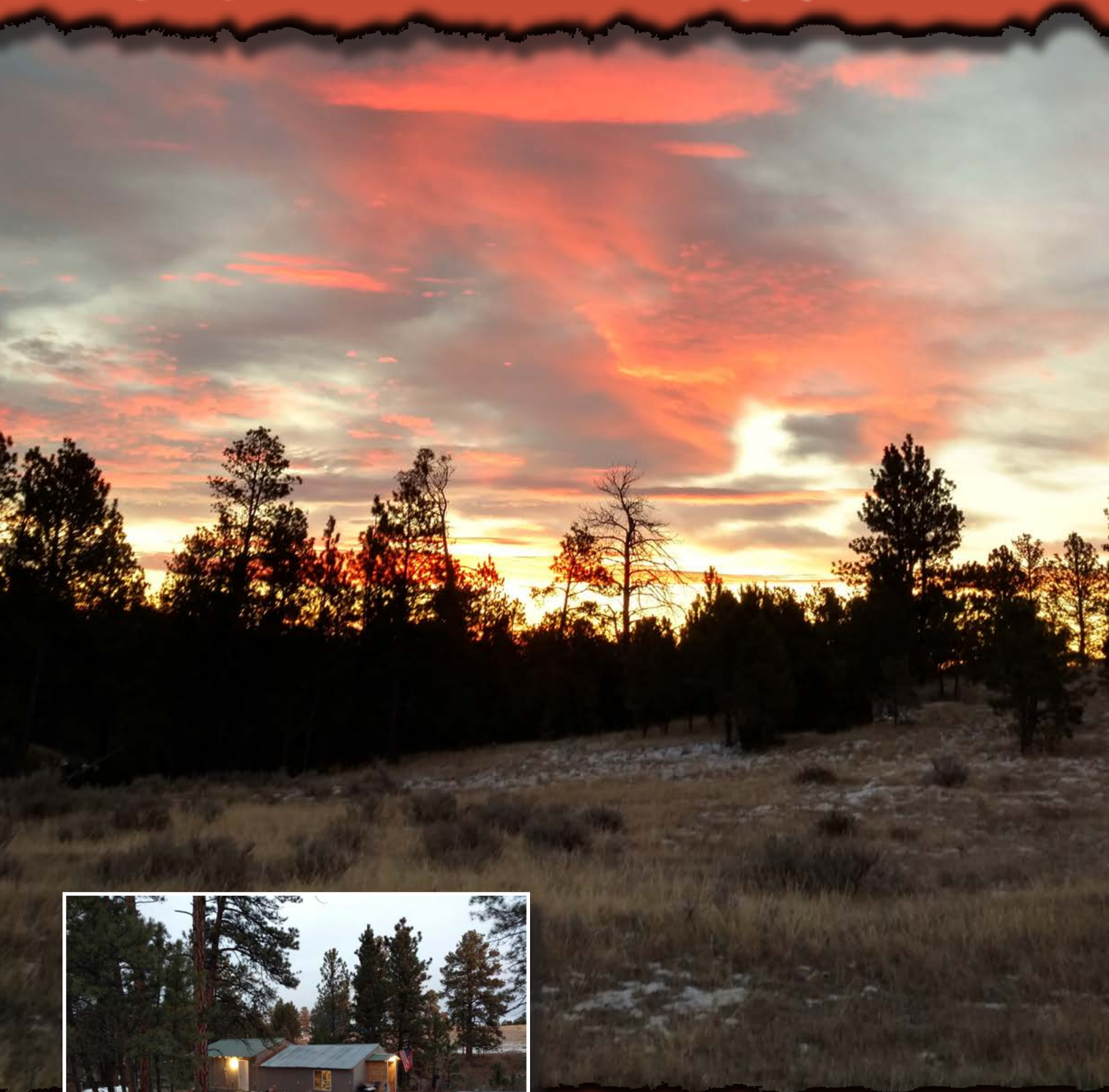


FRONT SIGHT



Mid-Michigan Chapter Safari Club International

July - September 2018, Issue 43



Montana Sunset
Photo by Mary Harter



JOHAN PIETERSE SAFARIS



SOUTH AFRICA
ZIMBABWE
MOZAMBIQUE



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

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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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Chairmen are listed first

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The Front Sight is the official publication of the Mid-Michigan Chapter of Safari Club International, keeping club members informed about local club activities, and encouraging and defining good sportsmanship. The Front Sight Magazine is published quarterly: January, April, July and October. Distribution 400+.

Check our own www.midmichigansci.org website for copies of the Front Sight, listing of events, and fundraiser auction items.

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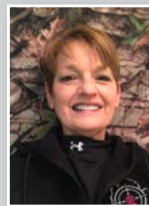
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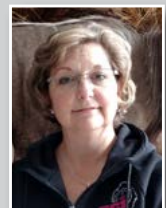
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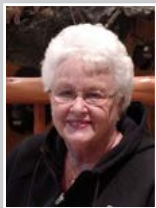
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Sid Smith	1983 - 1985	Jerel Konwinski	1997 - 1999	Kevin Unger	2011 - 2014
Dr. E.H. Kowaleski	1985 - 1986	Doug Heeter	1999 - 2001	Joe Mulders	2014 - 2017
Robert Doerr	1986 - 1988	David Petrella	2001 - 2002		

President's Message

I just returned from Washington D.C., which was the most important board meeting of the year. This is the meeting when SCI Presidents, Board Members, and guest visit the capital and meet with the Law makers of each State, which are the Senators and House of Representatives. It is the time of year where your voices are heard. The meetings went very well, If you ever have a chance to visit Washington D.C. make sure you go to the capital and talk to your Lawmakers, it truly makes a difference. This meeting was also very important, the new Deputy President was elected, congratulations to Scott Chapman, and our very own Don Harter was elected for Treasurer. Don has come a long way from our Mid Michigan Chapter President to the vice President and now to the Treasurer, congratulations Don Harter you have earned it. I also attended the SCI Conservation meeting. Most of the meeting was about the CWD, which is within the Michigan Deer herd. SCI has not taken a stand on the disease as of yet, they are waiting for more information from the DNR biologists. Some of the information states that the older deer are most likely to have the disease and shooting bucks at a younger age would help and shooting more Does will take the deer herd down to a more manageable size. This is just one opinion, SCI are waiting for all the facts to come out before we make any decisions. Never the less CWD is here and we as hunters will be dealing with this, I will keep you informed as I receive more information when it is brought to my attention.

Our next event will be a Golf Outing, which will be held at the Pines Golf Course in Lake Isabella on August 4th 2018. You can have men, woman and mixed teams, we will have several prizes and awards, so please come out and join us for a fun filled day.

Also, keep in mind we have our skeet shoot on September 15th at Isabella County Sportsman Club.

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



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



Editor's Message

We recently returned from a polar bear hunt in the extreme Arctic North. At one time during our hunt we were camped on the ice about 100 miles from the magnetic North Pole. We spent eight days camped in tents on the Arctic Ice Cap which was supposed to disappear by 2014. Aren't we glad that those predictions didn't come true! This story will be in a future issue.

We also just returned from the SCI meeting in Washington D.C. where officers are elected, and delegations go "on the Hill" for a day talking to our congressmen and women regarding pending legislation positive to hunting and our positions on other legislation. While in D.C., Don Harter was elected International Treasurer. It is so nice to see friends we have made from all over the world and be able to talk about hunting without someone saying, "You do what!"

Included in this issue are many photos of our Mid-Michigan SCI Convention that I hope you will enjoy. The convention is the highlight of our year and where we receive our funding for most of our projects which we work on during the whole year.

I would like to encourage all of you to participate in our Awards Program which honors the animals you have taken during the past couple of years. Please send your entries to Mary Browning by December 1 to be eligible. Entering your animal in the record book helps in many ways. It establishes a data base for size, area, outfitter, numbers taken, method of take, etc. which helps promote our hobby/way of life and gives much information to others. The Awards Program also gives the active hunter goals to reach like the Milestone North American 29 or African 29, Continental Awards for each huntable continent, and the many Inner Circles. If any of you have any questions, feel free to ask either Mary Browning or myself.

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>
July 9, 2018	Board - Budget	5:00 p.m.	Cheers
Aug. 4, 2018	Golf Outing	9:00 a.m.	The Pines, Lake Isabella
Sept. 12, 2018	Board	5:00 p.m.	Cheers
Sept. 15, 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
Jan. 9/12, 2019	National Convention		Reno
Jan. 26, 2019	Big Buck Night		Comfort Inn
Feb. 22/23, 2019	Convention		Soaring Eagle

All board meetings are open to our membership. Reservations required.
Please call and leave a message at 989-560-1061 or email Suzette Howard at suzettejhoward@yahoo.com



Book Review

by Josh Christensen

Title: JOCK OF THE BUSHVELD

Copyright: 1984

Author: Percy Fitzpatrick

List Price: \$13.85

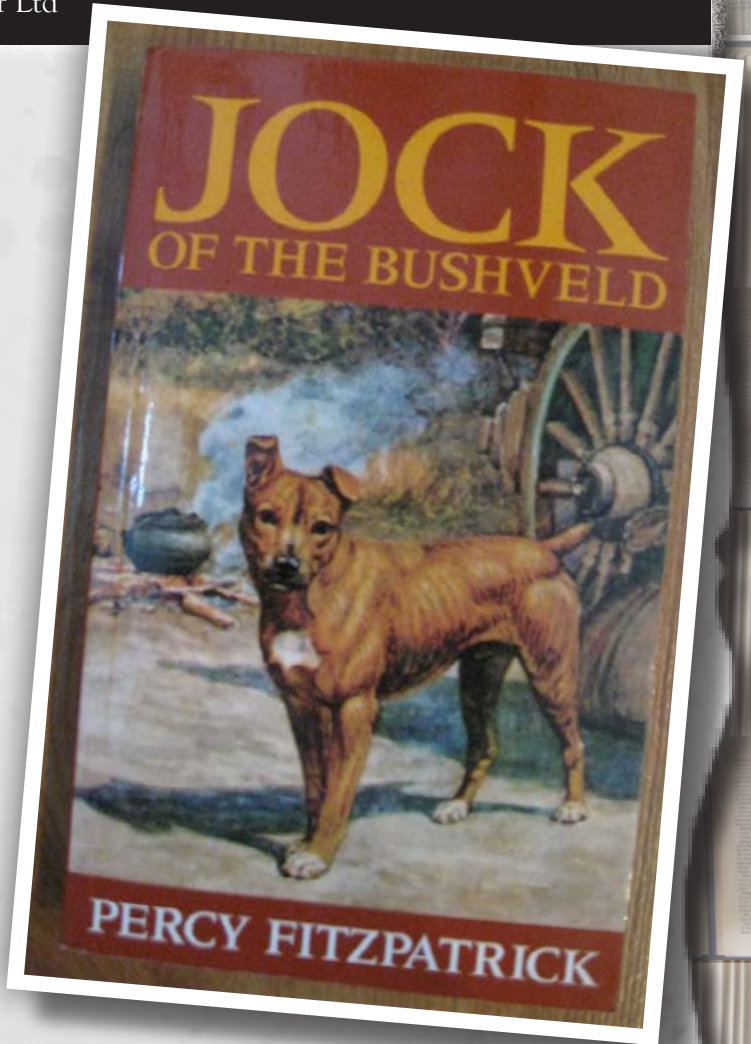
Publisher: AD Donker Ltd

Jock of the Bushveld is the nonfiction adventure of a young African man, Percy Fitzpatrick and his dog in the late 1800's. This story takes place in the country of South Africa during the time of their gold rush. The young man telling the story works on the wagons, transporting goods to the gold mines and later in the book runs his own wagons transporting goods.

Along the way, Fitzpatrick is able to claim a pup, the runt of the litter, and this story is created. He names his dog Jock and together they have many experiences in the bushveld, including hunting animals ranging from small antelope to kudu, as well as leopard, trying to stay away from tsetse flies and having a run in with a man and his "pet" baboon.

Throughout the book we are exposed to the difficult life on the transport wagons and the many men that it took to make the transportation of supplies possible. One of the men we are introduced to is Jim Makokel', a large Zulu warrior, who is a driver for Percy and is loyal to a fault to both Fitzpatrick and Jock.

The hunts and experiences throughout the book are written in great detail and even though the authors intent was not to romanticize this time and way of life in South Africa it makes the reader wish they could join Jock and his master, if only for one hunt.



This book gets 10 out of 10 bullseyes

Sportsmen Saved Species

Wildlife is thriving due to successful conservation efforts brought forth and funded by hunting sportmen and women. NO species has become extinct due to hunting. Here are some facts on saved species.

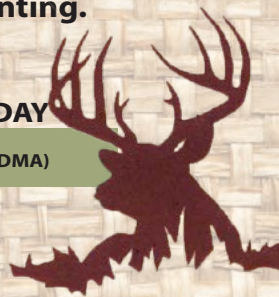
1900s

WHITETAIL DEER

TODAY

500,000

32,000,000 (QDMA)



WILD TURKEY

TODAY

1900

100,000

7,000,000 (NWFT)



1940

BIGHORN SHEEP

2014

<20,000

>85,000 (WSF)



1907

ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK

TODAY

41,000

1,000,000 (RMEF)



1900s

BLACK BEAR

2011

NEARLY EXTINCT

950,000 (IUCN)



50
YEARS
AGO

PRONGHORN ANTELOPE

TODAY

12,000

1,100,000 (WWF)



191

DUCKS/WATERFOWL

TODAY

FEW

46,000,000 (USFWSI)



1890

BLACK RHINO

TODAY

1,000

3,500 (IUCN)



1900s

CAPE BUFFALO

TODAY

DECIMATED

1,000,000 (IUCN)



1895

WHITE RHINO

TODAY

<100

19,600-21,000 (IUCN)



SCI FIRST FOR HUNTERS®

Mid-Michigan Chapter Hunting Convention

Fund Raising Sponsors - Major Contributors

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Brad Eldred - The Wildlife Gallery

Jeff Harrison - Burch Tank

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February 23, 2018

Awards Night

2018 Major Award Winners Mid-Michigan Chapter SCI

NORTH AMERICA

ANIMAL

1. Dall Sheep
2. Dall Sheep
3. Continental Black Bear

HUNTER

Gale Parr
Chad Stearns
Mike Strobe

NORTH AMERICA INTRODUCED

1. Aoudad
2. Axis Deer
3. Red Deer

Mike Strobe
Mike Strobe
Dawn Manthei

Bow Hunter of the Year - Mike Strobe
Crossbow Hunter of the Year - Corey Hyde
Men's Top Hunter of the Year - Mike Strobe

OUTFITTER RECOGNITION

Hepburn Lake Lodge ~ Arlee and Darlene Thideman
Low's Trophy Whitetail Ranch ~ Leon Low



SCI Mid-Michigan Past Major Award Winners

	<i>Bow Hunter</i>	<i>Handgun Hunter</i>	<i>Muzzleloader</i>	<i>Crossbow</i>	<i>Men's Top</i>	<i>Women's Top</i>
2009	Randy Raymond	Tim Becker	Keith Davis		Larry Higgins	Joanne Witte
2010	Joe Janicke	Roger Froling	Jerry Schave		Don Harter	Mary Harter
2011	Scott Holmes	Larry Witte	Nick Johnston		Larry Witte	Maryanne Belyea
2012	Keith Davis		Keith Davis	Josh Christensen	Tim Torpey	
2013	Jim Maciatek		Steve Galgoczi	Scott Holmes	Larry Smith	
2014	Mike Strobe			Scott Holmes	Martin Draznin	Mary Browning
2015	Josh Christensen		Chris Manthei	Paul Spencer	Glenn Belyea	Dawn Manthei
2016	Don Harter		Tim Torpey	John Jefts	Matt Esch	Sara Christensen
2017	Randy Raymond		Scott Holmes		Jeff Harrison	





FEBRUARY 2018 SCI MID-MICHIGAN CHAPTER AWARDS

<u>Hunter's Name</u>	<u>Gold</u>	<u>Silver</u>	<u>Bronze</u>	<u>Bow</u>	<u>CB</u>	<u>Mloader</u>	<u>Shotgun</u>
Keith Davis	1						
Matt Esch	2						
Dave Hutson			1				
Corey Lee Hyde	1				1		
Christopher Manthei	1	1					
Dawn Manthei	1						
Gale Parr	1						
Jeffrey Sackett	1						
Chad Stearns		1					
Mike Strobe	5	1	1	1			1



2018 MID-MICHIGAN SCI CHAPTER Chapter Awards Competition

<u>Hunter's Name</u>	<u>Species</u>	<u>Score</u>	<u>Method</u>	<u>Award</u>
Keith Davis	Rocky Mountain Mule Deer	177 3/8	Rifle	Gold
Matt Esch	Northeastern Whitetail Deer	180 7/8	Rifle	Gold
	Mountain Lion	13 4/16	Rifle	Gold
Dave Hutson	Red Deer	185 3/8	Rifle	Bronze
Corey Lee Hyde	American Bison	64 4/8	Crossbow	Gold
Christopher Manthei	Northeastern Whitetail	180 3/8	Rifle	Gold
	Red Stag	216 3/8	Rifle	Silver
Dawn Manthei	Red Stag	234 6/8	Rifle	Gold
Gale Parr	Dall Sheep	172 4/8	Rifle	Gold
Jeffrey Sackett	Quebec-Labrador Caribou	320 3/8	Rifle	Gold
Chad Stearns	Dall Sheep	162 3/8	Rifle	Silver
Mike Strobe	Axis Deer	137 7/8	Rifle	Gold
	Aoudad	134 2/8	Rifle	Gold
	Northeastern Whitetail Deer	156 2/8	Bow	Gold
	Northeastern Whitetail Deer	151 1/8	Bow	Silver
	Northeastern Whitetail Deer	133 3/8	Bow	
	Northeastern Whitetail Deer	149	Bow	Bronze
	Eastern Turkey	71 6/16	Shotgun	Gold



Photos by Daniel Reinke,
Reinke Photography



Mid Michigan

February 23-24, 2018



BOARD MEMBERS, WORKERS



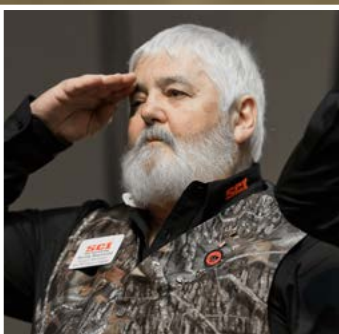


Convention 2018

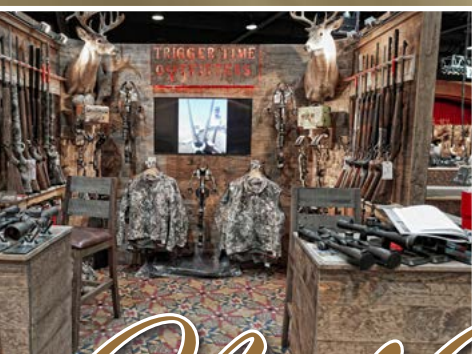
Soaring Eagle Resort



AND ATTENDEES



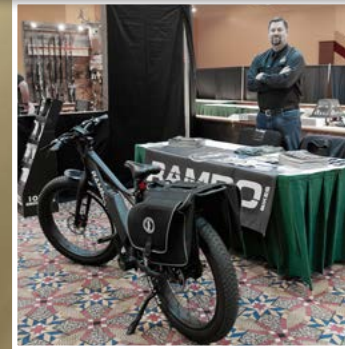
*All photos courtesy of
Reinke Photography ~ Daniel Reinke*



Mid Michigan Convention 2018

AND ATTENDEES





AND OUTFITTERS

*All photos courtesy of Reinke Photography
Daniel Reinke*



Favorite Recipes

VENISON APPETIZERS

by Mary Harter

1 large package of cream cheese
1 pound of bacon
6 to 8 chili peppers
One venison tenderloin
2 or more onions, depending on size
Toothpicks, one for each ½ slice of bacon

Clean chili peppers cutting out all of the inner membranes (those are hot), halve and cut into approximately one inch square pieces. Peel onions, halve, and separate. Some pieces might need to be cut smaller. Cut bacon slices in half and cut up venison tenderloin in approximately one inch pieces. Open cream cheese and cut in half lengthwise. All can vary depending on the number of half strips of bacon as one is needed for each piece.

Place on one strip of bacon: piece of onion, chili pepper, tenderloin, and a slice of cream cheese and secure ends of bacon up on top with a toothpick. Place in shallow baking dish. Repeat until all bacon is used. Bake at 350 degrees for one hour. Pour off liquid when you remove from oven.

Best served hot but good cold.



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. ☐ _____

EMAIL ADDRESS

☐ HOME

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

☐ BUSINESS

STREET _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

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 \$ _____

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

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXPIRATION DATE _____ NAME ON THE CARD _____

APPLICANTS SIGNATURE _____

SPONSORS NAME _____

DATE OF APPLICATION _____

SPONSORS ADDRESS _____



Mid-Michigan SCI
P.O. Box 486
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48804-0486

Many Thanks to the Mid Michigan Safari Club for their support *You have made it possible for the kids to have a life changing experience*



Houghton Lake Archers pose for a photo before the 3-d tournament .



Devon Harms smiles as everyone lines up for the first round of shooting.

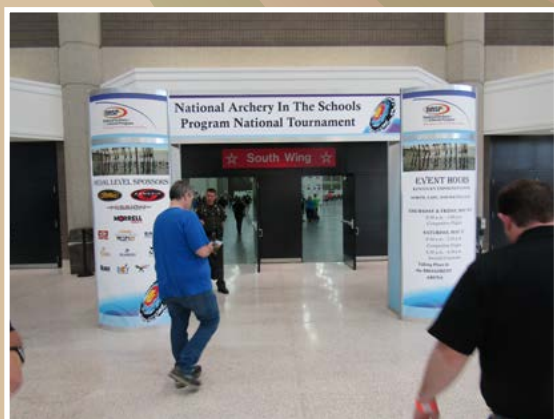
Houghton Lake Archers take their shot in Louisville Nationals

By Michael Ritchie · DC. Centershot Archery Roscommon County

The Houghton Lake Archers went to Louisville KY. for the annual National Archery in the Schools/ Centershot National Championships. Nine Archers and their coaches led by Gary Harms competed May 10-11 in target and 3-d archery with thousands from around the country. The group competed last year and set their sights on winning this year. “As a group they were #1 in middle school 3-D division” explains Harms. Devon Harms ranked 42 among middle school boys shooting a 268 of 300 in 3-d and 271 of 300 possible points in the bullseye tournament. Ellie Harms led the Houghton Lake team with a 274 of 300 in the bullseye competition with Ireland Selfridge close behind at 273. The event which drew 14-15,000 archers this year is a big deal.

The Guinness Book of World Records was on hand to certify that it was the largest archery tournament in modern history. Harms added that, “The newest archer to join the team Kane Graham showed up big by shooting a 263 of a possible 300 ranking him 38th among 5th grade boys. Kane has only been shooting with the team six weeks!” The group plans to compete again at the Kickingbear/ Centershot Camp this July 27-28 at Bambi Lake Camp in Roscommon.

Go to Centershot Michigan Facebook page for more info on that weekend event. Gary followed up by saying, “I would like to thank our sponsors for making the trip affordable. Sponsors included Mid- Michigan Safari Club, Roscommon Baptist Church Centershot, Preferred Auto and Harms Enterprises.”



Entrance into the NASP/ IBO/ Centershot Nationals

Photos compliments of Michael Ritchie and Gary Harms



Levi Morgan spoke to groups of kids on tips for successful archery. He is the IBO 10 time World Champion.

Hunting Cape Buffalo

with Marupa Safaris

by Ray Erickson

My first Safari to Africa was in 2008 when I hunted in the Eastern Cape. It was an amazing experience. I hunted Kudu, Gemsbok, Impala, Bushbuck, Blue Wildebeest, Mountain Reedbuck, and Fallow Deer. I have vivid memories from this trip and share them with my family and friends often. Upon returning from this hunt I dreamed of hunting dangerous game and became interested in hunting Cape Buffalo. My only concern was my experience would not live up to the memories of hunting the Eastern Cape. My urge to hunt buffalo won out and I started exploring the idea further. I don't



Ray, Paul, Bob and Ron

remember the exact year but I believe it was in 2010 while at a SCI fundraiser I struck up a conversation about hunting Cape Buffalo with a gentleman from Marupa Safaris, Pieter Viviers Sr. At the time I couldn't commit but my dream began to take shape, and in 2015 I would make that commitment with Marupa Safaris and Pieter Viviers Jr.

Hunting Cape Buffalo with Pieter Viviers, owner and operator of Marupa Safaris, was truly the hunting experience of a life time. Often times words can't express how we feel about things we do, but hunting with my friends in Africa was truly rewarding.

In preparation for my hunt I wanted to make the experience more personal by not just buying a new rifle powerful enough to take down a buffalo, but piecing one together myself. It took me some time to acquire the perfect pieces for the rifle for the hunt. In fact, it took me a little over a year to bring everything together to build my Remington 375 ultra mag. Once I found all the parts (gun barrel, action, and stock) I

took the parts to Dick Williams Gunsmith Shop in Saginaw, Michigan to put the rifle together. I also had the gunsmiths add a Gentry Muzzle brake and accurize the rifle.

When it was done I was impressed with how accurate it turned out. I was shooting one inch groups, and sometimes "driving tacks", at 100 yards on a regular basis. I attribute some of the accuracy to the gun but also take a little credit for my loading skills. My experience in loading my own rounds of ammunition really paid off in past hunts and I was looking forward to how this caliber would perform.

Initially I wanted to use the Nosler Accubond bullets, but after talking with Marupa it was apparent to me that for buffalo Barnes X bullets should be used. I loaded RUM cases with IMR



powder with a 300-gr Barnes X bullet. The result was a bullet that screamed at a velocity of 2823 feet per second with over 5000 foot pounds of energy. Boy it is fun to shoot, and I got a lot of attention at the range.

I must say before we hunted for Cape Buffalo I felt I was being tested by Marupa. I think they were trying to measure what type of shooting skills I had. My first hunt was for Nyala, where I had to hit a moving target at 75 yards. I was able to put the shot just behind the left shoulder while the Nyala was running away. My second hunt was for Zebra. It turned out to be spot and stalk which gave me the opportunity to show Pieter what I could do and it also allowed me to see what type of skills he had. I was impressed and it turned out to be one of my favorite hunts done by spot a stalk. This hunt allowed us both to see what we could expect going forward.

After these hunts I had time to celebrate with friends and talk about all of our hunting experiences up to this point. It was a perfect way to culminate the first few days. Before going off to bed that night it was determined I would try my luck at Cape Buffalo the next day, Friday, September 16th. We woke up early and traveled close to five hours to an area near southern tip of Kruger National park. The hunt would take place in the Mpumalanga province near the border of Mozambique. Driving south



that morning as the sun was rising was truly a remarkable sight. The terrain, with its mountains, rolling hills, valleys, gorges and rivers was beautiful.

When we arrived at the concession I was to hunt, I was introduced to Bouta, the owner of the property. I could tell from the start this was going to be an interesting hunt. Bouta stood 6-foot-tall, with a stocky frame. I enjoyed his charismatic personality and all the conversations we had over the next two days.

Together, the three of us talked about our options and decided to do most of our searching for buffalo from the truck until we found tracks. Once tracks were spotted we would stalk by foot. So we all climbed into the truck and began the hunt. Bouta drove the truck with Pieter in the other front seat while I sat in the back enjoying the view of the mopane with Jack. Jack is one of the tracker/skinners employed by Marupa. Jack always wore a winter jacket even when the temperatures seemed hot. I guess it was cold to him.

We first checked waterholes looking for fresh sign, and when we didn't find any buffalo tracks we packed back into the truck to look in other areas. Being that it was midday and it was hot we figured most of the buffalo were bedded down so we planned to head back to the tent camp and wait until later in the day. As we headed back we came across buffalo tracks and followed them through the mopane. This area was very dry due a drought this part of South Africa was having. The brush wasn't hard to maneuver through but the thorns on the bushes slowed us down and often stuck us with every step. I had an argument with one thorn bush because it wouldn't let go of my rifle. One of the thorns penetrated the butt stock of my rifle and I had to break it off because I couldn't pull it out. We continued tracking for a while, but didn't come across the buffalo we were tracking.

Along our journey in search of buffalo I did

see some beautiful impala and kudu as we made our way through the bush. One exceptional kudu caught my eye. His horns must have measured around 52 inches but Pieter wouldn't let me make an attempt at stalking the bull because he said the bull was still too young and had a couple more years before it matured. That bull is going to be a monster.

So we continued on our way back to camp planning to make another go at it later in the afternoon. On our way out of the bush Bouta talked to Pieter about looking in another area. He had a gut feeling the buffalo bull we were looking for probably moved and we should try looking for him there. Bouta's gut feeling paid off as we found tracks of a solitary bull and started out



in search of him, but when we first set out we weren't expecting the surprise that was at the other end. For as stealthy as we were, the buffalo spotted us before we spotted him. Before I could react the buffalo bolted up from where he was bedded in thick cover taking off in the opposite direction like a freight train. Everything happened so fast, but I was still able to get a glimpse of his impressive head gear as he sped away. We stuck around that bedding area for just a while. It was very quiet as Bouta talked about the stench in the air, which was very strong, from the buffalo.

After experiencing that thrill we made the

decision to back off. We went back to Boutas' tent camp and got some lunch. After lunch, we went back to where we last saw the buffalo and proceeded to pick up his trail. We tracked the impressive bull throughout the rest of the afternoon. We never did see him while tracking later that day but I could smell his stench in the air several times. Even though I couldn't see him I knew he was near.

It was getting late so the decision was made to back off and go after him again in the morning. It would have been too dangerous to pursue him that close to sun down. As the day came to an end we sat around the campfire and talked about the day's events. We had a nice dinner and then went to bed early.

When we awoke the following morning we gathered our things and waited for Bouta to arrive. I used this time to make sure I had the shot placement right where it needed to be before we set off for the morning hunt. Even though you read about shot placement my advice to everyone is talk about it with your PH; I'm glad I did. Pieter used a stick to assist his explanation as he drew the shot placement out in the sand. He showed me the different angles and what to aim for. His directions took out any guess work and I knew exactly what shot was needed.

Before heading out, Pieter verified my rifle was loaded and the scope magnification was at its lowest setting. Then we all climbed into the truck and set out to the area we last seen the buffalo. We drove to an area near the last sighting and quietly moved in along the brush line. Bouta led the way on foot, slowly moving until the buffalo was spotted. Then Pieter took over and we made our way further up the brush line. Pieter glassed the buffalo while directing me along the way. Then Pieter stopped and got down on the ground. He crawled out into an area where he was low enough to be out of sight of the buffalo. At this point I wasn't nervous but also excited as he motioned me to do the same. As I crawled out to join Pieter I opened the bipod legs on my rifle and Pieter grabbed it to help move it forward

until I was next to him and in position.

Once I was there the adrenaline was flowing through my whole body. Pieter asked me if I could see the bull. I told him I could as the adrenaline pumped through my body. The sensation I was feeling was amazing. Pieter ranged the buffalo and said the bull was 127 yards out. I looked down the scope and made my final adjustments before I told Pieter I was ready to take the shot. He said "take it" as he rolled over and plugged his ears. I squeezed off the round and could see the buffalo run to the right of us with his right leg lifted as he ran out of sight.

Pieter said he thought it looked like a good shot and moments later we heard the death moan. We were all excited and relieved. As we cautiously moved closer we found him only 30 yards from where he was shot. As we gathered around I spent some time reflecting on what it took to get such an opportunity. I worked hard to make sure I did everything right and so did Pieter.

I give thanks to everyone who played a part in making this happen, but most of all to Marupa. They listened to me and understood what I wanted in my hunt. I will forever be grateful. If any of you are looking for an excellent African hunting adventure contact Pieter at Marupa Safaris.



Hunting in Montana

Harter's Mule Deer Hunt

On November 9, 2017, we left for Forsythe, Montana for a mule deer hunt with Jeff Chadd. We had hunted with Jeff when he was in Colorado back in 2007. The first Front Sight I edited had a picture from their home with a beautiful lake and mountains in the background. We had also hunted with Jeff outside of Forsythe in 2010, so were familiar with the area.

We met Jeff and Cyndi in Forsythe and continued to the Flying X Ranch where they hunt. We left our vehicle at the owner's ranch house, the Vassauss, and were glad we did as the roads got very sloppy during the week and we would have had trouble returning out of the ranch. Jeff leases this 42,000-acre ranch plus 8,000 acres from a neighbor.

Their cabin area was much the same as when we were here seven years ago. They have a main cabin with the kitchen, dining area, living room, and their bedroom plus three one room cabins for their guests. They have a bathroom attached to the main cabin and an outhouse.

Another hunter was in camp, Chris Kaman, also from Michigan.



He had started his basketball career at Central Michigan University in Mt. Pleasant, our old alma mater, and then went on to play professionally for 13 years. He had recently retired, and we enjoyed hearing his stories about playing the sport and the many other basketball stars he met during his career. Evenings were filled with him answering many questions about his sport. He had to be careful entering the main cabin as he is 6' 7" and just clears the ceiling.

The first morning, Jeff drove us around the area and we spotted many places that were familiar. The roads were snow covered



and slippery. Driving was easier in the mornings, but the roads began to thaw by mid-afternoon. We spotted many deer and several bucks that were “works in progress”. Towards evening more deer came out into the open. In some heavy pines, we spotted a group of deer, so we got out to investigate. A good buck was in the group and behind a huge pine. I got ready and as he came out from behind the tree, I shot. He whirled, and I got him again but that shot wasn’t necessary. Down he went, and my hunt was over on the first night.

We hunted three more days. I had set the standard and Don wanted to check out a lot of deer to see what was available. Chris shot a nice buck on the third day, so he and his guide, Bryan Griffin, began scouting for Don, as well.

The rut was just beginning and every day we saw more bucks. There are a lot of animals in this area. We glassed and glassed and questioned several bucks. We spent a lot of time studying many nice deer. It snowed several times and the roads really got sloppy.

On the last night, we got a call from Bryan saying they had spotted a nice buck with a group of does and gave their location. We hurried to where they were, and Jeff ran to the hidden spot where they were glassing and determined we should go after him. It was getting dark, so we drove nearer the buck. The road was very greasy, and we were sliding sideways down it. When Jeff stopped, Don jumped out and as the buck and does were almost over the hill, Don shot. Then we couldn’t see anything. I said, I saw blood fly. Jeff said it was probably hair. No, I saw blood! They walked up and over the hill and there was Don’s buck, a very nice, old buck with mass. He was a very nice trophy.

Back to camp for celebrating. Even Chris helped skin out the animal. Another wonderful dinner prepared by Cyndi, a good night’s sleep, and we were on our way home the next morning. Such a very successful and enjoyable hunt!!!



SOUTH OF THE BORDER

Part One

by Brad Eldred

January 2018 finally arrived. I had been wanting to chase the desert mule deer for many years but somehow just never managed to work it into a busy winter season.

This year however, with an invitation to join a friend, Dan Catlin, Jim Hall and myself decided to get it done.

I have also always been a little hesitant to travel into Mexico having heard a few stories about the cartel, the crooked police and unfriendliness in general. I have since learned as with all things, if you do your research and ask fellow SCI members for advice, you will always find the best place to land and have an excellent experience.

Being that Jim and Dan have been in the camp before and assured me it was not only safe but an exceptional destination and hunt, it was easy to get on the plane. Man, oh man, I am sure glad I did!

We landed in Hermosillo, Mexico and were treated by very friendly, helpful airline workers and custom officials. The police quickly checked our paperwork and cleared our guns, and we were off into the Sonora Desert!

Oscar Molina, owner and operator of "San Jose Trophy Hunts" escorted us to one of the most beautiful lodges I have ever encountered. Greeted by a friendly staff and of course fed and rehydrated, we settled in and relaxed awaiting our coming adventure. My first Sonora Desert sunset was amazing as the sun slowly sank behind the last mountain top!

I would like to insert a success story in this article that most people these days do not hear about. With all the social media buzz about anti-hunting and how we as sportsman are the problem with wildlife management and animal populations declining, a ridiculous mindset to say the least, what Oscar and other "wise" outfitters are doing nothing short of amazing.

Oscar has put a high fence breeding program for both desert mule deer and desert sheep on his enormous ranch. These animals are raised and then released into the wild in an effort to repopulated the desert landscape with healthy, high genetic animals that continue to thrive and



Desert Mule Deer

rebuild the dwindling populations. His land and water management program, which is run by a Texas A & M graduate and local friend is making the ranches habitat a Garden of Eden scenario for these animals. They are thriving! Their programs are working to create what was not so long ago an area like many places over hunted and over harvested. Not so on Oscars ranch. These animals are healthy and thriving. San Jose Trophy Hunts also only targets the mature bucks and rams that have done their job and have been replaced by the younger stronger challengers. We all know as hunters that this is the proper way to manage any species.

Morning could not come fast enough for me. I was

up and ready before the rooster on this day, eager to get a look at the desert landscape. Breakfast and coffee behind us now and light breaking we climbed into the high rack and began our day. I have hunted the high rack style before in Africa and also Texas, and I find it to be a ton of fun. You never know what is coming next or when it could happen. This landscape it truly is the best way to cover the vast, densely cover desert floor.

Having harvested several mule deer bucks over the past few years, I had told myself that finding a true trophy would be a waiting game and that I would be very picky, something easier said than done for me, just being honest as I get very excited hunting big game:)



Coues Deer

As the cold morning began to break to the sun's rays around 9:30 I found myself glassing several mature bucks and plenty of does. Now these bucks were among the best mule deer I have ever seen, but my guide did not seem impressed by them so I took his lead and passed each one. I can still see them in my mind and am thinking, did I make a mistake? What a dilemma, huh! Only an hour or so passed and out of nowhere I am looking in disbelief at a buck that I will never forget. My guides excitement and his only words, "shoooot, shoooot!" started a heart pound that we all have experienced. The next few moments were a blur as I settled the cross hairs where they needed to be and squeezed the trigger. The buck took a couple

of bounds and was out of sight in the desert bush. "Did that just happen", I thought to myself. It did!

I just harvested what would I would find out later to be a 6-7 year old giant desert mule deer in Old Mexico!!

So while this is going on, Dan and big Jim are also chasing deer, both desert mule deer and the tiny Coues deer. There are also new friends in camp hunting desert sheep. It is like Christmas getting into camp each day to see any animals harvested and hear the stories of the successes and failures. No luck for Jim this morning but the afternoon was another story as he was able to harvest what is the biggest mule deer buck I have ever seen. A true giant and monarch! The mass alone is unreal not to mention everything else this buck has. So happy for Jim as he adds to his hunting memories and trophy collection!



The rest of the week was very eventful as Jim chased and took a beautiful Coues deer.

My new friends in camp and of course Danno, convinced me to chase the desert sheep while I was there! That hunt will be part two:) the next chapter to come!!

Mid Michigan Chapter Supports Conservation Education at Potter Park Zoo

Mid Michigan Chapter is donating \$2,000 a year for five years to support the new moose educational exhibit at the Potter Park Zoo in Lansing, Michigan. Four donations have been made thus far. The Lansing and Michigan Chapters of SCI also make similar donations. All donations towards the exhibit will be matched by the Glassen Foundation. Safari Club International has also supported the Chapter's effort with an Education Matching Grant. The primary goal of the Moose Exhibit is to educate visitors on conservation topics. The moose is a large and interesting mammal that will engage the viewing public. This will draw the attention of the visitors to the conservation education of the exhibit.

Amy L. Morris, Director of External Affairs for the Potter Park Zoo provided the following information. There are currently 13 institutions accredited by the Association of Zoos & Aquariums (AZA) in North America that have moose. Five of those institutions are in Canada, making only eight AZA accredited zoos listed in the United States. Potter Park Zoo is one of those select eight zoos. Overall, there are only 46 total moose in North America Zoos, with only 25 of them in the United States (also including Potter Park Zoo). More than 185,000 visitors enjoyed the zoo in 2017 and there were about 580 media references through the year. The annual number of zoo visitors has been greater than 170,000 including about 45,000 children since at least 2012.

A plaque acknowledging the contributions of SCI is on permanent display at the exhibit. The Chapters are recognized the 2017 report in two separate locations.

A related fact is that SCI played a significant role in the reintroduction of moose into Michigan in the latter part of the 20th century. This demonstrates a long term commitment to conservation and education by SCI.

Mary Browning is the Chapter Point of Contact for the Potter Park Zoo.



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Should you have any questions about your gift or the zoo in general, please contact me.

See you at the zoo!

Best Regards,

Amy L. Morris-Hall

Amy L. Morris-Hall
Society Executive Director
Potter Park Zoo



As a 501c3 charity, this letter serves as official acknowledgement of your gift. No goods or services were provided in return for this contribution; therefore, the full amount of your gift is tax deductible. Our tax ID is 38-2153808. Thank you!

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During 2017 185,249 people visited Potter Park Zoo.

We pride ourselves in being an enriching educational resource for our community and the greater Lansing area.

Visitors at Potter Park

A letter from Cindy Wagner, Potter Park Zoo Director and Amy L. Morris-Hall, Potter Park Zoological Society Director

Potter Park Zoo experienced a year of new beginnings in 2017 as we remain committed to our Mission: Inspiring conservation of animals and the natural world.

We are dedicated to our newly refined goals of exceptional animal welfare, outstanding conservation efforts and financial sustainability. The Zoo Advisory Board and the Zoological Society Board are aligned in their efforts to accomplish these goals.

Our most notable accomplishment was the successful completion of our accreditation from the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) for the sixth time. This required an extensive inspection of every aspect of zoo operations. We are dedicated to exceeding the standards of excellence required by AZA.

As you'll see in this report:

- Several new species found homes at the zoo, while we remained committed to continually improving the spaces provided for the animals already in our care.
- New conservation initiatives were implemented and the highest dollar amount in the history of the zoo was contributed to conservation.
- Plans are underway to incorporate conservation into every position at the zoo, further examine our on-grounds efforts to be more ecologically sustainable and educate our zoo audience on how they can participate in these efforts locally.
- We launched a new website and increased our presence on all social media platforms.
- We are fervent in our efforts to frequently communicate with our staff, zoo members and community with transparency and integrity.
- Our education department kicked off an effort to reach more diverse populations through our "Zoo in Your Neighborhood" program.

We are proud to be a part of this community and will continue to provide a fun, educational and positive experience for each visitor. Thank you for your contributions, support and service to Potter Park Zoo. We look forward to an exciting 2018!

Cynthia D. Wagner Amy L. Morris-Hall
Cynthia Wagner & Amy L. Morris-Hall

03



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Moose Habitat

Looking Ahead

In Our Next Issue



**DESERT SHEEP
SOUTH OF THE BORDER -
PART TWO**
by Brad Eldred

**HARTER'S
IN CAMEROON**
by Mary Harter



EXTREME HUNTING FOR POLAR BEAR
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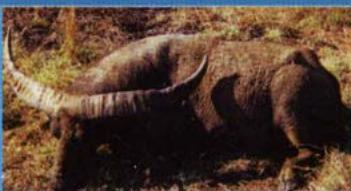
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