

July - September 2020, Issue 51





# JOHAN PIETERSE SAFARIS







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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. In order to receive the lock combination you will need to contact Lance Norris at either (989) 621-2794 or ruter1lb@cmich.edu to take a safety training/orientation to familiarize yourself with the club. When visiting the Sportsman's Club please carry membership identification on you.

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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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#### President's Message



Well, it has been a rather difficult and long spring. Locked in and no motorized fishing for a while. Turkey hunting was more popular than ever. All the last season "ZZ" licenses were sold! Hopefully the turkey hunters had a good season. Make sure to get those bear and elk applications submitted. Try to get some fall hunting plans going if you can! The hunting areas and outfitters need our support to continue.

SCI conducted it first fully remote Election and Board meeting early in May. Our Chapter Board has been conducting online meetings over the last couple of months and will do so as long as the lock down is enforced. SCI and SCIF have finalized some structural changes and MOU's recently. There have been several other developments in building our organization. SCI is acquiring the Texas Trophy Hunter Association®. Additionally, SCI has entered a joint venture agreement with Buckmasters<sup>TM</sup>. These moves will promote conservation, education, and hunting. This will help expand the demographic exposed to the positive aspects of SCI. The Chapter also is continuing its efforts supporting hunting advocacy, education, and conservation worldwide.

The Chapter has cancelled several events and postponed the member meeting with Tim Torpey as the speaker. We are working on rescheduling for later this summer/fall. The Tuesday, August 11<sup>th</sup> Golf Outing is still on the calendar. Please attend as it is a very fun event. Hopefully, you received a ballot and voted in the Chapter elections. Look to an update for the next issue of the Front Sight. The Board already is actively working on the next Chapter Annual Convention. That and Big Buck are coming early in 2021.

Michigan hopefully will be open for Summer activities. Enjoy Independence Day especially this year!

Please let us know your suggestions for improvements and activities for the Chapter. Catch a few fish!

Jon Zieman President

(989) 430-2985 • jjzieman@tds.net

### Editor's Message

I would like to start off by thanking Mary from our entire membership for doing such a wonderful job with our Front Sight magazine over the past twelve and a half years. She has really set the bar and I hope to follow in her foot steps and produce a publication you all look forward to receiving and reading.

As many of you may know, I have begun taking over as editor of our Front Sight Magazine. I am excited and nervous about this new adventure. I joked with Mary I would take over the position



Josh and his younger son, Ivan, fishing during the stay at home order.

under two conditions. The first was she remained the co-editor until I figured out the ropes. The second was she needed to continue to write articles for us. She graciously agreed to both.

You will notice within the pages of this issue we are adding a few new sections that might be of interest to you. Will we be starting a "Buy, Sell or Trade" section as well as a "What do you think?" section. Each of these have detailed summaries so please be sure to look them over.

This issue also includes many pictures from our annual Fundraiser. What a great time was had as we were able to visit with friends and outfitters from around the world and discuss hunts of the past and of the future. I am grateful we were able to have our fundraiser go as planned whereas many other chapters with fundraisers scheduled after ours had to modify their events.

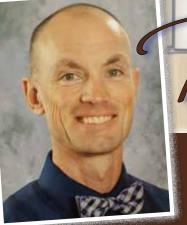
I am looking forward to working with you in the future. Please consider writing and submitting an article for our magazine, it not only helps keep our magazine great, but also preserves your stories for generations to come.

Josh Christensen

Co-Editor

(989) 329-4911 • jchappyfish@gmail.com

#### SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter Meeting Schedule SUBJECT TO CHANGE Meeting Type Time Location July 13 **Board Skeet Shoot** 2:00 pm **Board Budget Meeting** Harters 5:00 pm **Board Meeting** Cheers Aug. 3 5:00 pm Aug. 11 **Golf Outing** 7:30 am Mt. Pleasant Country Club 9:00 am tee off Sept. 6 **Board Meeting** 5:00 pm Cheers Sept. 24-28 **Veterans Hunts** 7:00 am Tails-A-Waggin' Oct. 5 Cheers **Board Meeting** 5:00 pm Oct. 24 Veterans Hunts 8:00 am Crooked Foot Dec. 7 Cheers **Board Meeting** 5:00 pm Feb. 3-6, 2021 **Annual Convention** Convention Center, Las Vegas 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 Epiell by Josh Christensen

Title: DEER CAMP: An American Tradition

An American Tradition Copyright: 2001

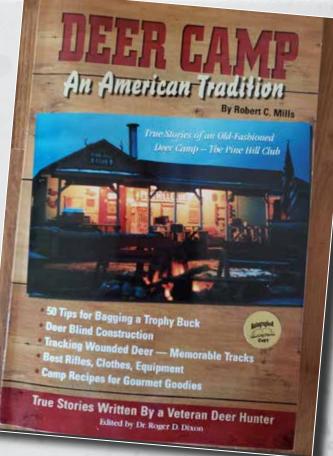
Author: Robert C. Mills List Price: \$12.95

At our annual fundraiser in February I was approached by a man who recognized me as the guy who does book reviews for our Front Sight magazine. He told me he wrote a book a few years back about his deer camp, thought I would enjoy reading it and inquired if I was interested in doing a book review. I told him I was more than willing to give the book a read and wrote down my address for him to send me a copy. Some of the things he said during our short conversation stuck with me. One was he was proud of his writings and had many people tell him it was good, and second he told me everything in the book is true and pertains to hunting just as much now as when he wrote it.

That man, and author of the *Deer Camp: An American Tradition* was Robert Mills. And I would say he was right about this book being a good read as well as his tips and observations about deer camp still holding true to this day.

Throughout the pages of this deer camp memoir, Mills brings the reader into his camp sharing the little things that have made his camp a success for nearly 50 years. By the time you finish you feel like you too are a member of his camp and longing for the deer camp card games and dinners.

Some of the highlights of these stories are what makes a successful deer camp, the do and don'ts of tracking deer as well as tips on how to bag your trophy buck. But I would say my favorite portion of this book were the camp stories Mills shared



Publisher: Mills Publications

about some of the members of his camp as well as his stories about each of his four sons first bucks.



This book gets 10 out of 10 bullseyes

# FRENT SIGHT

# NEW FEATURE SULL, TRADE OF SELV

We are trying a <u>Buy, Sell or Trade</u> section in our Front Sight magazine for future issues. It will be similar to the wanted section in a newspaper. The following are the terms and conditions for this new section of our magazine.

- It will be <u>FREE</u> to all members of our Mid-Michigan SCI Chapter.
- One photo per item will be used in this section. This photo will be displayed in a small size (about 2"x2").
- You may have up to four ads per issue. (You must renew each ad each issue.)
- Beyond the description of the item, each ad will need your name, e-mail and/or phone number
- Each ad should be limited to 25 words plus your name and e-mail and/or phone number.
- The Mid-Michigan Chapter is not responsible for items sold.

Send listings to Josh Christensen at jchappyfish@gmail.com

If you have any questions about this new section in the Front Sight magazine, please contact me through e-mail jchappyfish@gmail or phone (989) 329-4911.



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# 2020 Major Award Winners Mid-Michigan Chapter SCI

#### ANIMAL HUNTER

#### Africa

Damara Dik-Dik
 Angolan Black Faced Impala
 Common Sable
 Dr. Terry Braden
 Dr. Terry Braden
 Ken Ransom

#### North America

Polar Bear
 Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep
 Shiras Moose
 Mary Harter
 Tim Torpey
 Ken Ransom

#### North America Introduced

Axis Deer - Typical Christopher Manthei
 Axis Deer - Typical Dawn Manthei
 Axis Deer - Non Typical Larry Smith

#### South America

Blackbuck Janis Ransom
 Water Buffalo Ken Ransom

#### South Pacific

Red Deer Mary Browning

Bow Hunter Method of the Year - Kent Vander Loon Crossbow Hunter Method of the Year - Mike Hall Muzzleloader Hunter Method of the Year - Tim Torpey Hand Gun Hunter Method of the Year - Larry Smith Men's Top Hunter of the Year - Ken Ransom Woman's Top Hunter of the Year - Janis Ransom

#### Youth Hunters of the Year

Ky Koch • Northeastern white tailed deer Konnor Wilson • Northeastern white tailed deer (2)



# Hunters of the Year Janis Ransom & Ken Ransom























# Thank You to our Many Outfitters















Eunting Convention MID-MICHIGAN SCI



































All photos courtesy of Reinke Photography Daniel Reinke

# **And More Outfitters**



































All photos courtesy of Reinke Photography Daniel Rein



















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# Setting Goals— Super Slamming

### by Tim Torpey

Twenty-four years ago, I began a journey that at the time I did not realize I was starting. It began with a mule deer taken just north of Gillett, Wyoming.

Over the years, my hunting took me to places and animals that I thought were either fun or exciting. Until I joined GSCO, I had never considered trying to collect a Super Slam. With this new-found direction, I started to plan.

The road to this goal has not been without its bumps and valleys. Three species took four hunts each, two took three hunts each and two more took two hunts each. However, the joy and relief when an animal is finally collected is amazing.

I had always planned on the polar bear being the final animal toward this goal. I had booked the hunt with Shane Black from Canada North Outfitting in 2015 but a hard to get rocky mountain bighorn stood in my way.

After multiple attempts the big horn was finally collected in October of 2019. I immediately called Shane and set the last two weeks of February 2020 for my hunt.

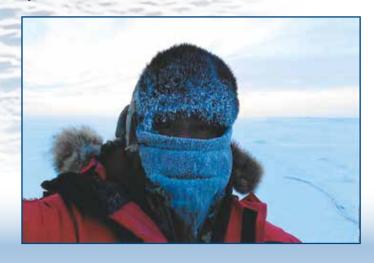
The conditions in Resolute Bay, Nunavut in February are very cold, but with the proper clothing it was never a problem. The food was great but the bear sightings were scarce.

As the days began to wind down, I got very nervous. It was down to the last day and I was

reminded of the Shiras moose and Sitka black tail deer that were both last day kills. God had provided then and He could now, as well.

With a prayer for success we were off. Around 11:15 we stopped to glass and Jamie Kalluk, one of the guides, spotted a lone bear in some very rough ice about four kilometers away. The bear was watching a seal hole so that gave us time to cut the distance before he took off running. Once we got a little closer, David Idlout, the other guide, released a few dogs. As the dogs closed in on the bear he started to run to an area of open flat ice. At this point we knew the bear could not outlast the dogs. David and Jamie were both videoing as I collected the final animal for the Super Slam.

I believe God gave me this animal in His time just as He had for all the other animals. I have





deserve.

So now that this journey has been completed, I think back on all the friendships with fellow hunters, guides and outfitters, the beautiful land that we have to enjoy, and the animals that live on it. I am honored to be a Super Slammer.

The kid on that hillside in Wyoming with a mule deer is no longer here. He has been replaced by a heavier, graying man but what a journey it has been.

Editor's Note – GSCO stands for Grand Slam Club/Ovis and Tim Torpey completed the Super Slam of North American Big Game which consists of Black Bear, Grizzly Bear, Alaska Brown Bear, Polar Bear, Cougar, Whitetail Deer, Coues Whitetail Deer, Mule Deer, Sitka Blacktail Deer, Columbia Blacktail Deer, Rocky Mountain Elk, Roosevelt Elk, Tule Elk, Mountain Caribou, Woodland Caribou, Quebec Labrador Caribou, Barrren Ground Caribou, Canada Moose, Alaska Yukon Moose, Bison, Muskox, American Mountain Goat, Pronghorn Antelope, Dall Sheep, Stone/Fannin Sheep, Rocky Mountain Bighorn or California Bighorn, and Desert Bighorn. This is a huge accomplishment and we have been fortunate to enjoy several of Tim's stories about his hunts which lead him to this goal. This also qualifies for Safari Club's North American 29 which has a few more species to choose from. Tim set a goal and achieved it. He is to be congratulated!!!









# NEW FEATURE: WHAT DO YOU THINK?

# Why do we hunt?

This question is posed to hunters all the time...So why do you hunt?

I recently saw a post where someone tagged the National SCI's Facebook page with a question. This question didn't have a right or wrong answer, rather it was geared for a personal answer. I saw this question around the same time I was finishing *Deer Camp* (the book I reviewed for this issue of Front Sight), which also had a section about hunters preferences when it came to different calibers of rifles. This got me thinking it might be interesting to see what Mid-Michigan members opinions are about different topics related to the outdoors.

This new section of our magazine will be called "What do you think?" and will pose a question about you, or your equipment and the outdoors. Your answers can range from a sentence or two to a paragraph or two, depending on how much you would like to write about the topic. I thought this would be a nice way to share information as well as learn a little more about our members.

For this first question I will use the topic I saw on National's Facebook page...

# Why do we hunt?

This question is posed to hunters all the time...So why do you hunt?

Please submit your answer to <u>jchappyfish@gmail.com</u>. Look for answers in the next section of Front Sight.

# Sharing Some Good Gookin!

# TURKEY BITES ~ Sara Christensen

- Tenderize one turkey breast. (Serves approximately four adults)
- Cut turkey breast into pieces roughly two inches by one inch or smaller. (Bite sized)
- Place desired sauce in a bowl with turkey bites then mix until bites are thoroughly covered (we like buffalo ranch sauce).
- Put one cup bread crumbs into a quart or gallon sized bag.
- Add seasoned turkey bites with bread crumbs (leave air in bag when sealing) and shake until bites are completely covered.
- Preheat air fryer to 360 degrees for three minutes.
- Spray non-stick cooking spray on air fryer basket after it is preheated.
- Load one layer of turkey bites in air fryer basket and cook for six minutes at 360 degrees then flip bites and cook for an additional six minutes at 360 degrees.

CI CHEFS



# Share your adventure...

by Josh Christensen

As many of you may know I enjoy writing articles about my outdoor adventures for our Front Sight Magazine. I was recently part of a conversation with multiple members of our chapter about what we could do to get more stories for our award winning publication. There were several suggestions and comments about the topic. This got me thinking about what obstacles I faced when first contemplating writing an article for the magazine, as well as road blocks friends have shared with me when I have asked them to write articles about their adventures.

What I usually hear when I ask someone to write an article about a recent hunt or adventure is, "I am not a writer" or "I don't know where to start." These friends are able to tell their experiences through conversation, but they find it difficult to put their thoughts on paper.

I have found one thing above all others that has helped me when putting an article together...journaling. Using some of the following tips/suggestions may help you in putting your adventure on paper and into an article for our magazine for all of our members to enjoy.

• Write a daily journal on your trip. This will help you later when writing your article. This could be written in an actual journal or in a spiral bound note book.

### Possible things to write in your journal.

- I will often include the date, day of the week and keep a tally of the total days of the trip.
- Include details about the weather...cloudy, sunny, rain, snow, temperature, windy.
- ✓ Write about the food you are eating. (If you are in a foreign country you might try a different cuisine.)
- ✓ Discuss the different flora and fauna you encounter. I find the plants and animals from different countries add to my overall experience.
- ✓ Detail your accommodations. Are you in a tent, a bunk house, a hotel, someone's house, a hunting lodge?
- ✓ Include details on the animal(s) you are hunting (is there anything unique about the animal, why you chose to pursue that particular animal) and the area you are in (are you in the jungle, desert, mountains, open plains).
- Where are you hunting? (Details about the country or part of the world you are in, as well as how you got there and how long it took.)

You may find doing some or all of these things will not only enhance your experience, but also make writing an article a bit easier. And if you still don't feel confident or don't have the time to write an article you can type your journal and send it in.

We all enjoy going on our outdoor adventures and sharing our stories verbally with our friends and family. By journaling while on the trip it not only helps you take in all of the details of your adventure it will also preserve it for the future as you will be able to go back and relive the experience through your own words well after the trip is over.



# Stay Home, but go turkey

by Mary Harter

Well, we all know what happened in March/April of 2020. We had to come home from our annual month in Aruba two weeks early as the island was shutting down. We flew home on one of the last flights which was so full we couldn't even sit together. We were all afraid of contracting the Covid-19 virus so borders were closing, businesses were shutting down, basically everything was coming to a stop. We were just happy to be able to get on a flight and get home to our freezer full of wild game to eat. In Michigan, no one could drive to cottages or hunting camps. We couldn't fish from a motorized boat. But they didn't stop turkey hunting, if you could hunt from your house or close by.

Don and I love to hunt turkeys so we bought our licenses and waited anxiously to hunt. Don had cameras out so we could be sure where the turkeys were located. We got out our camo clothing, turkey calls, shotguns, binoculars, and all the paraphernalia we think we need to hunt turkeys and waited for opening day to arrive.

On the morning of April 18, it was very cold, in the upper 20s, colder than I think I have ever hunted for turkeys. The turkeys were gobbling when we went out. Many deer were out feeding and ran as we approached. I hunted in a pop-up blind nestled in a stand of red pines we had planted many years ago. Don was at the north end of the same field I was overlooking. I knew turkeys usually roosted in the trees directly behind me and that was where the noise was coming from.

As it slowly became daylight, lots of gobbling kept up our interest. I could tell they were gobbling before they left their roosts. Eventually they sounded closer and I kept peeking out of a zippered slot in the tent on my right where I figured I would see them first. I had a little slot on my left and my shotgun, a 12 gauge Beretta, was resting on a tripod directly in front of me. I had a hen decoy about 20 yards in front of me and I planned to shoot only when a tom would be within 40 yards of me. A hen came out across the field from me. She never came close. I clucked softly a few times and the toms answered me.

The gobbling got closer and closer to me. I could see two toms out on my right side. I just took a deep breath and got ready to shoot. As they came out in front of me and I decided they were mature, I took off the safety. It was so cold I could see their breath. I have hunted turkeys for years and had never seen that before. They danced and pranced but never came within 40 yards. Oh, I was so ready to shoot! Oh, well, that was fun.

Don texted me as he also could see the show. They had been closer when I first



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# Stay Safe hunting!!

saw them on my right but I thought I might bump the tent if I repositioned my shotgun and just waited for them to come to check out my hen. Well, they didn't. Now I hoped they would go over in front of Don. They danced and pranced across the field but wandered off in the high grasses out in front of us.

Later a hen came right in front of my blind, putting and putting at my decoy. She thought a strange hen was in her territory. I jumped when I first heard her. She had surprised me. Don texted me and we went back home.



That evening we went out again. This time Don sat at the south end of the field and, of course, the action was at the north end where he had sat in the morning. Several hens entertained us while having a spa day, dusting and sending dirt flying several feet. You would have thought they were in a bubble bath. A tom came out from near our north gate and walked across the field straight for my decoy. Just when I thought I might get a shot, he veered off and into the pines where my hen had gone earlier. I think my decoy must be an ugly one. No tom wants anything to do with her.

The next morning, we are out again but I didn't put out a decoy. I'm hoping I can just lure the toms in by clucking. The two toms come out again like the day before. This time with no strange hen for them to figure out they come right in front of my blind. Which one is bigger? Doesn't matter so I take the first clear shot I have. Dead tom!!!

Don goes out turkey hunting the next evening. The wind had been blowing all morning so we didn't think the turkeys would be moving or at least we didn't want to be out. I had my bird so the pressure was off. Don sat in the north blind and kept texting me. He really didn't think anything would come in but a hen came out right after he sat down. Then he texted that a tom was coming from our north gate. Then a text, "Dead tom!" And his turkey was bigger than mine!

# FR®NT SIGHT

September 20, 2019

Jon J. Zieman, President Mid Michigan Chapter Mount Pleasant, MI 48804-0486

On behalf of Safari Club International Foundation, I would like to thank you for the Mid On behalf of Safari Club International Foundation, I would like to thank you for the Mid-Michigan Chapter's generous gift of \$2,500 to benefit AWLS, received on September 16, 2019. Your continued commitment to SCI Foundation's mission of funding and directing programs dedicated to wildlife conservation and outdoor education is sincerely appropriated. Dear Mr. Zieman:

Preserving the tradition of hunting through vibrant programs dedicated to wildlife Preserving the tradition of hunting through vibrant programs dedicated to which the conservation and outdoor education could not be accomplished without people like you. conservation and outcoor education cours not be accomptished without people ase your SCI Foundation leadership appreciates your continued interest and willingness to fund.

If the staff or the board may ever be of assistance to you, please reach out to us with any it use start or the board may ever be of assistance to you, piease reach out to i questions or concerns. We value our donors input and cherish your support.

First for Wildlife.

Solieri Chub Internutional Foundation is a Nexusia centry formed for whilife conservation, outdoor editionin, and necessities in programs are record for world. Any contribution used for fair deshabilities under between Revenue Code necessities in programs are programs are record for solient to the arising permitted by Eur. Please check with your fast solvense EN 86-6292099.

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Julia and others. They enjoyed all the freeze-dried food except the scrambled eggs.



By Erik Roggow

I really enjoyed Outdoor Education class. It touched on a variety of subjects having to do with outdoors and outdoor skills. For example, we built shelters, learned how to start fires with flint and steel and archery. One of the main components of the class was reading a book about survival.

One thing I enjoyed about this class was reading the book "Hatchet". We really dug deep into the book and focused on some parts that we could apply our skills to. Another one of my favorite things we did was archery because I never really got to shoot a bow before. After having the opportunity to, I found out that I really enjoyed it. I liked competing with my friends at the same time.

Overall, I plan to apply the skills I learned in class for recreation and to challenge myself in the outdoors. My biggest take away from the class is learning the survival skills so I can use them in the great outdoors!



Brayden with tarp shelter.

# FRENT SIGHT

By Elijah Christensen During my 7th grade year at Gladwin Jr. High I had a class that I had been looking forward to. This class was outdoor education and it was the second year it had been offered at my school. Outdoor Education is a class where we learned about the outdoors and how to do things in the wild.

One activity that we did was we split into groups and made a shelter using a tarp, four rocks and a rope. This taught us to work with what we had and to use different mindsets so we could make different structures. Another thing we did in Outdoor Ed. is make fires. We used a cotton ball covered in petroleum jelly and a firestarter. Not to brag, but I was one of the first ones to start a fire. This taught us to persevere and try different strategies. It also taught us to practice. We also got to research wild berries. This will help whenever you want to eat a wild berry, because you can know

if it is good for you or not.

Another thing we did was eat freeze-dried food. We ate this food because we were reading the book "Hatchet" and at the end Brian (the main character) finds the emergency survival bag that was stuck in the plane he crashed into a lake with and there is freeze-dried food in it. So Brian eats the food. And because we usually did something in class when he did it in the book (like the fire) we ate freezedried food.

And finally, best of all, we shot bows in Outdoor Ed. It was harder at first and didn't come naturally, but I worked my way through it and became a very good and consistent shooter. What shooting bows taught us is that you have to practice and be patient in order to succeed. It also taught us to concentrate and focus while ignoring distractions. I've learned a lot in Outdoor Ed. and I wish I could do it next year. If you ask me, there should be an Outdoor Education class in every middle school in America.



Elijah and Erik with fire.



Erik, Brayden and Julia using a water filter.



Elijah and Erik with their tarp shelter.



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Elijah shooting.

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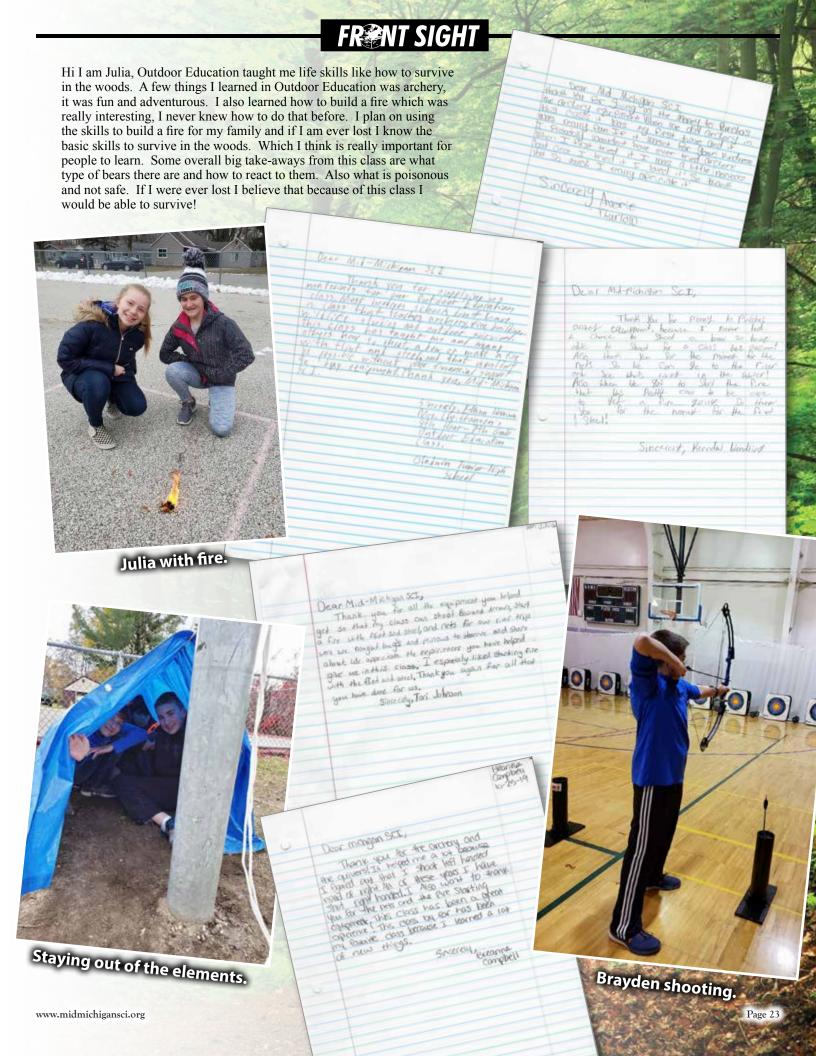
Dear Mid-Michigan SCI, I would like to personally thank you for all the donations to make our outdoor education class at Gladwin Junior High possible. It includes money for archerytriver supplies, along with fire building supplies, but a huge part of it was the donation to send teachers to Wyoming to take part in the AWLS training. This training has benefited me in so many ways and is by far the best training. I have had in my 20 years of teaching. After reading through the thank you notes enclosed, my favorite part is reading how multiple students now want a bow, or to venture outdoors to like, camp, start fires, and explore, making your donation. Thanks a goin, Sincerely well spent! Sara Christensch Gladwin I High



My name is Brayden Dee and one of my favorite classes was Outdoor Education. Outdoor Education was a very helpful and exciting class that taught me a lot about how to have fun in the wilderness as well as how to survive. In outdoor education, we participated in various activities including archery, reading the book "Hatchet", starting fires with flint and steel, setting up tents, and purifying water to name a few. My favorite thing we did was archery! It was fun to go during the week and compete with my classmates while staying safe. The other thing in outdoor education that I loved was starting fires. It was hard at first, but when the fire started, it was definitely worthwhile! I do plan on using these skills later in my life, whether it be going on a camping trip with my family, or if I'm ever in a dangerous situation. Overall, my big takeaway was that you can still have fun and enjoy being in the outdoors, while staying safe and keeping others around you safe as well.



Julia and group assembling their tent.





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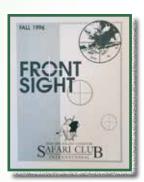


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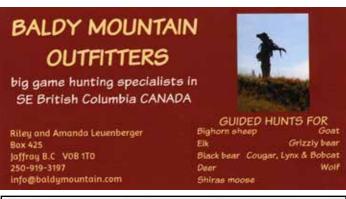






A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. - Proverbs 15:1

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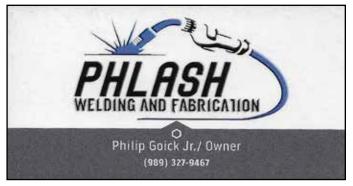


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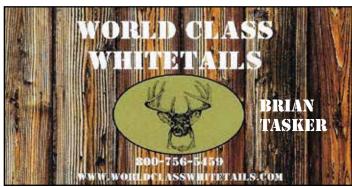












The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear. - Nelson Mandela



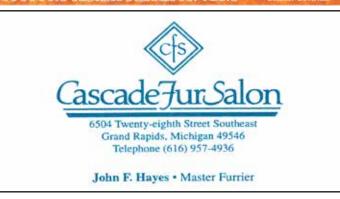




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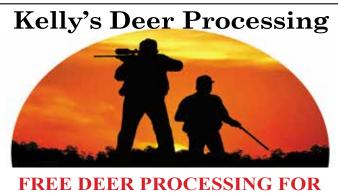
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When life looks like it's falling apart, it may just be falling in place. - Beverly Solomon

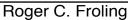


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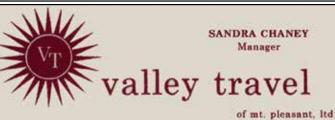
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