

# FRONT SIGHT



Mid-Michigan Chapter Safari Club International

April - June 2018, Issue 42



Low's Trophy Whitetail Ranch  
Photo by DANIEL REINKE ~Reinke Photography

**CHAPTER MAGAZINE AWARD**  
**Safari Club International**





# JOHAN PIETERSE SAFARIS



SOUTH AFRICA  
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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 3220 and changes yearly on February 15th. Please carry membership identification on you when you visit the range.



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- 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](http://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. ☐

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### MEMBERSHIP DUES (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE)

18 +	1 Year	\$ 65 National Dues	\$ 25 Local Dues	= \$ 90
	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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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## President's Message

The Mid-Michigan Chapter just finished our 39th Annual Hunter's Convention Fundraiser at the Soaring Eagle Casino on February 23rd and 24th. It was a great success with over 550 for dinner. It is our main fundraiser to support our programs. I would like to thank all our Board Members, Outfitters, and Guests who attended this year's event.

Coming into Spring, turkey season will be upon us. Make sure you check out your DNR Hunting Guide for dates. Some units you must apply for and some are sold over the counter. The nice thing about turkey season is you can cover a lot of territory which is a perfect opportunity to scout for deer, look for morel mushrooms, and bring along a young hunter to give them some experience.

The DNR has some new regulations for the areas affected by the CWD (chronic wasting disease). Make sure you know these areas and rules on baiting.

Keep in mind we have our MUCC Camp for Kids coming in May, June, and July. If you are interested, you may go to the website or contact myself, Kevin Unger, at 989-560-7288.

Good luck on your spring hunting,  
Best Regards,



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



*Don Harter, Louise Shockey, Kevin Unger, Jim Shockey, Mary Harter and Larry Higgins at the Canadian After Hours Party during the SCI Convention in Las Vegas.*

## Editor's Message

What a fun time at our 39th Annual Hunter's Convention visiting with the many outfitters and friends we have made over the years. Our board worked very hard to make it a success. Good luck to all that purchased hunts. We had some exceptional trips to choose from.

Some of our programs that our fundraiser supports are the MUCC Camp for Kids. Check out their website and choose a program your child might enjoy and call Kevin Unger at 989-560-7288 and get them registered.

We also send educators to AWLS (American Wilderness Leadership School) at the Granite Ranch outside Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Check on these dates on the SCI website under Foundation and Education. We pay for the school and transportation, up to a certain amount. You can also receive credit for the week-long class. If interested, see if any of the dates will fit into your schedule and then call Doug Chapin at 231-349-4059.

Spring will be here before we know it. I have bulbs peeking through already but I'm sure they will be disappointed by more cold weather soon. At least they are a sign of hope and with Spring comes turkeys and mushrooming. I hope you will enjoy both activities.

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>
April 2, 2018	Board	4:40 p.m.	Comfort Inn
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
May 7, 2018	Board	4:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
	Membership	6:30 p.m.	Comfort Inn
June 18, 2018	Board - Election	5:00 p.m.	Cheers
July 9, 2018	Board - Budget	5:00 p.m.	Cheers
Sept. 3, 2018	Board	5:00 p.m.	Cheers
Sept. 22, 2018	Skeet Shoot	3:00 p.m.	Isabella County Sportsman's Club
Oct. 8, 2018	Board	5:00 p.m.	Cheers
Dec. 3, 2018	Board	5:00 p.m.	Cheers

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: Camouflage & Lace

Copyright:

Author: Mary Harter

List Price: \$20.00

Publisher: Pleasant Graphics, Inc.

The author of this book, Mary Harter, has hunted all over the world for many different species of animals. Camouflage & Lace is a compilation of her and her husband Don's adventures. If there is a hunt you are thinking of taking and would like to learn a little more about it, odds are you will find a story about it in this book.

While reading these short stories you will hunt with Mary in many places ranging from her own property in Michigan to the mountains of Tajikistan and everywhere in between. Along the way you will experience hunts for the big five, Marco Polo sheep and red deer. This is truly a great collection of over 50 short stories from around the world.

Mrs. Harter has also been an active member of the Mid-Michigan chapter of SCI for many years. She has performed many jobs including board member and editor of our Front Sight magazine. In addition, Harter was also named SCI's 2015 Diana award winner for her hunting accomplishments.



This book gets 10 out of 10 bullseyes





# Beal City's BIG BUCK CONTEST

January 6, 2018  
Tim's Barbershop

This was the sixth year for a Big Buck Contest at Tim's Barbershop in Beal City owned by Tim Martin. Tim has a sign-up sheet, so we know approximately how many hunters are going to participate. Dave Conners, local taxidermist and official measurer, was on hand to measure for the participants. All entries had to be legally taken in the 2017 whitetail hunting season and harvested with a gun, bow, muzzleloader, handgun, or crossbow.

Of the many entries, Curt Gottschalk and Aaron Swan took top honors for the adults. Youth hunters were Luke Rau (10) with a 10 point, Alex Sytek (11) with an 8 point, Madison Flaughner (11) with an 8 point, Sophie Weber (10) with a 10 point, and Grace Weber (14) with an 8 point. They provided us with beautiful pictures of their harvests.

Congratulations to everyone that participated, and we wish you good luck for the upcoming season. All lucky hunters stop in to Tim's Barbershop in Beal City and register your buck.



Curt Gottschalk and Aaron Swan



Madison Flaughner



Alex Sytek



Luke Rau



Grace Weber



Sophie Weber



Mid Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International

# BIG BUCK NIGHT AWARDS

January 27, 2018



**Youth Hunters** - an award for every participant  
**Biggest Overall Youth Buck** - Bella Schafer, 123 0/8  
**Biggest In State Rifle** - Calvin Beach, 160 7/8  
**Biggest In State Bow** - Mike Strobe, 149 0/8  
**Biggest Out of State Rifle** - Randy Schitz, 129 3/8  
**Biggest Out of State Bow** - Eric Willard, 130 0/8  
**Biggest Estate Buck** - Dr. Terry Braden, 194 5/8  
**Biggest Youth Estate Buck** - Seth Brown, 108 5/8  
**Biggest In State Muzzleloader** - Cindy Cotter, 116 0/8  
**Biggest In State Crossbow** - Arnold Himebaugh, 122 1/8  
**Biggest Out of State Mule Deer** - Don Harter, 158 1/8  
**Biggest Overall Women's Buck** - Rachel Stickler, 153 1/8  
**Biggest Overall In State Buck** - Calvin Beach, 160 7/8  
**Biggest Overall Out of State Buck** - Eric Willard, 130 2/8  
**Biggest Non Member Deer (Free Membership)** - Don Uzarski, 176 0/8

An item of interest was a white tail deer that had antlers in velvet but was neither a doe or buck. This oddity had been inspected by the DNR. We had a 50/50 raffle and played reverse Bingo. Two conservation Officers were on hand to answer questions about CWD, Chronic Wasting Disease, from our audience.

*Photos by Reinke Photography*







Veteran Hunters, Tom & Sandra Meyer



*Thank you*  
**Measurers,**

Dave Connors  
Mike Johnston  
Dr. Terry Braden  
Owen Eldred  
Jon Zieman  
and  
Nick Giuliani

# BIG BUCK NIGHT



# My 20-Year Grizzly Quest

By Bob Balzer

I spent several years in my late teens and early twenties passionately pursuing black bears in Michigan. At that time, I owned hounds and spent each weekend from July 15 until mid-September training and hunting, hoping that one day I would find myself face-to-face with one of these elusive bruins. Tracking systems were not what they are today and I did not have the money to invest in high-caliber dogs, so it was nearly impossible to get even a glimpse of a bear and the opportunity to harvest one never came.

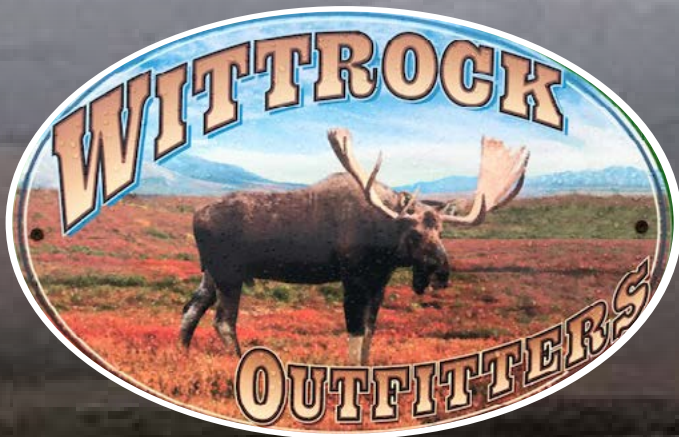
I became obsessed with taking a bear and found myself baiting and hunting with outfitters in Ontario, Manitoba and northern Michigan. Before long, my successes began to add up to where I now have several trophy bears adorning the walls of my home.

Throughout this time, the idea of hunting grizzly bears began to dominate my hunting goals and dreams, but I knew that the expense would likely cause that dream to go unfulfilled.

My wife and I were early in our careers and had recently become parents when, through a connection with a friend of a friend, I was invited to go to Alaska on a trip of a lifetime to hunt the giant grizzly that had plagued my mind. It would be a long-shot, but I reluctantly pleaded my case to my wife knowing that the chance of gaining her approval was next to none! After what seemed to be hours of presenting my case, I was shocked when she agreed that this truly

was a great opportunity and would leave it up to me to make the decision. Early the next morning I picked up the phone to call my new friend with the incredible news that I would join him on the trip. But, then I did something that I had never done before and have rarely done since! Before dialing his number, I called my wife just to confirm that she was really alright with our decision. Calling her was a decision that, to some degree, I would regret for the next 20 years or more. Her response was "I have thought about this all morning. That is a lot of money we could use to invest in our children's education. I think you should wait!" I was devastated, but immediately picked up the phone to let my friend know I would not be joining him in Alaska.

Fast forward nearly twenty years to 2015. I'd been blessed to hunt many animals throughout the country and in a few parts of the world. I have gained incredible friends who share my hunting passions and we have supported SCI and regularly attend a couple of banquets in Michigan each year. The Mid-Michigan Chapter of SCI puts on an amazing banquet close to home and my good friend, Josh Christensen, often writes columns for the chapter and encourages me to look for hunt opportunities found at the annual event. Josh has been honored as the Mid-Michigan SCI Bowhunter of the Year, as well as the Crossbow Hunter of the Year. His wife, Sara, has received the distinction of the Mid-Michigan chapter of SCI Woman



**Grizzly bear spike camp**





Hunter of the Year and I respect their advice regarding quality hunts and outfitters. So, when I was introduced to Brian Simpson, owner of Wittrock Outfitters out of Nome, Alaska, I spent a good deal of time learning about his donated moose hunt at the 2015 SCI banquet. An Alaskan moose was number two on my bucket list behind a grizzly bear. If I were successful at bidding on his hunt, Brian would allow me to come to his camp a couple days early to try for a grizzly before moose season began.

Brian is highly regarded as an Alaskan outfitter, which was evident by the fact that his hunts are booked two years out. I would wait that long following my successful bid to join him in 2017. I am not a patient guy and the long wait was incredibly difficult to withstand!

## My trip to Nome this past August was “Amazing!”

The flight from Anchorage to Nome was filled with indescribable beauty! Nome is a quaint, native town bustling with fascinating history as it is the finish line of

the Alaskan Iditarod, an event that two people from my home town will brave to attempt.

My first day at camp would include a trip in the Archer bush plane that would take us along the coast of the Bering Sea and up to the Arctic Ocean. Musk Ox and Caribou sightings were common and encouraging as we flew closer to grizzly country. A couple of dead walruses and small whales would make excellent bear bait along the ocean where my guide and I would land to hunt for the next couple of days. Actually, I told my wife I would give up my week of moose hunting to better the odds of killing a bear. So, I was prepared to spend the next several days on the shore of the ocean in a two-person tent to do all I could to fulfill my dream. The blistering 40 mile per hour winds and the fact that grizzly tracks were all around our campsite made for an interesting and somewhat uncomfortable first night sleep!

We awoke after daylight the next morning to find clear skies and milder winds. After making a short trek to a nearby vantage point, we spent about 20 minutes glassing before spotting a nice grizz nearly two miles away. With a clear excitement in his voice, my guide



*Bob with the grizzly*



said "That's a really nice bear", and we immediately decided to make a stalk. With steady winds in our favor, the stalk would prove to be easy despite the fact that we had to navigate several bogs along the way. On a couple of occasions, my walking stick broke through the ground and nearly disappeared. I experienced that sensation in Newfoundland several years ago and learned how dangerous a situation like that could be. Within an hour or so, my guide, Travis, and I found ourselves laying prone only 150 yards from the gorgeous, silver-tipped bear. We laid there for nearly 30 minutes watching nearby trophy caribou bulls study the same bear we were after. When the resting animal stood to present me a shot, my 300 Remington Ultra Mag topped with my trustworthy Leupold scope sent the 180 grain Barnes TTSX bullet through the bruin's shoulder. The shot instantly downed the large bear and my 20-year dream had suddenly become a reality!

The experience of shooting, skinning, packing and flying my trophy back to moose camp was unbelievably fulfilling! However, moose season began the next day and I could not have been more excited. By now, several other hunters had arrived at camp and we all celebrated by sharing the story of my grizzly hunt as we ate fresh caribou steaks over an open fire before retiring to our bunk cabins for a restful night sleep in anticipation of our morning hunt.

Wittrock Outfitters is known for the 100% success rate experienced by their moose hunters over the past several years and I was confident that this year would be no different. I was surprised by the fairly open, rolling, mountainous terrain with miles of rivers bordered by willow brush. My expectations were to see the traditional boggy, evergreen floodings with fast-flowing rivers navigable only by boat. However, the eight-wheeled Argo we set off on for my opening-

day moose hunt proved to be the most trustworthy mode of transportation for the terrain we were in.

I imagined several hours or days of riding and glassing before spotting a legal bull moose, which according to Alaskan regulations, must be at least 50 inches wide or have a least 4 points on one of the fronts in order for a non-resident to take it. After only an hour ride, however, I was pleasantly surprised when my guide muttered "I've got paddles!" Two bulls, including a nice shooter, were comfortably bedded with six cows only 800 yards away and just a short distance across a beautiful, meandering riverbed. We studied the big bull for nearly an hour while my guide was dropping several hints hoping that I would agree to a stalk. The bull was estimated at 56 inches wide and was a true trophy in most hunter's eyes. However, my heart was set on a 60 inch. We agreed to move on and search for other moose over the next couple of hours. If none were found, we would return for a stalk on the resting bull.

The Argo ride was very exciting. Our "professional" driver did an incredible job navigating steep riverbeds, thick willows and mud that would surely have caused others to look for a more comfortable route. These guys have done this many times before and I put my full faith in them to keep us safe and eventually find another shooter bull.

A short pause to stretch after another hour ride would be all we needed to hear the driver say "I've got good paddles!" My guide and I searched for the bull but could not find him anywhere. Before long, the driver said "You're looking too close!" How right he was! We had been looking out to about a half mile...not two



*Moose camp cabin with argos they used*



*Inside of moose camp cabin*



miles. Once we finally got a good look at him, we knew that this was the bull we were looking for. It took nearly an hour to get close enough to make a stalk and we were unsure if the bull had even stayed in the area. The thicket we spotted him in was not real big and appeared, at first glance, to be a place where he could not hide. After getting to within a couple hundred yards of where we suspected he could be, we did some calling and waited for nearly a half hour before deciding to go in after him. I was amazed that the brush I thought was only a few feet tall was actually over 10 feet high. It was a perfect place for an animal to hide. With video rolling, we made our way into the woodlot and soon found ourselves within 75 yards of the unsuspecting bull. We had no shot in the thicket and the bull began to make his way to a couple of cows we had spotted several hundred yards away. Our only hope was he would make a slight turn and step into a small opening. It was a slim chance, but the bull played the script perfectly.

I waited for my guide to get his camera on the massive animal and heard him whisper  
*“Nice bull...take him”*

I waited for my guide to get his camera on the massive animal and heard him whisper “Nice bull...take him”. The distinct rumble of my 300 Ultra Mag rang out across the countryside and I heard the “thump” of my Barnes bullet strike the bull right behind the shoulder. He stood there, stunned and uncertain of where to turn. Another round struck him in the same spot. Again, he stood dazed and unable to move. I am used to animals dropping immediately after I shoot them and was shocked that an animal could withstand two rounds of high-quality ammunition. So, I whispered “I’m going to take him right on the shoulder and put him down.” He was already “dead on his feet”, but I wanted him down right there! I don’t always hear my bullet strike an animal, but it was undeniable that the third bullet was a solid hit on the shoulder. The bull crumbled and I swear I could feel the earth tremble as he hit the ground.

I distinctly remember thinking, “No way! I’ve waited over twenty years for this experience! I can’t believe this just happened!” I spent two days hunting in Alaska and had a gorgeous grizzly bear back at camp and now a massive bull moose would lay at my feet.

I am truly blessed to have the support of my beautiful wife to pursue my hunting passions! I am blessed to have amazing friends with whom I can share these experiences and for the memories that will live on either in my mind or through the many photographs that I will cherish forever. I am grateful for the blessing of time...especially the 20 years it took for me to fulfill this dream...my hunting trip of a lifetime!



*Bob with the moose*







*Wednesday's featured entertainer, Comedian Tim Allen with Don and Mary Harter.*



*Don Harter being presented a trophy for his Mountain Nyala by Tom Miranda.*



*Larry Higgins, Record Book Chairman*



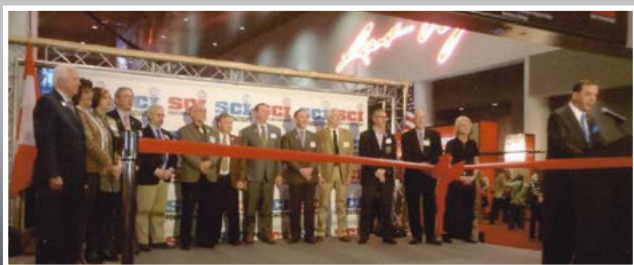
*Mary Harter received the Magazine Award for our Chapter's Front Sight.*



*Thursday Evening, Ivan Carter spoke about his efforts with Wild Animal Response to help with the conflict with the human element and wild life in Africa. Check out his website and Raindrop Initiative to help.*



*(Right) Ivan with a couple from his anti-poaching team.*



*Opening Ceremonies with speaker, Paul Babaz, SCI President.*

*Friday's Keynote Speaker, Chris Cox, NRA's Executive Director*

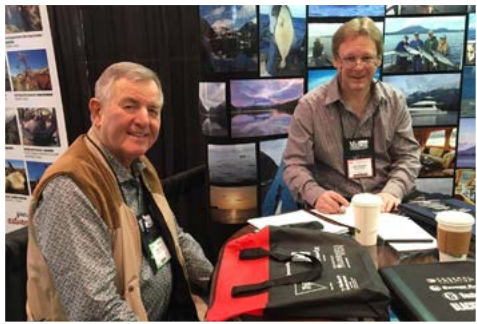






# ***LAS VAGAS, NEVADA***

## ***JAN. 31 - FEB. 3, 2018***



*Roger Froling working on hunts at the International Convention.*



*The C.J. McElroy Award was presented to Larry and Brenda Potterfield.*




*Saturday Night, Mary Harter introduced the 2018 Diana, Angie Hall from Sarasota, Florida.*



*We asked Mike Rogers to pose with us for a photo.*







# MY DREAM OF COLLECTING THE FNAWS!

(Four North American Wild Sheep)

by Dan Catlin

"September 5, 2017, we (my Guide Kyle Shyback and cameraman Tanner Philips) were riding out of the wilderness and were met by a burned--out section of riverbank. We had experienced smoke from neighboring forest fires all week, but this was a true sign of an active fire in our canyon."

I booked this sheep hunt in March 2017 at the Mid--Michigan SCI Convention. I met Rob and Brenda Erickson of Scalp Creek Outfitters and I immediately knew they were the family for me... to help me keep chasing my dream of collecting the FNAWS (Four North American Wild Sheep). Rob & Brenda own and operate Scalp Creek, which outfits big horn sheep hunters in Alberta Canada. They came highly recommended by my friends at Majestic Mountain Outfitters -- Jeff, Cindy, Josh and Caleb Chadd. There are many similarities with the family--owned and operated sheep hunting camps; but in regards to the style of hunting, there were a lot of differences... mostly in regards to horses. To hunt big horn sheep with the Erickson's I'd have to ride two days each way just to get in and out of their hunting areas. What an EXPERIENCE!

Tanner and I flew to Calgary, rented a car and drove about three hours to the trail head at Abraham Lake. From there it was gear up, pack up and get on your horse and ride! We road about seven hours to a fully set up "halfway camp" in the middle of God's country. What a trip so far, with about 20 river crossings on horseback and sights that were worthy of post card pictures. Once we were in halfway camp and the horses were unsaddled and unpacked, Rob's oldest son Gordon made a camp fire to grill us fresh strip steaks. I had no idea we would be eating so good in the wilderness. This was another difference from Dall Sheep camp, no freeze--dried food.

After some great campfire conversation, it was off to bed for the night and up first thing to start packing for the remainder of our ride to base camp. The second day's ride was a little shorter, about 5 1/2 hours with a total distance traveled about 35 miles. We road over the big pass at about 8600 feet and then down into our drainage that we'd be hunting for the next 14 days. We were now in sheep country and the excitement level was pretty high! As we road into our main camp, it was apparent that the Erickson family loves the wilderness and the seclusion it gives them from the fast paced "real world". We were met by Brenda and Glen, Rob's wife and youngest son, along with guide Kyle, his wife Kaylyn and their son Shale who was only 8--months old. Also in camp was Ms. Cherie Brents... in search of her fourth Ram for her FNAWS. This is raising your family right! Teaching them the importance of the great outdoors and the hunting heritage. This was going to be a FUN HUNT!

After another amazing dinner of real food, not freeze dried, we slept very well on our homemade log/slab cots. Everything in this camp was made with a chainsaw and logs, other than a



few things that are flown in by helicopter or packed in on horses for camp comfort, such as the Cabela's portable wilderness shower. Man, that made it nice to have a hot shower every couple of days. When we woke on day three of our adventure, the plan was to rest, glass the mountains all around us for sheep and collect firewood for the next two weeks of hunting. That was one of the more impressive parts of the hunt, collecting firewood that is. When I think of collecting camp fire wood I think of finding dead trees close to camp that are maybe six or eight inches around. NOPE! Robb is a logger by trade and has a 32" bar on his steel chain saw! He also has 19 work horses in camp at his disposal, with a pulling harness to drag trees. YEP! We all climbed up behind camp to watch Rob drop a huge old dead standing tree. From there he cleaned it up in chunks that the horses could drag back to camp. We had a pile of fire wood in no time. That was another one of the EXPERIENCES I won't soon forget.



Day four we woke up to stars and a hot breakfast. However, the horses had gotten out of the corral, so the opening day of sheep season wasn't going to go as planned. Even though it only took a couple hours to wrangle the horses, we needed to start riding before day break to reach our initial destination. Kyle, my guide, quickly changed the plans to ride up to a lake called Obstruction Lake. It was only a couple canyons down from camp. It still took two hours on horseback and another two hours of climbing on foot to reach this lake and start glassing for sheep. There was a lot of sheep country to see on our way up, but at this point we had not seen a single sheep. After glassing the area around Obstruction Lake, we decided to eat lunch. It was "high noon" on September 1st and there was not a prettier place on earth that I have ever eaten my lunch.

Afterward, Kyle decided we would push on past and above the lake to look over the other side into the next drainage. That's when things got really exciting!



We dropped off our high point, went down again, then climbed back up and over. Kyle kept a close watch on the back corner of the lake that we couldn't see from our lunch--time vantage point. As we climbed, Kyle kept looking over his left shoulder and down toward the lake. I was reading his face and body language, as he stopped abruptly saying he saw some sheep. We all sat down on the hillside as Kyle glassed and eventually explained that two young rams were feeding below near the lake. I was now seeing my first sheep of the hunt and it was a very welcomed sight. What was even more welcomed is when I heard Kyle say "Bingo"! He spotted four bigger rams bedded up, not

far from the rams that were feeding... and one of those looked pretty darn good at 1200 yards. Kyle went for his spotting scope to confirm what he was looking at. And even though he was unable to determine if the biggest ram was legal from this distance, it was worth an investigation. Kyle said a couple key things at that very moment. First, "we can't move now," because all four were laying facing our direction. We would have to wait them out. And second was that about 2pm sheep like to get up for their midday move and it was now 1pm exactly.

As luck would have it, within five minutes of us setting on the side of that mountain exposed, we watched each ram get up individually to stretch their legs and lay back down facing directly away from us. Kyle said, "Let's go boys, this is our chance to get out of sight and make our move!" Away we went, back down and below them out of sight. We made our way back up to where we believed the best staging point would be, within 400 to 500 yards from the bedded sheep. Little did I know it was about 2pm when we made it to our vantage point. When Kyle popped up to take a look, the sheep were on the move coming right at us! Kyle immediately confirmed that the biggest sheep was in fact a legal ram!!! It was time to get in position for a shot.

At this very moment my heart rate accelerated knowing this was my opportunity to collect my third ram in a quest for "Four North American Sheep." The FNAWS! In 2013 I had no idea that my Dall Sheep hunt with Majestic Mountain Outfitters would spark the SHEEP FEVER that I'm so deeply infected with! As I settled in using my pack for a rest, the sheep had closed the gap to about 175 yards and I was in fear of them going out of sight below us. As my ram, the lead ram, hesitated for only a moment, I squeezed off my first shot. I was so focused that I had no idea if I hit him. Kyle immediately reported that I did in fact and it was a solid hit. He told me to shoot again. I did and the second shot was also a solid hit. I fired a third shot that



ultimately was named the “celebration shot” by Kyle. I missed two feet in front of the ram! But by that point it was all over but the celebration! I had collected my first ever Big Horn Sheep and my third North American Sheep in my quest for four! Not only did I collect this magnificent ram, but we were located at one of the most beautiful places on planet earth. A high mountain lake, Obstruction Lake, at nearly 8000 feet elevation. The back drop for our photos proved to be worth the climb.

After a long day of hunting, packing and riding back to camp we shared our excitement with Rob, Brenda, Gordon, Glen, Kaylyn and our second hunter in camp, Ms. Cherie Brents. Always a great moment sharing the success of your hunt. The next day was the pleasure of turning, fleshing and salting my sheep skin and preparing for the long two--day horseback ride out of camp. At this point, my guide Kyle Shyback, cameraman Tanner Philips and I had no idea the adventure that we were in for on our way out of the wilderness.

The first day's ride was uneventful except for when we crested the pass coming out; we had a couple horses join us from another camp. Kyle recognized the brand on the horses and wondered why they were without hobbles, halters or bells. We road through the other outfitter's camp and there was no-- one there. We continued on to halfway camp and had fresh sheep steaks for dinner. Everything was going as planned; other than having to run off the extra horses so our horses could relax and eat for the evening.



September 5, 2017, we woke up at 6:00am sharp. We saddled our horses and packed up for our last day's ride out of the wilderness. About an hour and a half into our ride, we came across the two horses again. And again, they started following us out. Kyle decided he would let them follow and when we got to the highway, he'd tie them off at our horse trailers and call the other outfitter to come and get them. It wasn't ten minutes later and we came across a burned--out section of riverbank. We had experienced smoke from neighboring forest fires all week but this was a true sign of an active fire in our canyon. There was a wall of smoke below us in the direction we needed to go and the horses were getting spooked just riding through the ash left behind by the fire. We immediately road to the gravel bar that gave us about 50 yards of clearance from the trees on both sides. The river snaked through the west side of the gravel bar past us, but we were high and dry within the rocky bar. At this very moment it became unfortunately evident we would be facing a life or death decision. However, this portion of the adventure actually started before I arrived. Jason Price, my friend and partner in “The Experience Adventure Media” insisted I get a Garmin In--Reach to stay in touch with my wife Charlotte and also to have in

the event of an emergency. When telling Jason of how far from civilization we would be, he insisted I have one. So much so that just a couple of weeks prior, on August 23rd, a new Garmin arrived in the mail for my birthday. All I had to do was activate and register the unit. This would prove to be the best birthday present ever!



Decisions had to be made now based on not being able to ride out. But if we turned back and the winds picked up, the fire could blow right through us. Kyle decided we should call the Ice Helicopter Tours at the trail head to get a fire report. It sure didn't look good from where we were standing. I was unable to get a signal when trying to call out with my satellite phone. I quickly went to the Garmin because I could then text Charlotte. I instructed her to not panic but told her we had come across a forest fire, and to call the Ice Helicopter Tours to get a fire report. This is when things escalated rather quickly.

As we were waiting on a response from my text, trees started burning behind us and across from us in the river bottom. At this point Kyle, Tanner and I all agreed we needed evacuation sooner rather than later. I opened the SOS button on my GPS and mashed it! As the trees were burning around us and the smoke was getting thick it was apparent the smoke was more danger than even the fire. I text Charlotte that we were in an emergency! Within an hour, between Charlotte, Jason Price, and prayers from my office that was notified of the SOS signal, we were rescued by two helicopters. Needless to say, Jason Price had provided me the tool that kept us safe!

Mountain hunting and back--country hunting is an adventure and there is so much more to these trips than just hunting and collecting a trophy. I'm so very thankful for “The Experience” and pulling through this one with the ability to keep chasing my hunting goals and dreams.



# TROPHY AWARDS PROGRAM



*BY Mary Browning, CHAIR*

To refresh your memory, trophy awards for our Mid-Michigan Chapter of SCI are decided as follows: Score sheets are collected for a two year period. Before our Hunter's Convention in February, the sheets are categorized by country and species. The top entry for each species receives a gold award, the number two animal receives a silver award and the number three animal receives a bronze award. Animals are also separated by method of take so there could be two gold awards in one category if one animal is taken by rifle and one by bow.

The continents of North America and Africa receive numbers one, two, and three awards each; the other continents receive one award. The winners are decided by which animal scores closest, numerically, to the top in the International Record Book. To find this score the rank of the entered animal is divided by the total number of ranks in the International Record Book. Estate deer and turkeys are in categories of their own and are not eligible for the top awards in North America. Exceptional Estate deer, Estate Elk and all species of turkeys will receive their own awards only if they score in the top 10% according to the International Record Book.

Other Major Awards are for the Crossbow Hunter of the Year, Muzzleloader Hunter of the Year, Handgun Hunter of the Year, Bow Hunter of the Year, Men's Hunter of the Year, and Women's Hunter of the Year. These awards are voted upon by the Awards committee. This decision is made on the basis of which hunter had the greatest achievements during the past two years. We do not consider more than the past two years of activity. For the Women's Hunter of the Year, she must have taken at least three animals. Because we have so few women submitting score sheets often we do not have a winner in this category. We have not had a Handgun Hunter of the Year for many years either.

The Men's and Women's Hunter of the Year can only be won once in a lifetime. This allows more hunters to get a chance to win this award.

*The period for score sheets this year is:*

**DECEMBER 1, 2016**

**TO**

**November 30, 2018**

Send your score sheets to me, Mary Browning, 6030 Madeira Drive, Lansing, MI 48917 You may contact me at 517-886-3639, or email at ltc05@att.net. All entries must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2018 Please remember to send pictures and to notify me if some score sheets are youth entries. Children and grandchildren of members under age 17 are eligible for youth awards.



# Ok, take your time and make a good shot!



by Seth Brown

We watched him for nearly an hour, when he finally turned and was clear of the other Deer around him, Mr. Raymond whispered to me "OK, take your time and make a good shot".

What a beautiful fall day it was, a fantastic day to go on my very first Deer Hunt. We arrived at Low's Trophy Whitetails around mid-afternoon. Introductions, handshakes and lots of big smiles were exchanged. Then I and my Dad changed into our camo hunting clothes, sprayed down with scent killer and out to the woods we headed. After a short drive in the woods, we rounded a corner in the trail when suddenly Mr. Raymond said, " Well, look at that " there stood a Nice Buck!

I couldn't shoot him :( so we just watched him run away. We continued to make our way to the Deer stand, it was a BIG blind, enough room for everyone, all 5 of us, That's right 5!

I was in the blind with Mr. Low, Mr. Raymond,

Mr. Reinke and my Dad. It wasn't very long before we started to see some Deer walking in the woods around us and entering in to the clearing in front of me.

Then we saw a HUGE Buck with snow white antlers, I named him Snowflake! We watched him feed with some of the other Deer that was already feeding in the field, it was very cool!

Mr. Raymond was helping me out, making conversation with me and getting me ready for when my Deer, ( of Mr. Low's choosing ) comes into view. It was not very long before Mr. Raymond pointed out a NICE 9 point Buck! "see that 9 pointer?" I answered "YES" " He's the one, that's your Deer" said Mr. Raymond. Thank God it wasn't Snowflake! I didn't want to shoot Snowflake!

Mr. Raymond said that we needed to wait for my Deer to turn broadside before I could shoot. So, with my gun up and ready, we watched and waited and waited some more.

We watched him for nearly an hour! When he finally turned and was clear of the other Deer around him, Mr. Raymond whispered to me "OK, take your time and make a good shot".



Seth's Dad, Leon Low, Seth, and Randy Raymond

When I shot, I barely felt the recoil of the gun and then I saw the Deer drop in his tracks.

I was SO excited, I shouted out "YAHOO" and then I did my happy dance!

Afterwards Mr. Reinke took lots of photos of the Deer with Me and my Dad and others, and then all of us headed back to Mr. Low's ranch house where he prepared the Deer for us to take back home.

Thank you! S.C.I. Thank you! To

Mr. Low and Mr. Raymond for a Deer Hunt of a Lifetime!

I am so happy to be able to help provide for my family, we all love venison!

*Can't wait to go Deer Hunting again!*



# ANOTHER HUNTING BLIND



## *Sid Smith's Hunting Blind*

I built this blind in 1983 at my hunting camp in Curran, MI. The camp was called Horney Hollow Hunting Haven and the blind was named The Horney Hollow Hyatt. The two story was designed so my son who was 12 could hunt from the second floor and I could watch TV and sleep on the first floor.

## Information for Facebook Users

Just an interesting post I received on Facebook. Go to your Facebook account settings, then blocking, then block users, and type in "following me" without the quotes into the text box, then hit the "block" button. You will find numerous people FOLLOWING YOU that you do not know! I blocked six accounts from people who I do not know that were following me. A couple of friends I forwarded this to blocked 16 and 22 followers. You must block them one at a time. Check your followers and tell your friends and family to check theirs as well. Being hunters, many might follow us for all the wrong reasons. How many foreign "followers" do you have?



## AMERICAN LANDMARKS

*Below are the answers to the Landmark quiz found in the January-March 2018 issue of Frontsight.*

- |                  |                    |
|------------------|--------------------|
| 1. D.C.          | 16. New Mexico     |
| 2. New York      | 17. Tennessee      |
| 3. Texas         | 18. New York       |
| 4. Virginia      | 19. Pennsylvania   |
| 5. Washington    | 20. Hawaii         |
| 6. Colorado      | 21. Rhode Island   |
| 7. Wyoming       | 22. Pennsylvania   |
| 8. Montana       | 23. Arkansas       |
| 9. Virginia      | 24. California     |
| 10. Louisiana    | 25. Utah           |
| 11. South Dakota | 26. Missouri       |
| 12. D.C.         | 27. Colorado       |
| 13. New York     | 28. Kentucky       |
| 14. Montana      | 29. Utah           |
| 15. Tennessee    | 30. South Carolina |



# Once in a lifetime hunt

by Gary Tilmann



I have been trying for 13 years to draw a Baldwin, Michigan bear tag. Every year Phil Lentz would call and ask, "Did you draw a bear tag this year?" Finally, on JULY 3, 2017 I had my tag.

Five years prior, Jim Kremsreiter, drew a Baldwin tag and had a successful hunt so we wanted to look in the Northern Baldwin area. Phil and I started looking for the opportunity of finding a big bear. After comparing stories, Phil found a possible 400lb bear in the Traverse City area. Phil spoke with Jeremiah Matthews and he was happy to help with the hunt. We met Jeremiah and Dillion Youker in late August. We learned that the bear was well known in the area and living in the Weidenhammer Swamp, "Hoosier Valley".

I was undecided as to what gun to use on this hunt. After looking at the area and the heavy downfall trees, I thought a 12GA shotgun would be the best gun to use. Kevin Unger offered a shortened barreled Remington 870 shotgun for me to use. It took forever to sight the gun in. After several brands of shells, we tried Remington and they worked the best.

I was unable to hunt the first two days of the season. On Monday morning we started the hunt. We hunted for two days, running different bears but could not find the big bear we were after. I had to go back home for a couple of days to work, but Saturday morning I was again ready for the hunt. At 7:00 AM we turned our best dogs, Milo, Copper, Atta and Ready loose on the bear. The dogs straightened out the bear and we were on our way. The dogs went north and bayed then bayed again. It was only a half mile to the dogs but through a swamp and blow downs. The swamp was 300-400 acres where straight line winds had leveled some of the cedars a few years prior. We climbed on, under and over the cedars for about an hour to get to the dogs and bear. We got to the dogs but couldn't see the bear. The bear ran another 100 yards and the dogs bayed again for the third time. I was up on the cedar pile headed for the bear, I looked down at him just as he looked up at me. I was only 10 feet





away from him when I shot, hitting him in the left side of his head. It was time to grab the dogs but we had no leashes handy. The bear was dead but the dogs were wild.

During all of this we noticed that three of the dogs were severely wounded. Ready had a broken pelvis and ripped guts. We took him to the Bay Area Vet Hospital where a great doctor, Whittney worked on him and saved his life. Phil and Jonathan Faber took two dogs back to Mt. Pleasant where Dr. Neil Osbeck worked on them. One had a cracked scapula and they both had numerous puncture wounds but nothing life threatening.

Because it was hot, we hurried to get the bear out and taken care of. Dillion had a four wheeler but the bear was in the middle of a 3 mile swamp. We ended up dragging the bear out to an old fire lane then loaded it onto the four wheeler. It took an hour and a half to get him out. Ward

Forquer made the comment that the blow downs were so bad that the dogs had to back up just to bark. Not far away was Dillion's family feed mill. He filled up a cherry wash bin with cold water to put him in and cool him down. After a well-deserved break I took the bear to Mikowski meat market for processing and the hide to H&H fur dressing to be made into a rug. I drove back to Traverse City on Monday to pick up the processed meat and have the DNR seal the bear skull and rescue the dog from the Bay Area vet.

The bear weighed in at 440lbs with a skull of 20 2/16". I truly enjoyed the comradery of Kevin Unger, Ed Reihl, Ward Forquer, Cody Matthews and Dillion Youker who joined me on this once in a lifetime hunt. This was a hunt of a lifetime for me and I wish to thank all my friends who helped with the hunt. A special thanks goes to the dogs for what they do best.





# Elk Hunting WITH MY PARENTS

by Ann Koch

My parents have always taken me hunting since I was little. I remember sitting in the blind while my parents were deer hunting long before I could pull a trigger. As a teen, my mom would joke that I would sit bow hunting in the blind in my Beal City blue, paint my nails, and deer would still come out under my blind. While I have always hunted, I never have had the strong passion of hunting like my family.

Until now . . .

My Dad, Don Harter, bought me a hunt at the February SCI Fundraiser in Mt. Pleasant. I was the lucky one sitting next to him at the table at the time. I wasn't overly excited for the hunt but most excited to spend time with my Dad. Little did I know . . .

Fast forward to September. I had practiced shooting my 270 on Labor Day Weekend at my parents to get prepared. On Sunday, September 17, we headed to Lewiston, Michigan and PK Ranch. We arrived, met Dave and Danae Petrella and guide, Matt Alexander. They got us all settled into their guest house. It was a very nice place overlooking a small lake. Matt and Dave told us

they saw my elk earlier and asked if we wanted to go out for a ranger ride to see it. It was all happening so fast! They parked the ranger down wind and Dave and I went to stalk. I had several good opportunities to shoot but I could not hold the gun still enough to feel comfortable on getting a good shot in. Dave was great in making me feel comfortable and telling me it was OK if I didn't shoot. We would have other opportunities.

We headed in for lunch. Danae made us a nice spread with some great sandwiches. We relaxed for a bit, then decided to head back out. We saw more deer and some good-looking bucks. We also saw some nice-

looking bull elk. I thought one was mine, but they told me mine was much bigger. When we finally found mine, you could definitely tell how much bigger he really was than the other bulls we had seen. This time Matt and my Dad came with me. Then it started raining.

We started stalking and the elk went further into the brush. I was thinking we would spook them and must wait again. Luck would have it that it started to thunder and lightning. The elk were more concerned with the lightning than us. The rain helped soften our footsteps. Matt brought me out a tripod to help steady my shot. He got me in an area where I had a small opening in the brush





for a 125-yard shot. I started getting nervous and wanted to make sure I was steady, so I had a nice clean shot. I remember breathing, then looking at my Dad. He could tell I was feeling anxious about keeping the gun steady, so he leaned into my shoulder to help steady me. Right then I just relaxed, let out a slow breath and squeezed. The elk reacted to my shot and I knew I had hit him. He stumbled for a bit and I was asking if I needed to take another shot. They told me to wait and then he just went down. YYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYYY!! I was so excited. My shot was perfect! Matt joked with me that I shot the wrong one, but I knew I didn't, so I just punched him in the shoulder . . . funny guy. We all celebrated!

The best thing was that my Mom was with Dave in the ranger and heard the shot. Just before I shot, my brother called my Mom to find out how the hunt was going, and heard the shot over the phone. My whole immediate family was there with me at that moment.

What we thought was a 5 x 6 ended up being a huge 6 x 7. My shot went through both lungs and part of the heart. I was most nervous about making a nice, clean shot. I did not want

to injure an animal or have one suffer at all. What a wonderful experience!!

And then Dave thought my Mother should shoot a management buck. Both of my parents had hunted for management bucks with Dave a few years earlier and my Mom hadn't seen an appropriate one to shoot. She went out with Matt and sat in a blind for the evening. They had a great time viewing all kinds of bucks but not one to shoot.

We stayed the night and the next morning began skinning out the elk. When we finished my Dad and I went home, and Mom stayed to hunt with Matt.



Again, they saw many, many deer but nothing to shoot. They did several stalks even startling a doe up out of a grassy field right at their feet. They looked

and looked. Mom thought Matt had a certain buck in mind.

They decided to sit in a blind for the evening overlooking a pipeline cut through the property. Many deer came by including several very nice bucks. Not the right ones!! Finally, they could see several deer walking towards them in the cut. It was getting dark. Those deer were going to have to hurry if one wanted a ride home with my Mom. As they got closer, Matt said the buck he had in mind was there. Now to sort him out from the rest and get a good shot. Matt said he wouldn't let most people take this shot, but he let Mom. Mom took careful aim to hit right behind the shoulder and not damage any of this delicious meat. Off he ran, stumbled, and rolled up in some leaves. The nice 9-point buck was down!!

Danae took my Mom home and Dave drove back the next morning with her buck. Mom and Dad picked it up from Dave and took it to be butchered.

We got 425 pounds of meat from my elk. Elk is one of my favorite game meats. I'm so glad those huge bull elk need to be taken out occasionally. Thanks Dad and PK Ranch for a great experience!



# RIVER MONSTERS IN THAILAND

Roger Card and Rod Merchant

About a year ago, Rod and I were setting in my living room drinking a couple Coronas and discussing where our next adventure might be. We each had airline miles to use up and were hoping they would be enough to get us someplace new, exotic and exciting.

We were talking and not paying attention to the tv which was muted and tuned into a travel channel of some type. Suddenly we both realized we were watching a dude, named Jeremy Wade and he was catching gigantic, strange-looking fish in Thailand and it looked insane. I grabbed the remote, turned the volume up and before the show ended we agreed - this was it! We wanted to catch monster fish in the tributaries and tidal pools of the Mekong River, in Thailand.

We were more than pleased to find out our airline miles were enough for a free business-class ticket to Bangkok. Next a quick look on the internet found a company called Fish Asia that would be our outfitter, providing guides and travel for a two week adventure.



On December 17, with great anticipation, we boarded the first plane for the excursion extending over twelve time zones. The trip is a grueling, agonizing marathon of flights, layovers and delays, but over all it went quite well and we arrived, tired but psyched up to get the show on the road.



*Roger with a huge “pre-historic” arapaima — It measured over seven feet long and took more than two hours to land.*

The varied species of fish offered are located in totally different areas of Thailand and we had requested to try our hand at as many as possible. We fished several places not in the Mekong watershed and took time to enjoy the journey between destinations. It has always been important for us to make sure we appreciate the country and culture while on a journey, not simply to travel hurriedly between point A and B. Francois, our outfitter, handled this well and we traveled in a newer, air conditioned SUV with professional, English speaking guides. They were very proud of their country and always eager to do something unexpected or unique, making our trip remarkably special.



*Had to draw the line on Bar-B-Q Rats.*





*As fisherman you can see we reached our goal of catching several unusual species, and as tourists I have included a couple pictures of some sights of Thailand.*

We caught fish until our arms ached so bad it almost became “work.” Some of the larger fish took more than an hour to land and because we were fishing from the bank we were continually moving, negotiating currents, overhanging trees and all sorts of obstacles. More than once we either fell or were pulled into the water during these battles. The guides were always close at hand yelling encouragement, screaming at us to “keep the tip of the pole up” and teasing us with good natured humor. Time and again we would get a massive fish close to shore, thinking it was all over but slipping it into the net when, with one enormous swish of the tail, it would head back to mid-stream, peeling off fifty yards or more of line from the screaming reel. It was crazy! This trip turned out to be all we had



hoped for, and maybe even a little more. We would like to thank Francois and his staff as they certainly fulfilled their end of the bargain in giving us an exhilarating adventure. As always the last days came way too soon, but we left Thailand with several new friends and a lot of magnificent memories.

*Happy Hunting and Fishing  
Roger and Rod*



*In Northern Thailand, women from the Karan tribe believe they are more attractive with a longer, stretched-out neck.*



*Roger crossing this ludicrous bridge into Burma just so we could say we have “Been to Burma” and can add another pin to our world maps.*



# PRO'S AND CONS OF OWNING AND OPERATING A PRIVATE HUNTING CAMP

by Robert C. Mills

Having owned and operated a private hunting property for over fifty years, I have learned a great deal about "what to do" and "what not to do" for successful operation.

The PINE HILL CLUB is nearly 50 years old and was established in 1972. Over these years the camp has expanded from an 80-acre parcel of wooded land, with a small cabin that measured 12 x 16, to a current size of 820 acres with seven cabins and two pole barns of storage. Several small buildings house freezers and small tools and include a wood shed. The property has thirteen gates that restrict access to the land, with over ten miles of two tract for access to the hunting blinds.

Average harvest of white-tail deer is 30 plus per year. Over 35 hunting blinds have been built with windows, stoves, carpeting and swivel chairs. The camp is owned by our family and 25 individuals hunt the acreage. Success, over the last twenty years, has been 100% if you average one deer per member. Many members harvest two deer while some choose not to shoot a deer because it is not big enough.

Our son, Jeff, is strictly a trophy hunter and passes on small bucks. He will not harvest a doe but only shoots a wide 8-point buck, or bigger. He usually shoots his buck every two years. Jeff prefers to video smaller bucks and usually sees five to seven bucks on opening day. When he pulls the trigger, it is a trophy buck.

Other members that are not as selective will harvest a six-pointer and on occasion a large four-point. Our camp does not shoot spike bucks and pass on them. A limited number of mature does get harvested from the property. In 2017, we poled 22 bucks and 14 does.

## PRO'S OF OWNING A PRIVATE HUNTING PROPERTY

1. **SAFETY** for the hunter. We control the location of the hunting blinds



*Cabin at Camp. Built in 1975.*

and no blind is in the "line of Fire" from another hunter's blind.

2. **PRIDE OF OWNERSHIP** of the land. Over many years the camp has been managed for white-tail deer hunting. Over 200,000 pine seedlings have been planted with some nearly fifty years old. Mature stands of Red Pine, Scotch Pine, and White and Australian Spruce dot the land. The plantings provide excellent wildlife habitat and are supplemented by over twenty food plots. Most food plots are rye, rape/turnips, and sorghum. Some fruit trees have also been planted for wildlife.
3. **SELECTIVE CUTTING** and **FOREST MANAGEMENT** can be practiced, and the removal and clear cutting of mature Aspen stands allows for new growth as well as providing limited income for the wood harvested.
4. **MINERAL RIGHTS** on the land may allow for additional income as owners can lease the mineral rights to provide additional income. Some land provides rich deposits of sand and gravel.
5. **CRP** (crop reserve program) practices can be utilized on acreage that was farmed and this program can provide limited income and the plantings can enhance wildlife habitat. This program will vary with land owned and is subject to approval. For many years we had 100 acres enrolled in the CRP PROGRAM.
6. **OWNERS CAN SET THE RULES** for land use. The rules for operating the PINE HILL CLUB have not changed in nearly 50 years of operation. Ten rules govern the use of the property. Of the ten rules, distributed to all members, three are considered **COMMANDMENTS**. These are non- negotiable rules and include the following: (a) No alcohol in woods with a weapon, (b) No trespass off camp property without permission. We do have neighbor's permission to follow blood trail of wounded game after contacting land-owner first. This rule works in reverse and our neighbors are allowed to follow a blood train on PINE HILL CLUB property, and (c) No non-member using the property without permission. The camp has a basic rule of prosecuting trespassers. Thought rare, we have on few occasions



*Bob Mills with sons - Mike, Dave, Joe and Rick*



prosecuted violators. Year ago, I caught a trespasser hunting a half-mile into our land. He was prosecuted, and I told him, if we wanted people to hunt our private land, I would post WELCOME SIGNS instead of NO TRESPASS - PRIVATE PROPERTY. He got the message as well as a fine from the judge. Rarely do we have problems with trespassers. We have had more problems with "SHINERS" along the roadways and open fields. The DNR patrols our area on a regular basis. They are great to work with and true friends for private land owners.

7. **QUALITY DEER MANAGEMENT** practices can be implemented on private land. You can control the size of bucks harvested and the number of does killed. This benefit allows bucks to mature and you can limit antler point restrictions. Essentially, we use the 3 point rule. The vast majority of our members support shooting bigger bucks. "The buck pole does the talking" and we usually harvest 20 bucks on opening day. What a celebration of stories and memories are shared by members on opening day at camp.
8. **CONSTRUCTION/LOCATION and PLACEMENT** of hunting blinds on the private property allows owners and members the opportunity to **MAXIMIZE** quality hunting opportunities. Deer are creatures of habit. Proper location of permanent blinds is another benefit of private land ownership.



***Hunting Blind - with carpet, heat and windows.  
(1 of 35 on property)***

9. **RIGHT TO POST PROPERTY** and limit access to the land by use of gates and fences. This helps cordon off your boundary and works to deter trespassers. If you **OWN THE LAND** and pay the taxes you would be able to set the parameters for land use.
10. **CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS/CABINS** and other structures where you choose if local ordinance and restrictions are followed. This benefit affords the owner/s of private land to construct and maintain their "cabin in the woods".

In addition to the above UPSIDE benefits, there is also some NEGATIVE, DOWNSIDE consideration of land ownership. These are not listed in order of priority or all-inclusive but should be considered in the total summation of the negatives.

### ***CON'S OF OWNING A PRIVATE HUNTING PROPERTY***

1. **LAND COSTS CONSIDERATION** can vary widely based on location and

terrain. Wooded land in Isabella County, with road frontage, begins at about \$2,000 per acre. Several 40-acre parcels, I am aware of, sold for \$40,000 cash. This value is basically the "norm". Water rights, mineral rights, ponds, valuable timber, etc. can all affect land values. If you don't have cash to buy land, a mortgage on recreational property can be costly.

2. **LIABILITY ISSUES** from owning land must be considered. Your liability increases if you construct tree stands, buildings, etc. Members or guests can "slip and fall" and get injured. You should purchase liability insurance for vacant property.
3. **TAXES ON PROPERTY** and **COST OF OPERATION** must be factors to consider if you choose to own private land. My rule of thumb is that taxes will be at least \$1,000 plus on a vacant 40-acre parcel of land. In addition to property taxes you will pay for electricity, propane, insurance, and construction costs if you build a cabin, etc. Also, cost of a well and septic system must be factored into cost of operation. You will spend money on most anything you do to improve your property. Posting, fencing, gating, planting trees, etc., are all costs that must be factored in when buying and owning private land.
4. **LOSS of EARNINGS ON MONEY USED TO PURCHASE PROPERTY** needs to be considered when buying land. Should you take \$80,000 from your investment portfolio to buy land you will lose the earning potential from this money. In addition, you will pay taxes and cost of operation. Should you secure a mortgage to purchase private land, you will pay interest on your loan, plus taxes, etc. This should not be a deterrent but must be considered when buying land. (Your land should appreciate in value, but appreciation is not a "given".)

Overall, I believe the POSITIVES outweigh the NEGATIVES. The safety factor, pride of ownership, watching your efforts result in improved hunting, must be considered when you make the decision to buy land.

We have had nearly 50 years of positives at the PINE HILL CLUB. Watching your sons harvest their first buck, the hunting success of the grandchildren, and just driving around the property are special in the life of the landowner. If you want to enjoy owning private hunting land — my recommendation is — **GO FOR IT. GOOD LUCK and DON'T LOOK BACK!**



***Buck Pole at camp.***



# Pine Hill Club, Inc. Rules

1. Use of camp is by membership only. MEMBERS may use property by paying fees and signing the Release of Liability Form.
2. MEMBERS MAY TAKE THEIR SONS/DAUGHTERS WITH THEM HUNTING. Children MAY NOT HUNT – BUT ACCOMPANY MEMBER. This activity is encouraged.
3. ONLY MEMBERS MAY USE CABIN DURING HUNTING SEASON. October 1st until January 1st. (At other times families, etc., may use facilities.)
4. Hunters are ASSIGNED A HUNTING BLIND. No member has “claim” on specific hunting blind or hunting spot.
5. Hunters using property for the opening two days of rifle deer season must agree to HUNT ALL DAY. NO WALKING DURING FIRST TWO DAYS OF SEASON. WALKING AROUND PROPERTY INTERFERES WITH OTHER MEMBERS.
6. SAFETY FIRST must be observed at all times. Know your target and no target practice during hunting season in the woods.
7. ALL DNR RULES MUST BE OBSERVED. GUNS IN CASE WHEN IN VEHICLE, DEER TAGGED, ONLY LEGAL GAME TAKEN, HUNTER ORANGE, and PROPER LICENSE.
8. No member is allowed to trespass on adjoining property to the PINE HILL CLUB, INC. Violations may result in suspension of the membership.
9. MEMBERSHIP in the PINE HILL CLUB, INC. is by annual invitation. No Non-members are permitted without approval as guests.
10. NO ALCOHOL is to be taken into woods while hunting. SAFETY MUST BE OBSERVED AT ALL TIMES. Guns/Bows/Arrows and alcohol do not mix.

-----

NOTE: MEMBERSHIP IN THE CAMP is a privilege and good sportsmanship is expected by all. New members will be selected after consulting with current membership. Members that violate the above rules MAY LOSE their membership. Suggestions for making the camp better are welcomed and encouraged.



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22 January 2018

Mike Strobe  
 1100 Bollman Drive  
 Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Dear Mike,

On behalf of God's Helping Hands of Mecosta County (GHMC), please permit me to express our deepest and most profound proclamations of gratitude to you and your organization's wonderful and much needed recent donation of 350 pounds of processed venison as well as the gift card of \$250 from Gordon's Food Service!

The 350 pounds of meat will help to feed approximately 35 families at roughly about 10 pounds of meat each.

The gift card will help to purchase many other needed support items for these families as well.

Once again, thank you very much for your gracious and generous support and help!

May God bless you all!

Sincerely,  
*Randy L. Pratt*  
 Executive Program Director of GHMC



350# of meat and a \$250 gift card were donated to His Helping Hands of Clare County by the **Sportsman Against Hunger** program. This is the third year that we have been blessed with this donation.

We are able to divide this gift between three pantries, the Gathering Pantry in Harrison, the Nazarene Church Pantry in Clare, and the Church of Christ Pantry in Farwell. When people call His Helping Hands for food we direct them to one of the pantries closes to them. Their generous donation enables the pantries to provide good protein to families in Clare County.

Hunters donate deer meat to SCI and they have it processed. Ground beef is also purchased and they then donate it to organizations that help people in need with food. We thank SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter for this donation and the hunters who donate to them. Your donation is making a difference in Clare County.





# Sportsmen AGAINST HUNGER



Community Compassion Network



February 20, 2018

SCI - Mid Michigan Chapter  
Attention: Mike Strobe  
1100 Bollman Dr.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Dear Mr. Strobe,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of \$350.00 to Community Compassion Network's Pantry. With this donation, we were able to purchase more than 750 pounds of meat from the Greater Lansing Food Bank, our partners in feeding our food insecure neighbors.

Thank you also for taking the time to visit our pantry at our new stationary location. We would be happy to give any of your members a tour. And if any of you would like to volunteer at the pantry you would be most welcome.

Our hours are as follows: Wednesday 9:00 am to 11:00 am - unloading of the truck from Greater Lansing Food Bank and stocking shelves. Pantry hours: 3:00 pm to 6:30 pm; Thursday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm; Friday 7:30 am to 11:30 am; Saturday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.

Once again thank you for thinking of us, for sharing this gift, and helping fight hunger in Isabella County.

Sincerely,

*Deb Skinner*  
Deb Skinner  
CCN Treasurer



CCN - 1114 W High Street, P.O. Box 237, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0237, Phone (989) 863-4449,  
Email: skinnerdeborah@hotmail.com, visit us at: ccnfeeds.org



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[www.ick.org](http://www.ick.org)

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018

SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter  
ATTN: Mike Strobe  
1100 Bollman Dr.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Dear Mr. Strobe,

Please extend our sincere gratitude to all of the members who participated in the Sportsmen against Hunger program for the wonderful donation of 350 pounds of meats to our kitchen this year, along with the generous donation of a \$250.00 gift card to Gordon's Food Service. The continued commitment of your group towards helping community members who struggle with hunger is truly inspirational.

Your donation will allow us to continue to provide approximately 100 free hot lunches daily to our community. As a 501c3 organization your entire donation is tax deductible.

Sincerely,

*Kim Friedrich*  
Kim Friedrich  
Executive Director



Sue Woods, Chairperson  
Carol Layman, Vice-Chairperson  
Mark Lehman, Treasurer  
Julia Barlow-Sherlock, Secretary  
Rita Alwood  
Miklos Ferber

P.O. Box 743  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858-0743

Women's Aid Service, Inc.  
Serving Clare, Gladwin and Isabella Counties

Service Office  
Address: 215 E. 1st St.  
Fax: 517-338-1111

January 26, 2018

SCI Mid Michigan Chapter  
Sportsman Against Hunger Program  
Attn: Mike Strobe  
1100 Bollman Dr.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Dear SCI Mid Michigan Chapter Members,

On behalf of the staff and Board of Directors of Women's Aid Service, Inc., we would like to thank you for your donation of the following items:

275 lbs. meat  
\$250 Gordon Food Service gift card

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*John R. Haycock*  
John R. Haycock  
Executive Director

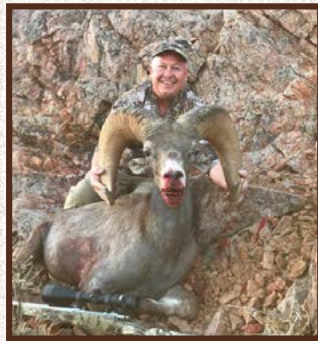
# Thank You



# Looking Ahead

In Our Next Issue

## MEXICO HUNT by Brad Eldred



## HARTER'S IN CAMEROON by Mary Harter

## HARTER'S MONTANA MULE DEER HUNT by Mary Harter



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