

FRONT SIGHT



Mid-Michigan Chapter Safari Club International

July - September 2023, Issue 63



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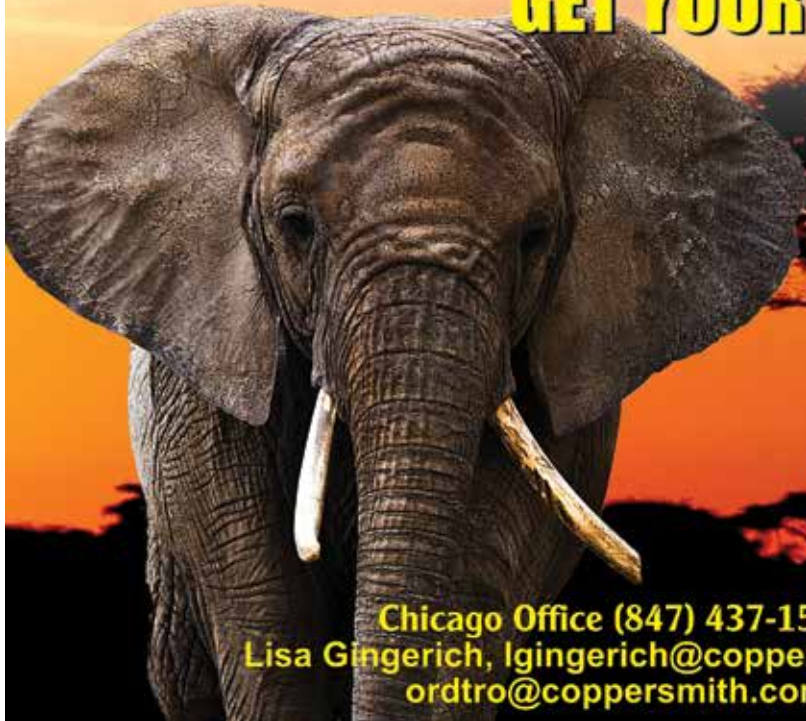
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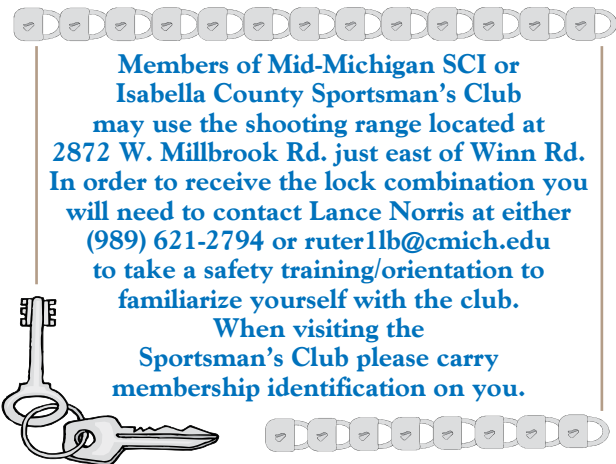
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MID-MICHIGAN SCI 2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

Chairmen are listed first

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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 Rd. just east of Winn Rd. 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.

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

Editor's Message

Greetings

As we head into the Dog Days of Summer, your Mid-Michigan SCI Board continues to focus on planning the summer and fall meeting schedule of activities. Our Annual Golf Outing is scheduled for August 8th and we'll be teeing off once again at the Mt. Pleasant Country Club! We are looking for 4-somes to join in the fun and test your golf skills in order to win some great prizes and perhaps earn some extra \$\$\$!



We also have a good lineup of Speakers and Guests for our Fall Membership Meetings. We have Ellens Equipment (a major Fundraiser Sponsor of the Chapter) and Justin Morgan from Dairy Doo coming in to talk about food plot plantings & deer management; we have Tony Grimard from the Wildlife Center at Legends Ranch in to talk about their new Passport Program that our Chapter has contributed support. Rounding out our fall lineup is Colby and Skipper Bettis introducing their new Shooting School Venture.

I will continue to stress that we need YOU to get involved with the Chapter 'happenings'. There are plenty of things to do and I'm sure that we can match your interests up with an initiative the Board has planned!

We welcome suggestions and comments regarding our programming, website, and Facebook postings! Take the time to check out our Chapter and GET INVOLVED!!! The website: midmichigansci.org. You can also visit our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/MidMichiganSCI/> (Mid-Michigan Safari Club International). We'll continue to have some giveaways and raffles in the coming months -- so stay tuned!!!

Happy Summer Everyone – Michigan is a beautiful place to be!!!

Abbe M. Mulders

Abbe Mulders

President

(989) 450-8744 • abbemulders@gmail.com

It seems like this spring has flown by and summer is coming at us full force. I have had an extra busy spring! I was lucky enough to travel to Nebraska and harvest a nice Merriam's turkey to complete my Grand Slam. This was one of the toughest turkey hunts I have ever had the pleasure of taking. The weather did not cooperate and the birds were quite skittish. Even the turkeys back home in Michigan gave me all kinds of trouble this year, and it took me to the eleventh hour to finally connect on one, with a little help from my neighbor.



Elijah (far left) with some of his distance teammates and me with the Division 2, Region 11 trophy.

I've also been busy coaching my older son and the other distance kids on his track team. Nothing tells you you are getting old like trying to keep up with a bunch of teenagers. My body takes quite a bit more time to recover than it takes theirs.

As you turn the pages of this issue you will see many opportunities members have to join other members in our constant push for conservation. You will find pictures of our 44th annual fundraiser as well as information on the April membership meeting. Upcoming events include membership meetings on August 7th, September 11th, and October 2nd as well as our annual golf outing on August 8th. Each of these would be a great way to introduce a friend to our chapter.

As always we are looking for articles to publish in our magazine. There are three formats we use, 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 (this is similar to a Facebook post format). 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 W. Christensen

Josh Christensen

Editor

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

SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter Meeting Schedule

* SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Date	Meeting Type	Time	Location
Aug. 7, 2023	Board/Membership Meeting	6:00 pm	Comfort Inn
Aug. 8, 2023	Annual Golf Tournament	TBA	Mt. Pleasant Country Club
Sept. 11, 2023	Board/Membership Meeting	6:00 pm	Comfort Inn
Sept. 22-25, 2023	Tails-A-Waggin' Veteran Hunt	8:00 am	Tails-A-Waggin'
Oct. 2, 2023	Board/Membership Meeting	6:00 pm	Buck's Run Golf Course

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: The Short Stories of
Larry Potterfield: Volume 1

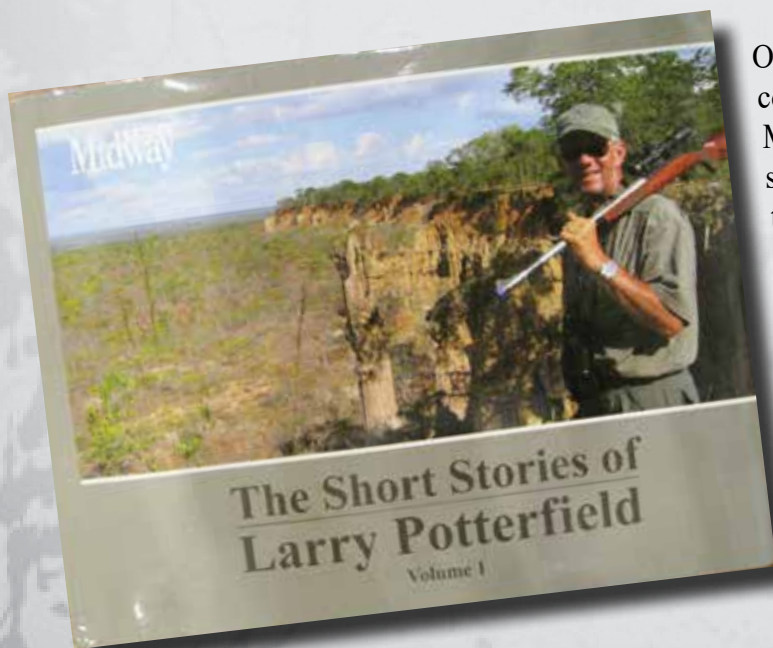
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List Price: \$29.99

Author: Larry Potterfield

When I purchased The Short Stories of Larry Potterfield I figured the book would be like many others I have read about people detailing their hunts around the world. Although this book does take the reader all over the world the stories are the shortest I have ever read. Each one comprising of only five to ten paragraphs.

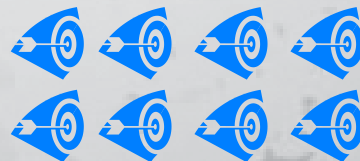
When I first opened the book, after ordering it online, I was a bit disappointed to see the shortness of each story, but after I started reading a few of them I was impressed with how much detail could be put into this short of a story. Another aspect of the book that helps develop the stories are the pictures and captions that accompany each one. Every story has four or five pictures with captions that helped bring the story to life.



Of course no book by Larry Potterfield would be complete without information about his company, Midway USA, and the different guns he enjoys shooting. There is a section dedicated to each of these in the book.

If you are looking for a book where you don't have to get involved in a storyline and you can put it down and pick it up whenever you can without having to remember the last chapter you read, this book might be for you.

This book gets 8 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.**

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THE QUEST FOR THE AFRICA 15 PLUS 2

By Tony Roettger

When I first went to Africa in 2009, bow in hand, I had only recently joined SCI and had little plan for what lie ahead. My first animal in Africa did not even count towards any slam or inner circle but the Texas heart shot from my bow while he drank at a water hole on a big baboon will always be a memory and one could say the beginning of the quest.

When you watch outdoor television you hear Tom Miranda, Jim Shockey, Pat and Nicole Reeve, and Melissa Bachman all talk about goals, perseverance, direction, overcoming obstacles, pursuing a passion and the list goes on you get inspired! But first, let's level set: I am not them. I am just a normal guy with a normal job. What these personalities have done for me is inspire and helped me find that direction. They have shown me what is possible, and you quickly realize it took all of them some time to accomplish and overcome. It took Tom Miranda 18 years to do all 6 dangerous game animals in Africa and I just read he is on his 54th trip to Africa. That does earn him a lot of my respect for the dedication of time to complete that kind of goal. When you are on a similar (but far behind) journey the perspective is a whole lot different. It is not easy nor quick, especially with a bow and arrow and add on that hunting in certain areas is getting harder and harder legally with archery equipment.

Tony with his Waterbuck



Lion



Springbok



Steenbok

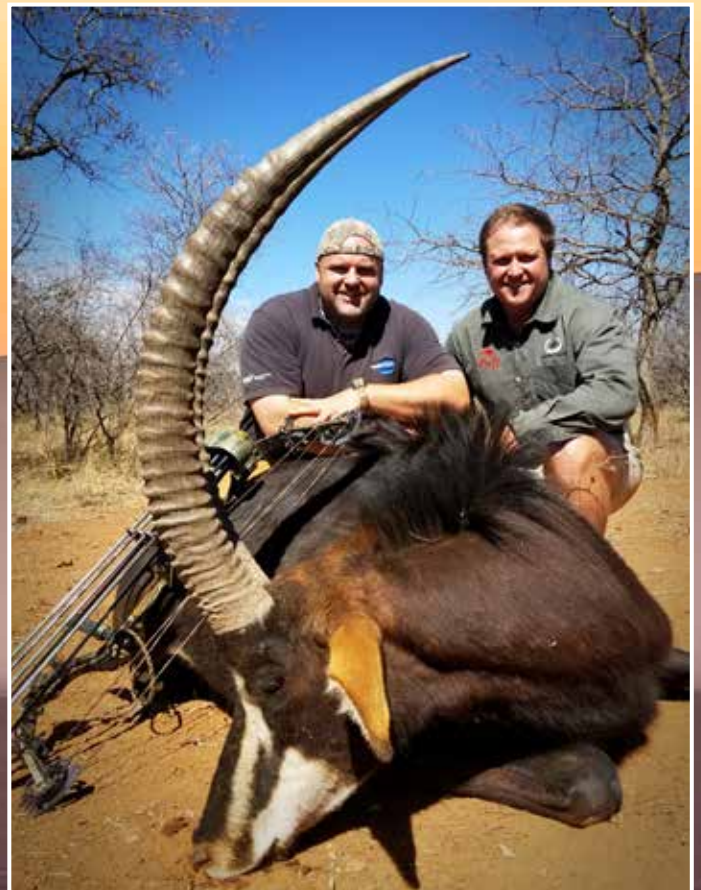
I have had a lot of looks and comments over the years while running around with my bow and arrows. I have had outfitters cringe, asked why I choose to make it so hard to hunt, etc. I do not have much for an answer to that, to be honest. I just like it, I always have. My dad gave me a bow to shoot before I can even remember. We shot in our back yard at paper bags every night in the summer. I had tears in my eyes a hundred times with a bow in hand from my lack of ability to hit that paper bag as a little kid to an adult harvesting an animal of a lifetime and every other misfortune and fortune attained over the last 40 years of using a bow and arrow. Simply put, it is a choice, my choice. The choice comes with consequences: time, effort, lack of places to bow hunt, increased failure due to the complexities and the list goes on. But that isn't stopping me just yet.

In 2009 I was exposed to the wonderful hospitality that is Africa. The food, wonderful lodging, the people, the endless amounts of animals, the air, the stories from the PH's and just the absolute amazingness of the experience. A trip that began and ended far too fast so, I booked the second before I left camp. A big thank you goes out to Limcroma Safaris for so many things. Patience and kindness as my trip evolved because at a time when life had a few curve balls for me. My wife did not make it on the trip. She passed away due to a sudden sickness but one thing she told me to do, "Go shoot a cape buffalo with your bow." On that 2009 trip the adventure began. However, I did not

know where it was going but I did learn of the Spiral Horns of Africa (Kudu, Nyala, Eland and Bushbuck). I did not take a cape buffalo on that first trip either. I was fortunate enough to harvest a kudu along with a gemsbok, wildebeest, jackal, zebra and three baboons. I was able to share that trip with my mom and dad who joined me.

Two years later I was back at Limcroma, still sorting some things out in life, but I at least knew I was going to chase a Nyala as part of the Spiral Horns I was now after. By the time I finished my second trip with Limcroma I was halfway through the spiral horns of Africa and had not made any further trip plans. I came home to meet a lady named Kate. We were later married and have a daughter named Evie and a son named Zane. Apparently, they too were meant to be. Zane was not quite born yet as we attended an SCI Bowhunters event and met Pieter Viviers of Marupa Safaris. Apparently, they all were meant to be part of my life and give me direction because here we all are today.

That SCI bowhunters event led me to purchasing an auction item with Marupa Safaris where I was introduced to the small camp. Just us and who we came with which was appealing along with the close relationship we developed with Pieter and his family over the years. It was this adventure; my third trip to Africa where I realized there was more, it was time to do more. I decided to get my animals scored and put into the SCI record book



Tony and his PH Pieter from Marupa Safaris with his sable.

and investigate what this all meant. I had no idea the quality of animals I had been harvesting and there are a lot of other awards you can chase and the money from the record book goes right back to conservation. The picture was becoming clearer, and I could actually do this! I could chase bigger dreams and I needed a reason to go back to Africa again.

My third trip found me chasing the third animal of the Spiral Horns of Africa, the eland. The weather was harsh; very cold, windy and rainy, which was abnormal for that time of year. We struggled to see the animals and they struggled in the cold and wet. I came home with a nice eland, two zebra and a warthog. The zebra does not count towards the Africa 15 or 29 but once you shoot one, you want a couple more.

The fourth trip (two years later) to Africa was the worst of them all. It was when I hit rock bottom of my bowhunting. I couldn't hit anything; I developed a severe case of target panic, and it was more than out of control. I missed so many impala it would make you laugh and cry, I wounded a zebra which was not that wounded and showed up other times to which I missed it. I was an absolute wreck and had to somehow figure out how to recover. I was embarrassed and humiliated and there was no one to blame but myself. I came home with two animals, a nice sable bull that we walked and stalked and harvested at 42 yards, a warthog and a handful of tears.

I spent a solid year just trying to recover any sort of ability to shoot a bow again. I spent another couple years still fighting it and I was better but not 100%. I yet again found myself back in Africa where I made a turn around. Guess what? I did miss yet another impala on that trip but recovered and shot three after that along with a cape buffalo and a duiker with my bow. I had turned the corner. As Pat and Nicole say, "Being driven to persevere" was what I needed to do. On that fifth trip to Africa, I was able to get to, #14 of the Africa 15. One short, which was disappointing to be one short, but I could not give up.

I had a goal, and the Africa 15 was one milestone. The next is to finish the Africa 29 with a bow and arrow and Pieter is helping me navigate this quest. These goals are not just something you can do without help, you need a guy like Pieter to guide you where to go. There is a lot of planning in the background so when Pieter said, "I think we must do the lion on the next trip." I listened and we did the lion on the next trip in July of 2022. My sixth trip would be to

the Northern Cape of South Africa, the beginning of the Kalahari Desert.

We arrive in camp in the Northern Cape of South Africa and began the planning process. Pieter does a lot to accommodate me and other bowhunters but in this area, he has not had many bowhunters in the Northern Cape, so the blinds were very new. I was fortunate to harvest the first animal from the blind I was in, a nice common springbok. I was new to springbok, so I had to really look at pictures to make sure the one I was looking at was a good one. Turned out to be a good decision. They are fast and do not just go to water holes often. I also harvested a huge Southern Roan Antelope. Currently ranks #12 with a bow and arrow. Very fun spot and stalk hunt.

The final animal was saved for the latter part of the trip. Kate, Pieter, Patat, Tian, Mikala and I left for a camp where the lions run free in prides. Very, very cool place. This story is a stand-alone story and literally a life changing adventure as nothing has scared me more than this hunt. But I got it done with a bow after three days following a lion that could have been waiting for us in any of the thousand bushes I walked by. My PH's may have missed the lion with their rifles at one point but thank goodness I shot it with my bow. . . . I do not want to give too much away. Get out there, make a plan, stick to it and enjoy this beautiful world created for us!



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"If people are doubting how far you can go, go so far that you can't hear them anymore." – Michele Ruiz



A COLD CANADIAN

Wolf Hunt



By Kenneth Lehman

For many years the idea of a wolf hunt had been appealing to me. I had already taken coyote and fox by hunting and trapping, and where we hunted black bear near Wawa Ontario Canada there were always lots of wolves. Though I had tried to set up hunts with our friend and outfitter Rick Dickson, there was always an obstacle that would prevent it from happening.

On our annual bear hunt in August of 2022, Rick told us this would be his last year of guiding bear hunts and I thought my chances of hunting the area would be gone, but Rick had a suggestion. He had a young man that was doing some hunts and gave me his contact info. Shortly after I contacted Brett Robinson and had a hunt set up.

The hunt would take place sometime between December and February depending on weather

and if enough wolves were come into his bait sites. Brett and I spoke the same language, it was clear to me that he was serious about a successful hunt. Deer season came and by the end of November I wasn't thinking about hunting wolves, then I got an email from Brett. He had several packs of wolves coming to bait sites and could I be up in the next couple weeks! Along with the email he included several photos from his trail cameras that had wolfs coming during day light hours. Now that will get your heart pumping.

November 4th, I jumped in the truck and headed north eight hours to Wawa. The weather here in Michigan had been pretty mild and there was no snow on the ground until I was almost to the Bridge. That all changed 100 miles from Wawa. The temperature dropped and it became a white out on Highway 17. A severe Artic blast was pushing in and the hunt was going to be a cold sit.

Of course, I had been watching the weather, and had packed my heaviest winter gear. Included was a new ice fishing suit and Cabela's Alaska boots, these saved me!

As things turned out Brett was unable to guide me, but his father Jamie was going to take me. And Jamie and I hit it off right away, both being in the lumber industry and trappers, we had lots in common.

thermos was doing a good job taking the edge off. Day one ended at 5:15 and I had put in my first 10 hour sit.

Day two, temp 6 above and fresh snow. We pulled into our parking spot and saw a few sets of lynx track along with a few hare tracks, but no wolf sign. Jamie rebated the site and I settled into my sit location. I got suited up with the heavier gear that I packed in and quietly got into the blind. The ravens were very active which seemed like a good sign. After another 10 hours, no wolves showed up.

Mind you, Jamie remained optimistic, the wolf packs had been very consistent, and he had been baiting since Oct. I too felt confident, sitting is the way our family hunts in Michigan, and hands down is still the most successful method I know. The problem is wolves can go miles and make a kill on a moose and be at that location for days. This was my biggest fear.

Day 3, and the temperature is 4 above.... And a repeat of day 2 nothing but ravens.



Monday, November 5th, temperature 16 degrees and light snow. Jamie picked me up at 5:00am and we drove to a logging road in his truck, then used his side by side for another few miles, finally on foot to an overlook. About 100 yards below in a small clearing and a bait. Or there was supposed to be a bait, but the wolves had cleaned it up. We could not see any tracks that looked like they had just been made, but Jamie was confident that wolves were nearby, and I would get my chance.

The small pop-up blind was perfectly located above and to the east of the bait site. It was very unlikely that any wolf would come in behind me and catch my scent.

As the day progressed the breeze picked up and I tried to sit still to make as little noise as possible. The cold started creeping in, I had not put on the warmest gear at this point, but the coffee in my



Day 4, Wawa is zero and by the time I get to the blind my thermometer is reading -5, no wind... AND there are wolf tracks all over the place! Jamie reminds me that the wolves could easily clean up all the bait he put out, but their pattern has been to

hang around the next day looking for scraps. When it gets this cold everything squeaks, the snow makes lots of noise with every step and no matter how careful you are, wolves' hearing is exceptional so that you can't be quiet enough. These thoughts run through my head as I got set up. Then I realized that I forgot my lunch, which for me is a lucky sign. Many times on the day I forget something is the day I have success on my hunt. At 10:10 I see something moving through the timber, just a glimpse but it sure was not a raven. Pulling off my face mask my breath is pounding and as I check my scope, it's completely frosted. A quick clean off and I am ready.

After what seems like minutes but was only moments, out steps a wolf. First impressions are that it's small wolf. It stops and checks out a spot before moving to a rib cage which I think is from a deer and again it appears to be small. I wait. Maybe another wolf will come out and I can get a better view to judge the size. Nothing comes out.

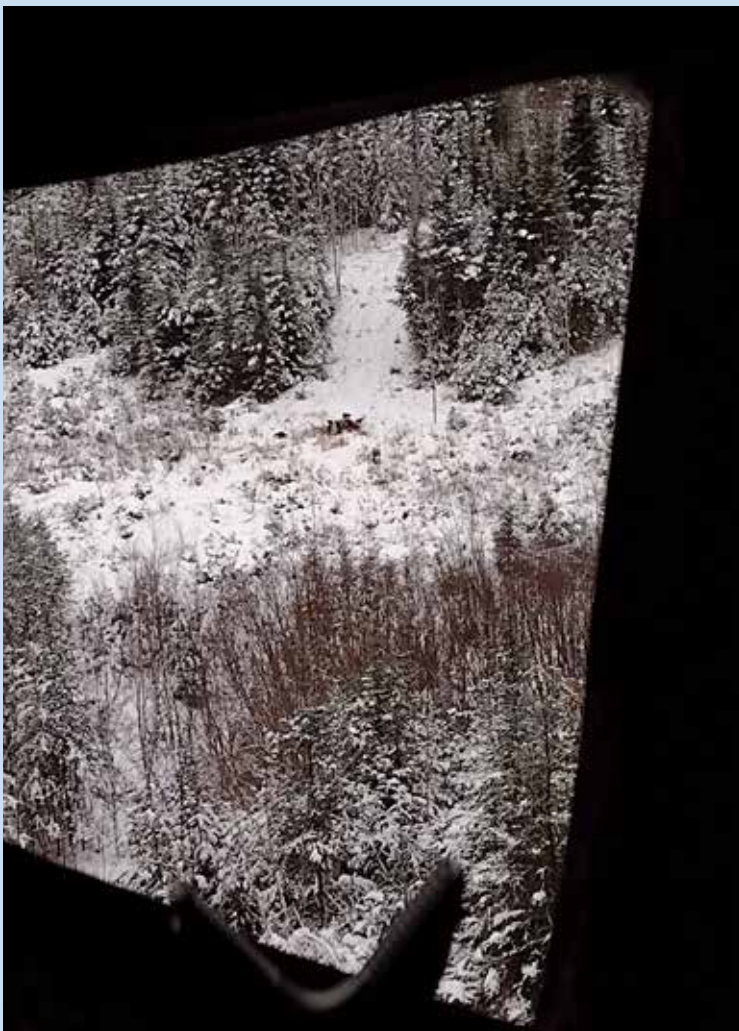


The wolf is turning to head back into the timber and I must decide... pass or shoot something that looks small to me.

Many times, in life we have to make decisions and I believe the worst thing you can do is not decide. Right or wrong, indecision is never the answer. The 30-06 goes off before the wolf takes a step and down it goes.

It turns out the rib cage I was watching was from a cow moose and are way bigger than a whitetail! As I walked up on my trophy, I was overjoyed and humbled by this wild canine.

Thanks to Jamie Robinson, his son Brett, and the entire Robinson family for their friendship and I look forward to more adventures together.



View from the blind.

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"At any given moment you have the power to say: this is not how the story is going to end." - Unknown

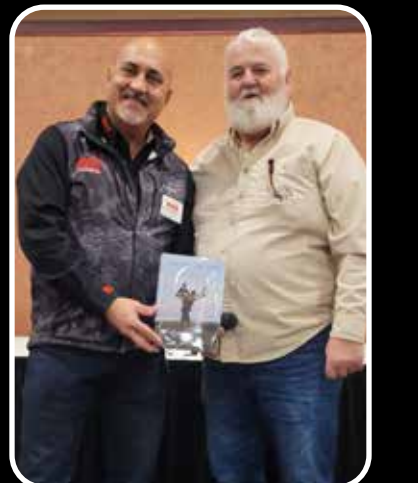
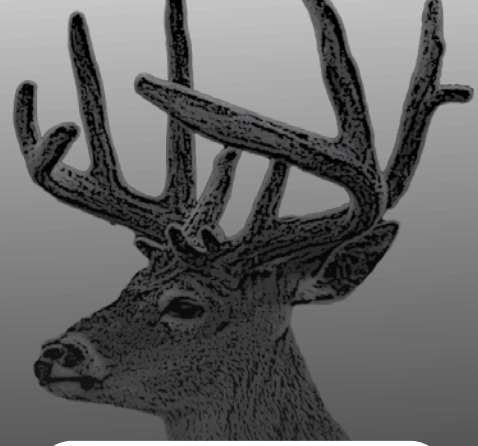
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PRESENTS...

BIG BUCK NIGHT 2023



On January 14, 2023
the Mid-Michigan chapter of SCI hosted
our annual Big Buck night
at the Comfort Inn in Mt. Pleasant.







Conservation Affairs

Compiled and submitted by Autumn Gonda



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Food Plots and Baiting

With Spring finally here, many of us are finding ourselves getting our land ready for the upcoming fall hunting season. Below is some information regarding food plots and baiting.

Bait

Bait means a substance intended for consumption by deer that is composed of grains, minerals (including salt and salt blocks), fruits, vegetables, hay or other food materials used as an aid in hunting.

Feed

Feed means a substance composed of grains, minerals (including salt and salt blocks), fruits, vegetables, hay or other food materials that may attract deer or elk for any reason other than hunting.

Baiting and Feeding Regulations

Baiting and feeding are banned in the Lower Peninsula, and banned in the Upper Peninsula CWD surveillance area. In areas where baiting is banned, scents placed to entice deer, whether composed of natural or synthetic materials, must be placed so that they are inaccessible for consumption by deer and placed in such a manner to prohibit any physical contact with deer. This does not apply to urine-based products that adhere to the applicable regulations for using urine-based scents.

Hunters can still use those urine-based products for mock scrapes, drag ropes, wicks, etc.

Exception: Hunters with disabilities who meet specific requirements may use bait in the Lower Peninsula or UP core CWD surveillance area during the Liberty and Independence Hunts only. Eligible hunters may begin baiting for the Liberty Hunt five days prior to when the season begins. Eligible hunters may begin baiting for the Independence Hunt five days prior to when the season begins.

Bait volume at any hunting site cannot exceed two gallons. Bait dispersal must be over a minimum 10-foot by 10-foot area. Bait must be scattered directly on the ground. It can be scattered by any means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute more than the maximum volume allowed.

To qualify, you must fit one of the following criteria:

- Be a veteran who has been determined to have 100-percent disability or is rated as individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Have been issued a permit by the DNR to hunt from a standing vehicle.
- Have been issued a permit by the DNR to hunt using a laser-sighting device.
- Be blind. Blind means an individual who has visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye with correction or has a limitation of his or her field of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field subtends an angular distance not greater than 20 degrees, as determined by the Commission for the Blind.
- An individual is deaf as defined by section 2 of 72 PA 1978, MCL 408.202. "Deaf person" means a person who is not able to process information aurally, with or without amplification, and whose primary means of communication is visual or by receiving spoken language through other sensory input, including, but not limited to, lipreading, sign language, finger spelling, or reading.

In the rest of the Upper Peninsula where baiting is allowed, the following baiting regulations apply:

- Baiting may occur only from Sept. 15 - Jan. 1 except that eligible hunters may begin baiting for the Liberty Hunt five days prior to when the season begins.
- Bait volume at any hunting site cannot exceed two gallons. Bait dispersal must be over a minimum 10-foot by 10-foot area.
- Bait must be scattered directly on the ground. It can be scattered by any means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute more than the maximum volume allowed.
- To minimize exposure of deer to diseases that may be present, the DNR recommends not placing bait or feed repeatedly at the same point on the ground, and only baiting when actively hunting.

In the rest of the Upper Peninsula where feeding is allowed, the following feeding rules apply:

For recreational viewing:

- Feed volume is restricted to two gallons per residence per calendar day and no more than two gallons of feed may be present at any one time.
- Feed may be no more than 100 yards from a residence on land owned or possessed by that person.
- Feed must be scattered on the ground. It can be scattered by any means, including mechanical spin-cast feeders, provided that the spin-cast feeder does not distribute more than the maximum volume allowed.
- Feed must be at least 100 yards from any area accessible to cattle, goats, sheep, new world camelids, bison, swine, horses, or captive cervidae.

For supplemental winter feeding:

A person may engage in the supplemental feeding of deer in all Upper Peninsula counties where feeding is allowed if all the following apply:

- The placement of feed shall not begin before January 1 and shall not extend beyond May 15.
- All feed shall be placed one-quarter mile or more from the nearest paved public highway.
- All feed shall be placed at least 1 mile from cattle, goats, sheep, new world camelids, bison, swine, horses, or captive cervidae.
- All feed shall be placed at least 1 mile from wheat fields, potato fields, commercial fruit orchards, commercial plantings of nursery stock or Christmas trees.
- The feed shall consist solely of grains, second cut alfalfa and clover, and pelletized food materials containing no animal protein which is scattered or dispersed directly upon the ground to a depth which shall not exceed three inches.
- The feed shall not be placed or used as bait to take deer.
- The feed shall not be placed or used as bait to take deer.

Food plots - Naturally occurring foods, standing agricultural crops, or food placed as a result of using normal agricultural practices are not considered to be bait or feed. Constructing or maintaining any food plot or any artificial garden to attract wildlife on public land is prohibited.






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“Few of us are as good as we think we are, none of us are as good as we can be.” – Tom Selleck



CHRISTENSEN FAMILY AFRICAN HUNTING VACATION

Part Three of a Four Part Series

by Josh Christensen

Editor's Note: In the previous two issues we have followed the Christensen family as they experienced different hunts and South African culture on their family vacation with Marupa Safaris. We pick up their vacation on day seven of the trip.

The following morning found us traveling to the adjacent property across the dirt road that leads to the property. This was another ranch, but this one was low fenced for cattle. On this property were springbok, blesbok and gemsbok. Unlike the property we were staying at, this property had virtually no trees or bushes, it was just a huge open grassland with rolling hills and a few rock outcroppings. Our plan was to try to harvest a springbok and a gemsbok from the property. It didn't take us long to see this was going to be challenging for



Sara with her Impala



Josh with his Gemsbok and ant mound in the background.

multiple reasons. As soon as we entered the property we spotted springbok around 500 yards away and before anyone could say a thing they were on a dead run away from us. As we continued our drive Rosta, a worker from this property told me he saw gemsbok and pointed. At first I didn't see any, but then I looked on the horizon probably 1,000 yards off and saw a large herd of animals running away. So between the animals being very skittish on this property and the wind blowing quite hard my hopes weren't too high as I was guessing anyone trying to get an animal here would have to be a long range shooter, which I didn't feel I was.

We continued along a path that took use toward the middle of the property. We came to within 300 yards of a herd of springbok before they darted away. Towards the middle of the property were to large koppies. We headed toward them and stopped about 250



Josh with his Red Lechwe



Sara with her Springbok

yards from the closest one. Reinardt turned the truck off and told me to grab the gun as he grabbed the shooting sticks. We started through the thorn infested grasses toward the furthest koppie. 300 yards into our trek Reinardt stopped on a dime and we back tracked toward the truck and then swung around behind the first koppie, the one closest to the truck.

Once we were at the base of the koppie Reinardt signaled there were animals just on the other side, so we slowly eased our way up to the top. Rosta stayed at the base of the koppie as we crept along, Reinardt in the lead followed by me. As Reinardt came to the top of the koppie he quickly ducted down and backed up a few steps. We then moved slightly to our right and progressed forward. In this process Reinardt laid the shooting sticks down so I knew I would probably be shooting off the rocks.

Reinardt eased forward until he could see the entire herd of gemsbok on the other side of the koppie and called me up to join him on his right-hand side. As I reached the top with him, Reinardt whispered for me to use a big rock in front of me as a rest for the rifle. When I attempted to do this the barrel was sitting on the rock beyond the rock I was trying to use as a rest, because I had to shoot at a downward angle, not allowing me to get a good rest. A quick problem solve later had me reposition my body to make the rock work. This consisted of me placing my knee in the middle of four rocks a little further right of where I was before. Although the position looked like it would be uncomfortable it was actually fine and I felt quite steady.

As I looked over the koppie I saw a large herd of gemsbok; 50 or more animals all milling around. I learned later that

this herd would often run to one of the two koppies on the property when they felt threatened. I only saw two gemsbok looking in our direction as the rest of the herd was looking to the open areas on the other three sides. On this stalk the wind was working in our favor as the wind was blowing in our face, covering any sound we made while climbing the koppie and keeping our scent from the herd.

Now that I was in a stable shooting position Reinardt assessed the herd for a good mature animal. The first animal he selected was facing away from us on the right-hand side of the herd. I located the gemsbok quickly based on Reinardt's directions, but he didn't give me a shot. In fact, when he turned broadside he moved towards the middle of the herd making the shot impossible. I was quickly directed to another animal on the right side of the herd. I was able to get on this one as well, but it too decided to move toward the center of the herd making a shot ill-advised. Once again Reinardt found another good gemsbok toward the right side of the herd. As I waited for it to turn broadside, I thought to myself, what a great set-up and an awesome way to hunt gemsbok. When this gemsbok moved it started walking away from us, I figured I would not be getting a shot at this one either, but Reinardt was confident it was going to turn any second.

The gemsbok did just that, providing me with a quartering away shoot. I put the crosshairs slightly back on the body so the bullets path would travel out the opposite shoulder.

Reinardt let me know this gemsbok was in the clear and I could take the shot when I was ready. I took a deep breath and then squeezed the trigger. At the sound of the shot the gemsbok herd started to stir, but the only one that ran at first was the



one I shot. It ran to the middle of the herd and then back to the right with the herd following. Then the gemsbok turned back left and did a flip as it hit an ant mound, landing in its final resting place. I had an awesome animal on a very memorable stalk. Pictures were taken as we relived the adventure by retelling the story to Sara and the boys.

With the wind and the skittishness of the springbok it was decided we would head back to the property the lodge was on and hunt there. Once on the Marupa property we made our way to the skinkers shack. We rounded a bend in the road and saw a group of springbok. As we glassed them we saw there were only females, but not too far to their right we spotted a herd of red lechwe including one male. Reinardt told me it was a pretty good one so I said let's give it a go.

I grabbed the rifle while Reinardt grabbed the shooting sticks and we used the thick thorny bushes of the Northern Cape as cover to close the gap on the lechwe. As we rounded the last bit of cover the shooting sticks were set up and I placed the rifle on them for the shot. As soon as I got the lechwe in my sights it ran back into the thick bush. I figure the stalk was over, but Reinardt told me to be ready because he thought the lechwe would come back out into the open. A few seconds later he did, but he was walking at a decent pace and didn't look like he was planning to stop. That is when Reinardt let out a whistle. When the lechwe heard this he stopped and looked, affording me the opportunity at a good broadside shot. I placed the crosshairs halfway up the body on the back side of the shoulder and squeezed the trigger.

The lechwe jumped as if it were a good hit, but I was a bit worried because I heard the bullet ricochet off some rocks. Between the ricochet sound and the fact the lechwe took off on a dead sprint and looked fine worried me, but Reinardt assured me it was a good hit. We went to where the lechwe was standing at the shot and found blood, but after fifteen yards blood was hard to find. We followed his path and 100 yards later found him piled up. We noticed the angle of the



Josh and Sara

shot didn't allow for the lechwe to bleed much and this was why blood was hard to find.

I was elated with this animal. Since my first trip to South Africa in 2007 when I saw my first lechwe I wanted to hunt one and now I finally had one. The red hair on the animal was so soft and thick and the different colors he had from the red and the white to the black on his legs made me think he was the most beautiful trophy in the country.

That concluded our morning hunting for the day. After lunch and some rest we went back out to look for waterbuck for Sara. We were able to find the four cows in the area we saw the bulls the day before, but there were no bulls to be found. As we continued on we came to a bachelor group of impala. Sara and Reinardt attempted a stalk, but the group was feeding away from them and it was decided to go back to the truck and try to get around them.

We took a few roads to get ahead of the group. When we stopped, Reinardt and Sara got out of the truck and started their stalk. They were able to use the vegetation to their advantage as they snuck up to within 110 yards of the group. The shooting sticks were set up and instructions were given as to which impala was the intended target. Once the correct ram was identified Sara made an excellent shot and the impala was hers.

As the sun was disappearing over the African skyline, making for another awe-inspiring sunset a herd of springbok was spotted. They seemed to be a little more at ease as the day was coming to an end. This allowed for Sara to get a shot opportunity on a good ram. She made a disabling shot from 200 yards away and as the light of the day faded away we were able to capture the moment with several quick photos.



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"You can't have everything. Where would you put it?" – Steven Wright

April Membership



On April 3rd, the Chapter hosted a membership meeting at Bucks Run Golf Course in Mt. Pleasant. The topic of the meeting was our annual awards show. Some members might not realize our chapter has a comprehensive list of trophies taken by our members dating back over 40 years. All members of our Chapter are eligible to enter animals taken into our record book and all animals harvested within the previous two years are eligible for our Chapter Hunting Awards.



The evening started with a social hour, followed by an excellent meal and dessert. After the meal the awards presentation began. The recipients of the awards were able to share information from their hunts and the animals they harvested. The crowd was entertained as the award winners detailed their experiences. At the conclusion of the awards show door prizes, the youth gun and the 50/50 drawing were drawn.



Meeting



Here is a list of
this year's award winners.

MALE HUNTER OF THE YEAR
Josh Christensen

BOW HUNTER OF THE YEAR
Randy Raymond

CROSSBOW HUNTER OF THE YEAR
Ken Ransom

AFRICA

1. *Tim Torpey* – African Lion
2. *Josh Christensen* – Southern Bush Duiker
3. *Doug Chapin* – Southern Greater Kudu

NORTH AMERICA

1. *Josh Christensen* – Osceola Turkey
2. *Randy Raymond* –
Northeastern Whitetail Deer
3. *Josh Christensen* – Rio Grande Turkey

NORTH AMERICA INTRODUCED

1. *Doug Chapin* - Aoudad

EUROPE

1. *Larry Smith* – Racka Sheep





Sharing Some Good @ookin'!

ORANGE CRANBERRY SAUCE

by Mary Harter

- 2 c. fresh or frozen cranberries
- 1 Granny Smith apple, peeled, cored and quartered
- Minced zest from half an orange
- 1 navel orange, peeled
- ½ c. sugar
- ¼ c. finely chopped pecans
- 1 pinch allspice

Grind all fruits, add sugar, allspice, and pecans. Stir and cover.
Refrigerate at least 3 hours before serving. Leftovers can be refrigerated for up to 4 days.



MID-MICHIGAN CHAPTER SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

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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

- 1 year Membership new or renewal \$90 (\$65 National, \$25 Local)
- 3 year Membership new or renewal \$225 (\$150 National, \$75 Local)
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“Home is where you are loved the most and act the worst.” – Marjorie Hinckley

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2023



In late February, SCI National held their annual convention in Nashville, Tennessee. Several Mid-Michigan members attended the event and all of them recommended everyone should try to attend the gala in the future.



NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



FRONT SIGHT

Looking Ahead

In An Upcoming Issue



LION HUNTING IN SOUTH AFRICA
by Josh Christensen



FAMILY VACATION, SOUTH AFRICA STYLE - PART 4
by Josh Christensen



EAT WELL AND HUNT WELL
by Robert Mills



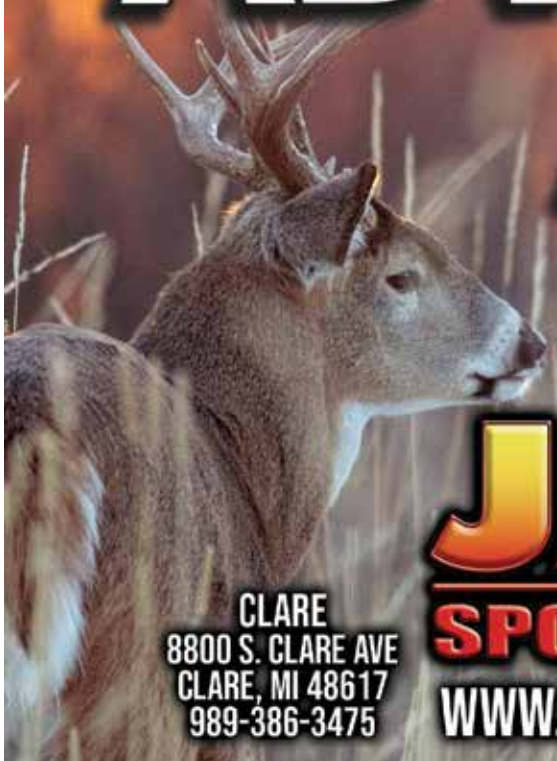
U.P. BLACK BEAR
by Josh Christensen



OUR LAST CONTINENT
by Mary Harter

**MORE ARTICLES AND RECIPES
YET TO BE SUBMITTED**

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