

FRONT SIGHT



Mid-Michigan Chapter Safari Club International

April - May 2024, Issue 66

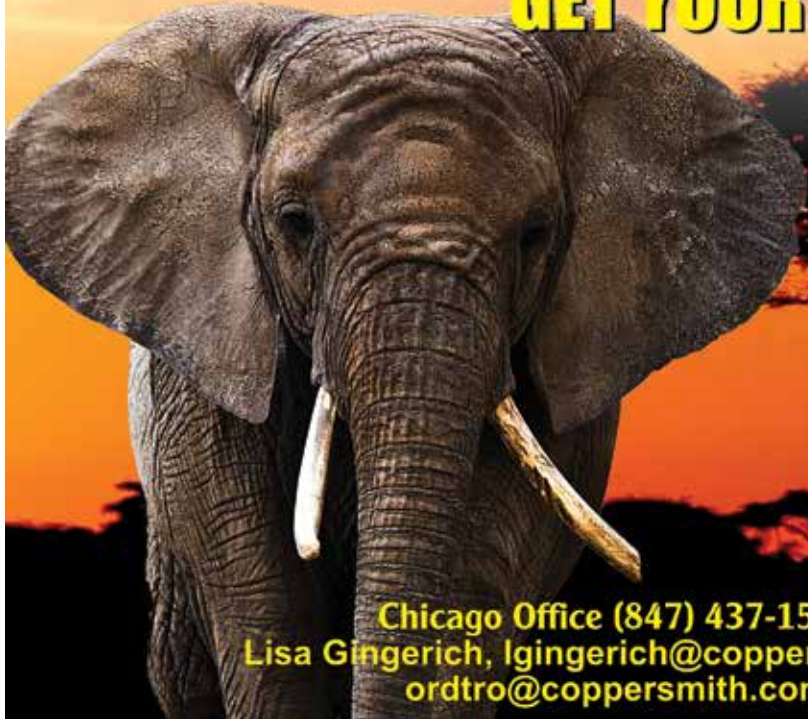




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IN THIS ISSUE - April - June 2024

- 2 Chapter Officers and Board Members
- 3 President's Message
- 3 Editor's Message
- 3 Meeting and Events Schedule
- 4 BOOK REVIEW - by *Mary Harter*
Call Me Hunter
- 5 BUY, SELL, or TRADE
- 6-9 Lion Hunting in South Africa by *Josh Christensen*
- 10-11 SCI National Convention
- 12-14 Hunting the Javan Rusa Deer in Paradise
by *Tony Roettger*
- 15 ADVERTISERS
- 16-18 CALL 911: 2023 SCI Mid-MI First Responders
Pheasant Hunt - by *Michael Ritchie D.C.*
- 19 ADVERTISERS
- 20-23 Mid-Michigan Chapter SCI Awards Information
- 24 ADVERTISERS
- 25 RECIPE - White Alligator Chili by *Sara Christensen*
- 26 ADVERTISERS
- 27 CONVERSATION AFFAIRS by *Autumn Gonda*
- 28 ADVERTISERS
- 29 SCI Application for Membership
- 30-31 BLAST FROM THE PAST - Go West Young Man
by *Wally Bontrager*
- 32 LOOKING AHEAD


MID-MICHIGAN SCI 2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

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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. Please support our sponsors! Call or write them for catalogs and information on their products and services. Make sure you tell them you saw their information in **The Front Sight**.

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President's Message

The 45th Annual Mid-Michigan Hunters Fundraiser Gala was an overwhelming SUCCESS!! We had an excellent overall event with a great turnout of attendees, and we've welcomed both old and new Outfitters and Vendors to exhibit at our show. My Thanks and Gratitude goes out to everyone who came and participated – we are on track to raise a hefty amount of money to support our Chapter initiatives and support SCI International.



Following the Fundraiser, we now have another great event on our horizon – The Big Buck Night/Awards Banquet on April 13th. Due to a Michigan blizzard, we were forced to postpone our Big Buck Night, where we had over 120 people signed up to come and get their deer measured and compete for trophy awards!! We will also be giving out our Annual Trophy Awards to those deserving hunters who have achieved record book entries in their hunting endeavors. The night is sure to be an interesting and lively set of activities – SO GET YOUR REGISTRATIONS IN EARLY!!!

I'd like to announce that the Mid-Michigan Chapter, along with the other Michigan Chapters, have received the SCI International President's Award at the Nashville SCI Convention. The Michigan Chapters have worked together to raise significant funds to pay down the principle on our Washington DC Office Building. The building is a key location to work with members of Congress to advance and promote the SCI Values of Conservation, Hunting and Wildlife management.

As always, I encourage you to GET INVOLVED in your Mid-Michigan SCI Chapter! As the saying goes: many hands make light work – WE NEED YOU..... become a board member, join one of our committees, help plan and put on our events – the list goes on & on!!!

You were recently sent a survey about your membership & the fundraiser – please fill it out & send it back, we'd love to hear your ideas!! You can visit our Facebook Page <https://www.facebook.com/MidMichiganSCI/> (Mid-Michigan Safari Club International) or our website (midmichigansci.org) to find out about the latest 'happenings'.

Abbe M. Mulders

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

Editor's Message

Wow! This was an interesting winter for sure. I can't recall such a mild winter season. It might have been nice weather for most, but those who enjoy running dogs after coyotes or bobcats must have been disappointed.



Elijah and I harvesting Christmas Trees.

Our 45th annual fundraiser has concluded and was a great success. If you were able to attend, we hope you had a great time. If you weren't able to make it we hope to see you at our 46th annual fundraiser.

We have several events coming up we hope you can attend. We will have our annual awards night and our big buck night together this year on April 13th at the Comfort Inn. This will be a first, but when Mother Nature throws her only snow storm of the winter at you the weekend we had slated for big buck night we needed to adjust. This should be an excellent evening with our hunters of the year and our buck hunters telling of their adventures. We will also have our annual golf tournament on August 6th.

I wish all of our turkey hunters luck as the spring season quickly approaches. If you haven't turkey hunted I highly recommend giving it a try. It has proven to be quite exhilarating for me.

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.

Joshua W. Christensen

Josh Christensen
Editor
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SCI Mid-Michigan Chapter Schedule of Events

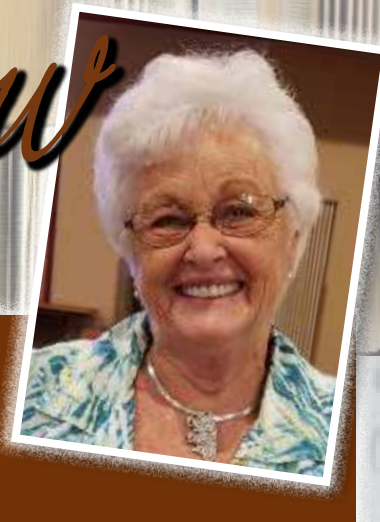
* SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Date	Event	Time	Location
Apr. 13, 2024	Awards/Big Buck Night	4:00	Comfort Inn
Aug. 6, 2024	Golf Outing	TBA	Mt. Pleasant Country Club
Oct. 7, 2024	Membership Meeting	6:00	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 Mary Harter



Title: CALL ME HUNTER

Original Copyright: 2023

Author: Jim Shockey

List Price: \$27.99

Publisher: Emily Bestler Books, Simon and Schuster, Inc.

Don received this book as a Christmas present from Laird Hamberlin, CEO of Safari Club International, so I picked it up and started reading it.

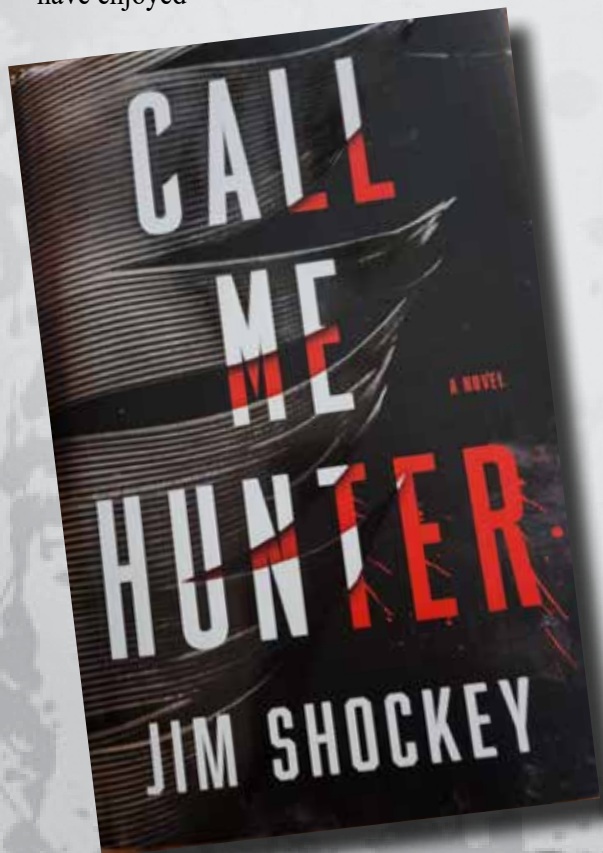
We have met the Shockeys: Jim and Louise, and their children, Eva and Branlin, and Jim's father, Hal, several times at Safari Club Convention and attended Jim's seminars. We have partied with them after hours during convention in the Canadian room and talked to them many times. We have enjoyed

many of the hunting shows Jim has produced for the Outdoor Channel. We especially enjoyed the hunting shows featuring Jim's father and father-in-law. Jim also has the "Hand of Man" Museum at Maple Bay on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, Canada.

Unfortunately, Jim's wife, Louise, passed away earlier this year and much was said of how happy they were that she was able to see a copy of this book before she died. I fully thought the book would be about Jim wanting to be called "Hunter" and some of his very special hunting stories possibly including his family. It is not!

This book is entirely different from what you would expect. This is a deep and dark thriller full of theft, forgery, bribery, arson, torture, and many murders. Hunter is one of the players swept into the 250-year-old "Our World" organization but eventually intent on saving his daughter from the same fate as her mother. After reading just a few pages, I couldn't put it down. It was like being caught in quicksand just as Jim wanted. I finished it in two days, not doing much else during those days as it is a 400-page novel and not what I would describe as a quick read. There is a lot of discussion of priceless art and forgeries and it is deep. The main player is Nyala who receives a heavy package in her mailbox and the story takes you from North Carolina clear across Canada to Vancouver, stopping at several places along the way. Interesting that Jim lives in Vancouver and his daughter, Eva and family, live in North Carolina.

I hope you enjoy it.



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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LION Hunting IN SOUTH AFRICA

By Josh Christensen

“Lion! There’s a lion right there! Lion! Lion!” These were the only words that would come out of my mouth when I first laid eyes on a giant lioness as the truck drove down the winding sandy roads on the Northwest Province property we were hunting in South Africa. My mind was racing, and yet I wasn’t thinking at all. It was as if I was that ten-year-old kid again going out to sit with my uncle in the Michigan woods on a cold opening day morning. And just like that time when I alerted my uncle to deer, my PH Reinardt also had to calm me down, but he did so with just a look of “We see her.”

The lioness was sitting perfectly still, as if she were a statue, next to a bush watching the truck as we proceeded close by and past her. She stood motionless, like many African animals do, watching to see what we would do. As we drove by, continuing at a constant rate, the only thing that moved on her were her head and eyes. We drove another quarter of a mile, past a few more bends in the road and turned down another trail at the next intersection before stopping the truck. As we got off the truck the smile on Reinardt’s face said it all as the PH who runs the property we were hunting, Seun (pronounced C N), said, “Is that lion big enough?” It wasn’t so much a question as it was a statement of this was a big cat and we are about to go into the bush after her.

Back in 2019 at our annual Mid-Michigan fundraiser my wife Sara and I booked this 2022 South African safari with Marupa Safaris for our family of four, but at that time I didn’t think I would have the opportunity to hunt a lion. Fast-forward to the Mid-Michigan fundraiser in 2022 and I was solidifying plans to make it happen. Four short months later my wife and our two boys, Elijah and Ivan, were on our way to South Africa for a two-week long safari.

When we arrived at the Johannesburg airport we were met by

our PH Reinardt, and taken to a place near the airport to stay over for the evening. The next morning came quickly as we were up at 4:30 for a 5:00 departure. It was a very chilly morning, with frost covering the truck and ground. After a five to six hour drive we arrived at camp in the Northwest Province. We were greeted by Seun, the PH who manages the property. We were shown to our accommodations, which was our own small house with two bedrooms, a bathroom, a living room and kitchen. After settling in, we headed over to the main lodge for lunch. The lodge was a very large room with three full body mount lions, multiple sitting areas, a bar and a large table for eating our meals.



Family picture on the truck.

At lunch Seun told us we would be able to relax after lunch and meet back at the lodge at 3:00 so we could head out to the property to start dragging the roads. This part of South Africa is sandy and the strategy for hunting lions would be for us to drag the roads and the following morning drive them again looking for fresh lion tracks. If tracks were found then a plan would be made to follow them into the bush.

Once 3:00 rolled around Ivan, Elijah, Sara and I joined up with Reinardt, Seun and two trackers (Jeffrey and William). We made a short drive to the rifle range so I could check the zero of the rifle I would be using. The target was only 25 yards away, which made me think maybe I’d be getting a little closer to the lion than I thought. For this hunt I would be

using Reinardt's 7mm x 57 also known as a 7mm Mauser with 170 grain bullets. With one shot the zero was confirmed and away we went.

Before entering the property, Jeffrey and William attached a drag behind the truck. The drag consisted of a tree they had cut down with a rope attached to it. This rope was fastened to the hitch of the land cruiser. As we drove the sandy roads the drag tree would smooth out the sand, allowing us to see if anything crossed over the path when we would drive the road again. The land cruiser had seats in the bed so our family could ride. It also had a single seat attached to the front so one of the trackers could sit out front of the vehicle looking for tracks.

As we started our drag of the 8,000 acre piece of property we stopped and Seun pointed out the tracks of a male lion along the road. These paw marks were huge and the reality of hunting a lion started to sink in. Throughout the next three hours of dragging the roads we spotted many animals on the property and also stopped to examine tracks we would pass. We not only drug the roads, but we also made circles around the waterholes to increase our chances of locating a lioness.

At one of the waterholes the trackers and Seun spotted two sets of lioness tracks that were made earlier that day. This was a good sign so Seun made sure to drive the roads around the two blocks closest to this waterhole. Blocks are large areas, approximately a half mile by half mile sections with roads winding around all four sides of them. As we drove around the property for those three hours dragging the roads we didn't even come close to dragging all of them, but we covered a decent amount and with the tracks of two lionesses near the one waterhole our optimism was high that we would cut tracks the following morning.

That night, as I lay in bed, my mind registered I was really going to have the opportunity to hunt a lion. Sara decided the boys would stay back at the lodge the next morning. This was for two reasons; one, they were both still tired from our long travels and two she was getting a bit nervous about pursuing a lion with our children. And after twenty years of marriage I knew better than to protest.

The next morning was another chilly one and I was sure to bundle up with most of the warmer clothing I brought. As we entered the property the drag was reattached to the hitch of the truck and we slowly proceeded driving along the roads we drug the night before. With the temperatures being so cool we didn't see many animals moving about the property early on.

When we came to the large waterhole where we saw the two freshest sets of lioness tracks the day before, there were many animals moving away as we approached. Seun stopped the truck as Sara and I looked at all the wildlife heading for cover and I thought, what an awesome scene this was with all these different species of African game moving about.

Seun brought me back to reality as he exited the truck and told me to

Family with the lioness.



get the rifle ready. I did as I was instructed and grabbed the rifle, even though I didn't see a lion. He then asked if I saw the last blue wildebeest in the small herd. I told him I did, as I noticed the animal walking a bit different, with a slight limp. Seun told me to shoot him because there was something wrong with him. I quickly set up for the 140 yard shot and squeezed the trigger. The animal went down and didn't get back up. After going to the wildebeest and looking him over, it appeared he was just old and more than likely wouldn't have made it through the winter.

Between the excitement and it getting a little warmer I shed several layers of clothing before we continued on. Not long after taking the old bull out of the herd we cut not one, but two sets of lioness tracks on the road. The tracks stuck together for a while, walking along the road, before they headed in different directions. Seun decided to follow the track of the lioness that stayed on the road the longest. Our plan was not to follow the track into the bush immediately, rather we would locate which block she went into and then we'd drive around that block looking to see if she left the block into a different one. If she moved on to a different block we would drive around that one to see if she left. We would continue this process until we closed off the block she was still in and from there we would follow her tracks in.

We followed the tracks of the feline until her tracks entered the thick cover of the bush. Seun dug a large mark on the ground with the heel of his boot for us to start tracking if the lioness was still in this block. From there we loaded back in the truck and began to drag the sandy roads around the block. After multiple bends in the road and several intersections we came to a bend where I was excited and frightened all at the same time. This is when I first saw the lion as I explained at the beginning of the story.

After driving to the spot mentioned at the start of the story, we disembarked from the truck. Sara, Reinardt, Seun, Jeffery and I got



Me with lioness.

ready as William drove the truck away giving the illusion to all animals around we were driving away. Reinardt and Seun both had big boar rifles to back me up. Jeffery was armed with only shooting sticks and Sara had nothing. Jeffery lead the way back to the intersection before Seun decided to walk down the road we started dragging to try to sneak up behind the lion and allow me to hopefully have a shot with the sun at my back and not in my face.

We walked the trail a bit past where we last saw the lioness and then started into the bush. We hadn't traveled far before Jeffery stopped as he was maneuvering around a large thorn bush. As Jeffery set up the shooting sticks Seun called me up to them. I came forward and placed the rifle on the sticks. There, sitting only forty yards away, I saw the tawny colored neck and head of a lion looking over the tall brown grass in our direction. She hadn't moved her location much, and must have been watching us as we walked by on the road and then into the bush.

She was sitting in such tall grass that it covered everything except for her head, neck and the top part of her shoulder closest to me. Her yellow eyes assessing the situation as she stared into my soul.



Me with blue wildebeest.



Reinhart, myself and Seun with lioness.

At this point a story relayed to me by someone who hunted lion years ago popped into my head. During his hunt he and his PH got close to his lion before he had an opportunity to take a shot. At the conclusion of the hunt he asked his PH why the lion didn't run off when it saw them approaching. His PH responded by saying, 'The lion was trying to decide if he was going to eat you.' That helped keep my heart rate up!

I was instructed to follow the shoulder of the lioness down and aim slightly right. That should place the shot in the vitals. I followed the instructions and moved the crosshairs where the vitals should be in the tall grass and squeezed the trigger. I quickly reloaded as I was being instructed to put another round in her, but I was not able to do so as she took off so quickly through the thick brush.

Seun and Jeffery led the way with me in the middle followed by Reinardt and Sara. Jeffery was able to follow her tracks from where I shot her and he very quickly found blood on the blades of tall grass in the area. We continued to follow the lioness tracks for another thirty yards before coming to the road we initially saw her from. Once on the road we stopped and scanned the area in front of us. Looking into the waist high tan colored grass was a bit unsettling, knowing there was a wounded lion in there somewhere. Reinardt saw the twitch of a tail through the brush under a small tree about sixty yards away. We advanced about fifteen yards and stopped. From there we could hear the cat breathing with some difficulty. It appeared to be a lung shot. In an instant she thrashed around, broke a low-lying branch from the tree she was next to and now had one paw grasping the tree with her long nails. It appeared she was close to being done so we moved in closer so I could put a finishing shot in her.

After being sure the lioness was done, handshakes were exchanged and the excitement of the hunt was relived. At this point Reinardt back tracked the lioness and found she had initially went past the small tree she was under, but then turned back and lay under it. We could only surmise she must have decided to make her last stand under that tree. I would hate to think what might have happened if we had quickly followed her into the grass.

As Seun sent William back to the lodge to get additional workers to help move the lion and to get Elijah and Ivan so they could also be a part of the experience, I knelt next to my lion and admired her size and absolute beauty. The emotions that flooded me are difficult to describe. This was a hunt I never thought would be possible, but somehow it all came together.



Truck used to drag the road.



Tracker looking for tracks.



Sign at the gate of the hunting property.

SCI NATIONAL CONVENTION

Nashville TENNESSEE



In late January/early February, SCI National held their annual convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

Several Mid-Michigan members attended the event and all expressed they had a wonderful time. They would recommend all of us try to attend the gala in the future if we are able.



SCI NATIONAL CONVENTION



Hunting the Javan Rusa Deer in Paradise

By: Tony Roettger

There is a place where you can go that it seems very few Americans even know it exists. I for one, could not even pronounce it for a month. I spent a month listening to Google pronounce it for me while the kids rolled their eyes at what a moron their dad is but what can I say? The word doesn't just roll off the tip of my tongue. Mauritius is a paradise off the coast of Madagascar where you can wake up in the morning and hear the Indian ocean breakers hitting the coral reef, drink your coffee, watch the local fishermen catch the daily fish, squid, octopus, etc. that you're going to have for lunch or dinner later and then go snorkeling, scuba diving, swim or whatever which in my case was go chase some Javan Rusa Deer and wild boar for a day before I get back to being like "Beach Ken" and just "Beach."

Mauritius is a relatively new country by the worlds standards as its roots are basically the British, French and

Dutch fighting over whose it is for many years. When you roam around the country/island which doesn't take too long minus the mountains you need to go up and over or around. The country is only 40 miles, by 40 miles big. For a Minnesota perspective Anoka County is 446 square miles, St. Louis County is 6,860 square miles. Mauritius is less than 1600 square miles, so the size of a medium size county in our state. The island has some strong roots with India's Hindu's. So quite often the food is very Indian style with a nice curry and some Naan style bread on the side. The language is a Creole' which has that smooth, French sound with the occasional "Akk" like the Dutch.

I was introduced to Lionel from Lionel Passion Guide LTD in 2022 where I first learned that there was yet another country in Africa that you could do some hunting yet be in paradise. This is important if your partner is not interested in hunting. Offer up and all-inclusive paradise resort, waterfalls, mountains, great food and drinks, a spa, scuba, snorkeling, swim with the dolphins, giant tortoises, giant bats (flying fox), golfing, no bugs, no snakes, and a beautiful setting where the temps are almost always in the 70's and lower 80's and you got a winner!! And it is a less than four-hour flight from Johannesburg so you can easily add this to your African trip for a few days or whatever works for you!

Lionel is hands down the best guide on the island. He set up our ride which graciously met us as we came out of customs in Mauritius for our ride to the resort. He then followed up letting us know



Indonesian Hog



we should take a day to just acclimate and relax after our travels, but he would meet us for coffee in the morning to plan the week. We had planned on hunting for three to four days because bowhunting has statistically a lower success rate as he was 0 for 4 on the season for kills; not shots taken just actual harvests. I was a bit uneasy about that, but he encouraged me to help change his statistics. I was happy to try, but generally do not carry that much confidence in myself. Lionel left and Kate and I went off to hang on the beach and get acquainted with the resort in the daylight and wow what a place!

One of the other talks Lionel gave me was that these Rusa Stags duck the string. I always listen to my guide as they know things but when it comes to ducking the string, I tend to adhere to some rules of my own and that tends to work out ok. I will say Lionel insisted numerous times this fact and I will say I did listen but as you will find out later, maybe I should have listened a bit better.

Lionel came and got me at the resort so there I was walking through this nice resort in camo with a bow and arrow case in hand. The neat thing is archery is a thing in Mauritius, as there are quite a few ranges. So, we went to the range and shot my bows to make sure all was good to go. Then off we went hunting. Remember....this island is not that big and tourism is the biggest thing other than sugar cane, tea and rum, so as we drove into the golf course area it felt a little strange. I saw a fence which was intended to keep the deer off the golf course, and it seemed to be working. Turns out the golf course borders this state park area where we were going to go hunting. I did see that in the tourist stuff that there is a lot of forest area you can go and explore kind of like a state park here in the USA but you can hunt there.

We find a place to park and immediately hear the roar (like a red stag) of a Rusa Stag bellowing through this valley. So, we started climbing up and down slippery, clay like ground through palms, and what looked like bamboo, and other stuff. Crossed creeks and streams following the roars we heard. At one point we climbed this high mountain where a stag was just roaring and roaring and we got to the top, sliding,



and gripping only for me to NOT be able to see it standing there at 14 yards. Oops.... I just did not see it until it ran off. Now I was getting worried. I am hot, sweaty, and just climbed this mountain and I messed up. Not the best start. But hey....there are more Rusa around so off we went to the next group.

We crawled up and over another mountain and down on this edge to within 13 yards of a group laying up and the stag just roaring but no shot in the thick brush. So, we waited him out for 35 minutes and still no one was moving. Lionel decides to call his roaring bellow and wow! That stirred the herd all up and brought in another one that I ended up missing for a ducked string. I should have listened a bit better, but I had no idea they could duck it as well as they do. Noted...Now I have two mess ups in the morning. But hey...there are more stags around. So off we go two mountains away to where we hear another one and he is lying with a small group of hinds.

We crawl in and I am in the shadow of a tree just trying to wait for him to stand. Lionel is throwing rocks from another vantage point to get him to stand and in the end a 40 plus minute wait trying to get him up



Rusa Meat



Rusa



resulted in the stag bolting out of there. So now it is later in the day, and we need water. Well...I need water as it has been a long hot day so far. So, we hiked back to the truck. We have 18 kilometers of walking so far and I am thinking this is much harder than planned but SO glad I went on the stair climber at the "Y" for a couple months before this trip. This hunt is no joke for hill climbing.

We decided to pack it up for the morning (at 2PM) we decide we need some water as neither of us brought any. We got to the truck and start heading out to get some lunch. As we were driving along a mountain road we saw a stag up high with some hinds. Lionel said, "I think we can stalk that stag, let's go try one more time." I was up for one more!

We ditch the truck and start huffing it down a mountain first to get to the correct mountain side. We cross a river and back up and low and behold that stag stayed in that area! We crawled in to about 24 yards using a little stack of wood someone was cutting and piled up on this mountain side. I drew my bow before I crested the edge of the hill to shoot and had a small window where I could get an arrow into

him without hitting the dirt of this tiered hillside and I let that arrow go! Perfect lower heart shot, the stag falls down the hill and stands up in a valley just bleeding out. Lionel is big on one shot. I wanted to put another in him, but his ways are one shot and let them die if it's a good shot. So....we waited and watched him walk a few steps, then lay down and pass on. We had our stag! What a trip!

We hike back to the truck and drive as close as we can to the stag to make the final recovery. We take him to get all registered and off to the market for processing. We measure the antlers as both of us are SCI Certified Measurers and with SCI. The stage turned out to be the new #9 archery Javan Rusa Deer. Making it an even better day than it already was!

The hog hunt is a different story as this has already gotten long. But we did that in the evening and all our hunting was done in one day. Back to the beach and exploring the culture, views and tastes of Mauritius for Kate and I!



Room View





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"The hard days are what make you stronger." – Aly Raisman



CALL 911: 2023 SCI Mid-MI First Responders Pheasant Hunt

By Michael Ritchie D.C.

I had a call from a friend and County Sheriff deputy saying, "Doc, I hate to call you on your day off, but my back is bothering me, and I have to be back on duty tomorrow." I replied, "Would you show up at my house if I have some kind of trouble in the middle of the night if I needed your help?"

The truth is our local EMTs, police and firefighters are standing ready to respond to our call 7 days per week and twenty-four hours per day. So, when Jon Zieman from Mid-Michigan SCI called and asked me to put together a first responders pheasant hunt, I was right on it. The goal was to get 10 people (first responders) to come and hunt at Tails-A-Waggin Acres in Marion on October 22nd in the afternoon. We would need at least 3 volunteers to bring their hunting dogs to guide the hunters. The Mid-Michigan Chapter of SCI would pay the hunting fees and Jon and I would provide a meal after the hunt.

For help in finding good candidates, I contacted "Got your six -veterans: Roscommon Chapter" founder Tim "TK" Kotulak and charged him with helping me choose local candidates. I also talked to friends, patients who were EMTs, firefighters, law enforcement, nurses and more.

I called friends I knew had bird hunting dogs and rounded up three who would volunteer to run their dogs for the event. Jon arranged things with the hunting preserve for 50 birds to be released for 10 hunters that would be toting shotguns. He also picked up some Jay's Sporting goods hunter orange caps for each hunter.

Each person we hoped to honor appeared to be surprised when chosen. Comments like "I don't deserve to be honored because I am only doing my job." were commonplace. Our group of hunters consisted of three Crawford County Sheriff deputies, one Denton Township police officer, a Frederick EMT and firefighter, A Markey Township and Elk Rapids EMS worker, a State of Michigan Corrections Officer, three Veterans of the US military and EMS.



As the day approached, we watched the weather and October weather in Michigan can vary from hot, rainy, to snowy, freezing, and windy. Upon arrival the air was a chilly 40 degrees, mostly sunny with a 10 MPH wind, which is simply perfect for a pheasant hunt. What was less than perfect was the fact that two of the dog handlers had dropped at the last minute through no fault of their own. One had sick children and one had a dog that had been diagnosed with a life-threatening illness.

Call 911

Gratefully Jon talked to Dave Badour a Mid-Michigan SCI member and he and his tall five-year-old German Shorthair "Sulley" agreed to be a backup. Additionally, one of our hosts at Tails-a-Waggin, Kris Korreck, volunteered to help us out with his two-year-old female Shorthair "Breena." This along with Paul Valley of Roscommon and his Brittney Spaniel "Brooke" rounded out our guides and dogs.

John from the preserve talked to the group about basic safety instructions, assigned different fields and the group was broken up between Dave and Paul with 5 hunters in each group. The guides gave the hunters further instructions on how their Dog typically worked in the field.

The group I followed was led by Paul Valley and his Brittney spaniel Brooke. The dry fields made it a challenge for the dogs and the birds acted more like track stars than pheasants. If anyone thought this was going to be an easy hunt, they were wrong. Two birds flew into an area we could not hunt, others were scooting through the tall grass without a shot opportunity. Allen Ballard (Frederick EMS and Firefighter) broke the ice with a beautiful ring neck and two shots hit home after that. By then the weather had heated up and Brooke was getting tired, so we went in to refresh and recuperate and waited a bit to see how Dave's group fared.

When they returned, they had had more action than we did with one of the hunters scoring on 3 birds and everyone getting at least a poke at a bird. The plan was to send the 3 hunters in our group out with Kris and cover the fields that we already went over because we knew that we had walked past some pheasants. When the group of three officers from Crawford County returned, they had shot 6 of the 8 birds that Breena had kicked up.

The hunters finished cleaning their birds with the experienced hunters helping the first timers through the processing. Afterward we had pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, baked beans, potato salad and chips. Everyone sat around telling



Hunt organizer Jon Zieman (Mid Michigan SCI) gets a briefing on the hunters success



Crawford County Sheriff Deputies - Chase Lohr, John Klepadlo and Matt Swope went 6 for 8 on pheasants



hunting stories and teasing each other about missed shots. Some new pheasant hunters vowed to do this again and all of them thanked SCI-Mid-Michigan for supporting this fun afternoon.

Remember to thank EMS, Police, Fire officers in your community for their service. They are often overlooked when it comes to being appreciated.

Special thanks to Chuck and John from Tails-a-Wagging for making this hunt enjoyable. To Paul Valley and Brooke for working so hard to get birds for our heroes. To Dave Badour and Kris Korreck for answering our 911 emergency call for back-up hunting guides. Jay's Sporting Goods for giving us a discount on hats and ammo. Finally, thanks to Jon Zieman and SCI Mid-Michigan for sponsoring this hunt and letting me be a part of it.

SCI Mid MI: First for Veterans, youth, first responders and of course Hunters!



Dan Boehm Elk Rapids EMS collected one for two shots on his very first ever pheasant hunt

Allen Ballard scores on a nice ring neck which was his groups first



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"When life takes the wind out of your sails, it is to test you at the oars." – Robert Brault



AWARDS INFORMATION

MID-MICHIGAN CHAPTER SCI

By Josh Christensen

One of the interesting and somewhat unique features of our Mid-Michigan chapter of SCI is our long running record book. (We have over 3,700 total record entries dating back over 40 years!) Over the years our members have taken part in submitting score sheets for the animals they've taken from all over the world. Each year our chapter uses these entries to determine our annual award winners. The entire list of entries can be found on our chapter website. The following are the all-time number one Mid-Michigan animals.

AFRICA

ANIMAL	DATE TAKEN	HUNTER	SCORE	ANIMAL	DATE TAKEN	HUNTER	SCORE
Abyssinian Bushbuck	2008	Larry Higgins	35 6/8	Crawshay Defassa Waterbuck	2008	Larry Higgins	69
Abyssinian Bohor Reedbuck	2013	Larry Higgins	20 5/8	Damara Dik-Dik	2019	Terry Braden	10 6/16
Abyssinian Greater Kudu	2013	Larry Higgins	113 2/8	Dwarf Forest Buffalo	2001	David Petrella	49 2/8
African Cheetah	2001	Tim Torpey	13 10/16	East African Bushbuck	2008	Larry Higgins	46 2/8
African Civet	2011	Larry Higgins	9 10/16	East African Bush Duiker	2004	Larry Higgins	15 5/16
African Elephant	2004	Jeffrey Chaulk	144 ½	East African Defassa Waterbuck	2004	Larry Higgins	77 5/8
African Leopard	1993	Dave Petrella	17 12/16	East African Eland	1996	Dave Petrella	104 5/8
African Lion	2005	Michael Moir	27	East African Greater Kudu	2004	Larry Higgins	124
African Lion – South Africa	1982	Roger Card	27 13/16	East African Impala	2008	Larry Higgins	66 1/8
African Wildcat	2012	Larry Higgins	8 6/16	East African Roan Antelope	2002	Jeffrey Chaulk	78
Barbary Sheep (Aoudad)	2014	Mary Harter	91 3/8	East African Sitatunga	2011	Mary Harter	64
Bates Pygmy Antelope	2007	Larry Higgins	4 12/16	East African Suni	2008	Larry Higgins	8 14/16
Bay Duiker	2007	Larry Higgins	11 10/16	Eastern Bohor Reedbuck	2004	Larry Higgins	20
Beisa Oryx	1989	Roger Card	86 5/8	Easter Cape Greater Kudu	1998	Tim Torpey	128
Black Faced Impala	2019	Terry Braden	61 6/8	European Fallow Deer	2015	Larry Smith	180 3/8
Black Lechwe	2008	Larry Higgins	60 5/8	Forest Sitatunga	1997	Dave Petrella	62 4/8
Black Springbok	2003	Larry Higgins	41 4/8	Fringe Eared Oryx	1997	Ken Keeley	74 6/8
Black Wildebeest	2014	Mary Harter	95 7/8	Giant Forest Hog	2012	Larry Higgins	23 10/16
Blesbok	1983	Sid Smith	48 7/8	Guenther Dik-Dik	2014	Mary Harter	10 3/8
Blesbok	2004	Tim Bentley	48 7/8	Harnessed Bushbuck	2011	Larry Higgins	33 5/8
Blue Duiker	2014	Mary Harter	7 12/16	Harvey Red Duiker	2000	Roger R. Card	13 12/16
Blue Wildebeest	2000	Gerald Schave	85 4/8	Hippopotamus	2017	Terry Braden	71 5/16
Bontebok	2008	Terry Braden	43 5/8	Hog Deer	2012	Larry Higgins	54 1/8
Brown Hyena	2012	Larry Higgins	17 2/16	Hyena (Spotted)	2017	Matt Esch	18 11/16
Bushpig	2017	Terry Braden	17 14/16	Javan Rusa	2023	Anthony Roettger	137 6/8
Cape Buffalo	2013	Don Harter	121 4/8	Kafue Flats Lechwe	2008	Larry Higgins	86 2/8
Cape Bushbuck	1998	Tim Torpey	42 7/8	Kalahari Gemsbok (Oryx)	2005	Jeffrey Chaulk	97 2/8
Cape Eland	2008	Terry Braden	107 3/8	Kalahari Gemsbok (Oryx)			
Cape Grysbok	2003	Larry Higgins	11 10/16	South Africa, Botswana,			
Cape Hartebeest	2001	Pat Brennan	72 5/8	Zimbabwe	2001	David Rusch	94 6/8
Caracal	2003	Larry Higgins	9 3/16	Kalahari Springbok	2004	Maryanne Belyea	46 5/8
Central African Giant Eland				Kirk Dik-Dik	2005	Jeff Chaulk	10 8/16
(Lord Derby)	2004	Roger Card	126 7/8	Klipspringer	1992	Terry Braden	15 2/16
Central African Kob	2011	Roger Card	46 2/8	Lelwel Hartebeest	2001	David Petrella	66 7/8
Chanler Mountain Reedbuck	2008	Larry Higgins	11 4/8	Lesser Kudu	1993	Pat Bollman	68
Chobe Bushbuck	2004	Douglas Chapin	49	Lichtenstein Hartebeest	2011	Mary Harter	68 1/8
Coke Hartebeest	1995	Ken Keeley	61 3/8	Limpopo Bushbuck	2002	Brad Eldred	46 7/8
Common Nyala	1999	Tim Hauck	77 4/8	Livingstone Eland	2003	Larry Higgins	107 5/8
Common Reedbuck	2014	Gale Hixson	29 4/8	Livingstone Suni	2005	Jason Parrott	11 8/16
Common Sable Antelope	2018	Ken Ransom	108 1/8	Meneliks Bushbuck	2015	Don Harter	39 4/8
Common Waterbuck	2009	Scott Vinkemulder	89 3/8	Mouflon	2012	Larry Higgins	111 1/8
Cookson Wildebeest	1997	Roger Card	82 5/8	Mountain Nyala	2015	Don Harter	102 4/8
Copper Springbok	2008	Larry Higgins	35 2/8	Natal Red Duiker	2001	Phil Seybert	12 2/16
Cordeaux Dik-Dik	1991	Pat Bollman	9	Neumann Hartebeest	2013	Larry Higgins	60 7/8
Cordeaux Dik-Dik	1991	Roger Card	9	Nigerian Bohor Reedbuck	2009	Larry Higgins	16 6/8

ANIMAL	DATE TAKEN	HUNTER	SCORE	ANIMAL	DATE TAKEN	HUNTER	SCORE
Nile Buffalo	2009	Larry Higgins	93 3/8	Blanford Urial	2004	Larry Higgins	117 2/8
Nile Bushbuck	2009	Larry Higgins	41	Caucasian Chamois	2007	David Petrella	24 7/8
Nile Crocodile	2018	Brandon Jurries	15'2"	Chinese Blue Sheep	2002	Larry Higgins	119 2/8
Northern Gerenuk	1991	Roger Card	36 7/8	Chukotka Moose	2002	Larry Higgins	479 5/8
Northern Grant Gazelle	2013	Larry Higgins	64 6/8	Dwarf Blue Sheep	2006	Larry Higgins	73 4/8
Nyasa Wildebeest	1995	Jan Keeley	88 4/8	East Caucasian Tur	2005	Larry Higgins	150 6/8
Oribi	2004	Larry Higgins	16 4/16	Eurasian Wild Boar	2012	Mary Harter	27 14/16
Peters Duiker	2009	Larry Higgins	14 12/16	Feral Yak	2005	Roger Card	78 3/8
Puku	2004	Larry Higgins	50 7/8	Gobi Argali	2001	Larry Higgins	201 6/8
Red Flanked Duiker	2011	Roger Card	13 2/16	Gobi Ibex	2002	David Petrella	96 5/8
Red Lechwe	2001	Jeffrey Chaulk	70 7/8	Gray Wolf	2002	David Petrella	13 8/16
Red River Hog	2001	David Petrella	11 8/16	Hangai Argali	2004	David Petrella	225 5/8
Roberts Gazelle	2008	Larry Higgins	56 4/8	Helan Mt. Blue Sheep	2006	Larry Higgins	114 7/8
Roosevelt Sable Antelope	1996	Dave Petrella	136 6/8	Hillier Goitered Gazelle	2005	Roger Card	31 6/8
Salt Dik-Dik	2015	Don Harter	10 1/8	Himalayan Blue Sheep	2006	Larry Higgins	117 6/8
Scimitar-Horned Oryx	2014	Mary Harter	88	Himalayan Ibex	2004	Larry Higgins	86 4/8
Serval	2012	Larry Higgins	9 3/16	Kamchatka Brown Bear	2002	Larry Higgins	26 6/16
Sharpe Grysbok	1988	Dave Petrella	7 12/16	Kamchatka Snow Sheep	2002	Larry Higgins	174
Sing-Sing Waterbuck	2011	Larry Higgins	75 1/8	Kolyrna Snow Sheep	2007	David Petrella	147 7/8
Soemmerring Gazelle	1991	Roger Card	45 3/8	Koryak Snow Sheep	2015	Larry Higgins	148
South African Springbok	1981	Roger Card	43 4/8	Konya Mouflon	2006	Larry Higgins	125 5/8
Southern Bush Duiker	2004	Owen Eldred	16 4/16	Kuban Tur (Western)	2012	Larry Higgins	114 4/8
Southern Gerenuk	2004	Larry Higgins	42 2/8	Maral	2008	Roger Card	223 3/8
Southern Grant Gazelle	2004	Larry Higgins	67	Marco Polo Sheep	2007	Roger Card	201 6/8
Southern Greater Kudu	2009	Scott Holmes	140 6/8	Mid Asian Ibex	2004	David Petrella	109 1/8
Southern Greater Kudu	2022	Doug Chapin	140 6/8	Mid Caucasian Tur	2007	Larry Higgins	141 2/8
Southern Impala	2008	Larry W. Smith	62 3/8	Mid Eastern Red Stag	2011	Larry Higgins	265 1/8
Southern Mountain Reedbuck	2007	Jim Maciatek	15 7/8	Mongolian Gazelle	2002	David Petrella	34 6/8
Southern Mountain Reedbuck	2003	Roger Brown	15 7/8	Nemrut (Bezor/Hybrid) Ibex	2006	Larry Higgins	94 1/8
Southern Roan Antelope	2014	Mary Harter	75	Okhotsk Snow Sheep	2005	Larry Higgins	140
Southern White Rhinoceros	2009	Joe Janicke	102 5/8	Persian Goitered Gazelle	1998	Larry Higgins	36 6/8
Steenbok	2007	Tim Becker	15 9/16	Philippine Warty Pig	2009	Roger Card	7 2/16
Thomson Gazelle	2004	Larry Higgins	37 4/8	Punjab Urial	2005	Larry Higgins	130 2/8
Tiang	1989	Pat Bollman	57 2/8	Servetsov Argali	2005	Larry Higgins	143 3/8
Topi	2002	Jeffrey Chaulk	53 6/8	Siberian Ibex	2001	David Petrella	111 2/8
Tsessebe	2003	Larry Higgins	48 2/8	Siberian Roe Deer	2005	Roger Card	80 6/8
Ugandan Kob	2009	Larry Higgins	58 5/8	Sindh Ibex	2004	Larry Higgins	92 7/8
Vaal Rhebok	1998	Tim Torpey	20 2/8	Tibetan Gazelle	2001	David Petrella	33 5/8
Warthog	2008	Gail Dawson	39	Transcaspian Urial Sheep	1998	Larry Higgins	146 4/8
Water Buffalo	2012	Larry Higgins	85 4/8	Water Buffalo	2009	Roger Card	103 6/8
West African Savannah Buffalo	2001	David Petrella	71 5/8	West Caucasian Tur	2007	David Petrella	144 7/8
Western Bongo	1997	Dave Petrella	84 3/8	Yukutia Snow Sheep	2009	Larry Higgins	146
Western Bush Duiker	2009	Larry Higgins	12 8/16				
Western Hartebeest	1998	Dave Petrella	69 7/8				
Western Kob	1998	David Petrella	56 4/8				
Western Mountain Reedbuck	1998	David Petrella	13 10/16				
Western Roan Antelope	2001	David Petrella	82 2/8				
White Bearded Wildebeest	2004	Larry Higgins	85 7/8				
White Blesbok	2007	Bill Shelt	48 5/8				
White Springbok	2005	Jason Parrott	37 1/8				
Wild Boar	2012	Larry Higgins	18 8/16				
Zambezi Sitatunga	2008	Larry Higgins	62 6/8				

ASIA

ANIMAL	DATE TAKEN	HUNTER	SCORE
Afghan Urial	2003	Larry Higgins	119 4/8
Altai Argali	2004	David Petrella	235 5/8
Anatolian Chamois	2008	Roger Card	27
Bezoar Ibex	2006	Larry Higgins	107 3/8

EUROPE

ANIMAL	DATE TAKEN	HUNTER	SCORE
Alpine Chamois	2008	Roger Card	24 5/8
Alpine Ibex	2005	Dave Petrella	101 2/8
Aoudad-Barbary Sheep	2008	Roger Card	121 1/8
Balerean Goat	2011	Larry Higgins	59 6/8
Balkan Chamois	2005	Dave Petrella	24 6/8
Beceite Ibex	2002	David Petrella	84 4/8
Cantabrian Chamois	2008	Roger Card	20 2/8
Carpathian Chamois	2005	David Petrella	28
Chartreuse Chamois	2013	Larry Higgins	26
English Red Deer	2013	Ron Browning	272 3/8
Eurasian Brown Bear	1998	Tim Hauck	22 2/16
Eurasian Feral Boar	2006	Roger Card	14 6/8
European Fallow Deer	2013	Mary Browning	265 3/8
European Golden Jackal	2012	Larry Higgins	9 12/16

European Gray Wolf	2012	Larry Higgins	14 2/16
European Mouflon Sheep	2012	Larry Higgins	124 7/8
European Red Deer	1993	Roger Card	299
European Roe Deer	1994	Ken Lehman, SR.	55 1/8
Feral Goat	2009	Larry Higgins	73 6/8
Gredos Ibex	2002	David Petrella	78 6/8
Hog Deer	2009	Larry Higgins	98 7/8
Japanese Sika Deer	2008	Roger Card	128 7/8
Kri Kri Ibex	2014	Larry Higgins	68
Manchurian Sika Deer	2008	Roger Card	176 7/8
Multi-Horned Sheep	2021	Larry Smith	96 6/8
Pere-David Deer	1993	Roger Card	228 7/8
Pyrenean Chamois	2005	Larry Higgins	25 1/8
Racka Sheep	2021	Larry Smith	51 5/8
Reeves Muntjac	1993	Roger Card	18 3/16
Ronda Ibex	2006	Roger Card	67 5/8
Scottish Red Deer	1985	Ken Lehman, SR.	262 3/8
Soay Sheep	2013	Glenn Belyea	93 6/8
SE Spanish Ibex	2005	Larry Higgins	79 5/8
Spanish Red Deer	2007	Larry Higgins	276 5/8
Tatra Chamois	2013	Larry Higgins	23 5/8
Water Deer	2013	Glenn Belyea	10 1/16
Wild Boar	2009	Larry Higgins	24 9/16

NORTH AMERICA INTRODUCED

ANIMAL	DATE TAKEN	HUNTER	SCORE
Addax	1999	Brad Eldred	83 1/8
Aoudad (Barbary Sheep)	2022	Doug Chapin	151 2/8
Armenian Mouflon Sheep	2008	Roger Card	116 4/8
Axis Deer (Non-Typical)	2006	Brad Eldred	157 5/8
Axis Deer (Typical)	2008	Larry Witte	152 3/8
Axis Deer Free Range	2009	Joanne Witte	143 3/8
Barasingha	2000	Larry Higgins	186 6/8
Barbarosa (Marino)	1997	Sylvia Becker	154 6/8
Beisa Oryx	2014	Dawn Manthei	75 2/8
Bezoar Ibex	1997	Larry Higgins	91 4/8
Blackbuck	2005	Lawrence Witte	70 3/8
Black Sheep (Hawaiian)	2000	Tim Torpey	126 5/8
Corsican Sheep	2005	Tim Becker	144 4/8
Dama Gazelle	2003	Tim Becker	36 3/8
Eland	2002	Brad Eldred	84 4/8
European Fallow Deer			
Free Range	2001	Alfred Luis	223 6/8
European Fallow Deer	2000	Jeff Sackett	254 1/8
European Mouflon Sheep	1996	Tim Becker	134 3/8
Feral Boar Free Range	2016	Jeff Harrison	28 5/8
Feral Boar	2007	Randy Raymond	22 8/16
Feral Goat	1996	Tim Becker	94
Feral Sheep	2012	Larry Higgins	111 1/8
Gemsbok	2004	Tim Becker	90 1/8
Hog Deer	1997	Larry Higgins	63
Hybrid Ibex	1999	Larry Higgins	98 1/8
Hybrid Sheep	2020	Randy Raymond	131 2/8
Markhor	2001	Larry Higgins	90 5/8
Multi-Horned Sheep	2004	Tim Becker	116 3/8
Nilgai Antelope	1999	Tim Becker	33 4/8
Nubian Ibex	1998	Larry Higgins	98 1/8
Oryx	2012	Larry Higgins	82 1/8
Pere David Deer	1999	Larry Higgins	271 1/8
Red Deer	2003	Tim Becker	286 1/8

ANIMAL	DATE TAKEN	HUNTER	SCORE
Red Sheep – Iranian	2022	Tim Torpey	142 2/8
Reeves Muntjac	1997	Larry Higgins	10 7/16
Reindeer	1998	Roger Froling	420
Roosevelt Elk	2006	Craig Chapman	169 6/8
Rusa Deer	2015	Corey Hyde	136 4/8
Scimitar-Horned Oryx	2008	Bill Shelt	95
Scimitar-Horned Oryx			
Free Range	2009	Jeff Sackett	94 2/8
Sika Deer (Non-Typical)	2005	Tim Becker	109 7/8
Sika Deer	2006	Brad Eldred	144 1/8
Sitatunga	2004	Tim Becker	61
Texas Dall	2003	David Gloss	147 2/8
Waterbuck	2002	Tim Becker	47 2/8
Water Buffalo	2006	Larry Higgins	104 6/8
Watusi	2005	Roger Card	115 1/8
Yak	2006	Dave Edel	82 2/8

NORTH AMERICA

ANIMAL	DATE TAKEN	HUNTER	SCORE
Alaska Brown Bear	2007	Jeffrey Chaulk	29 7/16
Alaska Yukon			
Barren Ground Caribou	1984	Pat Bollman	476 7/8
Alaska Yukon Moose	1999	Debra Card	731 1/8
American Alligator	2002	Edward T. Peters	11'10"
American Bison	2018	Jeff Sackett	75 2/8
American Mountain Goat	2002	Jeffrey Sackett	33
Anticosti Whitetail Deer	2018	Terry Braden	67 1/8
Arctic Island Caribou	1993	Larry Higgins	345 6/8
Atlantic Walrus	2010	Roger Card	99 6/8
Baja Blacktail Deer	2014	Larry Higgins	98
Barren Ground Muskox	1997	Dave Petrella	87
Bobcat	2010	Joanne Witte	9 10/16
Bobcat	2016	Mike Strobe	9 10/16
California Bighorn Sheep	2004	Larry Higgins	165 1/8
Canada Lynx	1994	Dave Petrella	9 8/16
Carman Mountain Whitetail Deer	2011	Terry Braden	111 2/8
Central American Whitetail Deer	2000	Larry Higgins	75 1/8
Central Canada			
Barren Ground Caribou	1998	Seth Hootman	462 4/8
Coastal (Island) Black Bear	2002	Jeffrey Chaulk	21 1/16
Collared Peccary	1992	Harvey Pfeiffer	15
Columbia Blacktail Deer	1995	Alfred Luis	143 7/8
Columbia Blacktail Deer			
(Non-Typical)	2009	Tim Torpey	149 7/8
Columbia Whitetail Deer	2007	Owen Eldred	103 1/8
Columbia Whitetail Deer			
(Non-Typical)	2007	Corey Hyde	133
Common Grizzly Bear	2004	David Rusch	26 2/16
Continental (Inland)			
Black Bear	2007	Randy Raymond	21 6/16
Couse Whitetail Deer	2012	Corey Hyde	111 4/8
Cougar (Mountain Lion)	1985	Bob Doerr	15
Cougar (Mountain Lion)	1998	Terry Braden	15
Cougar (Mountain Lion)	2000	Patrick Brennan	15
Dall Sheep	2017	Gale Parr	172 4/8
Desert Bighorn Sheep	1985	Pat Bollman	181 1/8
Desert Mule Deer			
(Non-Typical)	1993	Debra Card	145 5/8
Desert Mule Deer	1997	Larry Higgins	199 4/8

ANIMAL	DATE TAKEN	HUNTER	SCORE
Eastern Canada Moose	1969	Roger Card	443
Eastern Turkey	2017	Mike Strope	71 3/8
Eastern Turkey Multiple Beards	2015	Don Harter	83 4/16
Gould's Turkey	2014	Glenn Belyea	43 2/16
Gray Wolf	1988	Roger Card	17 5/16
Greenland Muskox	1995	Dave Petrella	79 5/8
Jaguar	1986	Roger Card	16
Merriam's Turkey	2023	Joshua Christensen	39
Mexican Texanus Whitetail Deer	2016	Corey Hyde	137 7/8
Midwestern Whitetail Deer (Non-Typical)	2007	Dana Hodges	207 3/8
Midwestern Whitetail Deer	2008	Tim Torpey	168 6/8
Midwestern Whitetail Deer Estate	2014	Dick Stockmar	288
Midwestern Whitetail Deer Estate (Non-Typical)	2016	Dick Stockmar	252 5/8
Mountain Caribou	1980	Gale Hixson	420 3/8
Northeastern Whitetail Deer (Non-Typical)	2005	Randy Raymond	270 1/8
Northeastern Whitetail Deer	2012	Rick Dickson	190 2/8
Northeastern Whitetail Deer (Non-Typical) Estate	2007	Tim Becker	313 2/8
Northeastern Whitetail Deer Estate	2017	Terry Braden	194 5/8
Northwestern Whitetail Deer	2003	Robert Davis	169 4/8
Northwestern Whitetail Deer (Non-Typical)	2015	Rachel Stickler	157 6/8
Northwestern Whitetail Deer Estate	2017	Larry Smith	123 2/8
Ocellated Turkey	2011	Joanne Witte	36 14/16
Osceola Turkey	2009	Glenn Belyea	62 8/16
Polar Bear	2006	Jeff Chaulk	26 14/16
Pronghorn	1993	Ron Mohnke	84 7/8
Quebec Labrador Caribou	2001	Mark Pellerito	439 1/8
Red Brocket Deer	2017	Terry Braden	14 7/16
Rio Grande Turkey	2021	Joshua Christensen	49 1/8
Rocky Mountain Big Horn Sheep	2008	Larry Higgins	181 2/8
Rocky Mountain Elk (Non-Typical)	1986	Gale Hixson	453
Rocky Mountain Elk	2020	David Petrella	384 1/8
Rocky Mountain Elk Estate	2001	Brad Eldred	424 1/8
Rocky Mountain Mule Deer (Non-Typical)	2005	Jeff Chaulk	215 4/8
Rocky Mountain Mule Deer	2007	Marilyn Parr	204 6/8
Roosevelt Elk	2018	Jeffrey Sackett	302 4/8
Roosevelt Elk Santa Rosa Island	1999	Terry Braden	350
Shiras Moose	2018	Ken Ransom	316 5/8
Sitka Blacktail Deer	2001	Brad Eldred	114
Southeastern Whitetail Deer	2015	Corey Hyde	135
Southeastern Whitetail Deer Estate	1999	Larry Higgins	121 1/8
Stone Sheep	2004	Jeffrey Chaulk	176 1/8
Texas Whitetail Deer	1999	Larry Higgins	151 5/8
Texas Whitetail Deer (Non-Typical) Estate	2006	Tim Becker	159
Texas Whitetail Deer Estate	2001	Tim Becker	154 1/8

ANIMAL	DATE TAKEN	HUNTER	SCORE
Tule Elk	2003	Alfred Luis	320 6/8
Western Canada Moose	2004	Keith Davis	553 4/8
White Lipped Peccary	2002	Larry Higgins	15 13/16
Wolverine	1992	Dave Petrella	10 8/16
Woodland Bison	2006	Dave Petrella	66 4/8
Woodland Caribou	2003	Tim Torpey	326 6/8
Yucatan Gray-Brown Brocket Deer	2005	Larry Higgins	16 9/16

SOUTH AMERICA

ANIMAL	DATE TAKEN	HUNTER	SCORE
Axis Deer	2002	Steve Diekema	138
Axis Deer Non-Typical	2007	Roger Card	152 3/8
Blackbuck	2002	Steve Diekema	73 2/8
Brown Brocket Deer	2007	Larry Higgins	14
Capybara	2007	Roger Card	16 1/16
Collared Peccary	2011	Terry Braden	16 4/16
European Fallow Deer	2016	Don Harter	291 4/8
European Mouflon Sheep	2016	Mary Harter	139 6/8
Feral Boar	2009	Terry Braden	26 15/16
Feral Goat	2016	Mary Harter	81 3/8
Gray-Brown Brocket Deer	2011	Terry Braden	15 10/16
Hybrid Sheep	2007	Larry Higgins	160 1/8
Multi-Horned Sheep	2007	Larry Higgins	98 5/8
Puma	2007	Larry Higgins	13 12/16
Red Brocket Deer	2007	Larry Higgins	14 13/16
Red Deer	2016	Don Harter	340 2/8
Water Buffalo	2002	Steve Diekema	95 7/8
White Lipped Peccary	2011	Terry Braden	17 6/16

SOUTH PACIFIC

ANIMAL	DATE TAKEN	HUNTER	SCORE
Arapawa Ram	2010	Alfred Luis	124 4/8
Axis Deer (Chital)	2008	Larry Higgins	121
Banteng	1988	Roger Card	71 6/8
Blackbuck	2003	Nan Riley	69 3/8
Chamois	2005	Terry Braden	28 6/8
European Fallow Deer	2008	Alfred Luis	258 4/8
Feral Boar	1995	Roger Card	28 2/16
Feral Bull	2011	Keith Davis	70 3/8
Feral Goat	2011	Keith Davis	80 2/8
Feral Sheep	2003	Joe Janicke, JR.	126
Himalayan Tahr	2004	Alfred Luis	46 7/8
Moluccan Rusa Deer	2006	Larry Higgins	133 4/8
Hog Deer	1995	Roger Card	71 3/8
Red Deer	2014	Matt Esch	441 2/8
Javan Rusa Deer (Non-Typical)	2006	Tim Becker	162 5/8
Javan Rusa Deer	2006	Larry Higgins	153 5/8
Sambar Deer	2009	Mary Harter	140 2/8
Scrub Bull	2006	Larry Higgins	61
Sika Deer	2009	Mary Harter	161 5/8
South Pacific Turkey	2011	Joshua Christensen	41 10/16
Wapiti	2009	Nick Johnston	383 4/8
Wapiti (Non-Typical)	2010	Alfred Luis	422 4/8
Water Buffalo	2006	Larry Higgins	101 4/8
Whitetail Deer	2013	Larry Higgins	90 6/8

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White Alligator Chili

Submitted by Sara Christensen

Ingredients

- 1 small onion, diced
- 1 Tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves minced garlic
- 2 can (14.5 oz.) chicken broth
- 1 (7 oz.) can green chilies (substitute green pepper, for no heat)
- 1 ½ tsp cumin
- ½ tsp paprika
- ½ tsp dried oregano
- ½ tsp ground coriander
- ¼ tsp cayenne pepper
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 (8 oz) pkg cream cheese, cut into small cubes
- 1 ¼ cup frozen or fresh corn (canned works too, drained)
- 2 (15 oz) cans cannellini beans (white kidney beans)
- 2 ½ cubs diced alligator
- 1 Tbsp fresh lime juice
- 2 Tbsp fresh cilantro
- (Optional) Tortilla Chips, Monterrey jack cheese for serving

Instructions

1. Heat olive oil in large pot (med-high) add onion, sauté for 4 minutes add garlic sauté for 30 seconds.
2. Salt and pepper (season) the alligator, cook it up in a skillet with some olive oil then dice.
3. Add chick broth, chilies, cumin, paprika, oregano, coriander, cayenne pepper. Bring to boil then reduce heat and simmer 15 minutes.
4. Drain and rinse beans, set aside 1 cup, add to processor with ¼ cup broth, puree.
5. Add cream cheese, corn, beans and pureed bean mixture to soup. Stir well, Simmer 5-10 minutes.
6. Stir in alligator, lime juice and cilantro.



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Conservation Affairs

Compiled and submitted by Autumn Gonda



MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Ice Fishing Shanty Regulations

Ice Fishing Shanty Regulations By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources by Part 487 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48701 to 324.48740 and 324.46502 to 324.46507, it is ordered on September 13, 2018, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read as follows: 1. As used in this part: a) "Fishing shanty" means a fishing house or any other structure or shelter placed on the ice on the waters over which this state has jurisdiction. b) "Local unit of government" means a county, city, township, village, or other governmental unit. Local unit of government does not include the state. 2. Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4), a person shall not set, place, erect, cause to be set, placed, or erected, or use a fishing shanty at any time upon the ice in waters over which this state has jurisdiction, unless information identifying the owner as prescribed in this subsection is affixed to each side of the outside of the fishing shanty in legible alphanumeric characters not less than 2 inches in height. The alphanumeric characters must be readily visible and consist of materials that are not soluble in water. The information identifying the owner under this subsection must be 1 of the following: a) The owner's name and address. b) The owner's driver license number. c) The number of the owner's Sports card issued under MCL 324.43522. 3. Placing the information identifying the owner on a piece of wood, plastic, or other material and affixing that piece of material to the fishing shanty does not satisfy the requirements of this section. 4. The identification requirement in subsection (2) does not apply to a tent or other temporary shelter if the tent or shelter is removed from the ice at the conclusion of each day's fishing activity. 5. A person who sets, places, erects, cause to be set, placed, or erected a fishing shanty upon the ice of any waters of counties located within the Upper Peninsula, or the waters of the Great Lakes adjacent to the Upper Peninsula, shall remove the fishing shanty before ice conditions are unsafe for its removal. However, except as provided in provision (8), the fishing shanty shall not remain on the ice beyond 12 midnight, March 31, of any year. Persons placing a shanty on Michigan-Wisconsin boundary waters shall remove the shanty by midnight of March 15 each year. 6. A person who sets, places, erects, cause to be set, placed, or erected a fishing shanty upon the ice of any water in Emmet, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Charlevoix, Leelanau, Antrim, Otsego, Montmorency, Alpena, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Crawford, Oscoda, Alcona, Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, Roscommon, Ogemaw, Iosco, Mason, Lake, Osceola, Clare, Gladwin, Arenac, Oceana, Newaygo, Mecosta, Isabella, Midland, or Bay counties listed in this provision, shall remove the fishing shanty before ice conditions are unsafe for its removal. However, except as provided in provision (8), the fishing shanty shall not remain on the ice beyond 12 midnight, March 15, of any year. 7. A person who sets, places, erects, causes to be set, placed, or erected a fishing shanty upon the ice of water in any of the counties of this state not listed in provision (6), and those waters of the Great Lakes adjacent to these counties, except as provided below, shall

remove a fishing shanty before ice conditions are unsafe for its removal. However, except as provided in provision (8), the fishing shanty shall not remain on the ice beyond 12 midnight, March 1, of any year. FO-251.18 8. After the dates listed in provisions (5), (6), and (7), a person may place and use a fishing shanty for the purposes of fishing if the fishing shanty is removed from the ice at the conclusion of each day's fishing activity. 9. A person who sets, places, erects, causes to be set, placed, or erected a fishing shanty upon the ice of Lake St. Clair within the jurisdiction of this state shall remove the fishing shanty before ice conditions are unsafe for its removal or before sundown on the first Sunday after February 20 and on a daily basis following that date. Failure to remove a fishing shanty within the time specified in this provision is a violation of this order, and the department or the local unit of government may then authorize the removal and storage or destruction of the fishing shanty. This Order shall be assigned number FO-251.18 and is entitled "Ice Fishing Shanty Regulations." This Order supersedes the Order entitled "Ice Fishing Shanty Regulations," which became effective September 15, 2017, and is assigned number FO-251.17. This Order shall take immediate effect on September 14, 2018 and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

NUMBER OF FISHING RODS ON MICHIGAN WATERS

By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources by Part 487 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48701 to 324.48740, it is ordered that effective April 1, 2014, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read as follows: The following regulations are established for the number of fishing rods on Michigan waters: On all of the public waters of Michigan, those persons in the act of fishing shall be restricted to using no more than 3 single lines or 3 single rods and lines, and shall not attach more than six hooks total on all lines. This Order shall be assigned number FO-24714 and is entitled "Number of Fishing Rods on Michigan Waters." This Order supersedes the Order entitled "Number of Fishing Rods on Michigan Waters," which became effective April 1, 2009, and is assigned number FO-247.09. This Order shall take effect on April 1, 2014, and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.

FISHING PROHIBITED IN FISH LADDERS

Fishing Prohibited in Fish Ladders By authority conferred on the Natural Resources Commission and the Department of Natural Resources by Part 487 of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.48701 to 324.48740, it is ordered that effective April 1, 2014, the following section(s) of the Fisheries Order shall read as follows: It shall be unlawful to fish anywhere in any fish ladder in the public waters of this state. This Order shall be assigned number FO-241.14, and is entitled "Fishing Prohibited in Fish Ladders." This Order supersedes the Order entitled "Fishing Prohibited in Fish Ladders," which became effective April 1, 2009, and is assigned number FO-241.09. This Order shall take effect on April 1, 2014, and shall remain in effect until amended/rescinded.




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GO WEST YOUNG MAN

by Wally Bontrager

Well, big brother, Larry Powell and I aren't that young any more, but what the heck, we went West anyway.

This year we were joined in our excursion West with good friends and fellow hunters, Rick Bennett and Jeff Heinz. This would be their first year hunting in the wild west, but who better to guide them than Larry and I! Our plan was to take two days to drive to Gillette, Wyoming stopping to site-see at Mt. Rushmore and gamble at Deadwood.

The outfitters this year were Bill Mankan and Donny Hawkin, ranchers who had purchased part of the old Tippiary Ranch that some of you may have hunted with Terry Jenkins.

We arrived the evening before our hunt started and met Bill, Don, and their guides, the cook, dogs, and a lot of their friends from town. We later found out that when Bobbie, the cook, lights her stove, half of Gillette came to enjoy her cooking.

DAY 1: Rick and I paired up to hunt together as group one, and Larry and Jeff as group two. After good-luck hand shakes we set off in different directions. Rick and I headed northeast of Gillette, about 45 miles while Larry and Jeff headed northwest, about the same distance.

Not long after arriving at our hunting location, we were seeing mule deer everywhere. Does and small bucks seemed to appear behind every sagebrush. Rick was shooting first because it was his first time hunting mule deer. As we glassed, a huge buck on the skyline, several doe and a real nice high tined, 3x3 ran from cover. That was Rick's buck! We stalked for about thirty minutes with our guide, Don, getting Rick within 125 yards, and a perfect shoulder shot bagged Rick's first Wyoming mule deer. The look on Rick's face said it all!



Rick Bennett & Wally B. with Muley Buck

Later that day, I got my buck too, but not without help. Don said that it took three of us to kill my mule deer and he was right!

We stalked several big bucks over hill and dale, but finally caught up to mine, with several doe across a ravine that was about 50' deep and rugged.

The buck was grazing and not spooky at all, but the problem was I had to shoot directly into the sun and the glare through my scope prevented me from taking a confident shot. The solution from our master guide was this, he would continue to watch the buck from a position that he could monitor the deer movement, Rick would shade my scope with his hunting cap, and all I had to do was shoot this 4x5 buck at 300 yards. "I love it when a plan comes together!" With the bark of my 7mm, I dropped my buck with one shot!



Wally B. with 4 x 5 Mule Deer

With both our bucks bagged, Rick and I headed for the ranch to see if Larry and Jeff had as much luck as we did. And did they ever; Jeff bagged a real nice 5x5 with a 26" spread and



made Larry, a 5x6 with a 27" spread. Nice Bucks!! The country they hunted in was much more rugged than where Rick and I hunted. But the results of their hunt it all worthwhile. Jeff had that same look that Rick had when he shot his buck. Oh yeah, ask Jeff how many shots his clip holds. An excellent first day of hunting had come to a close, but good food and conversation took over into the night.

The next Day Roger and Debra Card flew in to join in the hunt and to bring desperately needed supplies, that we had run out of the night before.

DAY 2: Antelope hunting for Larry, Rick, Jeff, and I and mule deer hunting for Roger and Deb.

Rick was first to shoot again and shoot he did! Well, I guess he only missed the one time, something about the "speed goat" ducked. He recovered on the next antelope by dropping it in it's tracks at 100 yards.

Mine was the stalk from hell! We walked up to the herd that had the big buck and belly-crawled the last 100 yards to get within 125 yards for a good shot. The wind was perfect, too perfect, the buck was laying down with no clue that we were there. Our guide, Rusty, had to wave his hat to get the buck up and that was his fatal mistake, down he went. Larry and Jeff had the same luck, with two nice bucks that required long range shooting. Back at camp we traded hunting stories with ranch hands and guides until Roger and Deb returned with their trophies. Leave it to the lady to show up us guys! Deb had the trophy of the camp with a huge 6x6, measuring 25" inside spread with heavy bases. Roger's buck was a nice 3x4 that was taken with a shot not even Roger believed he could make. Ask him sometime about that amazing shot.



Deb with fine 6 x 6

With mule deer and antelope shot for Larry, Rick, Jeff, and I, we decided that I would go with Deb and guide, Toby as camera man while Roger was at an SCI meeting in Tucson. Toby had seen a real nice buck the night before and knowing where it had bedded down, the next day we were ready. About thirty minutes of glassing was all that was necessary to locate the herd but they were heading away from us approximately 3/4 of a mile away. The plan was to get ahead of them, set up an ambush, and be back to the ranch for lunch. We caught up to the herd in a large pasture area and seeing the direction they were heading, Toby and Deb were dropped off to work their way up a ridge for a good shot, leaving me with

the suburban and the video camera to record the stalk. The stalk was perfect! Toby and Deb were in position when the antelope buck crested the ridge, 175 yards away. One well placed shot from Deb's 280 and she had her trophy antelope.



Roger's Pronghorn

We were back to the ranch for brunch. A short time after we returned from Deb's antelope hunt, Larry, Rick, and Jeff showed up with a stringer full of beautiful trout that were quickly filleted by Larry, fried by Toby, and eaten by the rest of us.

The next day was time to head home, leaving Deb waiting to help Roger get his antelope upon his return to camp the next day. We said our good-byes and headed back to Michigan.

We would rate this hunt "top notch" for guide service, excellent trophy animals, very good food, and comfortable accommodations. We would definitely recommend this hunt to all our SCI members.

P.S. Don't tell our wives, but we've already booked again for next year!

FRONT SIGHT

Looking Ahead

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by Anthony Roettger



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PEACOCK'S RIO
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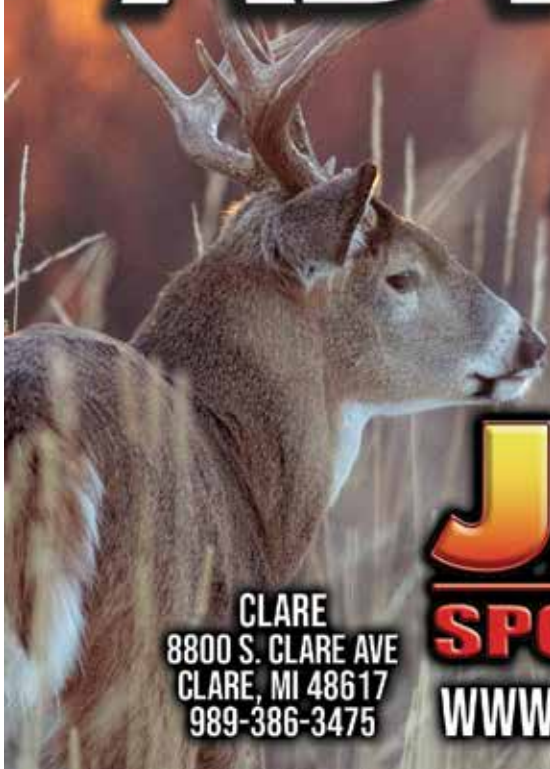
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