

FRONT SIGHT



Mid-Michigan Chapter Safari Club International

October - December 2017, Issue 40



A Bit of Nostalgia
Photo by Mary Harter
See page 17



JOHAN PIETERSE SAFARIS



SOUTH AFRICA
ZIMBABWE
MOZAMBIQUE



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Members of Mid-Michigan SCI or Isabella County Sportsman's Club may use the shooting range located at 2872 W. Millbrook Road just east of Winn Road. The lock combination is 3040 and changes yearly on February 15th. Please carry membership identification on you when you visit the range.



Standing Committees

Chairmen are listed first

- Chapter Record Book - Mary Browning
- Conservation/Govt. Affairs -
- Dispute Resolution - Kevin Unger, Joe Mulders, Jon Zieman
- Matching Grants - Jon Zieman
- Front Sight Publication/Advertising - Mary Harter
- Education - Doug Chapin
- Membership - Kevin Chamberlain, Mary Browning
- Nominating - Kevin Unger, Joe Mulders, Jon Zieman
- Programs for Membership Meetings - Roger Froling, Doug Chapin
- Big Buck Night - Mike Strobe, Kevin Unger, Scott Holmes, Randy Raymond
- Annual Awards Banquet/Fundraiser - Abbe and Joe Mulders, Kevin Unger, Don and Mary Harter, and all board members
- Outfitter Donations - Roger Froling, Mike Strobe, Scott Holmes, Kevin Unger, Joe Mulders
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- Public Relations and Marketing - Kevin Chamberlain
- Shooting Sports - Chad Stearns
- Humanitarian Services -
- Sportsman Against Hunger - Mike Strobe
- Pathfinder Hunts -
- Youth - Randy Raymond
- Veterans - Randy Raymond
- Blue Bags, etc. - Doug Chapin

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.

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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 _____

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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 _____

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Mid-Michigan SCI
P.O. Box 486
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President's Message

I am honored to serve as your president for the SCI Mid Michigan Chapter once again. As my term begins as President, I would like to thank our outgoing president, Joseph Mulders, as he deserves enormous thanks for all the time he put into our chapter.

As I start my presidency I would like to make a commitment to our members that I will work hard in the best interest of our chapter. My goal is to grow our membership. We have a tremendous board right now and with their support I think we have the possibility to be one of the best chapters in the country.

Just because our chapter is doing well doesn't mean that our chapter can't do even better. One of my top goals for the next two years is to address the needs of our young hunters. The program such as our camp for kids programs and shooting sports. The more kids we get involved into hunting today will prove to be the future of our hunting legacy.

I am currently attending the board meeting in Tucson, Arizona. I hope to bring back some great ideas to pass on to the board members.

I hope you are making final preparations for the upcoming bow season, which starts October 1st.

We have the small game season that opens on September 15th, it's a great time to take a young hunter out and introduce them to great outdoors. I look forward to working with the chapter and the members in the upcoming 2 years.

You may contact me for any reason or concerns,
Best Regards,

Kevin Unger
President
(989) 560-7288
Kevinunger1@frontier.com

Editor's Message

Editor's Message –

Hope you enjoy a bit of nostalgia in this issue and the deer blind pictures that were submitted. I will use more deer blind pictures in the next issue, if I receive them. Some blinds are very well furnished and some are very basic so the differences have been interesting.

We have spent several hours glassing deer from our blinds in preparation for hunting season. You have more anticipation if you know a nice buck lives in your area. Many seem to disappear as soon as the first shots are fired on opening day but at least you have hopes that a big buck might appear.

We have a camera out near Don's brother's blind and the pictures are sent to our email address. In the evenings, we hear a little ding on our cell phones and know another picture has been sent and check it out. Many pictures are of deer, turkeys, and the occasional coyote. When Don was working up some of the fields, his picture was sent every time he passed near the camera. The pictures of nice bucks get forwarded to Don's brother to get him excited about what he might expect opening morning.

Good luck on all your future hunts for deer, turkeys, and other animals. We enjoy a full freezer of wild game to eat all winter. If any of you have interesting recipes for wild game that you would share, please forward them to me. I think we all can use new ways to prepare any food, but especially wild game.

Don and Kevin just left for Tucson for the August Board Meeting for Safari Club International. They will be hearing the latest hunting information to bring back to us. We don't have a membership meeting until Big Buck Night in January but anyone is very welcome to join us at a board meeting. Please give either Maxine or me a call if you are coming, so we can plan enough food.

Keep hunting,
Keep writing,

Mary Harter
Editor

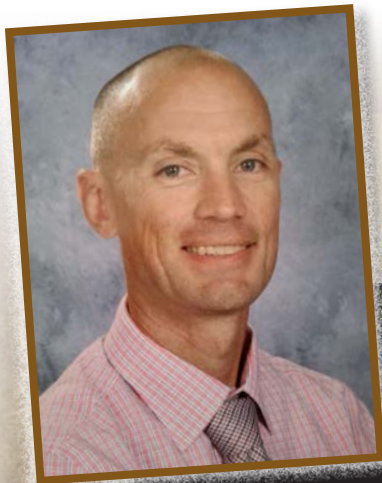


SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter Meeting Schedule

* SUBJECT TO CHANGE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Type</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Oct. 9	Board Meeting	5:00 p.m.	Hartars
Dec. 4	Board Meeting	5:00 p.m.	Hartars
Jan. 27	Big Buck Night		Comfort Inn
Jan. 31 to Feb. 3, 2018	International Convention		Las Vegas Convention Center
Feb. 23 & 24, 2018	Mid-Michigan Convention		Soaring Eagle

All board meetings are open to our membership.
Reservations required. Please call and leave a message at 989-330-4463
or email Maxine Warner at maxiwar27@gmail.com



Book Review

by Josh Christensen

Title: BUFFALO

List Price: \$39.95

Author: Craig Boddington

Publisher: Safari Press Inc.

Copyright: 2006

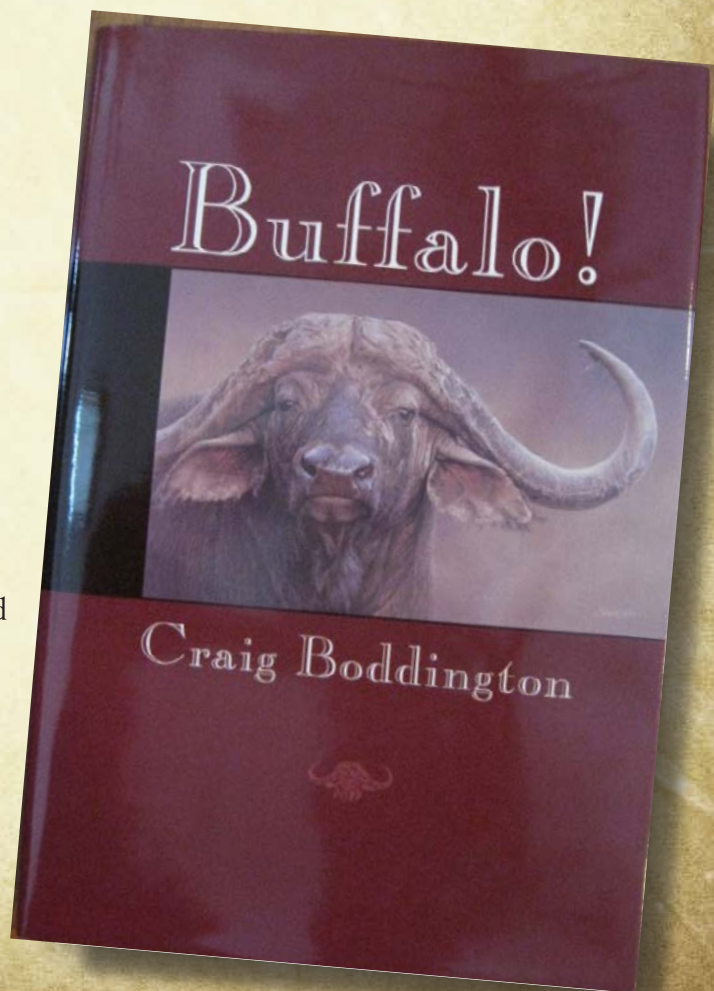
Buffalo! Is Craig Boddington's take on his favorite of the big five to hunt. This book is intended for anyone from the beginner interested in their first buffalo and wanting to gain knowledge to the most experienced buffalo hunter wanting to read Boddington's opinion of the large beast.

Throughout the chapters, the reader is given stories of hunting buffalo all over the African continent with colored pictures as well as Craig's opinions on strategies and where to hunt them, what caliber and kind (bolt or double) of rifle to use and proper shot placement. Boddington affords the reader the positives and negatives of hunting large herds, bachelor groups and individual buffalo.

There are also chapters dedicated to hunting the different species of buffalo in Africa as well as information on hunting the Asiatic Water Buffalo and Banteng in Australia.

In my opinion if you are planning your first cape buffalo hunt this book is a must read.

This book gets 8 out of 10 bullseyes





CAMP FOR KIDS

"My experience from camp was so cool. I had a great time doing all the activities, but my absolute favorite was archery. It was the BEST... I couldn't believe I even made two bullseyes!!! I plan to try and take lessons so that I can compete one day. My Mom was so proud, and I think my brother was a little bit jealous, but also proud so it's ok LOL.

I also shot a 22 rifle, which was fun and made me feel like I could always keep my family safe. GIRL POWER!

I didn't realize camp food could be so good, campfires super funny, AND I even got my hunter's safety license! Thank you for this once in a lifetime opportunity!!!"

-Nevaeh Keeth
(camp attendee with curly hair)

"I have never seen my daughter so excited and focused on a new hobby as when she came back from camp. She spoke about archery as if it were her destiny in life. I was most amazed and excited to listen to her teach us things she learned; she was clearly empowered by the experience. This trip gave her new confidence, focus, and motivation. That is something I did not see coming from a summer camp. Thank you for having her and giving her so much more than fun in the sun (which is also wonderful by the way)."

-Melissa Thompson
(Mom)



SCI Mid Michigan supports teams

By Jon Zieman

The Mid Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International has historically supported various educational opportunities with shooting sports an area of emphasis. Numerous grants for youth shooting activities have been granted. Organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America, 4-H clubs, and Sportsman's Clubs along with National Archery in the Schools Programs are some examples of past support.

The program for this year includes supporting the High School Trap Teams for Midland Public Schools and the Gladwin County 4H shooting sports program. Midland High School (MHS) and Dow High School (DHS) Trap Teams are new groups within the Midland Public Schools. The Chapter contributed \$2,000 to support entry fees, team jerseys and ammunition for team's activities. The Midland Public Schools Trap Teams have 27 members between them. The Teams are performing well for their first year with shooters in the top ten of the conference and are planning to compete in the Final State Meet.



Chad Stearns presents the check to Lori Kennemer and Brent Chambers of the Midland High and Dow High School Trap Teams.

The Chapter provided \$2,000 to the Gladwin 4H club to support its ongoing youth shooting education program. The Michigan 4-H Shooting Sports program includes shotgun, rifle, air gun, muzzle loading and archery. Members are instructed in safe handling and shooting for target practice and hunting. 4-H also has shooting competitions at the local and up to the national level.

Additionally, the Chapter annually supports the Isabella County Sportsman's Club to help ensure a safe shooting facility for education and recreation. Their facilities include handgun and rifle ranges to 300 yards along with shotgun ranges for trap, 5-stand and sporting clays. Fishing is available at the catch and release panfish pond. Archery ranges include both target and 3-D facilities. The club provides Hunter Safety Training and hosts 4-H shoots.

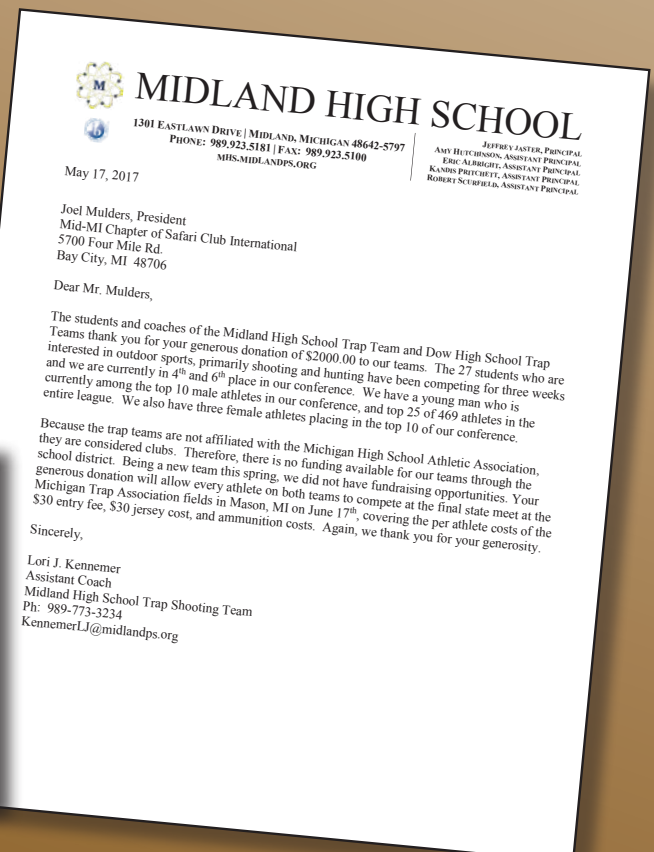
Thanks to Chad Stearns for coordinating the program for the year.



2017 Midland High School Trap Team



2017 Dow High School Trap Team



Thank You Sponsors



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Dear Sponsors of the
Midland High School and
Dow High School Trap Shooting Teams:

On behalf of both teams, Coach Kelly Vliet, Coach Dale Furst, myself and all of the parents and others involved in our spring season, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous sponsorship. Without your monetary assistance, donation of ammunition and safety equipment, it would have been a tough season for us.

With your support, the members of both teams were able to attend the "grand finale" Michigan State High School Trap SHooting Meet in Mason, Michigan on June 17th. Some of our team members were awarded prizes and awards. It was a grand day for everyone.

Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Lori Kennemer
Administrative Assistant
Assistant Trap Team Coach
Midland High School





Board Members Outing

On Wednesday, July 26, our board members and spouses went to visit the Card Wildlife Education Center at Ferris State University. We enjoyed a tour given by Roger and Margo Card. Many new additions had been made to the museum since our last visit including habitat for many of the animals.

Mid-Michigan SCI helps support the transportation costs for sending many school children to visit this museum. Classes are often held here. Many materials about the animals are available.

Afterwards, we went to Two Hats Ranch for a delicious outdoor dinner.





HUNTING BLINDS

In the last issue of The Front Sight, I asked for pictures of hunting blinds...



Joe Mulders Blind



Joe Mulder's Blind (above)

Joe Mulders with his granddaughters, Brooke and Page Weber, cleared shooting lanes for Grandpa Joe's hunting blinds. In just a few years, they might be accompanying him.

Jim Schumacher's Deluxe Blind by Mary Harter (right)

For a few years I have admired a blind located in a field on the east side of Winn Road about a mile and a half south of Beal City. I drive past this blind every time I go into Mt. Pleasant. Because I wanted pictures and stories about hunting blinds, on my way into town I looked many times to see if anyone was around to talk to. Finally, I called a friend of mine, Judy Schumacher, as I thought a Schumacher owned the land, and thought she would know who owned it. She giggled when I told her what I wanted and gave me the cell phone number of her son, Jim Schumacher, the owner.



*Jim
Schumacher's
Deluxe Blind*



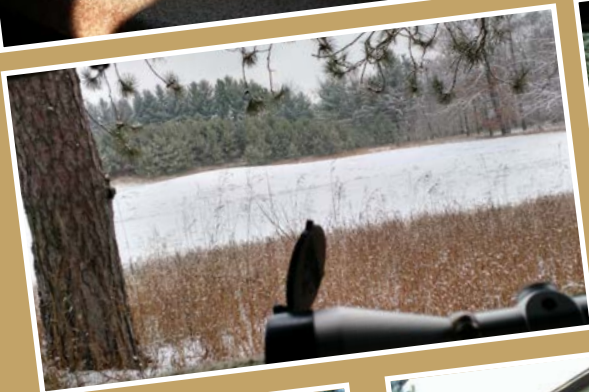
Jim also laughed when I told him I had admired the blind every time I drove past. It has a TV antenna, a front porch, and is good sized. He explained that a friend had given him an old blind which he moved from another area. It needed a good cleaning so he gutted it, painted it, added the porch, counter tops, and set it up with the help of friends to be used for deer hunting. He has two children, Jackson – 13, and Jody – 10, who also enjoy the blind.

As you can see from the pictures, the blind is two rooms with a tv, a wall heater with the propane tank outside, a bed, recliner chairs, lots of counter space, and all that is needed is a huge buck to walk by at the proper time. Thanks for the information and pictures and may you have a very successful hunting season.

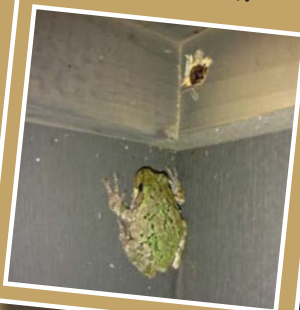
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MORE HUNTING BLINDS...

The Harter's Blinds



Don and Mary Harter - Our favorite night out: pizza in a Deer Blind. There are 14 deer in the field behind Don.



The Harter Blinds (left)

We have many tree blinds for archery and often set up tent blinds for turkeys but most of our blinds are for deer hunting with a rifle.

We have many blinds on four different pieces of property as there usually are many of us to hunt opening morning. Some are Shadow Hunter Blinds, some placed on the ground, and some are elevated on platforms. All have heaters and some are hooked up to 20# propane tanks which helps eliminate carrying in propane canisters with you when you hunt. Sometimes one extra item to carry is just too much.

My favorite blinds are built by Don usually with the help of Tim Schafer, and do not have dividers between the windows. I like to just sit back and see everything with no barriers. You don't have to move to see everything that might come out in front of you. Most of our blinds have carpet on the floor and on a shelf where you can put your gun and other necessary items, flashlight, cell phone, extra shells, etc. When not in use, the windows are covered with plexiglass. Some of the windows can also be closed if it is windy and/or extremely cold while hunting. Most of our chairs are padded office type swivel chairs with arms.

My favorite blind is on the ground overlooking a field about 100 yards across to a planting of red pines we did many years ago. This blind is perfect for the grandchildren as anything they can see in the field is an easy shot. The field goes down into a wooded swampy area that the deer often come from. Don usually plants something delicious for a deer in the field in front, like purple top turnips, to help lure the deer out. All four of our grandchildren have shot a buck from this blind with my 30.06. I have harvested many turkeys from this blind, also. We have many happy memories.

From Doug Chapin (right)

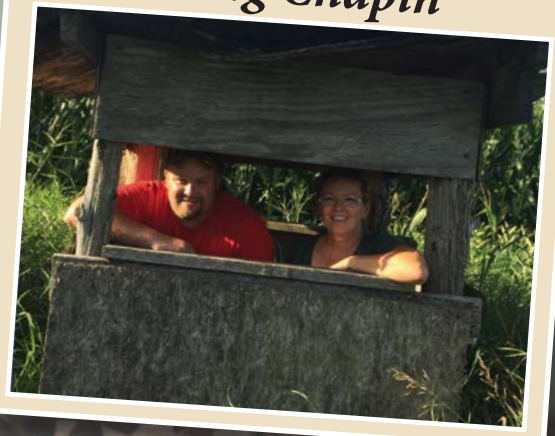
I built this blind in 1982 for my wife Cheri. She had never hunted before and decided to give it a try. She shot a nice 8-point buck that first season for her first deer. She was also pregnant with our oldest son Ben that year and he is pictured with her and the blind.

It was actually the first blind on the farm. We were pretty much stump sitters before that. I built this to "spoil" my pretty wife.

We've used it every year since. We just keep repairing it. Now it's part of the landscape and deer definitely pay it no attention. I shot my best farm buck out of it about 20 years ago.



Doug Chapin





My Bear Hunt

by Melissa Lackie

My journey started three years ago when I was just cruising around at the Mid-Michigan Safari Club International convention at the Soaring Eagle Casino in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. I stopped at a booth and was looking at the pictures of all the bears and the fishing pictures when I was approached by a guy, his name is Arlee. He pulled out a chair and asked me if I wanted to go hunting. Without saying a word, I went and got my dad, Bob Lackie.

I came back with my dad and he started talking to Arlee about me going on this hunt. One year later it was set in stone. The hunt was donated to me.

That spring I started shooting my 708mm. I first had a hard time holding it. My dad knows a guy who custom made me a handle because I shoot left handed, so the handle was mounted on the right side of the stock of the gun. The handle comes off, too. I started shooting my gun. I was barely hitting a target. My gun has a kick to it and I was scared of the kick but I got the courage up and by late summer I started shooting my gun and hitting the target. Thanks to a friend from work who told me to focus and don't forget to breathe. I listened to her.

This last spring it finally started to sink in for me and the week before we left for Northern Saskatchewan in Canada I shot my gun for the last time before we left. I hit the target one last time and I never missed it either. I was on the mark my last shot. I knew I was ready to go hunting for the first time. It was something I had never dreamed about doing.

I went out on Mother's Day later in the afternoon. My dad's friend, Nels Larsen let me borrow his track chair. The weather up there was cold and very rainy. The roads were muddy. But that didn't stop me from going out in the bush to go hunting. We were about an hour away from the hunting lodge. I was about 500 yards back in the bush. The guide's daughter and son-in-law came and helped out getting me back there. The weather broke just enough and I was about 40 yards from the bait barrel.

I put my earmuffs on and soon as I did that I could hear my heart beating. My adrenaline was just a going. Then I saw my first bear. I wasn't nervous at all but I did move just a little bit and the bear saw me and went back into the bush.

It wasn't maybe 15 minutes later, I somehow knew something big was coming in from my right side about 10 yards away. My dad couldn't see until I pointed at my eyes and that got my dad's attention which also got the attention of Arlee.

By now my heart was racing. My dad steadied the tripod stand that I used



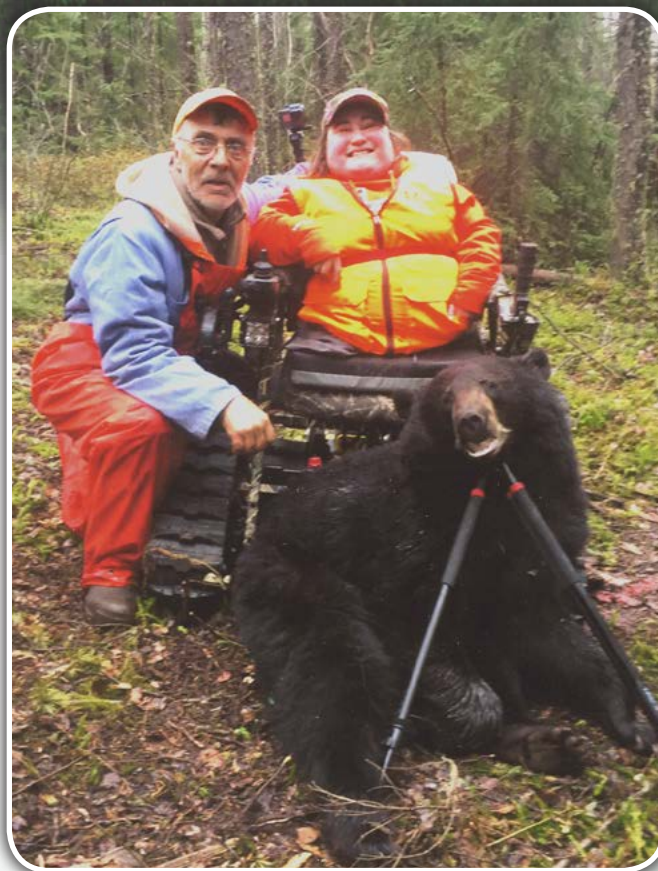


to shoot. I lined the bear up in my scope. I waited until he was broadside. I never heard Arlee say, "Shoot!" My heart was beating very loud. I pulled the trigger and I thought I had just wounded him. I had hit him. Not only did I hit him, I took both lungs out. Arlee fired after me to just make sure he was dead. I also put a hole in the bait barrel.

The experience was just amazing. I went, I saw, and I even conquered!!

I would like to thank a few people who made this hunt happen for me: Mid-Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International, Hepburn Lake Lodge for such a wonderful hunting experience, and last but not least my parents for taking the time out of their busy schedules to take me on this hunting trip of a lifetime.

I have the hunting bug and I am planning on doing more hunting.



Thank you!

I would like to thank some people, also. Thanks out to my good friend, Nels Larsen, for the use of the track chair. This hunt would not have been possible without it. And a special thanks to Arlee, Darlene, Perry, Stacy, and Sky for making us feel like family on our stay with them.

Friends Forever, Melissa's Dad

(Editor's note: I first met a smiling Melissa at SCI in Mt. Pleasant who was 'cruising' around in her motorized wheelchair. While wheelchair bound, Melissa graduated from Shepherd High School. She suffered a stroke at age 20 in which she lost more mobility and her speech but now at 33 has completed a bear hunt. Way to go girl!!!! We are so proud of you and all of the people who helped make this hunt happen.)

Award Winners from The Wildlife Gallery

On May 16, 2017, the World Champion Taxidermy and Fish Carving Competition took place in Peoria, Illinois. Five competed from The Wildlife Gallery and all five were winners.



1 - Owen Eldred
Best in the World,
Large Game Head, Sika Deer



2 - Mike Doyle
3rd in the World, Small to
Medium Life-size, Bobcat



3 - Frank Newmeyer
Best Interpretive Piece,
Mandarin Duck



4 - Justin Hinson
3rd in the World,
Large Game Head,
Russian Boar



5 - Dave Dunn
Best in Category,
Collective Artist,
Brown Bear

A Bit of Nostalgia

by Mary Harter

The cover is a picture taken of a few things I took from my father's home when we emptied it out. The license is from 1985 when they had to be displayed on your back and is a senior license. The green metal tag is from 1959 and had to be secured around the deer antler and was sealed when one end was inserted into the other. The metal box is an Edgeworth Extra High-Grade Plug Slice smoking tobacco box from the Larus and Bro. Co., Richmond, VA. In it are gun parts and one is from Marbles in Gladstone, MI. The matches are in a sturdy, waterproof container. The cylinder at the top of the picture contains a brass cleaning rod and string and has gun oil in one end. The jackknife is one of many my father always had in his pocket. I grew up believing every man carried one. My how times have changed.

The booklet, "A Place to Hunt" is a special 1960 supplement of the public lands in Michigan published by the Michigan Department of Conservation. This booklet addresses "A Place to Hunt", "Hunting has Changed", "Meeting the Problem" which addressed the Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937, "Improving the Land", "Extra Dividends", "About the Future", and maps of the public lands in Michigan.



I recently laundered my father's hunting outfit which is a jacket and bibs in blaze orange camo. He went to this outfit from his black and red wool plaid outfit when the blaze orange was required. It was interesting to clean out his pockets which contained a book of matches, a whistle, a stick of Wrigley's spearmint chewing gum, a piece of twine to attach his license to deer antlers, a rope with which to drag the deer, a red hanky, a roll of tums, a plastic bag with two paper towels, and a pack of Kleenex. We have an extra outfit in our closet now for the grandchildren or whoever needs to borrow it.

What do you keep in the pockets of your hunting outfits?

Canadian Fishing Adventure

by Roger Card



Each year, as the snow melts and the geese return from their winter migration, I always get the urge to return to Canada for a fly-in fishing adventure. Some of my fondest memories are of trips long ago, when my father would load all four of his sons up and cross the border, north, into God's land. Our old station wagon would be crammed with kids, food, fishing gear, clothes and various pieces of camping paraphernalia. The excitement and anticipation of those trips were almost more than a young lad could bear.

We would return home exhausted, and with an amazing bunch of new stories and memories of the many crazy things that had happened, in just one short week. Nowadays I do not get quite as excited as I used to, but there is still a lot of pleasure in starting my spring with a Canadian fishing jaunt.

This year we booked a trip with some old friends, Tom and Michel Watson, of Kaby Lake Lodge, out of White River, Ontario. Tom's parents owned Pine Portage Lodge on that same lake system and I have had the pleasure of fishing with them many times, over the years. My wife, Margo, and I were accompanied by Rod Merchant and Brenda Lindquist this year and, as always, we had a blast. Brenda is from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and an avid enthusiast when it comes to any type of fishing. Margo is new at some of this, however she is a quick learner and it didn't take long before she was adding her share of the fat walleyes to the stringer. It seems Rod and I were always playing catch up on who caught the most and the biggest.

The Watson's wanted me to mention they coordinate bear hunts, as well, and just in case we did not believe them, one of the largest black bears I have seen in a long time wandered through the corner of camp one morning.



Below is a list of some of the differences I noticed between the modern Kabi Lodge and the adventures of my youth.

Now:

Electric start on the motors
Flat flooring in boats
Boats have bilge pumps
Boats have depth finders
Comfortable padded seats
Wonderful big breakfasts
Fish are filleted and frozen
Cabins had housekeeping
HOT SHOWERS

Then:

Pulling rope start until you thought your arm would fall off
V bottoms making standing comfortably impossible
An old sponge full of oil, fish slime and escaped worms
Anything below the surface was a mystery so just guess
Butt busting one inch thick floating seat cushions
Cereal and powdered milk
Standing hours in stinking, mosquito infested, filet shack
Pretty disgusting when we got there, worse when we left
Jumping in the lake with a bar of soap

I like NOW better!!

We were on the "American Plan" which I think is code for "They do everything." Boats were clean and prepped each day for fishing, minnows were in the bucket, seats were wiped dry and usually the motors were warmed up and ready. All meals were exceptionally well prepared and there were snacks and sandwiches to tide us over, from the monster breakfast to the overwhelming evening meal. Do not plan on losing any weight on a trip here!!

We caught lots of wallies, an odd perch and of course some nice northern pike. Anyone considering a trip like this should feel free to contact Michel at: kabywatson@xplornet.com



*"I like to fish,
but Love to hunt even more!"*

*Happy
Hunting
(and fishing.)*



*"You should
have seen the
size of the
one that got
away!!"*

WHO IS SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL (SCI)?

SCI is an organization of politically active members who hunt on federal, state and private lands and who vote in federal and state and local elections to protect their hunting opportunities and conserve our nation's wildlife. SCI's is the country's leader in advocacy to protect the freedom to hunt and to promote wildlife conservation worldwide. SCI has approximately 50,000 members active in 200 Chapters that represent all 50 of the United States as well as 106 other countries. Through our active advocacy network, SCI has the ability to work with federal and state legislators and policy makers to develop, promote and communicate positions on important issues, laws, regulations and initiatives and to generate broad support for candidates who support hunting and the issues that are important to them.

WHAT IS OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE?

The mission of SCI is to protect the freedom to hunt and to promote wildlife conservation worldwide. The purposes of SCI include –

- To advocate, preserve and protect the rights of all hunters.
- To promote, safe, legal and ethical hunting and related activities.
- To engage in advocacy within the limits imposed by law and regulation, to monitor, support, educate or otherwise take positions on local, national and international legislative, executive, judicial or organizational endeavors that foster and support these purposes and objectives.
- To inform and educate the public concerning hunting and related activities.

SCI members help shape and promote the image of the hunter to the general public, through their words and actions. In addition to practicing ethical hunting while in the field, SCI members give back by participating in educational, civic service, conservation, and humanitarian efforts across the globe.

WHAT RESOURCES DO WE HAVE TO OFFER?

In SCI's office on Capitol Hill, we have experienced lobbyists, litigators, policy makers and social media experts working hand-in-hand with wildlife biologists from our sister organization, the Safari Club International Foundation. We administer the largest sportsmen led Political Action Committee (SCI-PAC) that helps support campaigns of legislators on both sides of the aisle. SCI's Washington, D.C. office has the capacity to:

- 1) Develop, edit, and analyze legislation;
- 2) Defend federal actions, rules, plans and policies in federal and state courts;
- 3) Alert and generate support for federal and state legislation through our communications network;
- 4) Support candidates in federal and state races throughout the country;
- 5) Draft scientifically supported comment letters and white papers on hunting related decision-making.

Learn More

Learn more about SCI by visiting www.safariclub.org or contacting Anna Seidman at our Washington, D.C. office at (202) 543-8733 or aseidman@safariclub.org.

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July 24, 2017



Department of Natural Resources names Bill O'Neill deputy director

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh today announced that Bill O'Neill has been named natural resources deputy for the agency, effective Sunday, Aug.

13. Current natural resources deputy, Bill Moritz, is leaving his position with the DNR to work for the Wildlife Management Institute.

O'Neill has more than 31 years of experience with the DNR. Since January 2012, he has served as chief of the DNR's Forest Resources Division, except for a brief stint in early 2016 when – on an interim basis – he took on the role of resources deputy while Moritz filled in as DNR director during Creagh's assignment at the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality.

While with the DNR, O'Neill has taken on many roles, including Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps camp director, land manager for several forest management units, district manager for the Eastern Lower Peninsula District and FRD field coordinator, administering the largest state forest system in the continental United States. Each position offered opportunities to collaborate across department divisions, as well as the chance to build relationships with external partners and organizations.

As DNR natural resources deputy, O'Neill will administer the divisions that oversee Michigan's wildlife and fisheries, state forests and state parks, minerals and law enforcement.

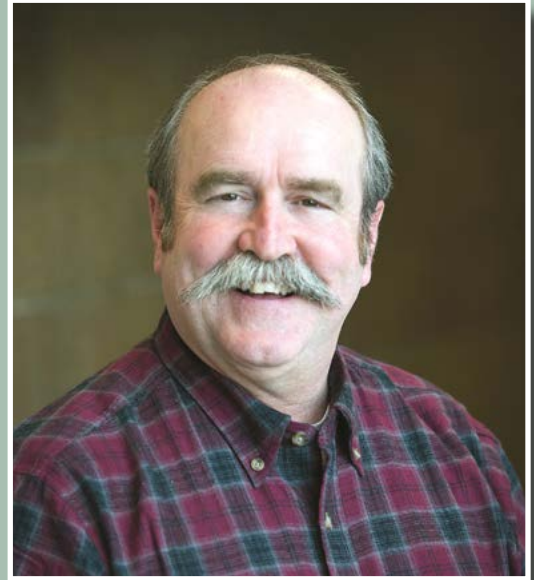
"Bill Moritz has been a thoughtful and tireless advocate for Michigan's natural resources and the people who enjoy and appreciate them," said Creagh. "I have full confidence in Bill O'Neill's ability to step in as the department's natural resources deputy. Bill has decades of valuable experience to draw upon, and I know he will provide the right leadership to advance the management of Michigan's world-class natural and cultural resources."

O'Neill currently serves as president of the Northeast Area Association of State Foresters, is on the National Association of State Foresters executive board, and is a Department of Forestry board member at both Michigan Technological University and Michigan State University. His past affiliations include the Wildlife Society (member), the Montmorency Soil and Water Conservation District (board of directors) and the Huron Shores Writing Institute (board of directors).

"Our state is home to some of the most magnificent woods, water and wildlife found anywhere in the world, and I am honored to take on this role for the Department of Natural Resources and for the people of Michigan," O'Neill said. "As state forester and chief of the DNR Forest Resources Division, I was committed to collaboration and doing what's best for the sustainable management of our natural resources. I look forward to working with our resource divisions and partners in continuing that commitment."

O'Neill earned a bachelor's degree in forestry and a master's degree in forestry with an emphasis on business management from Michigan State University.

Until a permanent replacement is named as chief of the Forest Resources Division, DNR Regional Initiatives Deputy Marc Miller will serve as the division's interim chief, in addition to his other duties.



Bill O'Neill

The Michigan Predator-Prey Story

From White-tailed Deer Research to Landscape Level Ecosystem Management:

How SCI Foundation Led the Way in Michigan's Upper Peninsula

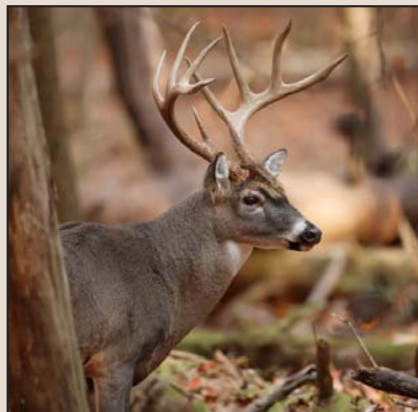
By SCI Foundation – Conservation

Up in the backwoods of the Superior state, the outdoors is a way of life. With iconic wildlife from moose to muskie, Michigan's Upper Peninsula (U.P.) has some of the best hunting and fishing around. In these Great North Woods, the white-tailed buck is chief.

The white-tailed deer is an extremely important species both recreationally and ecologically. Yoopers, as U.P. residents are known, and other Michigan deer hunters hoping to bag a buck contribute over one billion dollars to the state's economy every year. Deer also serve as the main herbivore and prey species in this forest ecosystem.

The U.P. hosts a diverse suite of predators including black bear, bobcat, coyote, and wolves, and has the potential to receive 300 inches of snow in any given winter. These predators, combined with deep snow and polar vortex colds can be devastating to white-tails.

"The Upper Peninsula is the most difficult place in the United States



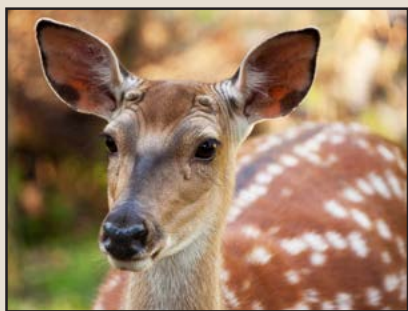
to manage deer, bar none," says local wildlife biologist and SCI Foundation Conservation Committee Vice-Chair Jim Hammill. "You can do all the planning you want...about what you think this deer herd is going to do, but one winter can set you back years."

Back-to-back severe winters in the mid-1990s and again in 2013 and 2014 were catastrophic to the U.P. herd. The deer population didn't recover, while predator numbers were growing and increasingly blamed for the steep decline. In 2008, SCI Foundation brought together regional stakeholders, including the extensive Michigan SCI chapter network, to undertake a predator-prey study with the common goal of improving long-term deer survival.

In its heyday, the U.P. was home to a diversity of wildlife and an abundance of game. Severe winters, growing predator populations and the removal of critical winter cover have resulted in greatly reduced capacity of the region's ecosystem to overwinter deer. This is the story of how an effort to save the U.P.'s deer herd ended up transforming the region's landscape, launching a statewide conservation movement.

How many fawns does a wolf kill during a summer? What kind of habitat does the U.P. deer herd need to recover? These are the big questions that researchers with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

and Mississippi State University's Carnivore Ecology Laboratory team are answering. "It's time to get out of the way," yells graduate student Todd Kautz as he's nearly run over by a white-tailed doe. After capturing a pregnant female, conducting a series of tests and collaring her with a GPS transmitter, the sedative begins to wear off and the deer bounds away through the snow. "Oh, great release!"



This doe capture will provide vital data on the U.P.'s deer population as part of SCI Foundation's ongoing Michigan Predator-Prey Project. "Any time I see a doe take off from a work up looking good to go and completely mobile, that's a good day," says Kautz. "If they run me over a little on the way out, I'm ok with that."

To study predator-prey interactions and the impact of winter severity on the U.P. whitetail herd, researchers start by capturing does. A transmitter fitted to a female deer will alert the scientists when and where a fawn is born. Armed with that information, the team of biologists can locate fawns shortly after birth and fit them with their own GPS collars. Data from these newborn fawns is critical to the research project.

Fawn survival is a key indicator of population trend. By tracking fawn survival and cause-specific mortality, the researchers are beginning to understand the predator-prey dynamics in the U.P. ecosystem.

"We're coming at this from two angles," says Dr. Dean Beyer of the Michigan DNR, "from the perspective of the deer and the perspective of the predator."

Dr. Beyer's team is also studying the predator populations and examining prey kill sites to determine the influence of bears, bobcats, coyotes, and wolves on the deer herd. This new information on predator-prey dynamics has directly influenced recommendations for predator management and hunter harvest in the U.P.

The Michigan Predator-Prey Project has conducted an incredible amount of research. Estimating bobcat abundance using DNA samples from hair snares is just one example of the depth of this research, which has resulted in dozens of peer-reviewed publications, technical reports, theses and dissertations. The contribution to science from this project is an achievement in itself.

The local SCI chapter network has supported this project from its onset, through SCI Foundation's matching grant program and direct contributions. Conservation-minded hunters fund numerous wildlife research projects through the SCI Michigan Involvement Committee and continue to be some of the most active and involved SCI chapters in the country.

The Michigan Predator-Prey Project, and the statewide conservation initiative it has created, has been SCI Foundation's flagship North American project for nearly a decade. Since the very first grant was issued in 2008, SCI Foundation has contributed close to \$400,000 to this research.

Now in the project's ninth year, the state is applying what's been learned to on the ground management. Contrary to public perception on the role of wolves and other predators, the most important research finding suggests that winter habitat quality is actually the limiting factor for whitetail recovery.

The harsh U.P. winters can have a serious impact on deer. Heavy snowfall forces the herd to migrate to wintering yards with quality cover under the dense canopy of conifer trees. "100% of the deer are concentrated on only 17% of the landscape during the winter," says Jim Hammill. When winter habitat is inadequate, deer are exposed to the elements, weakened and left more vulnerable to predation.

As a response, in 2014 the Michigan Natural Resources Commission reestablished the Upper Peninsula Habitat Workgroup (UPHWG) to create forest management plans for deer wintering complexes. The workgroup is a collection of natural resource professionals and sportsmen, all interested in improving habitat for deer.

"White pines, white cedar, and Eastern hemlock provide a tree canopy that gives deer protection from winter weather conditions like deep snow and cold temperatures," says Hammill. The combination of good thermal cover near open forested food sources is exactly the habitat conditions that the group is looking to increase on the landscape.

The UPHWG is now engaging both private landowners and the timber industry in this movement to improve habitat management. Through a cost-sharing program, landowners have an incentive to participate, and many are volunteering to maintain winter deer yards on private property. The workgroup has already mapped out and begun activity managing 50 deer wintering complexes across the U.P.

The Superior state's powerful timber industry is also "logging with deer in mind." Now, selective cutting leaves important thermal cover standing with fresh growth nearby. Loggers say it's the right thing to do and a win-win for the industry and the deer.

Today, the U.P.'s landscape is changing with the attitudes of the people as sustainable logging and private land management work together to conserve habitat.

One thing that hasn't changed is the tradition of deer hunting in the Upper Peninsula, and every fall yoopers head into the woods to put venison on the table.

Sparked by hunters concerned with the health of their deer herd and habitat management in the U.P., a collection of Michigan's residents—sportsmen, private landowners and loggers—have rallied around this project. SCI Foundation and its partners started a movement to improve habitat in one of the most difficult places to manage whitetails, and in the process launched an initiative that will transform the landscape of the U.P.

The UPHWG, an outcome of the Michigan Predator-Prey Project, is a model of conservation that can be applied to other northern states and habitat types around the country. We now know a lot more about the U.P. deer herd, its complex predator-prey dynamics, and sustainably managing the ecosystem as a result of this research. We have also learned to collaborate among a diverse group of stakeholders to conserve wildlife habitat and preserve a rich hunting culture. This story is something that all SCI members and every deer hunter should know.

SCI Foundation was officially commended by the Michigan Natural Resources Commission in 2015 for supporting years of research and playing an integral part in launching the UPHWG. From grant funding and staff expertise to volunteer hours and stakeholder engagement, this movement wouldn't have happened without the help of SCI Foundation.

Thank you to all of our partners on the Michigan Predator-Prey Project, most notably the Michigan DNR, Dr. Jerry Belant and the Mississippi State University Carnivore Ecology Laboratory, the SCI Michigan Involvement Committee and all Michigan SCI chapters. Thanks to all the deer hunters that also support our mission. To commemorate this success and celebrate the upcoming 2016 deer hunting season, SCI Foundation will be promoting videos from the Michigan Predator-Prey Project throughout the fall. Stay in touch with SCI Foundation communications by following our First for Wildlife blog, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter and Instagram.

Safari Club International Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that funds and directs worldwide programs dedicated to wildlife conservation and outdoor education. Any contribution may be tax deductible under Internal Revenue Code section 170(c) as a charitable contribution to the extent permitted by law. Tax deductible amount of gift is reduced by the "Fair market Value" of any goods, services, or advantages that a sponsor receives for the donation. EIN #86-0292099.

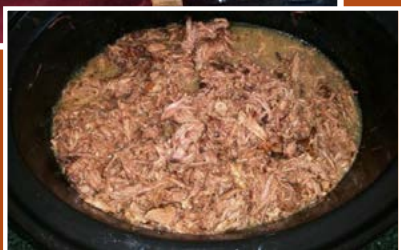
Night Vision Optics given to the DNR by our Mid-Michigan Chapter



*Pictured is Scott Holmes, our treasurer,
with DNR officer.*

Favorite Recipes

by Mary Browning



PULLED CROCKPOT ROAST IN BEER

1. In a slow cooker place a 4-5 pound roast.
Can be any type (venison, elk, beef, buffalo etc).
2. Pour 3/4 cup of BBQ Sauce over meat.
3. Add enough beer to completely cover the roast.
4. Cook on low for about 10 hours.
5. Shred meat with 2 forks.
6. Pour liquid over shredded meat to soak in.

Enjoy!

RABBIT CASSEROLE

- 1 large or 2 small rabbits, cooked and cut up in bite size pieces
- 1 large onion, chopped and sautéed in 1/2 stick butter
- 1 small can chopped green chilies
- 3 cans cream of chicken soup
- 1 pkg. soft corn tortillas, cut up in bite size pieces

Worcestershire to taste

Mix all together.

Put in a casserole dish. Cover with 1/2 pound grated cheese. Bake 25 to 30 minutes in a 350 degree oven.

CHOCOLATE COOKIE DOUGH BARS

- 1 (18.2 oz.) Pkg. Brownie Mix
- 1 (16.5 oz.) Refrigerated chocolate chip cookie dough
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup M&M candy
- 1/2 cup nuts

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Coat a 9x13 inch pan with cooking spray.
3. Prepare batter for cake like brownies.
4. Pour brownie batter into baking dish.
5. Drop spoonfuls of cookie dough over brownie batter.
6. Sprinkle top with candy, chocolate chips and nuts.

Bake 30 to 35 minutes. Let cool before cutting into bars.

Looking Ahead

In Our Next Issue



**OUR
NEW ZEALAND HUNT**
by Josh Christensen

**HARTERS IN
SASKATCHEWAN**
by Mary Harter



**OUR
ALASKAN
MOOSE
ADVENTURE**
by Bill Mayhew

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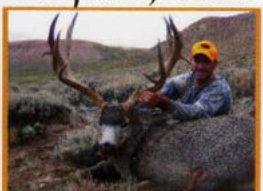
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