1 loaf Italian or French bread cut into 1-inch slices  
6 large eggs  
1 1/2 cups milk  
1 Tablespoon Vanilla

### Directions

Mix brown sugar, butter and 1 tsp cinnamon. Add apples and cranberries, toss to coat. Spread apple mixture evenly over bottom of baking dish.  
Arrange bread slices on top.  
Mix eggs, milk, vanilla and 2 tsp cinnamon until well blended. Pour mixture over bread, soaking bread completely.  
Cover and refrigerate overnight.  
Bake covered with foil in preheated 375 degree oven for 40 minutes. Uncover and bake 5 minutes. Remove from oven, let stand 5 minutes.  
Serve with syrup.  
I like this because you can make it a day ahead.

## Cyndi Chadd's Chicken Fried Game Heart

(Recipe requested by Ransom Leppink)

I got this recipe from Cyndi's Kitchen

### Ingredients

Sliced Game Heart  
1 Cup Flour (half whole wheat, half white)  
2 tsp Poultry Seasoning  
2 tsp Thyme  
Salt and pepper  
1 Cup Milk  
3 Egg (Beaten)

### Directions

Soak the heart in salt water. Clean out the heart, cut off exterior skin and slice (@ 1/4 inch thick).  
Dip slices in flour, then egg mixture and dip in flour again.  
Brown in hot olive oil and place in covered baking dish.  
Bake in 350 degree oven for about an hour.



# Brothers Bag Bookend Bucks

*Lance and Lanny shoot 8 pointers - minutes apart. .*

by Robert C. Mills

When brothers Lance and Lanny Dexter load their rifles at the Pine Hill Club, they head toward their hunting blinds with an intense passion to shoot a big buck. Lance hunts with a 270 Ruger and Lanny with a 30.06 Weatherby. They sit in blinds that are located in adjacent fields about 600 yards apart separated by 10 acres of pine trees and autumn olive bushes. They keep in contact by radios and cell phones regarding deer sightings because they often see the same deer. They passed on a number of smaller bucks prior to shooting the 8 pointers referred to as the Bookend Bucks.

Lance hunts in a ground blind called the Butcher Shop. From his blind, which sits on top of a small hill, he overlooks a 40 acre field of heavy grass and a small wooded pot-hole. Shooting lanes are mowed in pin-wheel shape from the blind with the longest being 386 yards. Directly in front of the blind is a small food plot of rye grass. The heavy cover surrounding the blind shield the deer. He can only see their heads or white-tails if the deer is running. Many deer regularly appear on the small food plot that is 100 yards in front of the blind. Lance had passed on sixteen smaller bucks, waiting for a large buck to fill his tag.

Lanny hunts from a blind called the Double-Decker, which is elevated and overlooks a 20 acre field, bordered by swamp, pine trees and mature oaks. From this elevated blind, he sees many deer. He has a one acre food plot approximately 100 yards in front of him. Also, the field is mowed in a pin-wheel shape, the longest lane being 340 yards.



*Lance Dexter with his 8 point buck*

Due to the long distance shooting, the brothers religiously practice at a range which the longest target is 486 yards to increase the odds of an ethical kill. Their guns are zeroed at 200 yards and are confident to shoot 400 yards.

On November 18, the fourth day of the season, at approximately 7:15 a.m., Lance saw a buck chasing a doe running across three shooting lanes and disappeared into the pine trees behind him. He called Lanny excited that there was a hot doe in the area. In about fifteen minutes, the doe walked across the food plot and shortly after the buck appeared. Lance could tell the buck was at least a 6 point, but couldn't tell how wide it was or get a good look due to the darkness. The buck made its way to the corn in the middle of the wooded pot-hole and Lance could then see the width. It was a nice deer, still too dark for him to pull the trigger, although he did click off the safety of his gun once. The buck left and he radioed Lanny telling him that the deer was headed his way.

Lanny radioed back about fifteen minutes later saying the deer was in front of him and it had a high rack. Lance reassured him it was a nice deer, at least a 6 point. At approximately 8:00 a.m., Lanny ranged the buck at 150 yards, steadied his rifle and shot. The deer buckled but did not go down and disappeared into the pine trees headed



*Lanny Dexter with his 8 point buck*





Brothers Lanny (left) and Lance (right) with father, Len (center)



Bob Mills with sons Mike, Dave, Joe and Rick

Buck pole at Pine Hill Club



toward Lance. Lanny radioed and stated he shot the deer, and it went into the pine trees. Lance was on high alert glassing the grass for signs of movement. He picked a movement of a real nice rack just above the grass walking away at 180 yards. Lance was on him but he offered no shot. Finally, the deer was quartering away and lifted his head above the grass offering a neck shot and Lance took it! Quickly grabbing his binoculars he glassed fast and hard hoping for no movement; there was none. Moving his binoculars about 3 degrees to the north, he picked up movement. It was a buck headed toward him. Lanny called Lance to ask if he had fired a shot. Lance confirmed the shot and stated there was a nice buck coming right toward him and it looked to be a nice eight. Lance was giving Lanny a play-by-play of what was going on with the buck. The buck was limping along in the tall grass and kind of bounded up and went down approximately 150 yards from his blind. They thought the buck either bedded down or expired.

Lance was glassing constantly over the area where he shot his deer and the area that Lanny's deer had gone down. At 9:00 a.m., Lanny indicated that he was going to track his deer. Lance told him that if he makes it through the pine trees and can see his blind that he would guide him to the deer. Lanny did make it through the pines and Lance told him to stop because the deer was up and it was limping toward the wooded pot-hole. The deer offered Lance a neck shot at 150 yards; he told Lanny to hit the dirt and took the shot. Lance directed Lanny to the deer by radio and arm signals which resulted in high fives and





Brothers Bookend Bucks hang on buckpole at Pine Hill Club

deer, the brothers loaded them in the truck and headed for the buck pole!

Arriving at camp with their bucks, the Dexter's celebrated their success with other members in the camp. After taking numerous pictures, hand shaking, and describing the harvest, the stories just got better. Typical of deer camps, the stories of successful hunts get more embellished as time goes on.

The Pine Hill Club is a private hunting camp owned by the Mills family. Hunters have 800 acres of prime habitat to hunt and after 40 years of operation the deer harvest numbers hold steady. The camp hangs approximately 20 bucks per season. Members also harvest a small number of antlerless deer. The rule of thumb is to harvest one doe per 100 acres of hunting area. This past season 21 bucks were taken and 8 does. All members in the camp are quality sportsman and respect the game and camp rules. Many members have hunted the Pine Hill Club for over 20 years.

The camp has a number of father/son combinations.

Lance and Lanny's father, Len, hunts with his sons.

Len shot a buck opening day so the pressure was on his sons to fill their tags. Both brothers had shot good bucks during archery season.

Pictures don't lie. The Brothers bagging Bookend Bucks only 10 minutes apart will head the list of stories for 2011.

The Pine Hill Club members can't wait for the 2012 season and a chance to fill their tag with a good buck. Maybe there are Bookend Bucks in the 10 point category. Only time will tell!



Brothers Lance & Lanny with their 8 point bucks



Bookend Bucks taken by Brothers Lance & Lanny Dexter



## United States National Parks

L D A A R C H E S V G I G N C O C A K E O R L B D A I Y O C D  
 C E R L O C A S Y E L L A V K U B O K A L E G I I S V O I T M  
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# SCI CHAPTER Leadership Training

By Joseph Mulders

Bill Shelt and I attended the two day SCI -12<sup>th</sup> Annual Chapter Leadership Training Seminar in Tucson Arizona on August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. One might ask why in the world anyone would leave the very pleasant Michigan climate in late August to travel to Southern Arizona. In spite of Tucson setting a new record high of 106 °F while we were there, I was very interested in learning more about our SCI organization, especially the National side of SCI. I have been a member of the Mid-Michigan SCI Chapter since 2007 and became a member because I was very impressed with this club's leadership and strongly agreed with the organizations' mission of protecting and supporting hunter's rights. In this article, I would like to give you a brief overview of what I was exposed to at this seminar:

There are two distinct organizations within what we may think of as the SCI umbrella; 1) SCI and 2) SCIF (Safari Club International Foundation). SCI is an entity created under 501(c) (4) of the Internal Revenue Code and as such, is a Non-Profit Organization which does not need to pay income taxes on it's net income, as long as, all of our activities are within the purpose of which our organization was granted this exemption. Contributions are not tax deductible to SCI, whereas, SCIF is an entity created under 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code and as such, contributions are fully tax deductible as charitable contributions, similar to say contributions to the Red Cross or the United Way. In addition to the above two organizations, there is also SCI-PAC, which is the political action committee arm of SCI that make donations to help elect and reelect legislators who will protect our right to hunt and to access hunting opportunities.

Of all the topics covered at this seminar, I think the biggest surprise to me was the extent to which SCI National is involved in legal issues around hunting and wildlife conservation. SCI National has a legal staff which monitors



legislation, they write and submit briefs for various courts and are involved in the actual litigation representing our interests. In the past year, SCI National has been involved with over two dozen cases, some of which are: lead ammunition, polar bear importation, Western Great Lakes and the Rocky Mountain wolf delisting, Yellowstone Grizzly Bear, Nevada wild horses, New Jersey black bear, etc.

**Grants;** There are several opportunities for Chapters to receive grants from National, such as Chapter youth grants, matching grants for humanitarian services, education partnership grants, hunts for warriors, etc.

**Publications and Awards;** SCI National composes and prints a monthly newsletter (Safari Times) for its members. This publication's purpose is to keep us informed of hunting and conservation issues occurring around the globe. National also supports chapter publications, our chapter publication, the Front Site, has received the Best Overall Chapter Publication, for all of SCI, two years in a row due in large part to Mary Hater. Great job and Thank You Mary!

The mission of SCIF is to fund and manage worldwide programs dedicated to wildlife conservation, outdoor education and humanitarian services.





## Some recent activities under **WILDLIFE CONSERVATION:**

- Major support for predator-prey research within North America.
- Facilitated the largest wildlife management meeting in Africa, which involved 9 nations to discuss conservation of African wildlife and human-lion conflict mitigation.
- Eurasian efforts around field studies of argali sheep in Tajikistan, saiga in Russia and snow leopards in Siberia.

## **OUTDOOR EDUCATION Programs:**

- AWLS – American Wilderness Leadership School – provide teachers with a useful hands-on experience that they can use in the classroom. Since 1976, more than 5,000 teachers have attended who reach more than 1 million students annually. Our Chapter tries to send 5 teachers to AWLS every year. This program is a great way to get our youth exposed to hunting and wildlife conservation.
- AWLS – also provides a 7 day leadership training program for high school students ages 16 – 18.
- Provide scholarships to nearly 100 college students who have enrolled in natural resource management or conservation education fields.

## **HUMANITARIAN Programs:**

- Sportsman Against Hunger, which by the way in my opinion Mike Strobe, of our club, has done a great job in this area.
- Sensory Safari – giving sight impaired children and adults the opportunity to touch animal mounts, skins, skulls and horns via a mobile trailer.
- Safari Care – the “Blue Bags” in which healthcare and other humanitarian supplies are delivered to people in remote areas of the world.
- Safari Wish – when children with life-threatening or terminal illnesses have lifelong wishes to hunt, and these dreams are fulfilled by SCI members and chapters.
- Disabled Hunter/Pathfinder – hunting trips for disabled sportsmen. Our club has been working with disabled youth and veterans.

In addition, SCIF funds the International Wildlife Museum in Tucson, which is dedicated to increasing knowledge of, and appreciation for, the diverse wildlife of the world, as well as, explaining the role of wildlife management in conservation.

In conclusion, the seminar was very worthwhile and helped fill in some of the pieces of how our chapter and national fit together to support and protect our hunting rights.



# Four Weddings And One Honeymoon

by Roger Card

Margo Salgado, from Puerto Vallarta, Mexico and I were first married in Florida on December 19, 2010. Then her family wanted the church wedding in a cathedral in Puerto Vallarta on March 18, 2011. We were married the third time that same evening at our outside reception to obtain legal papers.

Then, April 2011 was a trying time for Margo's first African adventure and our honeymoon trip. The visa for Margo being a Mexican citizen was not so easy to acquire. She needed all the required vaccination shots but we worked our way through all the paperwork and secured it. With only 10 days prior to our departure we were notified that our flight had been cancelled by the airlines.

With lots of phone calls and begging, we were able to receive tickets on Swiss Air through Zurich, Switzerland. Luckily we were renting firearms and didn't have to go through all of that paperwork.

Upon arrival in Douala, Cameroon, we discovered that my duffel bag hadn't arrived; Margo's was fine. The airlines told us that they would ship it to us on the next flight in three days. That was the last we heard of my bag. They never found it. After five months I received a check in the amount of \$1,800 to settle my loss of \$5,200. Boy that sucks!

We transferred on to a flight to Garoua, then had a seven hour drive to our camp. My travel clothes were getting a little smelly by then.

Our outfitter and guide, Vincent Citerne of Gerome Latrive Hunting Safaris, met us and helped us settle in, hoping that my duffel bag would arrive soon. I borrowed two pair of pants, socks, boots that were two sizes too small, and two tee shirts. I would wear one set per day and have one set washed each day. When in need, do the best you can. These clothes were what was provided to the Anti Poaching crew to protect the wildlife in the hunting area when the season was over. I know now that I can get along with a lot less things than I usu-

ally take on a trip. The one thing I really missed was my jar of crunchy peanut butter.

The hunting consisted of getting up for breakfast early and being on the trail one hour before daylight. At daylight, Vincent would have the game scouts sit on the front bumper seats and watch for fresh tracks. They were also looking into the bush for any trophies that were in the area we traveled through.

We would stop for lunch at a nearby water hole and have a little siesta every day. The afternoon hunt was the same thing, covering lots of ground trying to find the animals on my hit list.

They have lots of different species in this huge area. The high Savannah grass had been burned and the new grass hadn't returned yet so the animals were really scattered about. Same days we would only see three to four different animals, other days lots of them. We even came across two different herds of Giant Eland, but I had already bagged one in Northern Cameroon.

The buffalo were giving us a hard time because they were traveling so much looking for fresh grass. We tracked them







several times without success as they could hear us coming on the dry ground and we only had the trees for cover.

Finally, one morning we cut fresh buffalo tracks early and were determined to track them down. I forgot to mention that the temperature was over 110 degrees every day. This was just fine for Margo but I was dying during the stalks. We stopped about 1:00 p.m. after jumping them into a run the second time. The game scouts and Vincent had a big POW WOW and they all felt as hot as it was and that we hadn't let the small herd stop to sleep that they were also very tired.

The decision was made to have a bite to eat, a little bit of rest, then get right back on their trail before they got too far away or had a chance to rest. We were only on the track about two more hours when we spotted the big bull standing in a group of trees for shade and rest.

The final stalk took over an hour to get the wind just right and find enough cover to get within 100 yards. Upon my shot, he took off running straight at us. I'm sure he knew we were there. Boy, the excitement goes wild when a West African Buffalo bull is coming at you! I shot him again in the chest and Vincent shot him in the shoulder to bring him down at 20 paces. He was a grand old bull that will make a fine display at the Card Wildlife Education Center at Ferris State University in Big Rapids, Michigan.

Upon completion of my trophy collection list consisting of: Western Buffalo, Sing Sing Water Buck, Hartbeest, Red Flanked Duiker, Western Kob, Harnessed Bushbuck, Red

Monkey and Baboon, we had two more days to relax. Margo followed me every step of the hunt. She said, "If you go, I go!" She was always stopping me, making me drink more water on the long stalks, just like my hunting buddy, Rod Merchant, has done many times. I'm really blessed to have such great people accompanying me on my travels around the world.

The Vina River flows in front of camp and we went Tiger fishing several times. They really have a mouth full of teeth, but are great eating. We were entertained the last evening in camp by the local native tribe dancers. These were 20 men that danced to the drums for 30 minutes without a break. They were great. Then the big chief heard that Margo and I were on our honeymoon. He wanted to perform a marriage ceremony for us again. We were presented rings for our fingers and local native clothing. I tried to do a little dancing with the men but I'm too out of shape to keep up with them.

We had a great time and if anyone is looking for some special kind of African trophies and a really nice safari, we would be pleased to talk to them about our trip.





# Sitatunga Double

by Mary Harter

In October of 2011, we hunted in Tanzania, flying in to Kilimanjaro, on to Arusha where we boarded a small plane to take us to a grass airstrip where we were met and taken several miles to Msima Camp located on the Msima River. We were hunting primarily for a lion for me with Raoul Ramoni's Big Game Safaris. Ivan Carter, our PH, suggested we hunt here and made the arrangements when we were in Reno. John Greef, a friend of Ivan's from Zimbabwe, was also a PH for us. Andy MacDonald was our photographer. I will publish more stories about this hunt in other issues.

We ran 100 miles of baits for lion and leopard and we covered half of them each day and the second truck covered the other half. Since most of our baits being hit were 3 1/2 hours away, we set up a primitive camp on the shore of the Koga River.

On the 14th day of our 21 day hunt we were out early (as usual) searching for a cape buffalo for Don. They cut some fresh tracks and were off tracking for 5 1/2 hours before the wind changed and the buffalo ran off. They were tracking a cow and two bulls.

We continued checking our lion baits and some were getting quite ripe. None were hit even though they were becoming easy for any cat to find.

We drove along the river and spotted a Bohor Reedbuck out in the papyrus reeds. These reeds were at least 6 foot tall



*Mary with her bohor reedbuck and camp manager, Liam, who helped with its recovery*

in most places but if an animal stood on higher ground, you could sometimes spot them.

Our trackers had been talking to some of the fishing villages to find out where they might have seen or heard lions. The fishermen had burned the riverbanks earlier in the year to help protect them from predators, especially crocodiles which had killed several men in the two villages close to our camp. Now the papyrus reeds were about half as tall as usual.

We sighted the Bohor Reedbuck and I shot him at 253 yards. He was way out in the reeds and six trackers, PHs, and even our camp manager, Liam, went out after him. They came back wet to the waist with Liam carrying the Reedbuck over his shoulders. The others were helping him but he sure was tired.

We drove on around the end of the water and got stuck in the mud. We had to wench out the truck using a large palm tree for support. I held my breath several times as the truck went sideways on two wheels as it was being pulled out.

As we were returning around the end of the water, Bebo, the head tracker, spotted a sitatunga out in the papyrus. We could just see the head and horns as he fed. Very quickly Ivan set me up to shoot and since he was out about 185 yards, Ivan said to aim for the top of his back. The first shot went through both shoulders and he stumbled and fell but got back up. Since he could be out of sight in a second, Ivan said to shoot him again aiming right between his eyes at the base of his horns which put the shot through his neck and out his spine behind the



*Natives we met from the nearby fishing village*





Don Harter practicing with his new Heym rifle

neck. Two shots with my .375 and he was finally down.

Again, six of the men waded out carrying ropes to retrieve him. At times they were in water over their heads but finally they found him. We were directing from shore by radio. They tied a rope on him and it took all six to drag him to shore.

A sitatunga is a large

swamp dwelling antelope with long, brown hair, a white chevron on his face, and a white area on his chest. They have long, thin hooves to deal with their papyrus habitat and are good swimmers. The males are quite solitary. Sitatungas aren't rare but are very hard to see. In this camp they usually only shoot one sitatunga to 15 lions. Usually sitatungas are hunted from a platform placed near an area where the reeds have been cut down. It can take days to even sight one.

What a trophy!! They had a "Kabubi, Kabubi" for us back at camp. They carried me around in a camp chair as they sang and danced. The whole camp when we returned was involved in the celebration.

During the next couple of days Don said wouldn't it be amazing if he could also get a sitatunga and so on the 16th day of our hunt, we drove checking baits in that direction. We saw several impala but they ran before we could shoot. We saw many trophy waterbuck but we both had already shot our quota.

Don and Ivan set up some targets to see how Don's new Heym double would shoot at a distance in case that would be the only shot he would have at a sitatunga. Their practice had wonderful results and Don's confidence was high.

A fisherman and his wife passed us while we were stopped. I asked and took their picture. He was slowly riding his bicycle carrying a huge basket made of reeds on the back. She was walking but it seemed difficult for her. As we passed them we offered her a ride and she climbed up beside me. We reached the first fishing village and let her off. She probably had quite a story to tell her friends. The villagers all wave when we pass them daily.

I had wished I had brought something to give the villagers but Ivan said that would be bad as then they would start to expect handouts from visitors. A study had been done on native children living in areas visited by tourists. Their teeth were much worse than children living elsewhere because of candy given them. We Americans are generous and like to give gifts but sometimes we do more harm than good. The natives exist and are happy doing things their own way.

We continued to check lion baits. We ate lunch near where I had shot my sitatunga two days before. While others were resting after lunch, Don glassed the area and spotted a nice sitatunga. He also saw a female and younger male which were close but the larger male never came close enough.

The next morning we arrived near the area where we saw the sitatunga before and Babu and Don spotted one. Everyone was excited. This sitatunga was closer but quickly went out of sight. We also saw a female again. We went to the same mound that we looked from for mine. The guys began rebuilding a blind that had been used a few years before. They



Ivan Carter (soaking wet) and Mary Harter with her sitatunga



Don Harter with his sitatunga

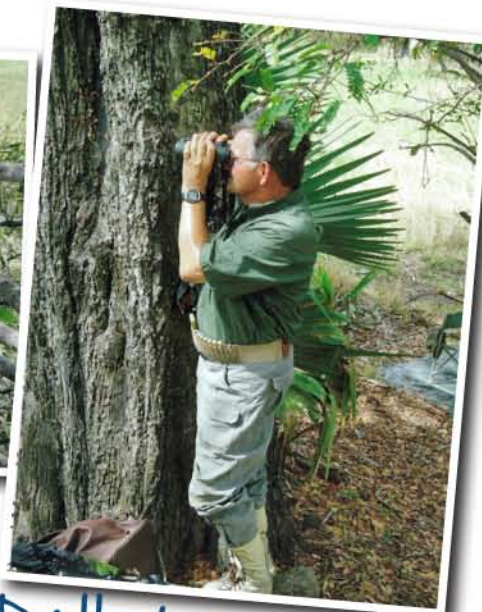




The ladder to the stand



Don up in the platform overlooking the marshy area near the river



Don Harter hoping to spot his sitatunga

rebuilt the ladder and started on the 30 foot high platform but never finished. The sitatunga became visible again and from the platform, Don shot - and shot - and shot again. The sitatunga was 265 yards away and down he went.

Out went the crew to retrieve him. Don and John stayed on the platform to help pinpoint his location. In all of those reeds and water, it becomes difficult to see a downed animal. As Ivan approached the sitatunga, he still had a little life in him. He gored Ivan through his hand. How the sitatunga could still have any life with a shot through both lungs and more injuries, but he did. As soon as he died they began to haul him to shore with a rope which again took all six to pull. We got down and met them as they walked out of the reeds. What a trophy!! Never in all of Raoul Ramoni's camps had any hunters taken two sitatungas. This is a very hard to hunt animal and we each have one. You never know what the bush will present!

Three new shows were made of our hunt and will be aired on Hornady's Africa on The Sportsman's Channel. One is "Hunting the Land of Legend" airing on March 5 which this publication will miss but it will probably air again. Another is "Birthplace of Safari" and will air on March 19 and re-air on June 18. I don't know the name or airing of the third.



John Greef relaxing after lunch



The "Kabubi Kabubi" when we returned to camp

A close-up of the sitatunga's hoof which is adapted to walking and swimming in the papyrus






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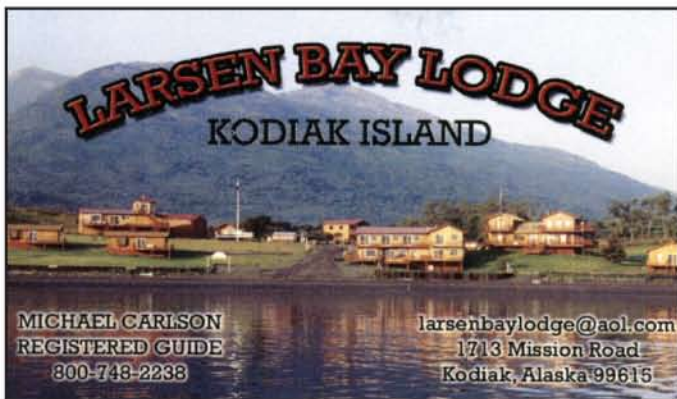


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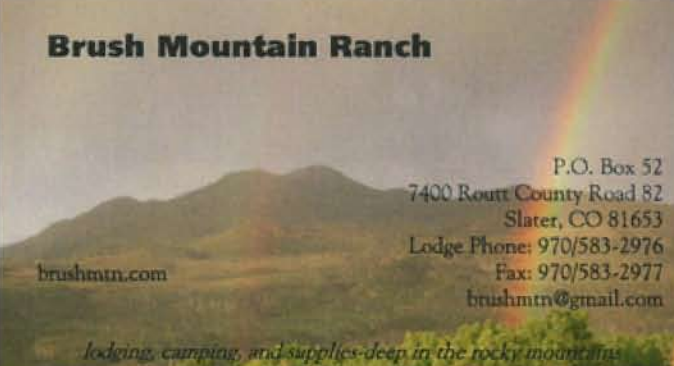
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