

FRONT SIGHT

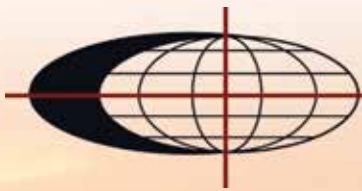


Mid-Michigan Chapter Safari Club International

July-September 2022, Issue 59



Beaver Creek flowing into
Lake Superior at sunset.
Photograph by Josh Christensen



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Standing Committees

Chairmen are listed first

- Chapter Record Book - Autumn Gonda
- Conservation/Govt. Affairs - Autumn Gonda
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- Matching Grants - Jon Zieman
- Front Sight Publication/Advertising - Josh Christensen
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- Nominating - Joe Mulders, Jon Zieman, Abbe Mulder
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Josh Christensen, Joe Mulders, Dan Catlin, Doug Chapin
- Raffles - Doug Chapin
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- Pathfinder Hunts - Brandon Jurries
- Youth - Disabled Veterans - Blue Bags, etc.



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 ruter11b@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.



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

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President's Message

I just returned from the SCI Board of Directors in Minneapolis which also included the annual Board elections. The 51th SCI Annual Convention that will be moving to Nashville was a big topic of discussion. Joe Pederson was elected a Vice President and Joe Mulders is replacing him as the Region 19 representative. Don Harter was reelected Corporate Treasurer. The state of SCI is strong and membership is growing. SCI has made many good decisions in recent years to be in such a good position!

The 51th SCI Annual Convention in Nashville on February 22nd to 25th, 2023 is shaping up to be an over-the-top success. There are seven contracted hotels within a few minutes of the Convention Center! The available rooms are booking fast. The Convention registration will open on June 1st. The SCI Annual Convention is the best opportunity to meet many outfitters and vendors during the day and have a great dinner and interesting entertainment. So many of your friends will be there and you should as well! See the Safari Club website for details.

We will have four member meetings remaining in 2022 in the months of June, August, September, and October. I'll be sharing a short hunt report for Alaska moose as part of the plan to have a main topic with a short presentation to round out each program. The youth and door prizes raffles are continuing this year. Please bring those kids out for the ages 5 to 17 free raffle! The Annual Chapter Awards presentations was held during the Members Meeting at the Comfort Inn in April and will be highlighted in this issue. Tim Torpey gave an inspiring presentation on his achieving the North America 29 in May. Look for a review in the Front Sight. Please don't miss it! We will continue to present great speakers and have some fun discussions.

Our 43rd Annual Hunters' Convention raised \$16,800 specifically for the purposes of supporting veterans as part of the Pathfinder program! We are in the process of planning our efforts and will report the events to our members. We will rotate our focus annually to others such as disabled youths and first responders.

The Board of Directors elections will be completed when you receive this issue. The new Board terms start July 1st! I will have completed three years as your President and be moving on to another Board position to continue working for the members. I thank you for the privilege of serving as the Chapter President.

We would like to hear your good outdoor stories! Please share any stories as well as recipes with Josh Christensen, the Front Sight Editor. Please let us know what you would like to see in this publication and suggest any Chapter activities that would be of interest.

Jon Zieman
Jon Zieman
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Editor's Message

Wow! A lot has happened for me in since our last issue. Not only is this a busy time of year for me with the end of the school year, kids in two spring sports (one of my boys runs track and one plays baseball), coaching track and trying to keep up with the spring season around our property, but I decided to add more to my schedule by traveling for two turkey hunts this spring. One of these hunts exceeded all expectations and was amazing for both my wife and me and the other didn't go as well. I will be sharing both experiences through articles I have written in the next few issues of our magazine. I also was able to fill my Michigan turkey tag with the oldest tom I have ever taken on our property.



An exciting start to my hunt in Florida.

As you turn the pages of this issue you will see many great opportunities you, as members, have to join other members in our constant push for conservation. You will find pictures of our 43rd annual fundraiser as well as information on the April and May membership meetings. Upcoming events include another membership meeting on August 1st and September 12th as well as our annual golf outing on August 9th. These all would be great opportunities to introduce a friend to our chapter.

I am always looking for articles to publish in our magazine. There are three different formats we have been using, pictorial essays, journals, and written articles. The pictorial essay format is for those who don't necessarily want to write an entire story but still want to relive their adventure through pictures with captions. The journal entry format is when people send me a copy of their journal along with pictures (if you don't usually keep a journal on your hunting trips I recommend you give it a try on your next adventure). And of course, we have the normal article format. We all take pleasure in going on hunts, but there's nothing like sharing your stories in print for all to enjoy. Please consider sharing with us.

Happy Hunting!

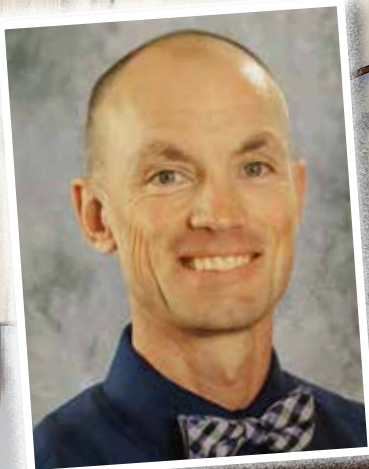
Josh Christensen
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SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter Meeting Schedule

* SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Date	Meeting Type	Time	Location
Aug 1, 2022	Board/Membership Meeting	6:00 pm	Comfort Inn
Aug 9, 2022	Golf Outing	TBA	Mt. Pleasant Country Club
Sept 12, 2022	Board/Membership Meeting	6:00 pm	Comfort Inn
Sept. 24-25, 2022	Tails-A-Waggin' Veterans' Hunt	TBA	Marion, MI
Oct. 3, 2022	Board/Membership Meeting	6:00 pm	Comfort Inn
Nov. 6, 2022	Crooked Foot Veterans' Hunt	TBA	Owosso, MI

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: MAN EATERS
OF KUMAON

Author: JIM CORBETT

Publisher: BANTAM BOOKS

Copyright: 1946

List Price: No longer in
publication

In a recent conversation with a friend about our most enjoyable reads when it comes to hunting books we discovered our favorite books were very similar. I told him mine was *The Man-Eaters of Tsavo* and was the story of two man-eating lions in British East Africa. He then told me his was *Man-Eaters of Kumaon* and was a similar story of man-eating tigers

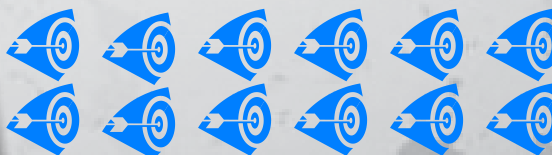
in India. I was intrigued and purchased a copy of the Jim Corbett novel and was delighted to find it was a very enjoyable read.

From the first chapter, this book is filled with page turning adventure. Major Jim Corbett does an excellent job of bringing the reader into his mindset while pursuing man-eating tigers in the early 1900's.

His knowledge of these man-eaters and drive to help the people terrorized by them will keep you turning the pages as he writes about his encounters with seven different tigers over a twenty to thirty year period.

Major Corbett points out in his Author's Note in his experience only injured, or very old tigers turn into man-eaters. He tries to get the reader to understand tigers don't naturally eat humans and are an important animal to maintain the balance in nature, however when a tiger becomes a man-eater everyone in the vicinity needs to be aware of their situation at all times so they don't turn into another statistic.

This book gets 10 out of 10 bullseyes



BUY, SELL, or TRADE

The following are the terms and conditions for the Buy, Sell or Trade section of our magazine.

- It is **FREE** 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 unless otherwise discussed with the editor.
- **The Mid-Michigan Chapter is not responsible for items sold.**

Send listings and questions to Josh Christensen at jchappyfish@gmail.com



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43rd Annual Hunter's Convention





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Photos by Dan Reinke





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April Membership

by Josh Christensen

On April 11th our chapter hosted a membership meeting at the Comfort Inn in Mt. Pleasant. Social hour started at 6:00 where the more than 60 people in attendance were able to discuss future and past hunts as well as catch up on other aspects of life. At 6:45 attendees ate a delicious meal of chicken, potatoes and vegetables. This meal was topped off with a spectacular brownie cake.



The evening was dedicated to our Mid-Michigan Chapter awards which included awards for youth, the different continents, different methods of hunting and the overall female and male hunters of the year.

Everyone in attendance were mesmerized by the stories these award recipients told of their adventures in the great outdoors. There was also a slide show to accompany the stories which made the descriptions even that much more enjoyable.

We also had a 50/50 raffle and a raffle for a Ruger .270. The youth firearm given away at this meeting was a .17 HMR rifle with a scope. The winner of this rifle was Joshua Howard. A 12 gauge shotgun was also given away as one of the many door prizes.



Meeting

Awards

Bow hunter of the year
Rachel Stickler

Muzzleloader hunter of the year
Tim Torpey

Handgun hunter
Jeff Harrison

Women's top hunter
Rachel Stickler

Youth hunter
Ivan Christensen

North America

1. *Jeff Harrison*-bobcat
2. *Rachel Stickler*-whitetail deer
3. *Rachel Stickler*-dall sheep

North America introduced

1. *Tony Brown*-auodad
2. *Tony Brown*-axis deer
3. Multi-horned sheep-

Larry Smith

North America estate

1. Desert big horn- *Don Harter*
2. Desert big horn-*Mary Harter*
3. White tail deer-*Chris Manthei*

Africa

1. *Jeff Harrison*-Grysbok
2. *Jeff Harrison*-aardwolf
3. *Jeff Harrison*-Rhebok



50 Years – and – 1,000 Whitetails,

By Robert Mills, Owner – Pine Hill Club

Owning a hunting camp for 50 years has provided many memories about game on the buck-pole. Needless to say, much has been the “school of hard knocks” and most lessons learned came from field experience. Learning from mistakes made has taught me to become a more successful deer hunter. Sharing them with fellow hunters might help to avoid similar issues.

Having hunted the whitetail buck since 1963, I have thousands of hours in the woods. Over that length of time I probably made every mistake a hunter could make in the quest to fill my tag. Most lessons about hunting were learned from mistakes and the sad results due to those errors.

This article will share some lessons learned the hard way with hope that my past mistakes will help both veteran and beginner to avoid my “screw ups.” This article will not be a chronology in sequence of mistakes, i.e. from first to last, but a reflection of the lessons learned over my many years of hunting the whitetail deer. All are true and I hope the reader can learn from my “screw ups.”

LESSONS LEARNED:

1. **FAILURE TO SIGHT IN RIFLE.** As a young hunter I was very busy raising a large family. In my excitement for opening day, I did not shoot my rifle to check accuracy. Thinking the rifle was sighted in last year so it must be “ON” this year. **WRONG!** Many things can happen to a rifle since the past season. Sight could get bumped, your eyes might change, etc., etc. After missing a beautiful buck that should have been a “chip-shot” I checked my rifle to find it shot eight inches low. Enough said! **ALWAYS SIGHT IN YOUR RIFLE BEFORE YOU GO INTO THE WOODS.**
2. **RUSHING YOUR SHOT.** Shooting too quickly is a good way to miss your buck. One really sad hunt I had was on opening morning in 1980. I had bought a new Browning semi-auto in .308 caliber. The rifle was sighted in and I was anxious to shoot a buck. About 8 am, I saw a group of deer heading directly at me on a slow run. In the lead was a very large eight point buck. I may have had buck fever, but at 30 yards the buck stopped and I shot. The buck dropped in its’ tracks. I immediately jumped out of my blind and rapidly walked toward the down deer. About twenty feet away it jumped to its’ feet, startled me, and I emptied the four remaining shells at the fleeing deer. I missed all four shots but did find limited blood on the light snow. I decided to wait one hour before tracking and kept thinking, “How could I have failed to anchor this beautiful animal?” The lesson I learned is, don’t rush your shot and **STAY PUT**, ready for another shot if needed. I always tell our hunters, “When they are dead, they are dead for a long time.” Our neighbor killed the wounded buck about ¼ mile away. **DON’T RUSH YOUR SHOT – TAKE YOUR TIME.**
3. **MAKE THE FIRST SHOT COUNT.** Deer sometimes appear out of nowhere. They get your heart pumping at their sight. I have sat in my blind from dawn to dark without a chance to harvest a deer. When deer appear, I have to “fight buck fever.” If I am patient, wait until the deer is in a good position, aim carefully and squeeze the trigger the buck usually drops. If you miss your first shot the deer is probably on a full run and in the “flight to safety” mode. A follow-up shot at a running deer is never easy. **TAKE CAREFUL AIM, TAKE A DEEP BREATH and GENTLY SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER. LEARNING TO TAKE CAREFUL AIM AND**



Mistakes made, Lessons Learned

MAKING THE FIRST SHOT COUNT PUTS VENISON ON THE BUCK-POLE.

4. **BE QUIET AND CONTROL YOUR MOVEMENT.** Most of my deer hunting has been from an enclosed blind with windows. Deer are very perceptive and see and hear extremely well. They pick up unfamiliar sound and easily detect movement. If a deer is looking your way **FREEZE IN PLACE.** Don't move and give away your position. When the deer turns their head or looks away, gently move your rifle into shooting position. **WHEN YOU SIT QUIETLY AND CONTROL YOUR MOVEMENT YOU WILL NOT GIVE AWAY YOUR POSITION.**



5. **DRESS WARM & LAYER CLOTHES.** When hunters sit for long periods in the woods the outside temperature usually changes. If you are too warm, you can always shed clothing. If you are cold you cannot add clothes unless you have taken extra clothes with you. I always leave extra clothes in my hunting blind. Extra shirts, socks, hats, etc. They can be added when needed. **STAY COMFORTABLE BY ANTICIPATING UNEXPECTED WEATHER CHANGES.**
6. **DON'T FORGET ESSENTIALS.** As a young hunter I usually went to the woods poorly prepared for the hunt. I would forget to bring extra shells, thermos, knife, binoculars, range finder, hand warmers, scent blocker, etc. In retrospect, I was unprepared and prepared for failure. **MAKE A LIST OF ESSENTIALS YOU NEED AND KEEP IT IN YOUR BACKPACK.** (Don't forget to take your backpack.)
7. **KEEP YOUR RIFLE/BOW IN GOOD WORKING ORDER.** Hunters that fail to keep their equipment in good working order are preparing for failure in the field. Rifles that won't fire due to "gummed up" actions, bows that won't shoot due to cable problems, etc. **ALWAYS CHECK YOUR EQUIPMENT and MAKE SURE IT IS IN GOOD WORKING ORDER.**
8. **LET SOMEONE KNOW WHERE YOU ARE HUNTING.** The woods and Mother Nature are unforgiving. It is easy to get lost or get hurt while hunting. If you inform your fellow hunters where you are going, they will know where to find you in case of an emergency. We had a member that had a family emergency and needed to go

home immediately. Knowing where they were made it easy to get word to them. **FAILURE TO TELL SOMEONE WHERE YOU ARE HUNTING COULD LEAD TO A DISASTER.**

9. **STAY AWAKE WHILE HUNTING.** Often time's deer hunters stay up late and get up early. They only get four or five hours of sleep and doze in their hunting blinds. This reduces their hunting time and often results in a tag unfilled. **ON many occasions I have found hunters totally asleep in their blinds. You can't shoot a buck when you are asleep. GET A GOOD NIGHTS SLEEP AND STAY AWAKE.** Enough said!
10. **MONITOR TEMPERATURE ON DOWNED GAME.** Venison spoils quickly in warm temperatures. If the temperature is fifty plus, I believe you should get the meat into a cooler or iced down. Keeping gutted deer in the shade will help but if it is warm, skin the deer and get the meat into a cooler. **DON'T LET VENISON SPOIL BECAUSE OF LACK OF CARE.**

The above lessons I learned from mistakes made over my many years of hunting deer. Correcting common mistakes will put more venison in your freezer.

Learning from my past mistakes has made me a better hunter. My success rate has dramatically increased and it is always exciting to put a buck on the pole instead of sharing an excuse for failure.

Best wishes to all in tagging a big buck. I hope the above lessons I have learned will help both young and veteran hunters. **SHOOT STRAIGHT AND GOOD HUNTING.**

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The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions. – Proverbs 12:27

HIKING PICTURED ROCKS NATIONAL LAKE SHORE

A Pictorial Essay by Josh Christensen

Why backpack for 42 miles? We met many people on our trek along the North Country Trail and each had their own reasons; a father and son doing another hiking adventure, a daughter now living in Chicago with her father from her home town of Philadelphia to get away from their respective cities, two brothers in high school from Cheboygan, Wisconsin looking for a new adventure, a lady in her mid to late 60's doing the trail "alone" carrying the dog tags of her late husband which I can only imagine meant he was with her along the trail. For us? We made the hike for family time and for the adventure.

Twenty years prior to our trip a seed was planted to try this expedition as my wife Sara and I made a three-day, two-night backpacking trip to Chapel Rock along the Pictured Rock National Lakeshore. While on that trip Sara and I discussed hiking the 42 miles of the North Country Trail through the entire Pictured Rocks National Lake Shore. Fast forward to 2021 and that thought was becoming a reality. We planned out our family trip and made reservations for our late July into August hike. We booked our back country sites on January first. We booked so early



Sara, Ivan, Elijah and I at the Grand Sable Visitor Center in Grand Marais right before we departed for our hike.

because the first of January was when people were first able to reserve the back-country camping sites and usually within a week or two they are reserved for the entire summer. We met several groups of people doing extremely long hikes each day because all of the camp sites at many of the camping locations were already reserved.

Our plan and reservations had us doing the 42 mile hike over the course of seven days and six nights. This hike through the Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore is only a portion of the much longer North Country Trail. Unfortunately, after two days and ten miles our older son decided he had enough of our hike and we were able to make arrangements for him to get picked up.

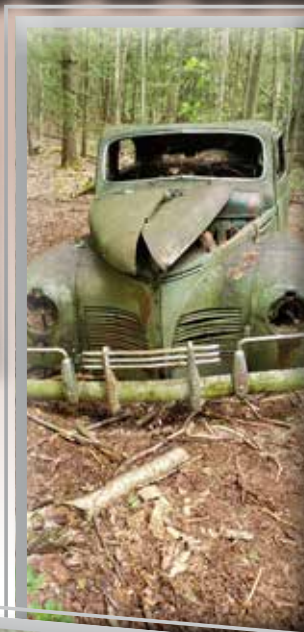
The following pictorial essay is a snapshot of the adventure that is the North Country Trial through Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore.

Ivan and I decided to take on the Log Slide, a 300 foot steep drop down to Lake Superior. It took us under five minutes to get down to the water and around twenty minutes to get back up. Here Ivan is contemplating our climb back up to the top.





We had two three man tents on the trip. After Elijah left we used one three man tent for the three of us and the rain fly from the other to cover our backpacks at night in case of rain.



About 17 miles into the trip we found this car along the trail. I'm not sure how it got there, we were literally in the middle of nowhere. It also appeared to have four bullet holes on the driver's side. We were sure there was an interesting story with it, but don't know what it is.



The Au Sable Light Station. We were able to go up into this light house. The spiral staircase was dizzying.



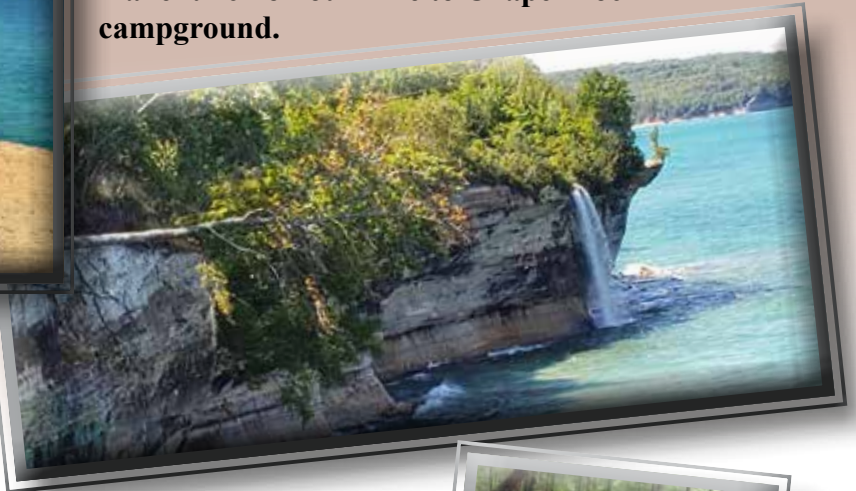
Although we were on the coast of Lake Superior the weather did not allow for us to see very many sunsets. This was the only one we were able watch in the six nights we were on the trail. This is Beaver Creek flowing into Lake Superior.



At different points along the trail we encountered interesting sandstone rock formations like this one.



This is Spray Falls. We stopped with this view to make lunch on our hike to Chapel Rock campground.



On our trip we needed to filter our drinking water from the rivers we passed.



We used this little stove to heat up water for our dehydrated food.



Here is a set up for dinner at one of the campgrounds. Notice the wet ground from the rain storm we had that morning.



Ivan and I playing cards while waiting for a thunderstorm to pass us by. We were in the tent playing from around 6:30am to 9:30am. Sara is napping in the sleeping bag in the back of the tent.



This was one of the few opportunities we had to get someone to take a picture of us. We enjoyed looking at the different shades of blue Lake Superior offered us.



Our tent would often look like this as it got dark because we would stay up to play cards.



This rock formation is known as “Lover’s Leap” because if you turn your head a little that hole in the rock looks like a heart shape.



It wasn’t uncommon to see different sights like this caused by erosion over the years.



Ivan was excited to get the opportunity to start a fire using his flint and steel.



One benefit of doing the hike at the end of July/ beginning of August was we were able to pick huckleberries and raspberries along the trail.



Sara, Ivan and I at the Munising Falls Visitor Center at the conclusion of our journey.

BLUE BAGS in

by Janis Ransom

Have you ever wanted to do something good for others on your hunting trip? Well, I might be able to suggest something that will allow you to do good for others and make you feel good at the same time! My husband Ken and I were planning a hunt in South Africa last year. We had heard about the Bell Family Blue Bag Program, but weren't really sure how to go about delivering a Blue Bag on our trip.



We contacted Brandon Jurries, who oversees the Blue Bag program for the Mid-Michigan Chapter. He put together two Blue Bags that we could take with us to South Africa on our hunt. The bags contained all sorts of school supplies (and some soccer balls for fun!) to assist a school in providing the items to their students. We contacted our outfitter – Peiter Viviers of Marupa Safaris, to find us a school that could really use the supplies.

We thought we would be able to take two Blue Bags, since we had only our guns and our clothing, leaving two checked bags available for use (two checked bags are allowed for each person on international flights). However, before we left, Ken decided to take his new crossbow along, leaving us with only one available checked bag. In order to still be able to take both Blue Bags, we combined the

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"The trouble with the future is that it usually arrives before we're ready for it." – Arnold H. Glasgow

South Africa

items into one bag (and put some in with our clothing), and were able to stay within our allowed two checked bags each.

We found out later that some airlines will allow the bags without counting them against your two checked bag limit, but you must contact your airline about a month in advance of travel to get the excess baggage fees waived, with each airline having varying policies. The airline will need to attach a note to your reservation, stating the fees will not be collected at the time of departure due to the humanitarian and not-for-resale contents of the bag. When traveling with a Blue Bag, it's a good idea to include a printed inventory of the contents, intended destination and a letter from SCIF describing the Blue Bag program and its contents.

When we arrived in South Africa, we went through the items for the Blue Bags, and re-distributed them into the two bags. Now we were ready to plan our visit to the school. Pieter and I took a day off from hunting and travelled to the Laerskool Drakensig Primary School to deliver the Blue Bags. This was an elementary school with all of the children wearing uniforms. Many of the children were barefoot. They were happy to see us and were very excited about the school supplies. As you can see from the photos, they were proud of their new supplies. It gave me a good feeling to see that we were able to do even a little bit to help the school in providing some supplies for their students.

If you have a hunting trip planned in the future, no matter where, you too can take Blue Bags with you to help the local community. Contact Brandon Jurries at bjurries44@gmail.com. You can also find more information about the program on the SCI website at <http://safariclubfoundation.org/bell-family-blue-bag-program/> or contact Karen Crehan at kcrehan@safariclub.org.



My Favorite Place To Hunt

Editor's Note: In a recent issue of Front Sight we asked the question of Where is your favorite place to hunt and why? We had many interesting answers that may have inspired you to look into one of those destinations to hunt. The following was response filled with such detail that it seemed more fitting to place in the magazine as a full article rather than a response to the question section.

by Ken Lehman

Where is my favorite place to hunt? Once upon a very long time ago I was reading a sporting magazine about roebuck hunting in Scotland. Major Neil Ramsey of Aberfeldy, Perthshire, Scotland was a well-known and respected booking agent for this sport. So I contracted for a week on the 55,000 acre Glenlivet estate during the early May season.

Gail and I would be housed at the Kylnadrochit Lodge, a beautiful three story stone castle on the banks of the River Avon near Tomintoul.



The hunting consortium was leased from a trust set up by the Royals. It was run by a Dutch couple who would let out hunting, fishing and lodge accommodations for tourists from many parts of the world. I would be hunting the spot and stalk method. The event would start each day at about 4 a.m. which was first light, except on Monday when I sited in my gun. Following the first outing breakfast would be from 8 to 9 and the rest of the day would be used with our rental car to explore the many unique features of the highlands.

We were expected to wear coat and tie for the dinner which took place from 6 to 7 pm with from 12 to 20 guests gathered around a large table. Following the meal I would do a quick change and meet my guide outside. He would be known as the gamekeeper. We'd be off in a Landrover Jeep vehicle, 2 door, for the evening adventure. Returning back to the lodge around 11:30 p.m. was the usual routine.

The terrain of northern Scotland varies from rough mountain to rolling hills and large forest tracts with pine and spruce trees. Some of the rolling land was farmable or used for grazing. A larger portion of the steeper elevations are covered with heather, a low bush brush type vegetation. This is excellent habitat for roe deer, some red deer and for the famous red grouse.

Reasonable expectation for the week was 3-5 roebucks. My first outing took place on Monday night. The head keeper assigned me to a young interesting Scotsman, named Ian. We would drive our Rangerover through two tract roads and trails on the farms, glassing for bucks. At one place Ian pulled out his expanding telescope,



Lodge



Friday night lodge farewell

rested it on the open window, and reported he was seeing a shootable buck. It was maybe 8:30 in the evening when we left the vehicle and we climbed all around the mountain, but no buck was spotted. It was starting to get dark and we could see the Rover in the distance. As Ian reported there is a shootable buck in the gateway behind the vehicle. I was certainly a little over-gunned when I rested my 7mm rifle on his shoulder and collected my first trophy roebuck. It was a nice even six point, and I would certainly be getting it mounted. I was hooked! And I mean hooked.



Happy Hunter with a Gold Medal Buck

Time was available between our morning and evening hunting to explore the charming country of Scotland. Ian and his wife, Kathleen, often would accompany us and they knew all the good spots! The House of Bruar on the A9 sold distinctive country clothing, original highland artwork, everything in hunting and fishing equipment and always a 5-star bar lunch. We checked out several castles, but the Blair Atholl was a favorite. The grounds were a real show place and you could view almost every room in the castle. They also had their own private army with pipers.

As a hunter I went down many trails, but maybe the most enjoyable one would be the world famous Malt Whiskey Trail where you could sample a wee dram and compare distilleries products.

Ian, the gamekeeper, knew the country side well and would show us many kinds of shore birds nesting. One time we visited a big forest and we were challenged by a cock capercaillie



Max, Collin, Ian Duncan and Ken Lehman

guarding his hen's nest. We photographed several new born roe fawns and from time to time we'd stop in to visit a farmer who always showed a new born highland calf to us or a newborn lamb.

I was keen on collecting old fishing equipment and that took us to many old hardware and sporting shops. As the owners got to know us there some would save some split bamboo rod or Hardy reels until we returned on our next year visit.

For twenty years Gail and I and occasionally accompanied by other friends from the U.S. returned to stalk the highlands. The accommodations at the Lodge were always five star. Special friendships were formed with other hunters, fishers and tourists who often came year after year. We can never forget the class people Tom and Francine, our hosts, were and all the gamekeepers we got to know through the years.

As time passed Ian became the head keeper. By this time I was able to ask Ian to guide me each time I returned. But he would still say from time to time, "Guess we'll let that buck go. It will be better next year." Sometimes when we collected our five bucks he would say, "We are seeing more bucks than we should be. So I think we should take a couple more." I never objected. When I look at my walls I see one bronze, two silver and one gold medal CIC measured trophies. But I recall so many very special bucks that we tried to take but outsmarted us. Scotland is about friendships and Ian and Kathleen came many times to the States to visit us including a trip to Alaska where we jointly killed thousands of mosquitoes!

To satisfy my desire to hunt I went a couple times for roebucks in Sweden and once in Devonshire, England. I also tried western Poland where reasonable expectations were 10 to 15 bucks. During one of those over populated times I took 23 bucks in ten days. But, in summing it up, the roebuck hunting experiences in Scotland were truly world class adventures.

Time changes many things. Many of my friends and contacts in Scotland have moved on and some have gone on to the Happy Hunting Grounds. But, all the memories are still recalled with great enjoyment and a smile. What is my favorite place to hunt? Josh, as a hunter a person should not be asked such a difficult question. ..may I tell you about my adventures chasing wild dall sheep? or what about my 69 inch moose? etc. All that is for another time, but thanks for asking the question.



Conservation Affairs

Compiled and submitted by Autumn Gonda



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Facts and Hunting Information About Coyotes:

CONSERVATION CORNER

- A member of the Canide (dog) family
 - Coloration is generally greyish brown with lighter fur on throat and belly, individual colors and patterns may vary
 - Fur is dense and thick, often giving them a larger appearance
 - Ears are pointed and stand up, unlike the ears of domestic dogs that often droop
 - When running, coyotes carry their bushy, black-tipped tail down usually below the level of their back
 - Common throughout Michigan in rural to urban areas
 - Active day and night, most active around sunrise and sunset
 - Abundant in areas where adequate food, cover and water are available
 - Home range size depends on the food and cover resources available and on the number of other coyotes in an area. It generally averages between 8-12 square miles, in urban areas they average 2-5 miles
 - Breeding takes places Jan. - March and people are more likely to see and hear coyotes during this time
 - Mated pairs and 4-7 pups occupy the home range during the spring and summer seasons
 - If there is a den nearby, people may also see the adults throughout the summer as they care for their pups
 - Pups leave the den site in the fall and these young dispersing animals are sometimes more visible
 - Coyotes eat a variety of foods: small mammals such as mice, voles, shrews, rabbits, hares and squirrels are preferred foods. However, insects, fruits, berries, birds, frogs, snakes, deer, plants and seeds are also eaten
- For your safety, NEVER intentionally feed or try to tame coyotes. It is critical that they retain their natural fear of people.
- Eliminate outside food sources.
 - Garbage or pet food left out may draw their attention.
 - Coyotes may also take advantage of the small mammals and birds that bird feeders and gardens often attract.
 - Clear out brush piles that provide hiding places for small mammals and birds.
 - Keep small pets indoors or accompany them outside and keep them on a leash.
 - If you see a coyote in your area, try to scare it off by yelling, clapping or making other loud noises. Most coyotes are naturally afraid of people and will leave if you frighten them.
 - Coyotes, like any wild animal, can act unpredictably and should be treated with respect and enjoyed from a distance. Coyote hunting and trapping seasons are available statewide. Details on season dates and bag limits can be found in the Fur Harvest Digest.



If problems exist outside regular hunting or trapping seasons, coyotes can be killed without a license on private land by the landowner or a designee if the coyote is doing or about to do damage to private property, pets, livestock, or humans.

In some areas, hunting or trapping may not be allowed for certain reasons. In this case, specially permitted nuisance control companies can be hired to assist landowners in the safe removal of problem animals.

If coyote depredation becomes a problem, please contact your local DNR office:

- DNR Customer Service Center or 800-292-7800 after business hours



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"Nobody can go back and start a new beginning, but anyone can start today and make a new ending." – Maria Robinson

May Membership



by Mary Harter

At the Mid-Michigan SCI meeting on May 2, Tim Torpey presented his adventures to secure the North American 29, a very prestigious milestone in the hunting community.



First, he explained how he became a hunter. As a young boy, he received a 1985 hunting magazine and read every page. He was hooked and wanted to learn more. Eventually he made his way to a Mid-Michigan SCI meeting and was welcomed first by Roger Froling and made welcome by our membership at that time. Some of them attended this meeting to hear his story.

Tim gave us a list titled "Super Slam of North American Big Game" so we could follow his presentation. He went through all 29 of his species, explaining where he went and who he hunted with. He hunted many species several times before becoming successful. His favorite outfitter is Sam Fejes from Cordoba, Alaska, where he got his mountain goat. The last species was his polar bear taken with Canada North Outfitting in Nunavut, on a dog sled on top of the world.

Tim ended his presentation by an emotional thank you to those who had helped him along the way, especially those in our chapter. What a great evening and it was his birthday!!



Meeting





Sharing Some Good @Cookin'!



SPICED NUTS

From: Sara Christensen

Ingredients

One pound of pecans
½ cup white sugar
(granulated)
½ cup brown sugar

One teaspoon cinnamon
¼ teaspoon nutmeg
One egg white

Slightly beat together egg white and one
tablespoon water.

Mix sugars and spices.

Dip pecans in egg mixture, drain and roll in sugar
and spice mixture

Roast on a flat baking sheet (covered with tinfoil) at
250 degrees for One hour, turning them every 15-
20 minute. Roast until nuts are thoroughly dry.



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www.midmichigansci.org

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

WHY JOIN MID-MICHIGAN SCI

- Membership meeting with outfitters and conservation representatives
- Quarterly Issue of **FRONT SIGHT MAGAZINE**
- Online Record Book
- Michigan conservation efforts (example: chronic wasting disease)
- Protect Michigan hunting rights

WHY JOIN SCI INTERNATIONAL

- Bi-monthly issue of SCI's **SAFARI Magazine**
- Monthly issue of **SAFARI TIMES Newspaper**
- Access to SCI First for Hunters Website and SCI online Record Book
- Representation in Washington D.C. for hunters' rights issues and conservation
- Eligible to attend SCI's Members-only Annual Hunters' Convention

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"Things may come to those who wait, but only the things left by those who hustle." – Abraham Lincoln

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Reponses to: Why did you join SCI?

☛ My wife Sara and I have been part of SCI for 18 years now. We initially joined because on our first international hunt (to New Zealand) our outfitter signed us up. I had heard of SCI before traveling on this hunt and had come to the Soaring Eagle to the Mid-Michigan annual fundraiser during the open to the public time on a Saturday before the auction. Once Sara and I were signed up with national I figured we might as well check more into the Mid-Michigan chapter. It didn't take us long to sign up as Chapter members.

Some of the reasons we have stayed members, and become life members, is SCI continues to fight for hunters' rights, both here in the United States and around the world. We have also found that through SCI we were able to find many reputable outfitters and of course the annual fundraiser and auctions are fun to participate in.
— **Josh Christensen**

☛ This is the only organization that truly fights for hunters rights and who takes part in world wide conservation. —
Autumn Gonda

☛ When my husband started to pursue his love for hunting around the world, he joined a local chapter of SCI to meet the Outfitters and learn more about the hunting protocols. It wasn't long before I was attending meetings and meeting the people involved in the Mid-Michigan Chapter as well. I have learned that not only is the SCI National Organization a great community of like-minded people who love to hunt, are passionate about conservation, and are avid in protecting the hunting rights of all Americans; but our local chapter brings all of these practices to our Mid-Michigan region. I believe that to be truly a part of an organization, you need to be involved and take part in making a difference, so along with my husband, I joined the Board of Directors several years ago. The Mid-Michigan chapter represents the people of the region who love to hunt - it really doesn't matter the species of animal. Our chapter continues to attract men and women who love to be outdoors and strive to keep our great region a wildlife haven. So come check us out - learn more about hunting and conservation, and meet some really great people who turn out to be really great friends!! We have monthly membership meetings from Spring thru Fall and would love to see you. — **Abbe Mulders**

☛ I joined SCI in 1989, because I wanted to meet other hunters who had hunted all over Michigan, out of Michigan, and out of the country. I met a lot of great hunters both male and female. I went to Northern BC Canada from a recommendation from guys that had hunted there and could recommend the outfitter. I had hunted with some not so good outfits and found it nice to talk to hunters that had had good hunting trips they would go back with. Hunters are happy to recommend a good outfit, and let you know if they would not go back with certain outfitters.

SCI Chapters do lots of great projects that help wildlife. Folks get to meet outfitters in person at the local SCI Banquets and other SCI meetings. It is also very nice and enjoyable to go to the auctions to get the hunt you'd like to do.

SCI Chapters have a lot of great projects. They also get kids involved in the outdoors. SCI brings hunting people together. Going to the National SCI Convention is a great experience, everyone should do if they are able.

Love the Club. — **Roger Froling**

☛ I joined SCI because my wife's younger sister got married. The sister had married into a SCI family and invited us to their Chapter's Annual Convention. That Chapter is in Eastern Pennsylvania and exposed me to SCI. I responded favorably and joined. I then identified the Mid-Michigan Chapter as the nearest to me and joined. I have been an active member ever since! — **Jon Zieman**

☛ I originally joined SCI to increase access to outfitters and gain knowledge on hunting opportunities. As I got more involved the friendships with hunters and people in the hunting industry kept me paying my dues. Today I value what SCI does advocating for hunters, what our local chapter does for local food banks, children that truly need help to experience a hunt of a lifetime and helping Veterans have special days in the field. I certainly have always valued my membership and its value has only increased over time. — **Doug Chapin**



I am guessing most of our readers have a certain caliber they are partial to, whether it be for small game, whitetail or animals much larger. Maybe you prefer a certain caliber for those long-range shots or for that thick swamp cover you love to hunt in. At any rate I think our readers would be interested to know...

What is your favorite caliber of rifle and why?

Write in and let us know. Submit your answer to jchappyfish@gmail.com and look for it in our next issue of the Front Sight magazine.

TROPHY AWARDS PROGRAM

By Autumn Gonda, 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 following awards are voted upon by the Awards Committee.

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. Also taken in to consideration are terrain taken, choice of weapon and difficulty.

Other Major Awards are for the method used (Crossbow, Muzzleloader, Handgun and Bow). These are determined by the committee based on animal species harvested, difficulty and terrain.

The last categories are Men's Hunter of the Year and Women's Hunter of the Year. This decision is also made by committee based on hunting achievements for the specific period of time, participation in conservation, and ambassador of Safari Club. This award can only be won once in a lifetime.

The period for score sheets this year is: DECEMBER of 2020 TO November 30, 2022

Send your score sheets to: Autumn Gonda, 2391 E. Farrand Rd., Clio, MI 48420

You may contact me at 810-625-6985, or email at arose6985@yahoo.com

All entries must be postmarked no later than December 1, 2022.

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.

In An Upcoming Issue



ELK HUNTING IN COLORADO
by Raymond Erickson



MOUNTAIN LION HUNT
by Bill Mayhew



WHITETAIL DEER HUNTING
by Dan Catlin



**GATORS AND TURKEYS AND HOGS,
OH MY!**
by Josh Christensen



MISSED OPPORTUNITY
by Josh Christensen

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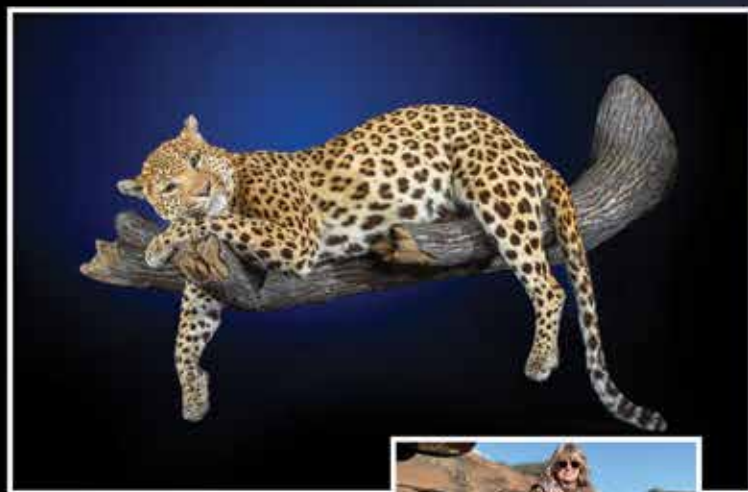
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