

# FRONT SIGHT



Mid-Michigan Chapter Safari Club International

October - December 2019, Issue 48



Photo by Shane Black  
Canada North Outfitting





# JOHAN PIETERSE SAFARIS



**SOUTH AFRICA  
ZIMBABWE  
MOZAMBIQUE**



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Members of Mid-Michigan SCI or Isabella County Sportsman's Club may use the shooting range located at 2872 W. Millbrook Road just east of Winn Road. The lock combination is 3855 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

- Chapter Record Book - Mary Browning
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- Dispute Resolution - Abbe Mulders, Kevin Unger, Jon Zieman
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- Programs for Membership Meetings - Doug Chapin
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- Annual Awards Banquet/Fundraiser - Abbe and Joe Mulders,  
Kevin Unger, and all board members
- Outfitter Donations - Roger Froling, Mike Strobe, Scott Holmes,  
Kevin Unger, Joe Mulders
- Raffles - Doug Chapin
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- Shooting Sports - Tim Schafer
- Humanitarian Services - Mike Strobe
- Sportsman Against Hunger - Mike Strobe
- Pathfinder Hunts - Brandon Jurries
- Youth - Disabled Veterans - Blue Bags, etc.

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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Dr. E.H. Kowaleski	1985 - 1986	Doug Heeter	1999 - 2001	Joe Mulders	2014 - 2017
Robert Doerr	1986 - 1988	David Petrella	2001 - 2002	Kevin Unger	2018 - 2019





## President's Message

Welcome to another issue of the Front Sight. I am looking forward to working with so many great members of the Mid-Michigan Chapter as the President. In 2019 we are a strong Chapter going into our 41st year. Another busy year is planned with many outreach and member activities, see below. Look for stories to follow in this Front Sight magazine.



Our Education outreach plan is strong and fits well with the SCI emphasis on youth involvement. We will support up to five teachers to attend the SCI American Wilderness Leadership Training program at Jackson WY. We will send up to ten youth to the Michigan Out-of-Doors Youth Camp sessions. Eight to ten local High School Trap Shooting Teams will receive grants to further this rapidly growing sport. Our Chapter has supported the Isabella County Sportman's Club for many years. We have just completed five years of support for the Moose Exhibit at Potter Park Zoo in Lansing. Last year we funded a High School program that reached about 100 students with a conservation message and included Hunter Safety Training.

Regarding outreach programs, we plan to continue our Pathfinder program with veterans and disabled youths with both deer and pheasant hunts. We will continue to work with the SCI Michigan Involvement Committee to support wildlife research and conservation. The major effort is to support graduate students in wildlife biology. The Sportsmen Against Hunger and Blue Bags Humanitarian efforts have been and will remain robust activities. The Blue Bags program is growing rapidly in the Chapter.

The Member Meetings in April and May were good events. Brandon Jurries presented some humorous highlights of his early hunting career. Ray Hollingsworth put on a great cooking display and seminar. Duck is edible, well at least Ray's duck breast pastrami! I hope many of you were able to take part in the Golf Outing at the Pines in August and the Skeet shoot at Isabella County Sportman's Club in September.

Going forward, Big Buck Night on Friday January 25th and the Annual Convention on February on Friday and Saturday February 28th and 29th. This will give a strong start to 2020.

Chapter Member Meetings are scheduled on Monday April 6th and Monday May 4th in 2020.

It is easy to get caught up in the business of the day; make sure to take some time to get out hunting and maybe sneak in some fishing as well (or vice versa)!

I will report back on the August SCI Board in Nashville in the next issue.

Jon Ziemann  
President  
(989) 430-2985 • [jjzieman@tds.net](mailto:jjzieman@tds.net)

## Editor's Message

We just got back from the SCI Board Meeting in Nashville where we learned a lot about changes, events, dates, and lots of other information about SCI plus had the chance to talk to many like minded friends we have made over the years.

Message 73075 and then type SCI to receive important and up to date messages from SCI. They will keep us informed.

Under the Freedom of Information Act people were trying to get names of hunters importing their trophies into the U. S. and we won the battle so they no longer can disclose those names. Previously we had to each tell Fish and Wildlife not to disclose our names.

The next SCI International Convention will be held in Reno on February 5 – 8, 2020 with Donald Trump, Jr., the keynote speaker on Saturday night. Kimberly Guifoyle will speak at the Saturday luncheon. Life Members of SCI can BOGO (buy one, get one) for the convention entry. If you are not a Life Member and become one, you can receive (2) Four Day Passes, a \$700 value.

The SCI International Convention is one of the largest conventions in the U.S. and will be held in:  
Reno in 2020  
Las Vegas in 2021  
Las Vegas in 2022 (50th Anniversary)  
Nashville in 2023, 2024, and 2025 - 60% of the U.S. population can drive to Nashville in a day  
New Orleans in 2026, 2028, and 2030  
2027 and 2029 to be determined

You will notice that this edition of the Front Sight is a little smaller and more compact to save money. We are working hard to save money within the chapter.

Keep Hunting,  
Keep Writing,

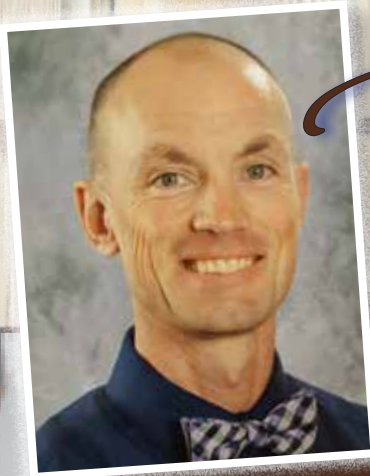
Mary Harter  
Editor

## SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter Meeting Schedule

\* SUBJECT TO CHANGE

<u>Date</u>	<u>Meeting Type</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Oct. 7, 2019	Board	5:00	Cheers
Oct. 27, 2019	Crooked Foot Veterans Hunt	7:00 am	Crooked Foot Ranch
Dec. 2, 2019	Board	5:00	Cheers
Feb. 5-8, 2020	National Convention		Reno
Jan. 25, 2020	Big Buck Night		Comfort Inn
Feb. 28-29, 2020	Mid Michigan 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](mailto:suzettejhoward@yahoo.com)



# Book Review

by Josh Christensen

Title: **WORLDWIDE HUNTING ADVENTURE**

Publisher: Xlibris, LLC

Author: Robert Berndt

Copyright: 2013

List Price: \$19.99

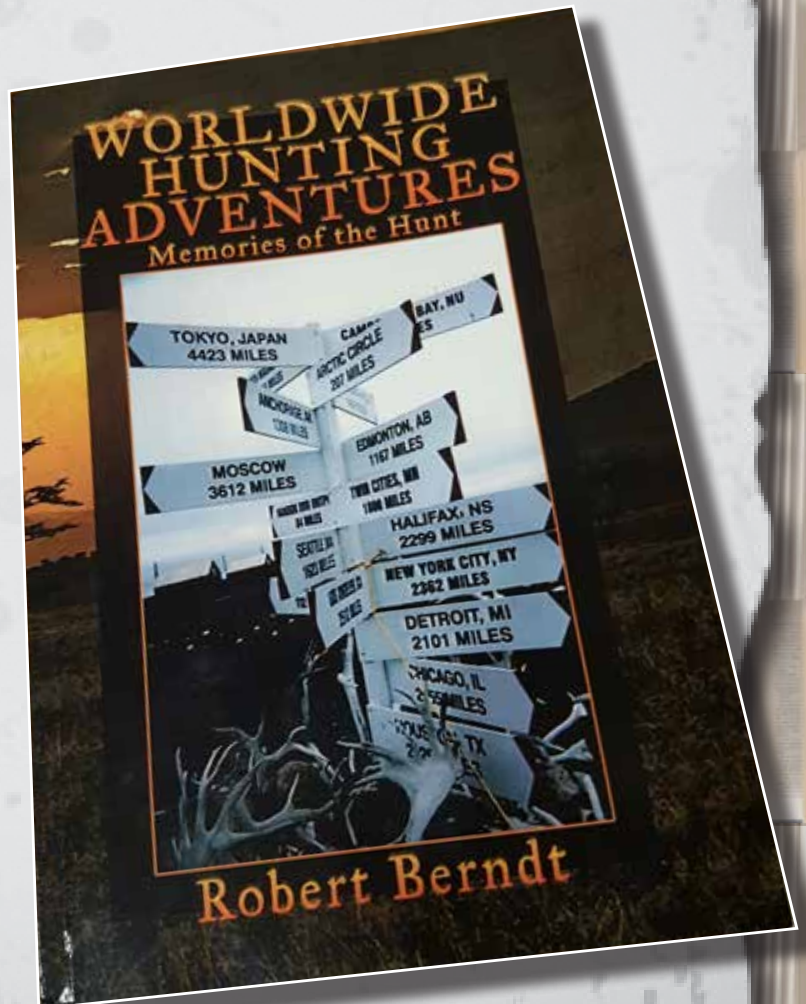
## WORLDWIDE HUNTING ADVENTURES:

Memories of the Hunt was written by a fellow SCI member from Michigan, Robert Berndt. As the reader turns the pages, Berndt brings us on his journeys around the world, with a concentration on hunts on the European continent.

As an extra added bit of enjoyment for the reader, Berndt doesn't focus each chapter entirely on the hunt, rather he makes it a point to explain different aspects of the cultures he encounters ranging from the people and food to the architecture and landscapes.

Memories of the Hunt is a quick read with four chapters detailing trips to Europe and ten shorter chapters describing travels to other destinations around the world.

Berndt describes his experiences by saying "I've often wondered whether I travel so that I can hunt, or do I hunt so I can travel, both are key parts of any adventure." I think many of us who travel the world in search of adventure may ponder the same question.



This book gets 8 out of 10 bullseyes





# 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, 2018**

**TO**

**November 30, 2019**

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 [lrc05@att.net](mailto:lrc05@att.net). All entries must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2019 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.

# Alligator Adventures

by Abbe Mulders

The SCI National Convention is a very large event and visiting booth to booth can get very monotonous except when you are soliciting for Outfitters to come and participate in your local chapter's Fundraiser event. Conversations about the different hunts the Outfitters represent can vary widely even though it is the same animal being hunted. Once in a while, you also come across an outfitter whose booth is 'alive' with people who are excitedly relaying their experience that they've had with the Outfitters organization.

This was the scenario that my husband Joe and I experienced a few years ago when we came to Drake Dawson's Safari Unlimited LLC booth. There seemed to be a group of people – including several women – who were happily sharing their adventures of hunting alligators in the swamps of Louisiana. The group all agreed that the experience was a trip of a lifetime, and that Drake's crew created one long Louisiana party throughout the time they were in camp.

Although I had never in my wildest dreams considered hunting alligators, everyone assured us that it was totally safe, and the staff were very safety conscious and provided that Southern charm to welcome and entertain all of the clients – both men and women. I think that we spent close to an hour at the booth that day talking with Drake and his daughter about the hunt and what to expect. In the end, Joe and I decided to take the plunge and sign up for the alligator hunt. Drake was booking a year and a half out – so we had plenty of time to think about the hunt and what we were getting into – or NOT!

Drake's tags, and the alligator hunting season itself were the couple weeks around Labor Day in late August, early September. Our family tradition is to have an end of summer party on the Labor Day weekend at our cottage in northern Michigan, so we worked with Drake to come in on Monday in order to have a good part of the weekend at our cottage. The plan was for both Joe and I to shoot alligators and decide what to have done with them once we were onsite. I did convince Joe to get the tag for an extra-large/trophy gator to complement his trophy collection.

We booked our flights to Louisiana early in the spring and worked with Drake to confirm our later arrival on Labor Day instead of a Saturday start date. The whole trip was set and ready to go for the Labor Day week

in 2018. As luck would have it though, in mid-June, I had a falling accident and ended up breaking both my ring and pinky fingers on my right hand. It was a freak accident and I ended up having surgery 10 days after the accident to pin the fingers so that they would heal better and I would have the most agility from them longer term. At this point it is the end of June and the pins were to stay in for 6 to 8 weeks. I started counting down and this timeline put me getting the pins out of my hand somewhere between the first and third week of August. NOT a great way to spend the summer, and in addition, the plan was to practice shooting pistols during the summer (I really had NO experience shooting anything at this point) in order to be able to accurately shoot these gators.

The first week of August arrived and so the did the time to get the pins removed. Since my two fingers (and most of my hand) had been pretty much immobilized for the past 2 months, there was a lot of stiffness and my orthopedic surgeon suggested that I get into a physical therapy program to start working on regaining the movement back in my fingers. The doctor and PT person both recommended that I do as much as I could with my hand's condition, but I just didn't have the movement or confidence that I needed to start practicing my shooting – so I pretty much resigned myself that I was going to be an observer on this alligator hunt – not a hunter.

We arrived in New Orleans and then drove to the camp, which turned out to be a small subdivision neighborhood nestled between a river that ran back into swamp land and the mouth of a very large lake. Our bunkhouse was a mobile home type trailer with separate bedrooms across the street from the main house which had a fish processing facility next door. The main house had a very large cement patio with a long-covered pergola where all of the gathering, meals and partying happened. The fishery was attached to the patio, and each day the fishermen from the lake would come and bring their catches to the fishery to be processed and sold to local markets. The alligators that were harvested were also brought to the fishery for processing and cold storage.

The alligator hunting is done in one of two ways here at Drake's camp – either in a flat bottom type of John boat or in an Argo that you rode back into the swamps. There was one Argo and several boats that Drake's crew used, and Joe and I were the lucky hunters to draw the Argo hunting method. Drake's operation gets several hundred alligator tags during the season which are assigned to 'areas' throughout



# in Louisiana

the county. The Argo was the 'mobile' vehicle which moved to the more distant watering holes within the tag areas.

The alligators are caught using very large hooks attached to long rope lines. Usually chicken legs or large pieces of fish are threaded onto the hooks luring the alligators in. Once the gators take a large bite for the bait, the hook is lodged in their mouth or throats and they are 'caught'. The hunters go around in the boats or on the Argo and check these hook baits once or twice a day. If an alligator is on the hook, the hunters then shoot the alligator in a small soft spot in the middle of their skull to kill the animal.

There were five couples who were hunting during the week that we were there, and with us being the Argo team, we spent a lot of time out of camp traveling to the different watering holes checking the lines. Phillip was our guide and we traveled along large drainage ditches and back into swamp areas. We also rode around large watering holes which had been dug out many years ago to build roads and highways. Phillip has been guiding for Drake for a number of years, and he was very familiar with all of the spots that we were hunting. Each destination was an interesting experience between bugs (we used lots of bug spray), spiders, rain, morning dew, and hot afternoon sunshine. We had also taken a smaller canoe to a particular pond that Phillip had seen a very nice gator in for several days prior to our arrival. This was probably a 5- or 6-acre pond that was dug to build the levee system. The guys would load into the canoe to check the hooks and rebait each visit.

Our first kill was after two days of visiting that particular pond. That alligator was large, older and very sneaky. Sometimes we would ride in the Argo down one side of the pond, before checking all the baits and that gator was evidently watching us, because when we finished checking and rebaiting lines, we would see that gator in the middle of the pond. However, it never took the bait on the hooks. Philip, Drake and Joe developed a plan for our third visit to the pond. If the alligator wasn't on a hook and line, the plan was to shoot the gator with a rifle if it surfaced in the middle of the pond as it had the previous days.

As we arrived that third day, the guys loaded up in the canoe, Phillip and Joe also set up a spot to shoot from in case that was how we saw the gator. I took the rifle and walked to the shooting spot while they started around the pond in the canoe. One by one, each bait spot was checked and the gator was not there. As the guys were about half way around the pond, I saw the big gator appear in the center of the pond. The big gator surfaced and floated in the middle of the pond watching while Joe & Phillip spent a significant amount of time at that particular bait location on the far end





of the pond. I tried many tactics to get their attention, but nothing worked. I later found out that there was a small gator that was all tangled up in tree roots etc. and they were having some troubles. I finally got their attention and motioned to the gator in the middle, so they slowly paddled the boat over to the shooting spot. By now the gator had moved to the far side of the pond, but was still visible to me – but only his head from the eyeballs to the top of his head. While Joe was getting out of the canoe, the gator disappeared. We watched and watched, then all of a sudden it resurfaces near the middle of the pond again. The gator was moving slowly from left to right and was probably about 80 yards out, but was not any higher in the water. Phillip decided it wasn't going to get any closer, and gave Joe the go ahead to shoot. The target on a gator is the brain which is about the size of a golf ball, thus Joe had a very small spot to shoot that gator. You don't want to wound a gator because it will certainly swim off and be next to impossible to find in the murky water. Joe's shooting skills were proven when he shot and the gator sank (yes, gators sink when they are dead)!!!

Phillip hurriedly paddled the boat to where the gator had been and started throwing a treble hook into the water to snag it. After several attempts he got it – whew – and secured the line and starting towing the gator to the other end of the pond. The gator was heavy, and Phillip could only make slow progress dragging the gator across the pond while on the treble hook. I was walking along the bank taking some pictures of him and the hooked gator moving across the pond, while Joe went back to get the Argo so they could use the winch to pull the gator out of the water.

As I was watching Phillip paddle, all of a sudden, he starts looking around – he had lost the gator! He starts throwing the treble hook out and around the canoe hoping to snag him again. This goes on for a few minutes, when I get to a different angle on the bankside of the pond and realize that he is in the wrong spot from where the last picture I had taken with the gator was. I give him some direction changes and he starts throwing the hook again and WALLA – he snags him! My heart was pounding as he pulled that gator up and I could see it once again on the hook. That alligator ended up being just over 10.7 feet in length – pretty decent for our first gator!

Over the next couple of days, we hunted more in the Argo, but also in the boats in the large lake. We harvested 10 or 12 gators on this trip. Our biggest gator was gotten the 4th morning in the big lake off of a hook and line that had been set the night before. It took three guys...Joe, Phillip and another guide, ZZ (an MMA wrestler) to roll the gator into the boat. It was exciting to see; the animal was HUGE and was just over 11.4 feet long. We decided to get a full mount of that mighty gator and he sits in our trophy room today. We also bought another hide and had a man's soft-sided briefcase made for Joe and several bracelets made for me and our daughters.

*The experience was everything that the group in the booth at the National Convention said it would be. We are appreciative to Phillip, our guide, who was a very gracious and genuine host, along with Drake and his team for a hunt we will talk about for many years to come.*

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

I hereby apply for membership \_\_\_\_\_  
FIRST
MIDDLE
LAST
YOUTH BIRTH DATE

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.

<input type="checkbox"/> HOME STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____	<input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS STREET _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____
--	--

EMAIL ADDRESS

**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
	Youth 21 and under (Membership)	\$25 National Dues	\$25 Local	= \$ 50

Check/Cash attached \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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

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 APPLICANTS SIGNATURE      SPONSORS NAME

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 DATE OF APPLICATION      SPONSORS ADDRESS



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





# Chronic Wasting Disease in Michigan

From the Website of The Department of Natural Resources

Since May 2015 when the first CWD deer was found in Michigan, CWD has been confirmed in free-ranging white-tailed deer in the Lower Peninsula from Clinton, Ionia, Ingham, Jackson, Kent, Gratiot, Eaton, and Montcalm counties. As of October 2018, a CWD positive deer was found in the Upper Peninsula in Dickinson County. DWD was also found in August 2008 at a Kent County deer farm facility and in January 2017 in two captive deer that were from a deer farm facility in Mecosta County.

As of January 31, 2019, no baiting or feeding is allowed in the Lower Peninsula of Michigan.

Chronic wasting disease is a contagious, neurological disease that affects deer, elk and moose. It causes a degeneration of the brain resulting in emaciation (abnormally thin), abnormal behavior, loss of bodily function and death. CWD is fatal; once an animal is infected there is no recovery or cure. To date, there is no evidence that CWD can be naturally transmitted to humans or to other animals.

It is caused by a normal protein, called a prion, that folds incorrectly and can infect other deer. It is transmitted through direct animal to animal contact or by contact with saliva, urine, feces, blood, carcass parts of an infected animal or infected soil. Prions are extremely resistant in the environment and can stay infectious for years.

## What can hunters do?

- Keep hunting
- Get your deer checked
- Avoid long-distance movements with your deer carcass
- Handle and dispose of your deer carcass in a responsible manner
- If you hunt out-of-state, only bring back allowed animal parts
- Stay up-to-date with the latest

regulations, especially if hunting in or near CWD areas

## Your Actions Matter. We need you!

Chronic wasting disease has now been found in both the Upper and Lower peninsulas of Michigan. We need your help to control the spread by being responsible stewards of the land, following current regulations and keeping up with the latest news. Of 1,072 deer tested in Isabella County, none tested positive. Montcalm tested 4,008 with 45 testing positive. Gratiot tested 1,146 with one positive. Mecosta tested 1,982 with none positive. You can look up county by county results on the DNR website.

Food based scents can be used in areas where bait is banned, provided the product is not intended for consumption and is inaccessible to deer contact.

Under the previous definition of bait, any product from a plant or mineral designed to attract deer was considered illegal including scents, like apple, corn, acorn or other food-based scents. These products are considered low risk for potential disease transmission, so the recent change by the natural Resources Commission now allows these products to be used as outlined in the paragraph above.

Other urine-based scents can still be used just as last year to create mock scrapes, drag ropes, wicks, etc. provided these products have the Archery and Trade Associations (ATA) symbol marked on the packaging or bottle. Mineral blocks/licks ARE considered bait. Food plots are considered an agricultural practice and separate from baiting. They are legal throughout Michigan.

In areas where feeding is banned

you can feed birds and other wildlife if done in such a manner as to exclude wild, free-ranging white-tailed deer and elk from gaining access to the feed. If a deer can eat the feed, that would be considered feeding deer and could be illegal depending on the area you are in. We would encourage you to use tube, hopper and suet bird feeders rather than putting seed directly on the ground or using platform feeders, which tend to attract deer and other unwanted guests. In addition, mess-free bird seed options are available to purchase at stores, which can help keep the ground clean. You can also prevent deer access to your feeders by fencing round your feeders, if possible.

In the CWD management zone and CWD core area, you can now use any legal firearm during muzzleloader season.

There is a purchase limit of 10 private-land antlerless licenses per hunter in a CWD management zone.

Right now, there is no treatment or recovery from CWD. It is always fatal. CWD on the landscape could significantly reduce the number of deer and/or depress older age classes, especially mature bucks. Therefore, CWD could negatively impact Michigan's hunting traditions. Michigan has about 600,000 deer hunters who harvest about 430,000 deer annually. Hunting generates more than \$2.3 billion annually to Michigan's economy. Without management of CWD, disease may spread across the state.

Safari Club International has partnered with the Chronic Wasting Disease Alliance to help combat this problem nationwide. You can also check out their website for more information.



# Sportsmen Against Hunger

Dear Members,

We are quickly approaching our 2019 deer season and as chairperson of our Sportsmen Against Hunger Program, it has me planning for meat donations. For those of you that don't know, we started this program, in it's first year, donating to the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen only. Since then, we have grown the program to a total of 5 entities. The others being Gods Helping Hand, Love Inc., Womens Shelter of Mt. Pleasant, and the Community Compassion Network. This program is a good avenue to clean out the freezer of last years meat and to thin that deer herd out if you have too many. I personally get to meet alot of the people your donations help feed, which always reminds me, what an amazing program this is!! It's your donations that make this program such a success. Please take the time to read the thank you letters we get from the entities we donate to. If you have any questions about the program, please call me at 989-506-1113. Good luck hunting this season and please spread the word to your friends.

Thanks for all the support,

*Mike Strobe*

Chairperson for Sportsmen Against Hunger Program



**GOD'S HELPING HANDS OF MECOSTA COUNTY**



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





January 2, 2019

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 R.I.S.E. Advocacy, we would like to thank you for your donation of the following items:

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

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Page  
Executive Director



His Helping Hands of Clare County was blessed again this year with a very generous donation of 485# of meat from the Sportsman Against Hunger program. His Helping Hands has three food pantries associated with their organization. The meat was divided amongst those pantries. The one pantry was seeing about 75 families the two weeks before Christmas, so this meat is greatly needed.

Along with the meat, we were given a \$250 gift card to Gordon's food. We can help restock pantries and buy paper and cleaning products for clients.

This donation helps our pantries provide better quality, healthier choices, and much needed supplies. We thank everyone who donated meat and the SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter for this wonderful outreach to families in need.



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Date 1/2/19

Dear Sportsman Against Hunger  
On behalf of the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen we wish to acknowledge and thank you for your contribution of 485 lbs of meat as part of our 2018 Annual Campaign. Your generosity makes our mission possible.

Food insecurity is a prevalent issue all over the globe, but it is also an issue that hits close to home. Not knowing where your next meal is coming from or how you're going to feed your family is stressful and we try to minimize that issue here in Isabella County. Thanks to the continued support of the community we are able to offer breakfast and lunch six days a week to those struggling with hunger. On average, we serve hot lunch to a little over 100 people each day.

Feeding those in need is possible because of help from you and other generous members of the community. Monetary help is just one way that those in the community give back, we would also like to give special thanks to those who volunteer their time and donate food and other necessities to our organization. We are blessed to operate in such a giving community.

We are a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization. The full amount/value of your contribution to the ICSK is tax deductible with no portion being payment for personal goods or services.

Thank you,

Executive Director

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Carol Layman, Vice-Chairperson  
Mark Lehman, Treasurer  
Jill Wood, Secretary

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# We support SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER

By Jon Zieman

The MidMichigan Chapter of Safari Club International annually supports the Sportsmen Against Hunger program in our local communities. The Chapter works with several partners and helps multiple organizations. Significant amounts of meat are provided to assist the area groups in their efforts. The Chapter partners with NAC Taxidermy, Isabella County Conservation District and Burch Tank and Truck to publicize the program. Shagena Meat Processing in Clare offers significantly reduced rate to process meat. Each year multiple donors pay the cost to Shagena Meat Processing for the processing allowing the Chapter's funding to go further. Approximately 2495 pounds of meat were distributed to five organizations, Women's Aid Service, Inc., the Isabella Community Soup Kitchen, God's Helping Hand of Mecosta County, His Helping Hand of Clare County, and Community Compassion Network. In consultation with the organizations, it was determined that it was most cost effective to make bulk meat purchases and donate that meat as well. Gordon's Food Service became a good partner with the Chapter by providing a very significant discounted bulk price to Chapter. The Chapter Community Compassion Network was provided a \$395.82 donation which was leveraged to 850 pounds of meat through the Greater Lansing Food Bank. We direct a portion of the program funding to the organizations for incidental costs beyond the meat donations. This is in the form of \$250 Gordon Food Service Store gift card given to the four of the five organizations. The program is successful and well received by the organizations and communities. Mike Strobe is the program director for the MidMichigan Chapter.



GOD'S HELPING HANDS OF MECOSTA COUNTY  
1 January 2019

God's Helping Hands of Mecosta County (GHHMC)  
PO Box 118  
Remus, MI 49340

Mike Strobe  
1100 Bollman Dr.  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

Donated beef/gift card

Dear Mike,

How wonderful to hear from you once again! We are very encouraged and excited about the donation you brought to us of 455 lbs. of meat as well as a generous \$250 gift card to help fill in the gaps in our feeding program! GHHMC exists by the grace of God and the kind, thoughtful, and generous partnerships with caring people such as you. We know we cannot do this alone. Thank you Mike and may God bless you mightily in this new year. Once again, thank you!

Working together,  
  
Executive Program Director/GHHMC



# Arctic WALRUS Hunt

by Mary Harter

We drove to Ottawa on July 9, meeting John Sauro, who was our companion on last year's polar bear hunt. We met Wiebke and Michael Leuke from Germany and Ed Marshall from Nebraska who would also be hunting walrus. John gave all of us a tour of beautiful Ottawa and we had a steak dinner at our hotel.

The next day we all flew to Iqaluit, the capitol of Nunavut with our outfitter, Shane Black. We were to fly on to Hall Beach where we were to hunt but the flight was cancelled. We took a tour of the area where 8,500 people live, in a taxi with a driver from Ethiopia, while Shane's secretary frantically searched for places for us to stay. The only hotel was full so we were taken to three different Bed and Breakfasts. We saw the province flower, the purple saxifrage, and buildings from the Hudson Bay Company incorporated in 1620. We met up for dinner at the Discovery Inn where we had a delicious Arctic Char dinner.

Our same taxi driver picked us up at 5:45 a.m. the next morning, 7/11, and took us to the airport. We asked him to come early as he usually doesn't start work until 6:00. We gave him lots of business with three pickups.

We flew out on time and arrived at Hall Beach about 9:20 a.m. and were taken to a Co-op hotel right across from the shore. We could see the Atlantic Ocean, well really Foxx Basin, from our window with many ice floes. We weren't going



Polar Bear







out the first day but just settled in and went out for a walk stopping at the shopping Co-op to look around. The Innuits in this area speak the native language Inuktitut as well as English. They are very friendly and everyone welcomed us to their area.

After a turkey dinner we were driven out to a cabin on the ocean owned by our local outfitter, Enoki, and his wife, Ruthie. They were netting a char and Ruthie had one she had already dried for us to eat. She showed us how they cut one to prepare it for drying. We also sampled the raw fish. Ruthie put the fish out to dry but during the night, a polar bear came in and ate it. They didn't stay in the cabin that night because of the bear's activity.



Elizabeth was the head cook in the kitchen, and said they had just celebrated the 20th anniversary of Nunavut becoming a territory in an aboriginal lands claim agreement breaking away from the Northwest Territories.

Enoki met us the next morning and took us to get in one of the four boats and go out to hunt. Our driver was Ruthie's brother, Ice, and helper, Lame. They had special Mustang Survival suits for us to wear. They were bright red and waterproof. It was a beautiful day and we saw several bearded seals and then many walrus beginning around 2:00 p.m. We were out about 60 miles on the ocean. There were many ice floes which Shane said were higher than he had ever seen in the five years he had been hunting in this area. Usually it was easier to spot the walrus at a greater distance but not this year. Some floes had only one walrus but some had up to 16 walrus but none with large enough tusks to shoot. We also saw a polar bear swimming that finally climbed up on an ice flow and we could see all of him. He was very dirty, possibly from eating a seal or walrus. They can take down a huge walrus weighing a ton or more. The ocean water is salty and the workers climbed out on the ice floes with water jugs to fill with the melting snow water to use for drinking. They served us sandwiches, apples and lots of snacks plus hot coffee or tea and juices. We arrived back at our hotel around 9:45 p.m. to a dinner of







lasagna. At this time of the year it never gets dark.

The next day, Saturday, July 13, we had high waves and rain which settled the dust which was everywhere in this area. We could see the high waves from our hotel room window. We thought there was a possibility of going out hunting in the evening but Enoki came to say we would be hunting in the morning leaving at 9:00 a.m.

A beautiful day for a hunt on the ocean. We went out in a different direction from the hunt before and soon saw a polar bear swimming. About 11:00 a.m. we started seeing walrus, many, many walrus. We went out about 35 miles from shore. We would go from one group to another checking them out. Edward from Nebraska shot a nice one and the work began.

First, it is such a large animal, a ton or more, they use block and tackle to get it up on a big ice flow to work on it. They cut through the skin all around planning the bags of meat they place in the tundra to age for six months. They make the lacing holes in the skin before they skin the animal. The whole crew worked on it for about two hours. They were used to cutting up a walrus as the natives are allowed to shoot several with licenses costing only \$5.00. Ruthie cooked some of the meat, heart, liver, and intestines for us to sample. She just boiled it in our boat on a Coleman stove, no spices. It was very good and tender. I tried all but the liver. The meat is very dark. The intestines were similar to calamari. The walrus eat mussels on the bottom of the ocean which they feel with their whiskers and then suck out the inside. Their whiskers feel like plastic. We saw at least 60 to 70 walrus during the day and many young, with their mothers. They were all in great shape and thriving.



I saw a walrus with others on a floe and decided to shoot. As directed by our guide, one shot through the neck into the spine and it was secured. As the other walrus left the floe, the floe began to rock and mine slid into the water and sank before our guides could get a harpoon into it. No recovery.

Sometimes if they are not dead, they will float for a few minutes but, per instructions, I had definitely secured it. It didn't move an inch after the shot except to slide as the floe tilted from the exiting walrus. Bummer!!! I have never lost an animal I knew I had killed.



On to look for more and we found a female with another adult on a floe. She had long tusks so I decided to try again. As before, I sat in the opening between the windshields on a step resting my .375 on the hull, timed my shot with the waves and shot again. A DRT, dead right there, and she didn't move. She was up higher on the ice floe and we moved closer to harpoon her. The harpoon bounced back as the point broke off. The boat hit the floe and the walrus and slid her off into the water. They tried to tie her off



but didn't succeed. The water was red with blood but my hunt was over. You are allowed to hunt a second walrus if the first can't be recovered but now my hunt was finished. Two dead walrus but no recovery!! Something else was going to enjoy eating them.

On hunting for Don, looking over many, many walrus. About 7:00 p.m. we found a floe with several walrus and one huge male. All left as we approached except the male. Don said he would shoot only if the others watching us would help in the recovery as we didn't have a usable harpoon anymore. Don shot and the walrus was dead. The floe rocked and we screamed for the other workers to come. Our guys got out and tied a line on one flipper as the walrus slid off the floe into the water. They towed the walrus to a larger floe and the work began. I finally believed Don was successful after the walrus was up on the ice. I was so afraid the rope would break or come untied but it held. Don had a very nice walrus. All helped with the processing.

A couple of hours later we started back, hunting on the way for a nice walrus for Michael Leuke. We saw many but had to keep circling back and around as we could not get out of the ice floes. Many times, we would scrape the sides of ice or drive over the top of one. We were also loaded with Don's walrus so set a little lower in the water. Our driver, Ice, and his helper, Lame, worked very hard steering, pushing, turning, maneuvering our boat over, across, and beside the ice, actually shoving some small bergs out of the way. We were trapped many miles into the ice. We were exhausted just watching them.

Around midnight we stopped, all four boats together, to wait for the tide to rise. They explained at midnight was the lowest tide which varies by about four meters (over 13 feet) and if we waited the water would get higher and the floes move. It was surprising how fast it changed. After waiting a couple hours and eating hot soup, we took off again still having difficulty navigating around the floes but made it back to open water and Hall Beach around 6:15 a.m. having spent the night on the ocean. Only one of our drivers had experienced a night stuck in an ice floe many years ago and he had spent two days trying to get freed.

A few hours of sleep, a nice hot shower, and breakfast around 2:00 p.m. and we felt better. What an experience we will never forget!!

Michael and Wiebke planned another hunt with Shane for next year. They plan to do a lot of hunting and we are envious because we know some of what they will experience. We have had such fun together in many remote places.

We flew back to Ottawa the next day with no unexpected events, spent the night in Ottawa meeting and talking to a couple on their way to hunt walrus, and drove home thinking again of all the wonderful and very different experiences we have had while on a hunt. It isn't about shooting an animal but all the wonderful people we meet and seeing so many different parts of the world we could see no other way.

Thanks to Shane Black, John Sauro, and staff from Canada North Outfitting for another great experience!





# RIVERS SOUTH SAFARIS *in New Zealand*

by Kenneth Lehman

The 2018 Mid-Michigan SCI auction was a bit of a surprise for me. I had not gone with the intention to purchase a hunt, but by the time it was done my dream hunt to New Zealand was in process. The plan was to go the following March in 2019 with Rivers South Safaris and hunt Red Stag.

Time zone changes make flying to New Zealand a long flight. Departing on March 8th, 2019, I arrived in Christchurch NZ on March 10th and my guide Dion picked me up. He and I spent the next two hours discussing the country and as we headed toward the lodge, the agriculture lands we traveled through became more rugged. New Zealand is beautiful, and March is the beginning of their fall season.

Once we arrived at the lodge, I met Mark and Pam Waite who would host me for the weeks hunt. They were very kind, and I was somewhat surprised to find out I was the only hunter scheduled for the week. The following weeks they were booked full. After settling in we went to the range. I was going to use one of their rifles to hunt. Dion had several custom rifles built on 700 Remington platforms and they were tack drivers. We were all set for the next day!

After a large traditional cooked breakfast, we were off to the 5000-acre hunting block a short distance away. The country is similar to the American South West, rocky and dry for the most part,

but we did cross many small streams. Right off the bat we spotted a huge wapiti. These are a cross between red deer and elk and are on my bucket list for my next trip. We saw lots of game, Arapawa rams, Chamois, Fallow deer, and even some feral goats, but the weather was very warm, and the stags were hiding in the timber.





By 8:00 pm we were heading out of the mountains when we spotted a large stag, he was larger than what I contracted for, but it only took a second to decide this was the one for me. We planned to make a big loop around the mountain and get above him, but the hunting gods had other plans for us. Crossing one of the streams we got stuck (high centered) on a rock ledge. The next two hours we worked to get out and by the time we did it was well past dark. Dion kept a great attitude the entire time and really proved I was hunting with the right guy.

The next day Dion and I headed back to the area where we last saw the stag and after an hour of glassing, we located him. He had picked up a buddy and they were both bedded down, one watching up hill and one down. This was going to be a hot and



tricky stalk. 1200 yards later we were in position but had to wait another hour for the big stag to stand up. As his shoulder cleared the brush, I touched off a shot. I think Dion said it best, "A cracker of a shot!" and the stag was down.

I need to stay busy when on vacation or my mind slips back into work mode, so the next day I ask Mark and Pam if I could help work on fences. I think they were a little shocked, but being great at customer service they agreed, so Dion and I were off. We did bring rifles in case we saw some feral pigs with which they have problems.

By the afternoon we were done with the majority of what needed to be repaired, Dion suggested we go look at an old stag they wanted to take out of the herd.

On the way to where we hoped to find the old stag, we saw another huge red deer and watched him wallow and roar. He moved up into the timber and raked trees like crazy. We continued up the mountain and found the old stag. He was a good head, but I was spoiled and now decided that the one back in the timber was what I wanted. Back down the mountain we went.

The wind was not in our favor, but Dion got us into position on a small cliff above the bedded stag and with camera rolling I anchored my second stag to the ground. Another fantastic day!

Rivers South Safaris worked hard to make sure I had a super hunt. Their lodge, food, and staff are top of the line. If you ever want to take a trip of a lifetime to New Zealand, these are the people to go with.

Thank you, Mark, Pam and Dion.



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Correction does much but encouragement does more.





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