

FRONT SIGHT



SCI
FIRST FOR HUNTERS

Mid-Michigan Chapter Safari Club International

January-March 2016, Issue 33



Black bear in a tree and large black bear with color phase behind it near Thideman's Hepburn Lake Lodge, Northern Saskatchewan.

Photos by Mary Harter

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



JOHAN PIETERSE SAFARIS



SOUTH AFRICA
ZIMBABWE
MOZAMBIQUE



WWW.JP.SAFARIS.CO.ZA
johanpietersesafaris@tiscali.co.za

In This Issue - January - March 2016

- 2 Chapter Officers and Board Members
- 2 Meeting Schedule
- 3 President's Message
- 3 Editor's Message
- 3 Application for Membership
- 4 Book Review by Josh Christensen
Chasing the North American 29
by Dr. Terry Braden
- 5 Big Buck Night
- 6 36th Annual Awards & Hunter's Convention
- 8 Conservation Affairs
by Larry Witte
- 9 Thank You Mid Michigan SCI
by Michael Ritchie, D.C.
- 10 A Father's Dream in New Zealand
by Dan Catlin
- 12 How I Became a Hunter
by Joanne White
- 16 You want me to go where?
by Denise Jeffs
- 18 How Important is the Tracker
by Ivan Carter
- 24 *The Tracker* by Rege Podraza
- 25 Some of our successful bow hunters
- 26 50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration
by Mary Harter
- 31 Looking Ahead

Standing Committees

Chairmen are listed first

Chapter Trophy Awards - Joanne Witte, Larry Witte, Tim Becker, Brad Eldred, Roger Froling, Don Harter, Larry Higgins, Scott Holmes, Joe Mulders, Bill Shelt, Art Street.

Conservation/Govt. Affairs - Larry Witte, Jim Walker

Dispute Resolution - Kevin Unger, Joe Mulders, Jon Zieman

Matching Grants - Jon Zieman

Front Sight Publication - Mary Harter

Education - Chad Stearns

Membership - Kevin Chamberlain

Nominating - Kevin Unger, Joe Mulders, Jon Zieman

Programs - Roger Froling

Big Buck Night - Mike Strobe, Kevin Unger, Tim Schafer, Scott Holmes, Jim Walker, Randy Raymond

Annual Awards Banquet/Fundraiser - Joe Mulders, Abbe Mulders, Don Harter, Mary Harter, Tim Schafer, Mike Strobe, Kevin Unger, Joanne Witte, Larry Witte

Outfitter Donations - Roger Froling, Kevin Unger

Shooting Sports - Tim Schafer

Humanitarian Services -

Pathfinders - Randy Raymond

Sportsmen Against Hunger - Mike Strobe

Public Relations - Jim Walker



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 2506 and changes yearly on February 15th. Please carry membership identification on you when you visit the range.



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 website for copies of the Front Sight, listing of events, and fundraiser auction items.

Please support our sponsors! Call or write them for catalogs and information on their products and services. Make sure you tell them you saw their information in **The Front Sight**.

PRESIDENT & FUNDRAISING CHAIR

Joe Mulders
5700 Four Mile Road
Bay City, MI 48706
h 989 686-0118, c 989 450-8727
jhmlders55@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Jon J. Zieman
4410 N. Verity Road
Sanford, MI 48657-9388
h 989 687-9712
w 989 636-6336
jjzieman@tds.net

TREASURER

Scott Holmes
3894 Hiawatha Meadows Drive
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
h 989 772-6081, c 989 560-1949
scott@ljskitchens.com

SECRETARY

Joanne Witte
11219 Birch Park Drive
Stanwood, MI 49346-7564
h 231 796-4927, c 231 250-5528
witte1939@charter.net

EDITOR

Mary Harter
1375 N. Cedar Point Drive
Weidman, MI 48893
h 989 644-2333, c 989 506-3577
harter65@gmail.com

SCI EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Don Harter
1375 N. Cedar Point Drive
Weidman, MI 48893
h - 989 644-2333, c - 989 330-1065
harter65@gmail.com

SCI BOARD OF DIRECTORS, SCI INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

Larry Higgins
1894 Kosiara Rd.
Gaylord, MI 49735
h - 989 732-0728, c - 989 370-0645
lbhprwt@gmail.com

REGION 19 REPRESENTATIVE

Stony Bing
4877 Brookstone Dr. NE
Rockford, MI 49341
616 866-4374

DIRECTORS

Roger Froling
1000 Dildine
Ionia, MI 48846-9584
h 616 527-4622, c 616 291-0066
rfroling@chartermi.net

Larry Witte
11219 Birch Park Drive
Stanwood, MI 49346-7564
h 231 796-4927
c 231 250-5538
witte1939@charter.net

Tim Schafer
1406 LaPearl Rd.
Weidman, MI 48893
h 989 644-3291, c 989 506-3516
customhomesandwoodworking@gmail.com

Mike Strobe
1100 Bollman Drive
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
h 989 772-1863, c 989 506-1113
mstrobebuilder@gmail.com

Randy Raymond
9459 Pere Marquette
Clare, MI 48617-9112
h 989 465-1648
blackbear.randy@gmail.com

Jim Walker
1936 S. MacKenzie Lane
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
stillwalks@yahoo.com
c 989 205-6570

Chad M. Stearns
155 W. Love Road
Stanford, MI 48657
w - 989 386-1523
c - 989 600-4077
cstearns@jayssportinggoods.com

Doug Chapin
5619 60th Avenue
Remus, MI 49340-9720
h - 231-972-0535
o - 231-972-2106
c - 231 349-4059
chapinfarm07@gmail.com

Kevin Chamberlain
3516 W. Pickard Road
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
h - 989-773-0502
c - 989-400-9510
kevinchamberlain88@gmail.com

Jeff Harrison
2253 Enterprise Drive
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
w - 989-772-6266
c - 517-204-5491
jeff.harrison@burchtank.com

Mary Browning
6030 Madeira Drive
Lansing, MI 48917
h - 517 886-3639
ltc05@sbcglobal.net

In order to help us bolster new membership,
Jay's Sporting Goods of Clare and Gaylord is
generously offering a \$35.00 gift card for every
new member to our local chapter.
Contact Kevin Chamberlain for more information.
National SCI Dues are now only \$35.00 so it has
never been so easy to join us.

SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter Meeting Schedule

* SUBJECT TO CHANGE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Type</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 22	Big Buck Night - Board	3:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
	Big Buck Night - Membership	5:00 p.m.	Comfort Inn
February 26-27	Mid-Michigan SCI Convention		Soaring Eagle Resort
April 4	Board	4:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
May 2	Board	4:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
August 1	Board/Budget	4:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
September 5	TBA		Harter's
October 3	Board	4:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
December 5	Board	4:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn

Reservations required. Please call and leave a message at 989-330-4463
or email Maxine Warner at maxiwar27@gmail.com

President's Message

I hope everyone had a safe enjoyable summer. It is late October as I write this greeting and I have been in the woods several days this past week deer hunting. It is just a great time of the year in the outdoors, the mornings are crisp, even frosty sometimes, the leaves are falling rapidly, the smells are outstanding and the afternoons and evenings are pretty mild. The bucks are raring to go, but the does have no interest in them. It's fun to watch the antics! Hope you are spending all the time to can with friends and family this fall season.



Upcoming events of your club:

1) Big Buck Night is Saturday January 10th at the Comfort Inn, 2424 S. Mission, Mt. Pleasant. You should have recently received an invitation, register and pass the invitation along to friends. Bring in any rack you shot during the 2015 whitetail and mule deer seasons and get it both scored and entered into a drawing for a gun at no cost to you. Additional special events at this evening are also planned.

2) International Convention February 3 – 6th, 2016 Las Vegas. Still time to register and participate in the largest hunting expo in the country.

3) Mid-MI SCI Chapter Fundraiser – Feb. 26th & 27th, 2016. Once again it will be held in the large Entertainment Hall at the Soaring Casino. Our goal is to continue adding non-hunt exhibitors to compliment the hunting exhibitors and appeal to a larger base of members and increase our fundraiser experience.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Mulders

Joe Mulders

President, Mid-Michigan Chapter of SCI

Editor's Message

I would like to tell you a little about the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). They are the largest group fighting against our hunting rights and have set their goal to destroy Safari Club International, because we are the largest hunting group. Many people donate to HSUS not knowing what their donation is doing. HSUS says over 80% of donations go to the animals but in reality less than 1% actually goes directly to help animals. The rest goes to fighting hunting and their payroll and pension plans (\$38.6 million annually). During our recent work to pass the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act to protect our hunting rights they spent over \$800,000 of their donated money right here in Michigan to fight against its passage. They fight similar causes all over the U.S. They say they will stop hunting species by species. Their CEO, Wayne Pacelle is so extreme that he thinks even eating an egg is murder. Many people like to make donations to worthy causes this time of year and I tell my friends who would like to make a donation to animals and shelters to take dog or cat food directly to the local shelters. They could also call the local shelters and see just what they need like cat litter and cleaning supplies. Giving products instead of money guarantees that it will stay local and actually help the animals they would like to help.

Hope everyone is enjoying the hunting season. Hope to see you all at the Big Buck Night and Convention. What wonderful times to talk about all of our hunting adventures.

Keep Hunting and
Keep Writing,

Mary J. Harter



Mid - Michigan Chapter Safari Club International • 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. ☐

☐ HOME

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

☐ BUSINESS

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

MEMBERSHIP DUES (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE)

18 +	1 Year	\$ 35 National Dues	\$ 25 Local Dues	= \$ 60
	3 Years	\$ 150 National Dues	\$ 75 Local Dues	= \$ 225
	Life	\$1500 National Dues	\$300 Local Dues	= \$ 1,800
	Over 60	\$1250 National Dues	\$200 Local Dues	= \$ 1,450

Check/Cash attached \$ _____

Bill my credit card: VISA MASTERCARD DISCOVER (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE)

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

NAME ON THE CARD _____

APPLICANTS SIGNATURE _____

SPONSORS NAME _____

DATE OF APPLICATION _____

SPONSORS ADDRESS _____


SCI
FIRST FOR HUNTERS

Mid-Michigan SCI

P.O. Box 486

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0486

Book Review

by Josh Christensen

Title: CHASING THE NORTH AMERICAN 29

Author: Dr. Terry Braden

Publisher: ABM Publications

Copyright: 2014

List Price: \$44.68



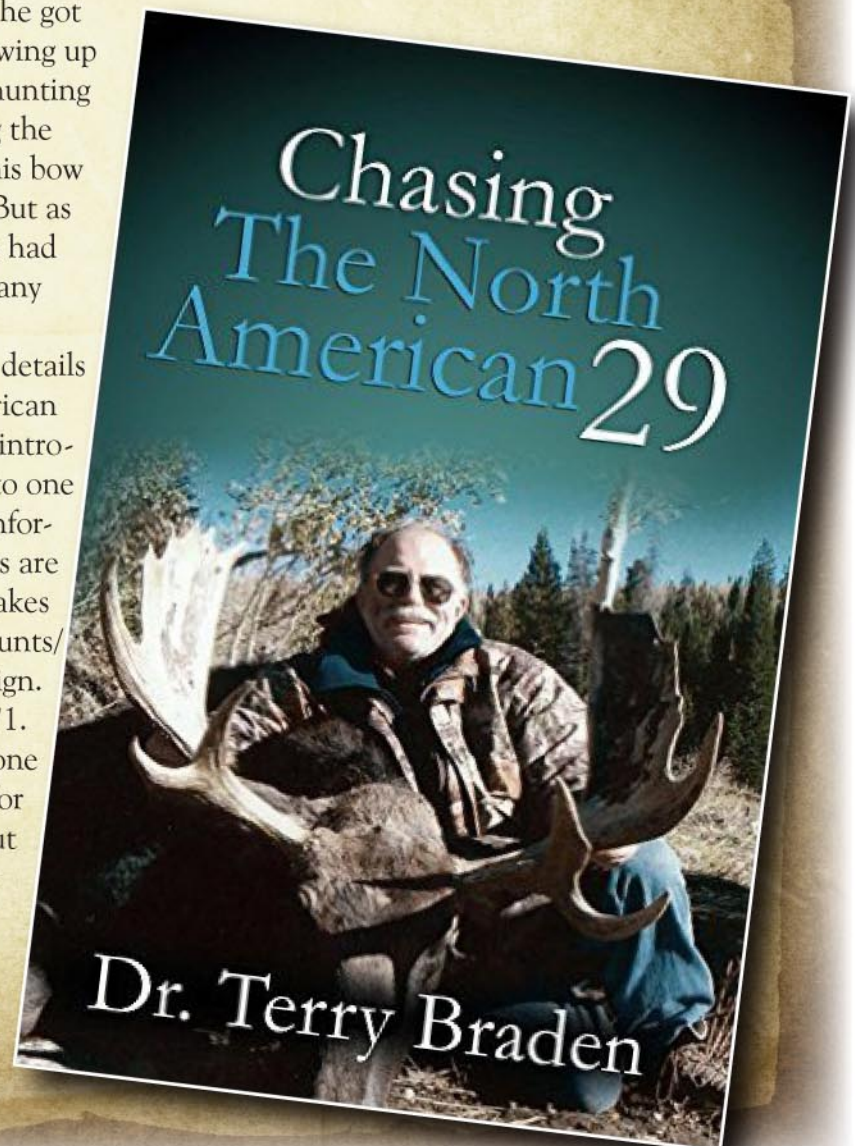
Not only is Dr. Terry Braden an accomplished big game hunter, but he is also a very active member of SCI; working on the record book committee at the National level as the North American Chair for eight years as well as being a member of our Mid-Michigan Chapter. Unfortunately for Terry, he got a late start into hunting. As a boy growing up near Milwaukee his opportunities for hunting were few and far between, only getting the opportunity to hunt small game with his bow and arrow (sometimes in city parks). But as his first chapter explains he has always had the drive, and since college has had many hunting adventures.

As the title suggests, this book details Dr. Braden's quest for the North American 29 (these animals are discussed in the introduction). Each chapter is designated to one of the 29 species taken with detailed information about each hunt. The chapters are all independent of one another and makes for a good read. Dr. Braden kept his hunts/chapters in chronological order by design. With the first hunt taking place in 1971.

Books written in this manner, one hunt per chapter, are enjoyable reads for me. It is designed so the reader can put the book down at any time and pick it back up without missing a beat. Another aspect of the book I found fascinating is Dr. Braden included the cost of several of his hunts. Comparing the

cost he paid on his hunts to the current going rate was interesting.

This book gets 9 out of 10 bullseyes



**Mid Michigan Chapter of
Safari Club International**
presents

Big Buck Night

Open to the Public

Friday, January 22nd at the Comfort Inn
2424 S. Mission • Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Adults \$25 • Kids under 12 \$20 • Under 5 yrs. FREE

Call 989-330-4463 for a reservation.

Bring your rack that you shot in 2015 and get it
professionally scored plus get in the FREE gun drawing
with your scored rack.

Whitetail and Mule deer

Trophies for Non-Members • Two Prize Gun Drawings
Youth Hunters Awards • Awards for Members &
Non-Members • Special Guest Speakers •
Reduced Rate on Rooms • Free Membership Drawing
All tickets are pre-sold. Must have ticket prior to event.

Sign your
kids up
(9-15 years old) for
**FREE Hunter's
Safety Classes**
beginning
June 1, 2016

**RSVP by
Dec. 30th**

Limited Seating
Call (989) 330-4463

For more information
contact:

Mike Strobe

cell (989) 506-1113
mstropecustombuilder@
gmail.com

REGISTRATION STARTS AT 5 PM DINNER AT 7 PM

Dinner includes two entree buffet, salad bar and dessert table
Cash Bar • Free soda for the kids

Don't Miss It!

36th Annual Awards & Hunter's Convention

Our Biggest Ever!

Friday & Saturday, February 26 & 27, 2016

**Soaring Eagle Casino • 6800 Soaring Eagle Blvd.
Mt. Pleasant, Michigan**

Now with more room in the Entertainment Hall!

***Outfitters from North and South America, Africa, Europe, Asia,
New Zealand and Australia***

***Trophy Animal Displays • Carvings • Artwork • Paintings
Big Game Hunts • Fishing Trips • Guns • Auctions
Games • Exhibitors***



Sponsored by:
Safari Club International
Mid-Michigan Chapter

Friday, February 26, 2016

2:00 - 10:00 p.m. • \$5.00 Admission
Outfitters, Exhibitors, Awards and Auction

Saturday, February 27, 2016

Outfitters, Exhibitors, Banquet and Auction

10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Registration
5:00 - 6:00 p.m. Dinner
(reservations required)
6:00 - Close Live Auction

For more information, contact Joe Mulders: (989) 450-8727

Partial list of live auction items:

Check our website at: www.midmichigansci.org

- Wycon Safaris - Wynn Condict - Antelope Hunt in Wyoming
- Wycon Safaris - Wynn Condict - Archery Elk Hunt in Colorado (2)
- Hidden Horns Game Ranch - Brent Fisk - Howard City, MI - Whitetail Deer Hunt
- Fish Hunt Charters - David James - Salmon Fishing on Lake Michigan for Four
- Low's Trophy Whitetails - Whitetail Deer Hunt - Falmouth, Michigan
- Hunt 180 Outdoors - Matt Wonser - Southeastern Kansas - Five Day Whitetail Deer Hunt
- 14 KY Yellow and White Gold 16" Omega (21 grams) with slide with rhodolite garnet and diamonds (.36 ctw) - see picture
- Johan Pieterse Safaris - South Africa, 10 day hunt - Kudu, Blue Wildebeest, Impala, Warthog
- Northern Adventures Guide Service - Two 1/2 day trips for Small Mouth Bass - Traverse City Area
- Wild Spirit Guide Service - Dan Kirschner - Bobcat, Bear, and Wolf Hunts in Michigan's UP
- Hickory Creek Outfitters - Jeff Brondige - Whitetail Deer Hunt in Kansas
- Hickory Creek Outfitters - Jeff Brondige - Coyotes/Bobcat Predator Hunt in Kansas
- Jim Walker, Two 1/2 Day Fishing Trips for Small Mouth Bass on the Tittabawassee River
- Lost Creek Outfitters - Greg "Griz" and Ginger Turner - Wyoming Big Horn Basin, Mountain Lion Hunt
- Lost Creek Outfitters - Greg "Griz" and Ginger Turner - Wyoming Horseback Wilderness Fishing Trip for Two
- Hepburn Lake Lodges - Arlee Thideman - Black Bear in Saskatchewan
- Hepburn Lake Lodges - Arlee Thideman - Black Bear and Fishing in Saskatchewan
- Cascade Fur Salon, Cascade, Michigan - Fur Coat
- Hell's Half Acre Outfitters - Ronnie Davis - Southern Oregon Coast Roosevelt Elk Archery Hunt



- Hell's Half Acre Outfitters - Ronnie Davis - Southern Oregon Coast Rifle Columbia Blacktail Deer and Bear Hunt
- Hell's Half Acre Outfitters - Ronnie Davis - Southern Oregon Coast Black Bear Hunt
- Aaron Volkmar - Tails of the Hunt - Iowa Whitetail Deer Hunt
- Campeau Guiding - Alvin Campeau - Reservation, South Saskatchewan, Trophy Whitetail Deer
- Campeau Guiding - Alvin Campeau - Carragana, Saskatchewan, Trophy Whitetail Deer
- Lucky Lake Hunting Adventure - Garrett Tully - Saskatchewan, Waterfowl and Upland Birds for Four Hunters
- Bell Wildlife Specialties - Daniel Bell - Harveyville, Kansas, Eastern Wild Turkey Hunt for Four Hunters
- Bell Wildlife Specialties - Daniel Bell - Harveyville, Kansas - Trophy Whitetail Deer Hunt
- Whitrock Outfitters - Alaska - Brian Simpson - Spring Grizzly or Brown Bear Hunt
- Roger and Sherri Froling - Early Season Youth Deer Hunt - Ionia, Michigan
- Roger and Sherri Froling - Buffalo Hunt - Ionia, Michigan
- Roger and Sherri Froling - Spring Turkey Hunt - Ionia, Michigan
- Jeff Harrison of Burch Tank - Sailing Trip to Michigan's Manitou Island
- Jeff Harrison of Burch Tank - 1/2 Day Lake Michigan Fishing Trip for up to 4
- Windy Ridge Outfitters - Nick Boley - Whitetail Deer Hunt in Iowa
- Windy Ridge Outfitters - Nick Boley - Eastern Turkey Hunt in Iowa
- Double D Outfitters - Craig Schell - Mule Deer Hunt in Montana
- Majestic Mountain Outfitters - Jeff Chadd - Montana - Antelope Hunt
- Central Coastal Outfitters, Alfred Luis
- Zulu Nyala - South African Photo Safari for 2
- Iskut River Outfitters, Leuenberger - British Columbia - Mountain Goat
- Casa Pampa, Argentina - Red Stag, Water Buffalo, Sheep
- Morani River Ranch - Uvalde, Texas - Blackbuck
- Oelofse Hunting Safaris - Namibia - Plains Game

CONSERVATION AFFAIRS

By Larry Witte



CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD)

CWD was discovered in 3 deer in Meridian Township in Ingham County in 2015. The deer were found to be genetically related and were taken within 1/8 of a mile of each other. Testing continues with a goal of testing 3000 to 4000 deer. No other deer have been found with CWD at the time of this writing.

UP MOOSE POPULATION

DNR reports that the West UP moose population appears to be in decline. Supporting this is a reduction in cow/calf ratios observed from previous surveys. One of the factors which may be contributing to a decline in numbers is the very warm weather experienced recently with moose not doing well in heat and which causes an increase in parasite ticks and loss of hair.

This followed by recent back to back hard winters has the potential to affect reproduction and calf survival. In addition, the consecutive hard winters have reduced deer populations which are the primary prey of wolves in those areas that support deer and moose. It is possible that wolves are switching prey as deer become less abundant. Very few calves are sighted where wolf territories overlap with moose range.

Additional studies will be necessary. SCI has a vested interest in these moose as Michigan Safari Club chapters were instrumental in the capture and importing of Canadian Moose in the 1980's.

FERAL SWINE (RUSSIAN BOAR)

DNR has captured and radio collared several Russian Boar this past year in order to locate population centers. Movement of the boar was much greater than expected with travel up to 15 miles. Movement provides information on well-defined travel corridors. Since Michigan has a relatively small feral swine population (found in 76 of 83 counties) compared to some other states at this time, DNR is considering applying for "elimination status" with the US Department of Agriculture Wild Life Services. This would result in additional federal funding for feral swine control.

MICHIGAN WOLVES

At the time of this writing the appeal of the ruling that put wolves back on the Federal Endangered Species List continues, effectively removing them from state management. Animal rights groups recognizing that federal budget language could remove the wolves from the endangered List are attempting to settle the lawsuit but oppose hunting by sportsmen.

SCI REPRESENTED ON THE MICHIGAN SPORTSMEN'S CAUSUS ADVISORY COUNCIL

The important mission of the Council is to advance Michigan's outdoor heritage through science based wildlife and fisheries management and to protect and advance the rights and traditions of Michigan citizens to hunt, fish and recreationally shoot and trap by engaging in an open dialogue with Michigan's Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus.

Mike Leonard of the Lansing SCI chapter represents Michigan chapters on the council. Fourteen Michigan and National hunting, fishing, trapping and shooting organizations participate on the council.

SUPPORT SCI (FIRST FOR HUNTERS)

Sponsor a new SCI member for just \$35.00 now. The new member will receive all the benefits of SCI including representation by the premier hunter's organization, 7 issues of Safari Magazine, 12 issues

of Safari Times, access to the SCI Online Record Book and much more. Add a \$25.00 Mid-Michigan Chapter membership to enjoy the camaraderie and share experience and information with men and women who care about the future of hunting. New members will receive 4 issues of Mid-Michigan Chapter's award winning Front Sight Magazine and a \$35.00 gift card from Jay's Sporting Goods of Clare and Gaylord.

DNR EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR 6TH THROUGH 12TH GRADES

Educators looking for a fun way to integrate flora and fauna into their curriculum and still meet required educational standards are invited to explore the following free educational opportunities.

A year in the Life of a Michigan Black Bear is available to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade educators. Throughout the school year, students will learn about the life cycle of the Michigan black bear and general black bear biology and behavior, as well as how the DNR manages and maintains a healthy black bear population. Over the school year, students also will get to "follow" a bear through its seasonal movements by using actual data points from a radio-collared Michigan black bear.

For 9th through 12th grade educators the Elk University-Educating Tomorrow's Wildlife Managers Program. Elk University is a semester-style curriculum, developed to meet educational standards while touching on Michigan history, forest management, elk biology, wildlife disease and social considerations for wildlife management. Students will learn about how the DNR manages and maintains a healthy elk herd for current and future generations.

Visit www.michigan.gov/wildlife and click on the educator button to learn about these and other DNR wildlife education opportunities.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

If you can listen to the William Tell Overture without thinking about the Lone Ranger, you may be an intellectual. (Author Unknown)





Thank You Mid Michigan SCI

Roscommon Archery Club (RAC) and the Kings Archer's of Roscommon Baptist Church held a hunter safety class October 11, 2015. Lead by SCI mid MI members Gary Harms and Mike Ritchie with a number of state certified instructors and the DNR the class graduated 13 new safe hunters. Equipment support came from the SCI of Mid MI who helped in the purchase of youth crossbows and Genesis bows that were used in the class. "It was always our intention to take the target archery class we do and transition the students to hunting " states Mike Ritchie SCI and RAC member. "Thank You Mid-MI SCI for your supporting our efforts to be "First for Hunters"

The class included Hunting ethics and responsibility, Marksmanship and accuracy, Survival and emergency procedures, Safe Firearms handling, and of course the Golden rules of hunter safety. Craig Neal and Chuck McPherson Conservation officers from the Roscommon DNR shared rules and regulations as well as answered questions. The students spent 90 minutes on the archery, crossbow, shotgun and 22 range. Plans are making for another class next August.



"A Father's Dream in New Zealand"

BY DAN CATLIN

A Michigan rifle deer blind is where 95% of all Michigan hunters find themselves come November 15th each year. Opening Day! Ever since my girls were old enough, 5 or 6 years old, they have followed me to the woods on this monumental day and shared in the family tradition, friendships with fellow hunters and other family members, and the occasional deer to field dress and drag out of the woods. Regardless of the outcome, it has always been more about spending time together in the woods rather than about killing a deer. However, both my girls are now the ones with the rifle and love to have the encounter with a worthy deer, be it a buck or a doe; they do their part in conservation by collecting a trophy and filling the freezer with meat.

Fast-forward to 2015 and Aubree is now 17 and Grace 13. Not the typical age of having the opportunity to travel with their Dad and Stepmom Charlotte to New Zealand for a hunting adventure of a lifetime. However, the many blessings of working for The Wildlife Gallery's Team as the Sr. VP, marketing the company's brand, has aligned the stars for this family hunt. All this, along with our personal friendship with Jim and Vivian Hall, made this adventure become a reality. You see, Jim has been a loyal client of The Wildlife Gallery for over eight years; and has enjoyed Charlotte and I accompanying him on many hunting adventures over this time. We've also spent personal time with Jim and Vee at their horse ranch in Pennsylvania. There, we were also honored and blessed to work on Jim's huge trophy room...that is more of a museum. The girls and I have enjoyed many great times in PA with Jim and Vee and feel more like part of their family than anything else.

Now it's July 2015 and we all meet up at Detroit Metro Airport for the long journey to Cardrona Safaris on the South Island of New Zealand. This is our second trip to Cardrona Safaris and we were not disappointed. The accommodations, personal service, and friendships make this one of the greatest hunting destinations on earth. After what seemed like two days of travel (well I think it actually was) we arrived in Queens Town and met with Duncan Fraser,

owner of Cardrona Safaris. We made our way to the lodge and spent time taking in the views of this incredible land. Aubree and Grace were in disbelief that they were even there.



Day one found us at the range to ensure the rifles were sighted in and once this was accomplished we drove to a high mountain lookout area to begin glassing for stag. There was a bull in particular that Duncan knew would score close to, or maybe even bigger, than 700". After a couple hours of glassing, taking pictures with the girls and getting acquainted with the beauty of this land, Jim's bull was spotted. At this point we watched him from over a 1/2 mile away waiting for the bull to settle in for an afternoon nap, which would give us the opportunity to stalk in closer for a shot. It was unreal that our first big stag encounter was the biggest bull in this mountain range, but we would take the good fortune and move in to position for a shot.

With Jim's knees starting to fail him over the last few years, it was a challenge to get him up and over the mountain and within range for a shot. It also took us a couple hours to get within shooting range. Once we were set up, and the bull was feeding below us, Jim made a well-placed shot that dropped the big stag in his tracks. Because the canyon was so rugged we thought it was best for me to go down and recover the trophy. Duncan called for the helicopter and we lifted this majestic beast out of the backcountry to the lawn at our lodge, which was a breath-taking backdrop for photos. These were memories we wouldn't soon forget.

Day two was planned around me, Aubree and Grace taking a helicopter into the backcountry after high mountain tahr. The weather was perfect, but we took our motion sickness pills anyway. Aubree and I were ultra sensitive with the aerobatic maneuvers while Grace was constantly begging for more. She is definitely the daredevil of our family. It didn't take long and we spotted a worthy bull



tahr. Marcus (our guide), Grace and I were dropped off on a snow packed cliff looking across the canyon at this incredible trophy making his way up the cliffs. He was around 130 yards when we got Grace stable on the shooting sticks. She wasted no time when she was told to shoot, and the second the old bull stopped she made a perfect shot that started the tahr rolling down the snow cliff falling nearly 200 feet in elevation. Grace was so excited and her reaction was genuine! What an incredible moment for a father and daughter.

Aubree was up next and we zeroed in on another great trophy tahr. Again the pilot and Marcus chose a spot where we could get out to set up for a short stalk and shot at this majestic trophy bull. When the helicopter flew off we saw the tahr move up and into a small cave. However the bull stood with his check exposed looking straight down on us. It was a very difficult 100 yard shot straight up hill; but when Marcus asked Aubree if she could make the shot, she responded with an assertive "Yes". Quickly the safety went off and the shot rang out. The tahr fell straight to the ground he was standing on. Another one shot, one kill for the girls!

Certainly a proud moment for a father because I knew our prior practice paid off. Both trophies were flown to a high mountain peak where we all celebrated and took some of the most amazing photos ever.

When we arrived back at the lodge, about 1pm, Jim had already collected the #1 South Pacific Fallow Deer and a very rare white stag. Jim was also fortunate enough to hunt and collect a white tahr that is also very rare. These trophies will be mounted and proudly displayed in Jim's trophy room as another representation of animals Jim has hunted around the world.

From there it was back out for Charlotte to hunt stag with Aubree. We all spent a couple hours together glassing from a high vantage point until some nice bulls were spotted. Then Charlotte, Aubree and Duncan headed out on foot to make their way in to a position they could better evaluate the trophies. I wasn't on this hunt, but heard the exciting stories many times. Charlotte's stag was spotted first, and after she made a solid shot the stag ran over the top out of sight. As they were preparing to go investigate the shot Charlotte made on

her stag, the one Duncan had been looking at for Aubree appeared from below them and started across an open meadow in the mountain. It was the perfect setting for a "double"! Aubree also made a great shot and the recovery/photo taking was on. We all gathered to celebrate as a family, and the pictures taken on top of that mountain will remain in our family for generations to come.

Last up was Grace for a red stag. We spent a couple days searching both high and low for a mature bull that we could make a stalk on. Finally on the afternoon of

the fifth day, we were sitting on a high vantage point and a beautiful old bull came out of the brush below us. It was around 300 yards away so we patiently waited for the bull to feed out of sight so we could make a play on him before dark. I felt we needed to be within 200 yards before I would let Grace take a shot. Charlotte and Aubree stayed at their high mountain look out as Marcus, Grace and I started our decent down towards where the bull went in the creek bottom. It took us some time to relocate the bull; but once we did he was only about 100 yards away. We placed Grace in a seated position and rested her rifle on the Bog Pod rest while we waited for the stag to present a good shot. Within minutes Grace had anchored her trophy with a couple of well-placed shots. Again, we approached Grace's trophy as a family, which made the experience even more special.

To conclude this adventure Duncan arranged for a last day helicopter tour of some of the most scenic places on earth. We pulled lobster pots from the sea and landed in a remote mountain resort for an incredible feast! This trip will definitely go down as one of the most memorable family adventures and hunts that my girls and I will ever take part in. Thank you Jim & Vivian Hall for making this happen, and thanks to Duncan Fraser and Cardrona Safaris for being the most gracious hosts in all of New Zealand!!!



How I Became a Hunter

BY JOANNE WITTE

My husband, Larry, says that with regard to my hunting, he created a monster. Here is how it all came about.

I come from a family of non-hunters. My first husband and I spent our time playing bridge, attending the theater, and taking family vacations around the country. I believed the things I read in the paper and heard on the news about "gun nuts" and the importance of keeping guns out of the hands of the public. Heaven forbid, I was even a Democrat precinct delegate once in a suburb of Lansing where we lived. My husband was a civil engineer who worked for the highway department and spent hours and hours of his time serving on the Waverly School Board.

We were not really anti-hunting; we were more anti-gun. Then when my children were 12, 15, and 18, my husband died of cancer after being terminally ill for 18 months. Naturally it was a heart rending experience for me and my children.

About a year later I told my good friend that I was ready to date. She exclaimed, "Jim, (her husband) we have to introduce Joanne to your boss Larry." Larry, also a civil engineer, was chief of the Water Management Division in DNR and divorced. A blind date was arranged and the rest is history.

As soon as I met Larry I found out he was born and raised in Iron Mountain MI to a family where his mother was Italian and his father was German. Hunting was a way of life and a major factor in whether or not the family had meat.

I decided I had better try hunting or I was going to be alone a lot. The first time I shot a rifle I was hooked. This was fun. I could actually hit the target. Larry was extremely careful about gun handling and safety and ethical hunting. He was no "gun nut" and neither were any of the people I met who he hunted with. They were all careful, respectful of the power of firearms, and concerned with safety while using firearms. Had I been misled all these years?

Larry started me out with a .243 while deer hunting on his Dad's 40 acres near Stanwood. My first year out I did not have a scope so I told him I really needed a scope. The second

year I shot a doe with a scope and was I thrilled! He was able to stay and hunt longer but I had to return to my teaching job in Lansing so I drove with the deer on the car and hung it up in our garage to be dealt with later. I called my friend who had introduced us and told her and she was as thrilled as I was.

From the .243 I graduated to a 7mm 08. Larry said for long range shooting I needed to be able to shoot a .270. I was working my way up. Now my favorite rifle is a .300WSM that I won at Lansing's first SCI banquet. On 2 occasions I shot a .375—once for Cape buffalo in Africa and once for Water Buffalo in Florida.

After several years of deer hunting I asked Larry if there was something we could hunt other than deer in the fall in Michigan. He said we could try bear hunting. That sounded like a great idea to me.

The next year we went to Amasa in the UP and hunted with a guide recommended by a colleague of Larry's. I actually shot a bear. What fun! When I got back to my job as assistant principal at the largest el-



**Larry's bear - Amasa, MI
(9/87)**



Three caribou in the boat. (9/89)



Joanne's first bear - Amasa, MI (9/87)

elementary school in Lansing, North School, I told my Principal. My job was to supervise the special education staff for the Ingham Intermediate School District programs for Physically and Otherwise Health Impaired students, Hearing Impaired students, and a staff of Physical and Occupational Therapists, Teacher Consultants, Teachers, a Psychologist and handle discipline for 600 students. My Principal was a very genteel lady from Texarkana Arkansas. She had grown up in a rural community with a father who guided hunters and she announced over the intercom that "Dr. Witte shot a bear". I received lots of kudos. The only one who had a problem was the school psychologist. Shooting the bear stood me in very good stead in the discipline department. The kids would ask, "Are you the one who shot the bear?" No problems after that. That was the first of more than a dozen bear hunts in the UP and Canada.

Larry said we were now ready for antelope hunting in Wyoming where the shots would be long. I used my 7mm08 successfully. I downed my first antelope with one shot but it was the 11th shot. I didn't realize how far away the animal was when I started shooting. So I kept shooting while getting closer and closer. (I had to refill my 4 shot clip twice.) The antelope didn't know where the shots were coming from or what they were until it was too late. We had several great hunting trips to Wyoming back in the days when you could pay a trespass fee and hunt on your own on a ranch. We still exchange Christmas cards with the family in Newcastle Wyoming where we hunted. Unfortunately their antelope population declined and when we could no longer hunt there we hunted antelope in other places.

About this time I read an article in a hunting magazine about a place to hunt deer in South Carolina. We checked on it and decided to go. They had many stands and many hunters and no limit on the number of deer you could shoot. Their season lasted from Aug. 15 to Jan. 1. They also wanted you to shoot as many feral hogs as you could. Eventually we joined the hunt club and went there for about 12 years, several times a year. It was a long drive. The camp employed a wildlife biologist who did experiments every year relating to different aspects of deer management and development. We hunted along the Savanna River and had many great experiences until the rules changed and we dropped out. That biologist is now the deer specialist for the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources.

During the years I tried wing shooting several times



Wyoming antelope. Look at the hair!! (10/91)



Deer on our property at Chippewa Lake. (11/88)



One of those geese is the one that almost hit me. (8/91)

but I am no good at that. Once we hunted in the UP with a friend of Larry's and the only goose I shot would have hit me in the head if I had not shot it. So much for that! Larry continued goose hunting for several years.

Our first big hunting trip out of the states was to northern Quebec for caribou in September of 1989. I was very apprehensive. I was going to have to hunt with no hair dryer, no shower, an outdoor toilet, and sleep in a tent in a sleeping bag. I was not sure I could handle this. Larry persuaded me it would be OK. We did have a bottle of bourbon in our suitcase. The Director of DNR, a friend of Larry's, had given his spot to us because he could not go at that time.

We drove to Montreal and flew from there to Northern Quebec. Little did we all know that the camp had changed hands and was now run by an inexperienced outfitter. We flew to camp in an Otter with the luggage and guns piled up in front of the hunters just waiting to fall down on us. During the boat trip from where the plane landed to camp our boat did not have a plug. As it started to sink we beached on a sandbar and waited for rescue in the rain.

Some beginning to my big trip!

Eventually we arrived at camp. There were two French Canadian guides and the rest were Inuit, friends of the new owner. Every night the generator in the cook tent ran out of gas and one of the staff had to run outside fill it. The French Canadians could not understand why the Inuits did not fill the generator before it ran out.

I quickly deduced that the two French Canadian guides were the only ones who knew what they were doing. Larry told me that in this situation the guide you got the first morning was the one you had the entire 5 days. I said, "We have to get one of those French Canadians." He said, "I can't do that". I said, "I am a girl. I can do that. I will rush down to the river tomorrow and get one of the French guys". So I did and we got Harold Henderson. He was great. We went down the river in a boat every day. It rained every day. We had rifles with wooden stocks and decided when we got home we would get rifles with synthetic stocks. Harold built a fire every day, sometimes in the rain, and we had tea and lunch.

Each day we cruised the river looking for caribou. We had missed the migration. One day in response to my query about where we should go, Harold said, "Makes no difference. No f---ing caribou anyway". Still we kept trying. On one occasion Harold found a huge rock, carried it over to the fire, patted it and said, "Sit here missus, just fits you're a---". Harold's first language was French so he had some interesting English expressions and vocabulary.

At one point Harold spotted a caribou on the shore while we were bouncing around in the boat and Larry shot it from the moving boat. We could each shoot two animals—male or female.

This was my first experience with black flies and they got me good every time the temperature reached 40 degrees. The food in camp was delicious. Fresh bread and rolls every day and homemade soup. One night we had fish and I asked the American assistant what that was. He said it was poached salmon with hollandaise sauce. The cook also made something she called "wind pudding" which was a pudding/cake with a hard sauce. I have tried to replicate that but without success.



Our biggest caribou. (9/89)

During one of our excursions, Harold spotted three bulls crossing the river while we sat on the bank. He said, "They's(sic) three bulls. We gonna get them." We ran down the shore until we could get a good view of the bulls. As they got to the bank we shot all three. We were the only hunters who filled up. There were 9 hunters in camp, all from Michigan. Seven bulls were shot (3 of them ours) and 4 cows (1 was ours).

We could also bear hunt if we wanted to. There was a bear raiding the meat shed down by the water. Harold wondered why they did not rig up a light to keep the bear away. Finally he rigged up a trap and a shotgun that would take care of the bear when he reached for the bait. His plan worked and no more bear bothered the meat.

After shooting our caribou Harold took us fishing. We caught arctic char and Harold fried them over an open fire for lunch. They were the best fish I have ever eaten. He always carried a frying pan and salt and oil in his backpack.

By the time we got home I was a seasoned hunter. I could handle adverse conditions. Because it rained even in Quebec we decided when we got home that we would get stainless steel rifles with synthetic stocks. I had resisted synthetic stocks because they were so ugly. For our 10th wedding anniversary Larry gave me a stainless steel Browning A-Bolt .270 with a synthetic stock and it was black and pretty. He also bought himself one and they have consecutive serial numbers.

Our next big adventure began in the summer of 2000 when we visited some friends near Onaway who showed us pictures of their Africa hunting trip. We exclaimed over the pictures and on the way home I said to Larry, "We could do that now that we are retired." He was skeptical but finally agreed with me that we could. Then in Sept, 2001 we took our first trip to Africa and the rest is history. We have been to Africa 8 times as well as to several other countries.

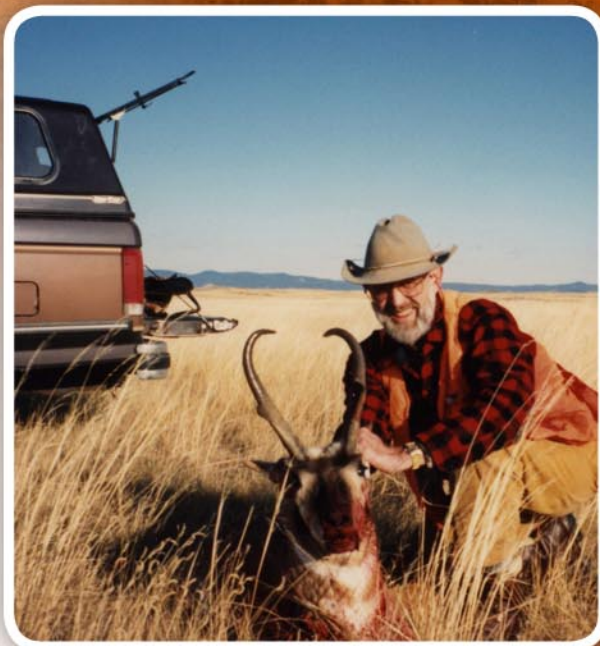
My children still don't really understand my passion and it is my fault because that is how I raised them. My son is a Sargent in the Ann Arbor Police Department so he gets it. He tried hunting with us when he was a teenager and really liked it and was good at it. But when he got involved in college and then started working nights and weekends after graduation he could no longer get time to hunt. His 13 year old son has started hunting with us and also enjoys it and is good at it.

One of my daughters is a nurse and lives outside of St. Louis MO. She is pleased about my accomplishments but does not really understand why I like it so much.

My other daughter is a fund raiser for MSU. Her son also hunts with us and loves it. Her daughter extolled my virtues to her friends when she was in grade school and they did not believe her. I was the "hunting grandma". She called and asked what she could do to convince them. I asked her if sending pictures would help so I did. Later when I asked her what her friends said, she said, "They said, 'sorry'".

If I had not met Larry I think my life would have taken a completely different turn. I am very grateful to him for helping me find something I love to do and am good at. It is not just the shooting that I love. I love being in the outdoors and seeing all that goes on. If I was not sitting there quietly I would miss many wonderful sights.

Thank you Larry.



Wyoming antelope. (10/91)



Hog in South Carolina. (10/96)

You want me to go where?

BY DENISE JEFTS



"How would you like to go to Africa," asked my husband Paul. Since he had asked me twice before, I was on somewhat of a "guilt trip." I was very skeptical as I am not a hunter and I didn't think I would enjoy it. But since I had said no both times before, when he bought the hunt at Safari Club, I knew Africa was in my future.

We left for Namibia on September 9. This is the end of their winter so I expected colder weather. The mornings were cool, but the afternoons would warm up into the 80's with almost no humidity. This made it very pleasant to be outdoors. In my opinion, that's the time to go.

When we arrived at the airport in Windhoek, Namibia, we were greeted by our driver from the lodge. We embarked on the three hour trip to the main lodge at Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris. The owners, Annette and son Alex Oelofse, greeted us upon arrival. We learned that that particular lodge is for non-hunters. After getting acquainted, we were then whisked away by jeep to our destination, Elephant Lodge. We quickly learned that jeep rides would become a very familiar mode of transportation as that is basically how you get most everywhere.

Upon arrival at camp, we were met by Brigitte, the camp manager. The rest of the staff, Naomi (chef), Tessa (waitress and cleaner), Tuhafeni (cleaner and laundry) and Moses (gardener and cleaner), were on hand also. They would become very famil-

iar throughout our stay.

The rooms were first class, complete with a refrigerator stocked with drinks, snacks, a walk-in shower, comfortable beds and towels so thick I thought I had grabbed a blanket! There are no TV's, radios or clocks at the lodge. We would learn that wake-up calls consisted of Brigitte knocking on our door and calling out, "Good morning."

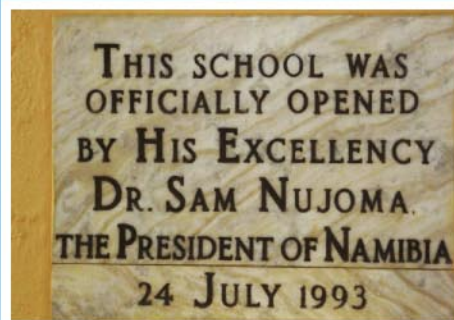
Breakfast and lunch were served in a special room. Food was made available for an ample amount of time so we could eat at our convenience. Supper was served when the hunters returned in a separate room called the "Lapa." Each meal was prepared by our chef Naomi with assistance from Brigitte. Supper included a starter, salad, side dishes, two meats, one of which was some sort of wild game, and a jaw-dropping dessert. One evening we had "McDonald's back strap," according to Brigitte. That refers to the impala as the three black markings on its backside look like the McDonald's "M."

Paul went hunting each day with his PH, Steve, a ruggedly handsome man. Steve came to Namibia from Los Angeles at the age of 18 and has been there ever since.

I went with Paul hunting for a day and a half. That was good for me as I knew I was not going to want to go along every day. I have nothing against hunting; it just is not something I have an interest in doing. On the days I did not tag along, Paul and Steve would stay out all day. This meant they would have a lunch packed for them. This "packed lunch" consisted of china plates, real silverware and glass glasses! One such lunch consisted of chicken, potato salad, fruits, vegetables, muffins and dessert. Sorry, but when I pack a lunch at home, it's going to be peanut butter.

One morning Robin (another lady in camp) and I went on a photo safari. This was an amazing experience. Our guide, Naftali, showed us various birds, trees and plants along with those nasty thorns (which





are everywhere). We even found some ostrich eggs. We also asked him if we could find the elephants and he delivered.

This safari consisted of more jeep riding as I mentioned earlier. They are experiencing a severe drought so each time we went out, we drove over acres of parched earth crisscrossed with rutted roads and two-tracks in various stages of "roughness." The lifeless vegetation made us wonder how the animals found anything to eat.

However, during the time we were there, the trees and bushes were beginning to leaf out.

The following day Brigitte took Robin and me on a ladies day out to Omaruru, a town about an hour from camp. We stopped at a market complete with armed guards, had lunch at a tea garden, bought some souvenirs made by the locals and even went to a shop where they made chocolate candies.

Since I was not hunting every day, I spent a fair amount of time reading and sitting at the picnic area by the pool. This is the perfect place to relax since directly on the other side of the pool—maybe 200 feet away—all sorts of animals wander in and out all day. I watched zebra, rhinos (including a mother and her baby), warthogs, waterbuck, baboons, sable, impala, and the list goes on. I can say that the two or three days I spent observing the animals were heaven. I thought, "Does it get any better than this?"

Our last day included a trip to the Mount Etjo Private School with our "blue bag" provided by Safari Club International. This school is located close to the main lodge for area children as well as children of the lodge employees. It is funded by Annette, Alex and his wife Carola Oelofse along with whatever donations they receive.

The school has about 37 students in grades 1-6, two teachers and two classrooms. The computer used by the staff was very old. When we arrived, the children were having breakfast. We watched as they sang to us and danced for us. Some of the students were painting while others played on the playground. The playground consisted of brightly painted tires in various sizes that they used for climbing and other recess activities.

The blue bag held soccer balls and other various balls which excited the children. In addition to the balls, there were classroom supplies such as paper, crayons and notebooks which the

teachers appreciated. There was also a large bag of Tootsie Rolls. We handed out candy and were treated to a lovely thank-you song.

The children were very polite and were excited to see visitors. We noticed one little girl with a deformed foot. She seemed to adapt and managed to find a way to run and play in spite of it. We were told she had cerebral palsy.

There was also a young boy pushing around a toy that resembled a lawn mower. We were told that the children built it themselves from scrap metal.

An interesting perk on our flight from Johannesburg to Windhoek was that we were upgraded to first class. Could it have been because of our blue bag? Paul thinks so. In any event, we'll take it!

Paul asked me if I would do this again, to which I replied, "Yes!" As a non-hunter, I had a marvelous time. The serenity of the area and the magnificence of the animals was more than I imagined. The Oelofse Family succeeded in maintaining the grandeur of the surroundings. It was one of the most relaxing and enjoyable vacations I have had—first-class accommodations, a top-notch staff, excellent meals, perfect weather and scenery beyond compare. You can't top that.

As for Paul—he will bring home seven animals. I don't have to ask him if he would do it again. We may not have the opportunity to return, but we came home with a host of photos and memories to share.



The SCI Blue Bag is one of national's main humanitarian projects. The Jefts's Safari was the first blue bag project for Mid Michigan SCI. The chapter fills the bag, makes sure all rules are followed for customs and will assist you with any other help needed. The board would like to expand the program to more projects next year.

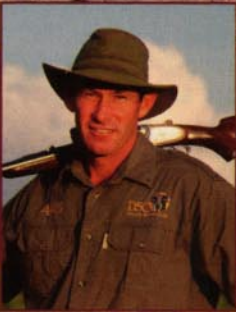
If you are interested in carrying a blue bag on your next safari or want more info contact Doug Chapin.
Phone-231-349-4059

E-mail- chapinfarm07@gmail.com

The board would like to thank Paul and Denise for volunteering to carry our first Blue Bag.

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE

*Reprinted with permission from
African Outfitter, May/June 2013*



Ivan Carter

tracker?

Leaving the truck with Willie and Andrew on the tracks of two buffalo bulls, this was the start of a five-hour walk where we returned empty-handed but with memories of a great hunt. Without these two guys we wouldn't have even seen the bulls.

In the black velvet sky the stars were so crisp it felt as if you could almost reach up and touch them – the warm humid night air carried the sounds of elephants crashing through the shoulder-high cornfield. A Scops owl chirped in the woodland, six seconds between each chirrup of its distinct call ... and a muffled drumbeat from a distant village drifted through the valley.

The young professional hunter followed the old tracker into the fields behind him. The camp skinner, a well-muscled young man, who was in the habit of wearing his coveralls tied around his waist and a faded Chicago Bulls baseball cap, carried a car battery and spotlight. The battery was removed from the Series 2 Land Rover that was parked 2 km from the field. The young man's nerves were stretched tight as a bowstring – had it been daylight one would have clearly seen the white knuckles of his hands as he gripped his

grandfather's .425 Westley Richards with a mixture of fear and excitement – mostly fear.

It was PAC time (Problem Animal Control). During the green season the elephants routinely wreaked havoc among the village corn, pumpkin and peanut fields and they were seen as a menace. The outfitter who had the hunting rights to this area in Northern Zimbabwe also had the responsibility of helping the villagers with this problem – not only for the sake of the villagers but also in a bid to give value to the wildlife and prove to the villagers that the game was not just vermin, but with management and marketing also had great value. It was a huge undertaking, requiring long night hours, and it always fell on the shoulders of the apprentice or junior members of the team to spend endless nights chasing elephants out of fields, following false reports and generally trying their best to contain the problem. This was not only a great responsibility for a young man at the start of his career but also brought with it a great deal of experience with dangerous game in a short period of time. It was truly trial by fire and the scene that was unfolding that night was the starting point of many professional hunters' careers, particularly in Zimbabwe.



"When we get close I will tell Davidson to turn on the light and you shoot," the old man whispered back towards the boy as they quietly followed the rows of corn, trying their best to be quiet. He suddenly stopped; he had seen a silhouette and stooped down to get a better view. Then he whispered back to the group, "We're close, be ready." The young man's mouth went dry, fear coursing through his veins. Playing over and over in his head were the words: "Don't shoot high, keep your shot lower than you think – you will be very close." Wise words indeed from a veteran elephant hunter. Amid the hundred other instructions and words of advice, this was the one that stood out and dominated his thoughts.

All of a sudden the area in front of the hunter was flooded with the glare of the spotlight, the reflection of light off the corn stalks momentarily blinding the group. The young man could see nothing between the stalks, "Look up, look up!" the old man urgently hissed and there, towering over them, indeed seeming to touch the sky, was the largest elephant that had ever walked the planet. His ivory disappeared into the corn, his giant ears spread as he explored this intrusion into his world, his small red eyes glowed in the harsh light as he swung his head from side to side, trying to determine whether to flee or to simply crush the disturbance underfoot.

"Shoot bwana, shoot NOW!" The young man, jolting from his trance, lifted the rifle and looked down the iron sights. Practically invisible between the chaos of the

A 70-pounder taken in Botswana and my lead tracker Bashop, without whom I would have had far less success on my hunts.

moment and the glare of the spotlight, the world moved in slow motion while the dust drifted peacefully through the air. It seemed quiet; nothing else existed except him and this elephant – his first close encounter. At just 6 yards, in the glare of the spotlight that he had modelled from an old Land Rover headlamp, he could see every dust-encrusted wrinkle on the giant elephant's face. Wise words – the words of his grandfather, who had taken many, many elephants with this very rifle – calmly coursed through his brain: "Look for his ear holes, old boy, and put the bullet right between them." The fear evaporated and his rifle steadied. He pulled the trigger ... The gun roared and the scene instantly transformed into a swirling mass of dust and gun smoke. The bull hesitated for a second, then dropped his huge head and staggered towards the little party of humans that had shattered his peace. Automatically the young man reloaded and as the gun roared again a loud trumpet filled the air. The world fell back into darkness amid the sound of huge bodies rasping against each other as the herd thrashed the remaining cornfield to a pulp. "Light, light!" the old tracker yelled but it was in vain – the skinner was long gone. This was not his first rodeo; he had experienced this situation many times before,



Samuelli, my tracker in Tanzania, on the tracks of a fringe-eared oryx that we tracked for several hours.

and most often he was as steady as a rock, but tonight was different. This young *marungu* (white man) was frightened and had never killed an elephant before. The Skinner had long ago made up his mind that if the bull didn't go down immediately, spotlight holder or not, he would not be around to see what happened next!

"Stay still! Stay still!" hissed the old man, and all went quiet. As their eyes adjusted to the darkness it became clear that the second shot that was fired as the light went off had found its mark; it had hit the bull from a side angle. As he had dropped his head the 410-grain solid had broken through the zygomatic arch, passed to the side of the brain, and had lodged in the spine, severing the spinal cord. Luckily, amid the confusion and darkness, the bull had in fact gone down in a cloud of dust, gun smoke and chaos.

As they approached the downed animal, and as the adrenaline subsided in his veins and the young man walked around the bull, what had looked like the larg-

est elephant on the face of the planet shrunk to a more usual and normal proportioned elephant; a mature bull no doubt but the ivory that had in his mind almost touched the ground had shrunk back to the more usual 35 pounds a side. It was definitely a crop-raiding bull but this was no monster. To him though, at age 18, and this being his first elephant, it was indeed a "monster". More importantly, as he sat there on the animal's foot, reliving every moment, the thoughts, sounds, sights and experience became embedded in his very soul and at that moment an elephant hunter was made ...

How can I describe that scene so accurately? That young man was me! It was in the Omay Communal Land in Northern Zimbabwe in 1989 – my first elephant hunting experiences were indeed at night, in the crops, armed with a .425 Westley Richards, lots of enthusiasm and very, very little true knowledge or experience. It is a wonder nothing bad happened and I will say this – I owe my safety almost entirely to the old tracker Mafios, who was at my side all day, every day in those first few years. Mafios had been "round the block" and had played a very active part in many elephant culling operations. He had been leading hunters onto elephant for most of his adult life. In truth, not only do I owe my safety, my life in fact, to this wise old man, but equally important, a lot of what I learned from him has stayed with me throughout my hunting career.

I firmly believe that a great PH is only as good as his lead tracker – we rely heavily on our team on the front line. If you are on a plains game hunt in Southern Africa, or even Tanzania, it will most likely be the trackers that spot most of the game. In the Zambezi Valley in Zimbabwe, and other destinations where game is located through following sign, it is the trackers who will tap on the roof of the Land Cruiser to indicate a fresh buffalo track, or the spot where an elephant crossed, or even perhaps where a lion lay in the road early that morning. That very sign often marks the beginning of the day's hunt – a sign that they saw as you hurtled down the gravel road at 50 km/h. In Tanzania it will likely be the tracker that sees the eland bull first. These guys are the unsung heroes of the industry.



Tracking through the thickest of bush.



- ▲ We took this buffalo after tracking the group for many hours through all kinds of terrain. It would have been totally impossible without the great team of trackers.
- ▼ The trackers, perched on top of the vehicle, are responsible for spotting most game and tracks that start the hunt of the day.



While the PH often gets all the credit, it is the trackers that follow the sign, often sign that to the casual observer is almost invisible – this is the key and the core to success.

Then there is the matter of following a wounded animal. Bear in mind in this case everything changes. You are 100% engaged with that particular individual, that is *your* animal; the trophy fee will have to be paid no matter what the outcome, but more than that, the hunter's ethos and integrity commands us to follow and dispatch the animal as efficiently and humanely as possible. In these cases the tracker becomes an incredibly valuable and indispensable asset. He will spot the tiniest pinpricks of blood on a grass stalk, he will identify the most subtle change in the way an animal puts its foot down, often leading the hunter directly to his trophy. This can take hours, or even days. I have spent three consecutive days on the track of a wounded buffalo – we got the old bull in the end, but for three days my two main trackers at the time, Nevison and Amos, focused entirely on what that buffalo was doing, knowing that at any moment we could find him and the end could be a charge, as wounded buff are prone to do. In this particular case we saw him lying down in the mopane scrub. As soon as I was sure it was indeed the same bull we had been following, he was dispatched with my .450 without incident. The patience required for this kind of follow-up is way beyond my capabilities. At times Nevison and Amos would lose the track and spend literally hours circling around, and just when I thought there was no hope, a whistle told me we were back on the game! Without these men, their ability to focus entirely and exclusively on the job at hand, and their incredible patience, many more hunters would go home empty-handed, and many more animals would die a slow and agonizing death.

Over the last two decades, I have worked with trackers all over the continent. It is always fascinating for me to watch the different styles of locating game, depending on the environment a man is used to or has been trained in. Take the Eastern Cape for example; probably 90% of



- ▲ The next morning when one walks up to the bull you shot at night it all looks so open and clear. Here I am with well-known PH Bruce Watson (right), the cornfields and huts clearly visible in the background.
- Some terrain is easier than others. Crossing a wet, sandy river is a nice change from the dense green bush of the early-season Zambezi Valley.
- ▼ Kendall Kilbourne with the trackers and game scout that made his elephant dreams a reality.



the game is seen from the vehicle and then stalked as the mountainous and often treeless terrain lends itself to that. Lolosh, who has worked his entire adult life for the Price brothers at Ezulu, has possibly the best eyes of any tracker I have worked with. Not only will he see a grey rhebok at 1 000 yards, but he will also tell you which is the male before he has even raised his binoculars. That is a very different skill to the buffalo hunters of the Zambezi Valley; the jesse bush so prevalent there, interspersed with terminalia and mopane, means you hardly ever get to see a 1 000 yards' distance. In that environment an experienced tracker will spend most of his day looking downwards, searching for the sign that indicates an animal passing rather than trying to see the animal itself. These two examples show subtle but highly important and significant differences just in these two tracking methods.

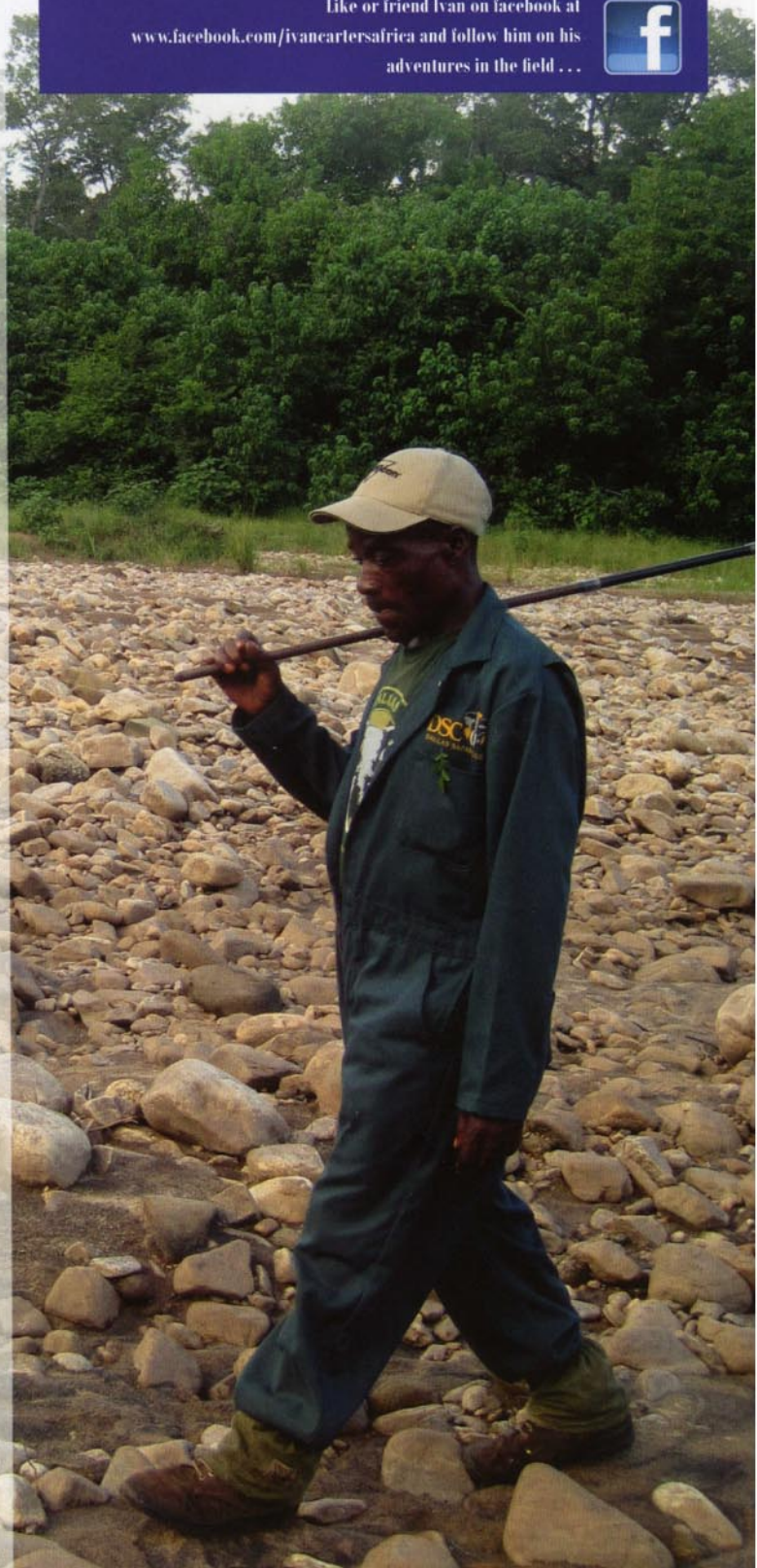
There are also the few occasions in Africa when one gets to meet trackers that track to live rather than simply for employment. These people are the Bushmen of Namibia whose tracking skills are often the difference between meat or no meat for dinner – likewise the pygmies of Central Africa. Those who have tracked a bongo or any of the forest animals will know what I mean when I say these folks truly are an inspiration to work with; their innate knowledge and harmony with their environments are incredible.

Then there is the question of dangerous game on the front line. Very often, especially in the case of elephant and buffalo, the last approach is pretty close. I like to leave my trackers, observers and game scout a little behind me when we are on the final approach. In some cases my lead tracker will be right at my side, holding my double rifle while I look through my binoculars and prepare the shooting sticks. This is a time when we rely on the guys most – when the situation becomes confrontational. Everyone needs to do the right thing otherwise the situation can fast become disastrous. Often it is a word from the trackers that stops an observer from simply running away. Certainly on the front line, many, many times I owe it to my tracker as he spotted a threat before it emerged. We are asking a lot of these men when we expect them to stand there on the front line – often armed only with an axe or machete, or worse still, a set of shooting sticks – with 12 000 pounds of elephant bull coming right at them!

I often think back to that night, so many years ago, when I owed my success 100% to the old tracker who patiently and calmly guided and instructed me; it was he who kept me safe as that first experience sank deep into my soul. That is happening right now somewhere on the continent, be it on a small plains game animal, an elephant bull or anything in between. More often than not it is the trackers of Africa who introduce the next generation to the sport. From that day right to my last safari earlier in the year in Tanzania, I owe a disproportionately large amount of my success to the trackers I work with. These are the unsung heroes of this industry, and in my mind it is they that deserve the credit for most of the trophies that grace the walls of hunters' homes and many experiences that we as hunters pursue.

Ivan Carter was born and raised in Zimbabwe and began his professional hunting career in 1988. He received his PH licence in Zimbabwe in 1990. With his passion for elephants and other big game, today Ivan is licensed to hunt in Zimbabwe, Tanzania and Botswana and spends over 180 days in the field each year in pursuit of dangerous game. He is the host of Dallas Safari Club's *Tracks Across Africa* TV show on the outdoor channel. Ivan is a great advocate for sustainable and ethical hunting and truly believes in hunting as a conservation tool.

Like or friend Ivan on facebook at www.facebook.com/ivancartersafrica and follow him on his adventures in the field ...



The Tracker

Reprinted with permission from
Rege Podraza,
"Where Elephants Go To Die"

His hair is short and curly
His skin a chocolate brown
He's often taken for granted
Until the chips are down.

He's usually very quiet
In a crowd he stands alone
His heart is that of a lion
He's loyal to the bone.

His eyes glow like embers
Kindled long ago
When man hunted for food
With a spear, knife, and bow.

Now he works for a living
Finding game for a hunter's gun
Without his skill and knowledge
Few trophies would be won.

So when you go on safari
Respect him and treat him right
And he'll lead you out of trouble
When things get close and tight.

And after miles of tracking
When he's led you to your game
Shake his hand and thank him
And never forget his name.

Paintings by
Jeremy Hart
Wildlife Gallery Artist

Some of our successful bow hunters



Tim Schafer



Don Harter



Kevin Unger

50th Wedding

by Mary Harter

On June 11, we left at 3:30 a.m. to drive to near Winnipeg, Manitoba where we spent the first night. What a beautiful sight as we drove over the Mackinaw Bridge around 6:00 a.m. and could see the sunrise behind Mackinac Island. We traveled on US-2 through the UP and then 28, and then back on US-2 to Grand Forks, ND with construction most of the way. Don's favorite sign was "End of Construction". We were a caravan of three, the reverse of an Oreo cookie, a white SUV, a black van, and another white SUV. We stopped at Pembina before the border for booze and then at the Manitoba border to declare our guns. They didn't even check the serial numbers but wanted to know about hunting and where we had hunted before.

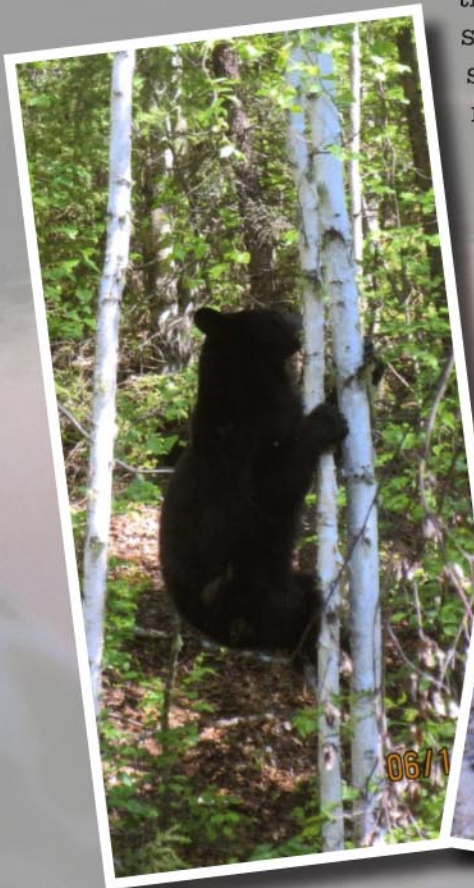
We spent the first night at Morden after 17 hours of driving. This trip to Arlee and Darlene Thideman's in Saskatchewan for fishing and bear hunting was to celebrate our 50th Wedding Anniversary. Our caravan was our daughter Ann and son Todd and their spouses, Mark and Bethany, and Dylan (16), Cole (14), Jenna (14), and Kyler (12). Our goal was bear hunting for the grandkids plus to eat as much fish as we could. Todd, Don, and I were also hunting.

The next morning we took off at 6:00 a.m. to complete the 30 hour journey. We drove up through Prince Albert, then LaRonge, and finally arrived at Mismipie where we spent the night, celebrated our Anniversary with a special cake that Bethany and brought, and met the float planes the next morning.

On June 13 we flew for 25 minutes into Hepburn Lake on two otters and were greeted by Arlee and Darlene. Their granddaughter, Shea, flew in with us. The girls were very pleased with the accommodations, never being quite sure what we might

get them into. The lodge had three bedrooms for us and a bath and a half with an extra sink. The lodge even had a dishwasher and a generator that ran 24 hours a day.

After settling in we were out fishing for lake trout and pike. Then we were ready to go hunting. Jenna went with me, Kyler with Grandpa, Cole with Todd, and Dylan with Mark. Jenna and I discussed what she wanted to shoot. There were a lot of color phase bears (brown, chocolate, cinnamon, or blond colors of the black bear species) and that is what she wanted. Arlee had a mark on the trees behind the bait barrels to show us how



Anniversary Celebration

large a bear should be before we considered shooting it. Jenna and I had a color phase bear and a black bear come in and fight over the bait but we decided it was the first night and they just weren't big enough. When we got back to camp Kyler had shot a color phase (cinnamon) with Grandpa and Dylan had shot a huge black with Mark, possibly the largest ever shot in this camp. The bear had a nice crease in his head which measured almost 20".

The next morning, June 14, they set up the bears for pictures and then we went out fishing. During the week we caught numerous walleye, lake trout, and pike. We found a wall that dropped off to over 60 feet and the lake trout usually hung around in this deep water, at varying depths. They were a lot of fun to catch and put up quite a fight. Several times Don and I had doubles. We caught a lot of walleyes and one day while reeling in our see if we were trailing a lot of weeds, a huge pike followed Don's bait to the boat. Then it followed my bait to the boat. Don cast out a spoon and the pike hit it hard and down to the bottom he tried to go with the line going out wheeeeeeee. It fought hard and I got the net. As we could finally see it, Don wanted to trade and give me the pole and have him take the net as he didn't think I could lift it. The fish came to the surface and there wasn't time so I got the head in the net (that was all that would fit) and reefed on it as hard as I could and the fish landed in the boat on top of rods and equipment and the lure came out of its mouth. We just sat and laughed as we looked at a 40" Northern pike.

Jenna and I went out hunting for 5 1/2 hours each night (after a 45 minute boat ride each way) and this second night we saw a color phase and two blacks, one huge with a crease in its head. Jenna just couldn't get a shot at the color phase but at least we knew one was coming in to this bait and she



baits to check to

baits to check to



wanted it badly. We ate lake trout for dinner which was delicious.

The next morning, June 15, Jenna and I sat for bears but saw nothing. That night after a day of fishing, Jenna and I had three black bears come in to entertain us but the color phase stood us up.

June 16, out fishing in the morning for walleyes. We were having a fishing contest for the largest fish of each species and of course, Mark was in the lead. The contest was for the largest walleye, lake trout, and pike, plus the smallest fish. We caught our limit of walleye and kept throwing them back. Then we went after lake trout. What fun they are because they really fight. You would think the poles would snap in two. Again, we caught our limit and kept throwing them back.



Jenna and I went out bear hunting for the evening and when we walked in to the bait, Arlee said he could smell a bear. As he was putting out the bait and we were getting set up in the blind, Arlee said he could see the color phase bear up in the trees. Probably this was the bear that had been chased off by the blacks and was going to be at the bait first tonight to get a treat. We chambered a

shell and Jenna got ready. When Arlee got to the boat, down came the bear and he was the one Jenna wanted! The bear came down the trail right behind the bait and finally got broadside but immediately sat down. I knew any second he would lay down to lick up the grease as the others had done. The front legs were still up and the lung/heart area was broadside so I told Jenna to shoot. She looked at me questioning and I whispered, "Yes". She shot. Arlee was still at the boat just waiting for us to shoot. How exciting for him, also. He got to experience the bear's final noises and the death moan. Jenna had shot the bear right through the heart and there it laid right in front of us. Arlee came back and we got down and what a celebration! Over 22 hours of hunting plus numerous boat rides had resulted in a good sized color phased bear. It ended up being an old female, unbred, with almost no teeth on top. She was about 250 pounds and the perfect bear to harvest. Arlee got a blue tarp from the boat and we dragged the bear a short distance to the boat and managed to get it in. Wow!!

We went back to camp, took pictures, and Jim took me back out to a closer stand so I could hunt. I only had a couple of hours but saw a huge black bear and a medium sized black with a chevron. But like Jenna, I had my heart set on a color phased bear.

Ann had taken Cole out hunting and Todd and Don went hunting by themselves. Neither Ann nor Cole had ever hunted bear before and a nice one came in and then another. One was certainly larger than the other so Ann asked Cole if he liked the big one. He decided he should shoot it and he did. It weighed even more than the one Dylan shot but Dylan's had the larger skull and was probably older. Now all four grandchildren had gotten their bears and all with



the first shot. This was our goal.

June 17, we took numerous pictures of Cole and then went out fishing. We had taken pictures of Jenna the evening before so they could skin out her bear. The color phase bears have thinner skin and Arlee didn't want to take a chance of any hair slippage. They skinned the bears for us, cleaned our fish, and packaged everything individually with tags with the fish with the species and Hepburn Lake Lodge.

Don, Todd, and I continued to hunt but the rest just fished, and fished. One day we all met for a shore lunch which was delicious. Darlene cooked fish several times for us as we all love fish.



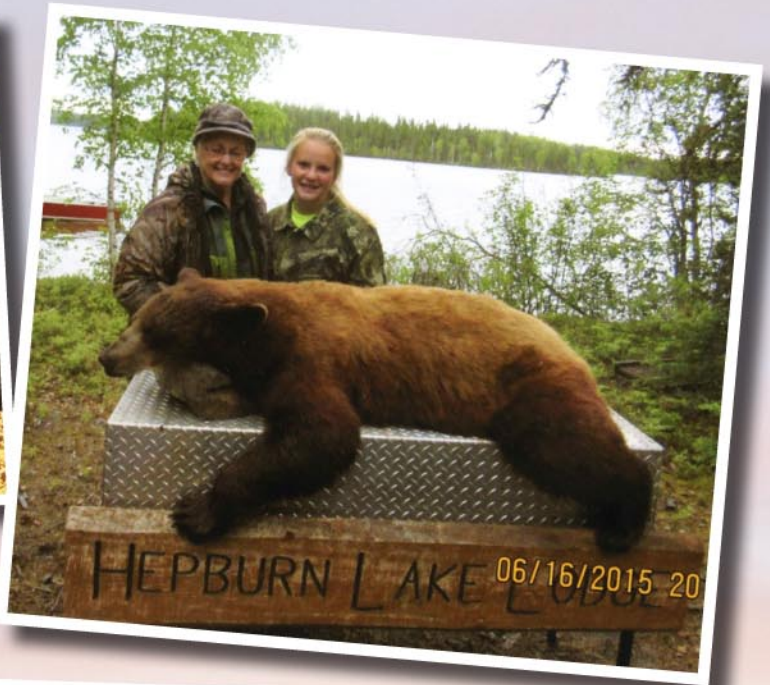
Ann went out with me hunting on June 18. Arlee put us in a very active area as he had no idea what color bear had been coming in. We had a very exciting time viewing four different bears. One was a small bear and the others kept chasing him up a tree so they could eat the bait. Another bear was very aggressive and even attempted to climb the tree we were in. I moved the rifle and pointed it right at the bear which I probably could have touched with the end of the barrel if I had reached out but the bear never came up any further. I wanted to keep an eye on every bear so they kept us busy until Jim came to get us. Two were still at the bait when he beached the boat but they soon left and I kept the gun loaded until we got in the boat. I have had

bear climb my tree before but not one that was quite so aggressive. You just have to keep your wits and stay calm. We never even had to yell at the bear but if necessary, I would have shot him, if we were endangered. Ann's eyes said it all as they were open wider than I had ever seen. We certainly had a very exciting evening together.

On June 19, Don shot a blond bear. He was in a blind near camp so they heard his shot and Arlee went out to get him. They had the bear all dressed out before I got back.

On Saturday, June 20, the float planes came to get us around 9:00 a.m. The two grandkids that had not flown up with the pilot on the way in, had their turn on the way back. Todd, Bethany, and all four of the grandkids had never flown in a float plane before so they were glued to the windows for the short trip back to our cars. In fact, this was the first time Bethany had ever fished. After sorting out all



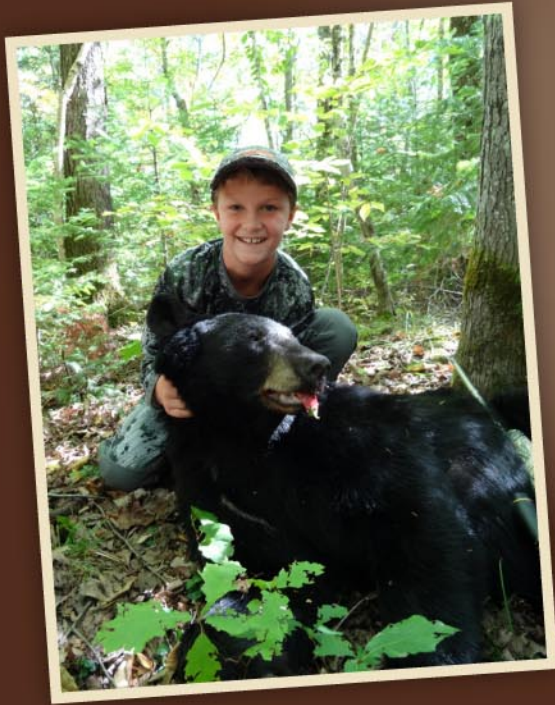


of our gear and packing, we were off for the trip back home. Ann and Mark left us near Winnipeg and headed for Kenora for a couple of weeks with his family before heading back home to the Lansing area. Todd and Bethany followed us back to Michigan going just south of Chicago this time trying to avoid construction but it didn't work. Lots of construction, lots of rain, and one flat tire, and three days later we finally got back to Michigan.

Such a fun trip for a family. Arlee and Darlene have a wonderful setup and accommodations. This was a great bonding time for our family.



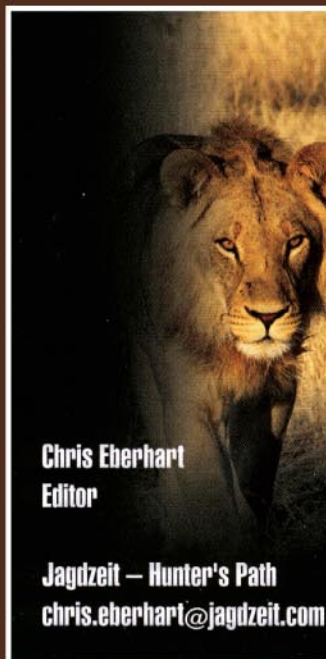
Looking Ahead - to our Next Issue -



MY FIRST BEAR ~
by Cal Stearns (11)



ELK HUNTING ~
by Kylor Koch (12)



Chris Eberhart
Editor

Jagdzeit — Hunter's Path
chris.eberhart@jagdzeit.com

Follow the Hunter's Path

LegalShield
Worry Less. Live More.

989-289-9959
beckycarson@legalshieldassociate.com
www.beckycarson.info

Becky Carson
Independent Associate
Small Business, CDLP &
Group Benefits Specialist



TAKE

CODY DUTCHER
907-398-1749
WWW.TAKEDOWNSPORTFISHING.COM
TAKEDOWNSPORTFISHING@GMAIL.COM

CHUCK JORDAN
 DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
 2286 BACHMAN ROAD
 HASTINGS, MI 49058
 CELL: (330) 730-8053
 CJORDAN@TENPOINTCROSSBOWS.COM



TENPOINT
 CROSSBOW TECHNOLOGIES

THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE.

WWW.TENPOINTCROSSBOWS.COM



BOW & BARREL OUTFITTERS
Lewis Lodge

Hunting Whitetail and Turkey in Northeast Missouri

Ryan: (989) 277-3502 Jim: (989) 443-9054

JESSIE JAMES OUTFITTING

Jessie Coy
 p.o. box 3055 | cody, wy 82414
 (307.272.4468 | jessiecoy@gmail.com

www.jessiejamesoutfitting.com BG LIC #078

Stoney Creek Outdoor Properties, LLC



*"Bringing Together
 Buyers and Sellers of
 Quality Hunting and Farmland"*

CHAD THELEN
 Hunting and Farmland Specialist
 517-819-6344
 cthelen8@hotmail.com stoneycreekoutdoors.com

Private Ranch Mule Deer and Whitetail
 Trophy Mountain Lion Color Phase Black Bear



MILES HIGH OUTFITTERS
 208-697-3521
 www.mileshighoutfitters.com

Elk Quail, Pheasant, Chukar, Hungarian Partridge Wolf

The **POHL BISON**
Bed & Breakfast



The Perfect Setting... The Perfect Stay

Your hosts: Jim & Krista Pohl
 989.433.5841 1745 E. Rosebush Rd. • Rosebush, MI 48878

THE TROPHY ROOM

Located inside...
JAY'S
SPORTING GOODS * CLARE
 8800 S. Clare Avenue • Clare, MI 48617
989-433-0184 | 989-621-7316

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world - Nelson Mandela



**LET JAY'S EXPERT STAFF OUTFIT
YOU FOR YOUR NEXT HUNT!**

Every new member of the
SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter
gets a **\$35 Jay's**
Gift Card

JAY'S
SPORTING GOODS
www.JaysSportingGoods.com

Gift Card

Shop Online
www.JaysSportingGoods.com

JAY'S
SPORTING GOODS

Clare
1 mile north of Clare
on Old 27 - Exit 160
(989) 386-3475

Gaylord
I-75 Exit 279 behind
Burger King/Marathon
(989) 705-1339

Hours
Mon-Thurs 9am-8pm
Friday 9am-9pm
Saturday 9am-8pm
Sunday 12noon-5pm

Mid-Michigan Ponds

Pond Construction • Pond Management
Fisheries Biologist

6500 Howe Rd.
Bath, Michigan 48808
www.midmichiganponds.com

MIKE HARRIS
517.927.4830
mike@midmichiganponds.com

John Skiba

4756 N. Huron Rd. (M-13)
Pinconning, MI 48650

ABLE SAFE

Over 30 Years In Business

989-879-5477

www.ablesafe.com

616-826-6459
samsoetart.com
samsoetart@yahoo.com

SAM SOET
fine art wood sculpture



CAZAPAMPA

BIG GAME HUNTING RANCH
NORTHERN PATAGONIA - ARGENTINA

MIKE CRAWFORD | (907) 252-2919 | creditcardmike@yahoo.com

"Everyone is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid." - Albert Einstein



Burch Truck & Trailer Parts

5776 Venture Way • Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

(989) 772-0081

Jeff Harrison, CEO • www.burchparts.com

Central Michigan's Truck and Trailer Parts Store

- Oilfield Parts
- Agricultural Parts and Equipment
- Suspensions and Axles
- Drivetrain Components
- Air and Electrical Systems
- Exhaust Components
- Powertrain System Components
- Load Securement
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Polishing and Cleaning Supplies
- Fast Delivery and Experienced Sales Staff
- Tanker Parts and Accessories
- Pick-up and Work Truck Accessories Available



Order parts online at
www.burchparts.com

STORE HOURS: Monday – Thursday 7am to 7pm • Friday 7am to 5pm

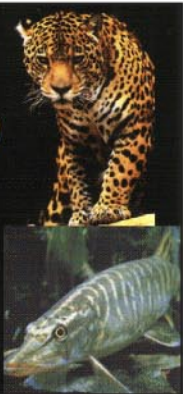
Woodland Taxidermy

Specializing in all seasons
of Professional Taxidermy

Jeff Tyson

231-679-6591

20620 23 Mile Rd., Paris, MI
tysonstaxidermy@gmail.com



ALAIN TARDIF

C.P. 370 . SAINT-HENRI
QUEBEC . CANADA
G0R 3E0

TEL : (418) 882 6210
TOLL FREE : 1 800 463 4868
FAX : (418) 882 0140

EMAIL : INFO@LEAFRIVERLODGE.COM

Leaf River
LODGE



BALDY MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS

big game hunting specialists in
SE British Columbia CANADA



GUIDED HUNTS FOR

Contact: Riley and Amanda Leuenberger
2009 3rd St South
Cranbrook B.C. V1C 1G1
Home: 778-517-0668 Cell: 250-919-3197
email: info@baldymountain.com

Bighorn sheep
Elk
Black bear
Deer
Shiras moose
Goat
Grizzly bear
Cougar, Lynx & Bobcat
Wolf

WORLD CLASS WHITETAIL HUNTS



515-537-4478

AARON@TAILSOFTHEHUNT.COM • WWW.TAILSOFTHEHUNT.COM

Kindness is the language the blind can see and the deaf can hear. - Mark Twain



HIDDEN HORNS
GAME RANCH

Trophy Hunting Adventures

BRENT FISK
Hunt Manager & Guide

11318 21 MILE RD. • SAND LAKE, MI 49343
(616) 984-5346 • CELL (616) 799-0689
EMAIL: HIDDENHORNSGAMERANCH@HOTMAIL.COM
HIDDENHORNSGAMERANCH.COM

WyCon Safari, Inc.

Wynn G. Condict
Box 1126, Saratoga, WY 82331
wyconsafari@gmail.com
www.wyconsafariinc.com

Cell: 970-456-7580
or
Cell: 307-710-7578

Colorado Unguided & Guided
Rifle, Archery, Muzzleloader
Private Ranch Hunts for
Mule Deer, Elk & Antelope
Prairie Dog Hunts May & July • River Float Trips

Dan Malone
191 SCI SCORE
WY# BG026 CO Outfitters #2229

Wild Spirit Guide Service
Full Service Outfitter

N15107 Twp. Line Rd
Powers, MI 49874

Black bear
Bobcat
Wolf
Whitetail
1(906)250-0089
wildspiritguide.com
Dan Kirschner

NEW ZEALAND TROPHY HUNTING
WORLD RECORD TROPHIES IN STUNNING ALPINE SCENERY

Gus Bisset
Manager & Professional Hunter

New Zealand Trophy Hunting, 19 Cattle Valley Road, Kurow 9435, New Zealand
Ph: +64 3 436 0911 | Mob: +64 21 221 6048
info@newzealandtrophyhunting.com | www.newzealandtrophyhunting.com

Low's Trophy Whitetail Ranch
Experience the hunt!
Leon Low

6100 Mcvety Rd.
Falmouth, Michigan
49632
231-328-4466

lowleon@ymail.com
www.lowstrophywhitetails.com

MAJESTIC MOUNTAIN OUTFITTERS

JEFF CHADD
970.901.7584
PO BOX 5036 FORSYTH, MT 59327
SHEEPHUNTER@MAJESTICMOUNTAINOUTFITTERS.COM

Bell Wildlife Specialties
Outfitting - Taxidermy

Daniel Bell
Professional Guide and Taxidermist
155 West Oak, PO Box 147
Harveyville, Kansas 66431
785-589-2321
bellwildlife@earthlink.net
www.bellwildlife.com

FEJES
GUIDE SERVICE LTD.

SAM FEJES
Alaska Master Guide

P.O. Box 111394 • Anchorage, Alaska 99511-1394
Phone (907) 349-4040 • FAX (907) 349-2020
www.fejesguideservice.com

A moment of patience in a moment of anger saves you a hundred moments of regret.

DEDICATED TO THE PROPAGATION OF WHITETAIL AND EXOTIC SPECIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD, AS WELL AS, EXCLUSIVE WORLD-CLASS HUNTING, JUST FOR YOU.

JOHN FREDERICKS - GENERAL MANAGER

3202 County Road 405 • Uvalde, Texas 78801

C: (254) 592-8449

O: (830) 278-3807

F: (830) 278-8248

john@moranriver.com



Lynch Creek Travel

Tara Harrell

Reservations Manager



Phone 800.733.1115 x 106 • 707.559.7990 x106

* Fax 707.559.7997

Email: tara@lynchcreektravel.com

1250 North McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954

CST# 311744450

CENTRAL COAST OUTFITTERS LLC

California and New Zealand



Alfred Luis

(805) 922-7923

License #1995

aluis@centralcoastoutfitters.com

www.centralcoastoutfitters.com



Lynch Creek Travel

Tara Harrell

Reservations Manager



Phone 800.733.1115 x 106 • 707.559.7990 x106

* Fax 707.559.7997

Email: tara@lynchcreektravel.com

1250 North McDowell Blvd., Petaluma, CA 94954

CST# 311744450



SC|OUTFITTERS

SCALP CREEK OUTFITTERS

RR#2 Site 2 Box 15 Sundre, Alberta T0M 1X0

Ph: 403.638.4105 • www.scalpcreek.com • Email: scalpcreek@hotmail.com



ROBERT SERGI, JR.

Ranch Director

2022 West 14 Mile Road

Bitely, MI 49309

Office 231-745-8000

Cell 781-775-6288

Fax 231-745-9000

www.legendranch.com

robert@legendranch.com

State & Federally Licensed

Like us on Facebook



NAC TAXIDERM

Nick Giuliani

Cell (989) 621-0061

Work (989) 644-6289

2410 S. Coldwater Rd.

Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

1/2 North of M-20

TAILS-A-WAGGIN' ACRES HUNTING PRESERVE

Guided Pheasant, Grouse & Woodcock Hunts Available!

Annual Disabled Veterans

FREE Pheasant Hunt ~

Last weekend of September

Handicapped Hunters
are Welcome!

childrenscharters@gmail.com

WWW.PRESERVEHUNT.COM



231.743.6483
Chuck Connell

TIMBER CREEK



OUTFITTERS

BG Lic #103

Tim & Geri Hockhalter

*The Highest Quality
Outdoor Experience in
Northwestern Wyoming*

**BIG GAME HUNTS
SUMMER PACK TRIPS**

307-899-3667

307-899-2579

tim@timbercreekoutfitters.com

geri@tctwest.net

www.timbercreekoutfitters.com

644 South Fork Road
Cody, Wyoming 82414

Do not regret growing older. It is a privilege denied to many.





GREAT SPANISH HUNTS

Corsini & Navasquies

CARLOS MERELLO
C/ Almagro 29 • 28010 • Madrid • Spain
T. +54 91 700 45 50 • M. +54 682 586 814 • F. +54 91 702 43 33
carlosmerello@gmail.com • www.greatspanishhunts.com

Phone:
(989) 732-0728

Fax:
(989) 731-9710



Larry Higgins • Owner
1894 Kosiara Rd., Gaylord, MI 49735
www.redpinewhitetails.com
redpinewhitetails@gmail.com

JASON MARONEY

SALES

2800 Blacksmith Ln.
Kerrville, TX 78028
office 877.431.4433 x109
direct 830.428.0807
maroney@natureblinds.com
natureblinds.com



JOHAN PIETERSE SAFARIS

Making it possible

P.O. Box 501
Thabazimbi 0380
South Africa
770-820-5700

JOHAN PIETERSE

johanpietersesafaris@tiscali.co.za
www.jpsafaris.co.za



VOELKER

Shawn Marcus



Sales

4363 S. MOREY RD.
LAKE CITY, MI 49651

PH (231) 839-8660

smarcus@voelkerimplement.com

JOHN DEERE

Metal-Stone Art Crafters

Brent & Karel Eastman
Owners

10155 N Miles Rd.
Six Lakes, Mich 48886
989-365-4347

HILDE HUNTING SERVICES

Master Guide

Dan Taylor

(248) 909-1512

5300 Belford Rd., Holly, MI 48442



Richard H. Muennink

Worldwide Hunting & Fishing Guides & Consultants
EXOTICS • NATIVE GAME • YEAR-ROUND HUNTING
Packages to Fit Your Schedule and Budget

210/827-0053 Cell
Like us on facebook

www.actionoutdoors.com

1914 CR 456
Hondo, TX USA 78861

Live your life and forget your age.

Froling Insurance

Roger & Sherri Froling

MEDICAL / HEALTH INSURANCE

Individual & Group Plans

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan
Priority Health

**LIFE
INSURANCE**

John Hancock

**DENTAL
INSURANCE**

Delta Dental

DISABILITY INCOME INSURANCE

ANNUITIES & RETIREMENT PLANS

Jackson National Life

LONG TERM CARE & IRA'S

Turning 65 years old? Call for your Quotes!

Office:
616-527-4622

Cell
Roger: 616-291-0066
Sherri: 517-474-7724

FISH HUNTER CHARTERS

Frankfort, MI

CAPTAIN DAVE JAMES

586-419-3480M • www.fishhuntercharters.net
email: fishhuntercharterservice@yahoo.com
2005 28' CAROLINA CLASSIC

CAMPEAU GUIDING

Alvin Campeau

Michael Campeau

PH: (306) 560-7013

Box 33

Bankend, Sask.

S0A 0G0

Email: campeau.guiding@sasktel.net
www.campeauguiding.ca



Ultimate Firearms

BP X Press

"The Ultimate Firearms
muzzleloading specialists"

"Put 'em in a pile at a quarter of a mile"

Kenneth E. Johnston

President

(517) 349-2976

Fx (517) 349-4857

3470 Dobie Rd.
Okemos, MI 48864
www.ultimatefirearms.com

Wegner Auctioneers

Attend Our Auctions... You Will See & Hear The Difference!

<p>Auctions • Appraisals • Real Estate Complete Professional Auction Service Commercial • Industrial • Farm & Estate Over 25 Years Experience • Caga Certified Appraisals</p>	<p>Marty Wegner - Owner/Auctioneer 7610 Lawndale (989) 793-8689 Freeland, MI 48623 wegnerm@attglobal.net No Obligation Consultations</p>
---	---

www.wegnerauctioneers.com



Cascade Fur Salon

6504 Twenty-eighth Street Southeast
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49546
Telephone (616) 957-4936

John F. Hayes • Master Furrier

Lost Creek Outfitters LLC

Greg 'Griz' and Ginger Turner
27 Jim Mtn. Dr.
Cody, WY 82414
lostcreek@vcn.com
(307) 527-6251

www.lostcreekoutfitter.com • www.lostcreekpacktrips.com

Permittee of The Shoshone National Forest.
Licensed and Insured Outfitter Lic. #281

What's right is what's left if you do everything else wrong. Robin Williams



Kelly's Deer Processing



FREE DEER PROCESSING FOR "SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER"

WANTED: Cull Deer to purchase

Colin Kelly
19077 12 Mile Road
Big Rapids, MI 49307
(231) 796-5414
Email: colin@cks-place.com
www.kellysdeerprocessing.com
24- Hour Deer Drop-Off During Season
SCI Mid-Michigan Member

Log Cabin Lumber
Rustic Creations
10361 W. VanBuren Rd. • Riverdale, MI 48877
989.833.7135
Hours: Monday-Friday 8:00am - 4:30pm

NUMZAAN SAFARIS
Your gateway to africa!
Voted #1 Outfitter
1622 Trophies for 2012 95.3% Qualified for SCI
We deliver quality!
numzaan@iafrica.com • www.numzaan.com

SANDRA CHANEY
Manager
valley travel
of mt. pleasant, ltd
123 South Franklin
Mount Pleasant, MI 48858-2319
E-Mail: sandrac@valley-travel.net
Bus. (800) 290-6714
(989) 773-9914
FAX (989) 773-2046

The Galene is a 30-foot 1996 Proline with comfortable custom seating for six passengers. She is equipped with the latest electronics and fishing equipment.

Captain Paul is licensed by the US Coast Guard and has been fishing the Great Lakes since 1992.

Captain Paul Bolling
734.735.6793
captainpaul@spinnernspoon.com
www.spinnernspoon.com

Hell's Half Acre Outfitters

RON DAVIS
541-290-0489
PO Box 631
Coquille, Oregon 97423
License #4106 Bond #71056641
We offer a variety of pre-set and customizable Hunting & Fishing Packages

Froling Farms
Live Buffalo, Hunts, Meat
ROGER & SHERRI FROLING
1000 Dildine Road, Ionia, MI 48846
Phone: (616) 527-4622
Email: rogerfroling@charter.net
Cell - Roger: (616) 291-0066
www.rogerfroling.com
Cell - Sherri: (517) 474-7724

Spending time with your children is more important than spending money on them.

Hunt Alaska with Wittrock Outfitters

Brian Simpson
Master Guide #152
P.O. Box 61210
Fairbanks, AK 99706



907-322-9841
Email: noainc@mosquitonet.com

Roger C. Froling



John Hancock
Life Insurance Company

Medical Insurance
Disability Income
Life Insurance
Pension Plans
Dental Insurance
Annuities

1000 Dildine Road
Ionia, MI 48846
Office: (616) 527-4622
Fax: (616) 527-6736
Cell: (616) 291-0066
rogerfroling@charter.net

HEPBURN LAKE LODGE

FLY-IN FISHING & HUNTING
LAKE TROUT- PIKE- WALLEYE
BLACK BEAR HUNTING

NORTHERN SASK. CANADA
PHONE 1-306-547-3328
CELL 1-306-547-8231
EMAIL-hepburnlakelodge@sasktel.net

ARLEE THIDEMAN
www.hepburnlakelodge.net

Windy Ridge
OUTFITTING

TROPHY WHITETAIL AND TURKEY HUNTS
IN IOWA & MISSOURI

WWW.HUNTWRO.COM

26055 JERSEY AVENUE • MT. STERLING, IA 52573

Nick Boley
OWNER

641.919.2801
NICK@HUNTWRO.COM

Matt & Shelly Leuenberger

Licensed Outfitter

250.429.4181 home 250.919.4181 cell
mattshell@skcmail.ca
Box 78
Jaffray BC, V0B 1T0



180 Outdoors, LLC

WWW.HUNT180.COM

Matt Wonser
3148 s. 4150 Street
Independence
Kansas 67301

620.330.7282
180outdoors@gmail.com
www.hunt180.com

Dan Dan

TheMattressMan.com

Sleep Better with Us

(989) 832-1866

802 Ashman Street
Midland, MI 48640

Cheryl VanConant

Roger R. Card

rogercard@iserv.net

R. R. Card Leasing, LLC

7799 Schooner Lane
Canadian Lakes, MI 49346

Phone: 231-972-2413
Cell: 989-621-9263
Fax: 231-972-8240

Nature. Cheaper than therapy.




A close-up photograph of a lion's head, showing its orange-brown fur and intense orange eyes. The lion is looking slightly to the right.

T: 847.690.0690

F: 847.690.0699

E: lisaj@dlchb.com

Laurad@dlchb.com

A close-up photograph of a leopard's face, showing its yellowish-brown fur with black spots and intense yellow eyes. The leopard is looking directly at the camera.

It's no accident that we are able to produce such remarkable printing.

We work hard to make you look good.



Check us out at
www.pleasantgraphics.com

***New Fast & Easy Way to
Send Files & Place Orders***

EVERY TROPHY

IS WORTH A THOUSAND MEMORIES



WWW.THEWILDLIFEGALLERY.COM

737 JACKSON ROAD, BLANCHARD MI 49310
989-561-5369 | TAXIDERMY@THEWILDLIFEGALLERY.COM



facebook.com/TeamWLG