

January 2014



# Lansing Area Chapter Safari Club International *Newsletter*

## *Veterans Pheasant Hunts*



**Bear Creek Hunt Club**



**Omega Farms Hunt Club**

[www.scilansing.com](http://www.scilansing.com)

## Presidents Message

Greetings:

What a wonderful state that we live in! We have so many outdoor activities that we can participate in. State and Federal parks and also public land are at our disposal. It's so hard to stay inside especially on these great fall days that we have been having! There is so much to do in the great outdoors; hunting, fishing, walking, biking, golfing and so many other activities. And of course let's not forget going to the stadium and watching our favorite sports teams play on Saturday.

Sometimes we don't realize how much we have to be thankful for. God lets us get up each morning to enjoy each day. As the time flies by we discover not to waste one day. Remember that it's so much easier to smile than to frown and to do things for others.

One important part of our life that would make a difference is to take a child outside and educate them to the outdoors. Too often today so many of our children are inside playing video games, watching T.V. or they are on the computer. Even if they are not interested in hunting yet they can go out with you to scout game and just be in the woods. As hunters, we have so much outdoor knowledge that we can hand down to our children and grandchildren. The future of hunting depends on the generations to come and we need to do our part to help the children today want to enjoy the great outdoors.

Happy hunting!

**Dallas English**

## Petition Drive Launching for Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act

Initiated law would protect NRC ability to name game species and issue fisheries orders

The proposed act would protect the Natural Resources Commission's ability to name game species and issue fisheries orders, protect free licenses for active military members, and include funding for rapid response activities to keep Asian carp out of Michigan waters.

The petition is sponsored by the Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management (CPWM), a coalition of many of the same organizations that successfully passed Proposal G in 1996 under the same name. The petition drive must gather at least 258,000 valid signatures in 180 days to place the law before the Legislature.

"This is about making sure that decisions about fish and wildlife management are made by relying on sound science and the recommendations of biologists, not activists or television commercials," said Merle Shepard, chairman of CPWM.

The Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act provides that the Natural Resources Commission may designate game species under a duty to use sound science, that active military members can receive free hunting, fishing and trapping licenses, and that the Natural Resources Commission has the exclusive authority to issue fisheries orders. To support the NRC's ability to manage fisheries, \$1 million is appropriated so that the Department of Natural Resources can conduct rapid response activities necessary to prevent and eliminate aquatic invasive species like Asian carp.

"This initiative will show that the people of Michigan believe in using biology to make fish and wildlife decisions" said Erin McDonough, executive director of Michigan United Conservation Clubs. "It also provides the resources to make scientific fisheries decisions by making sure the DNR can respond rapidly to aquatic invasive species like Asian carp."

Supporters of the initiative include Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Upper Peninsula Sportsmen's Alliance, Upper Peninsula Whitetails Association, U.P. Whitetails of Marquette County, the Michigan Bear Hunters Association, the Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association, the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation, the Michigan chapters of Safari Club International, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Michigan Bow Hunters, Michigan Steelhead and Salmon Anglers Association and numerous local conservation organizations from around the state.

To get petitions or more info please go to

[www.citizenswildlife.org](http://www.citizenswildlife.org)

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## SASKATCHEWAN BEAR HUNT

Janet Leonard



being by myself watching birds and other wildlife. As I sat there a huge bear peeked out of the brush, took a sniff, and promptly left. About an hour later another bear showed up and I checked out his ears and how tall it was. Arlee had taken a chip out of the tree by the barrel so I could judge how high his back should be. This was to be my bear. One shot, bear down. I felt really bad for the bear because he didn't get to have one last meal. Arlee baits them with popcorn and Kentucky fried Chicken Grease.

Next we drove 65 miles to Missinipe, a small town with a seaplane base, to fly to Hepburn Lake. A Dehavalin Turbo Otter float plane flew us 25 air miles to Hepburn Lake a Lodge. What a shock, trees were down over the dock. Before we could unload we had to get saws out and clear the dock. Mary and I picked blueberries while we waited. The area was covered with blueberries. The lodge is in a beautiful wooded setting. After lunch we went fishing. It is fishing Heaven - Northern Pike, Lake Trout and Walleye. Stacie, Arlee's daughter, is a great fish cooker but she doesn't eat them. It is a wonderful place to just kick back and enjoy.

Lansing Area Chapter - 2013 Safari Wish Hunts  
Jim Leonard

It all started when Mary Browning kept saying how much fun she and Ron have had at Hepburn Lake Lodge. They have both taken bears and Mary said she would like to go back for a color phase. Would Jim and I like to go with them? duh! So at our auction last year we had a chance to talk to Arlee Thideman. Jim and I bought bear hunts for September 2013. We arrived in Saskatoon Saskatchewan, Canada September 4th.

The next morning we drove 235 miles to the small village of Napatak near LaRonge where Arlee's bear camp is located. We went hunting in the afternoon and saw three bears but no shooters. The weather was real warm so bears were not moving. Mary had seen several and one big one came in but not a color phase like she wanted. The next afternoon I was in the stand by 2:00. I don't see well at dusk because of Macular Degeneration so I was hoping the big one would show up in the daylight. I love



## HUNTING PARTNERS

*Rollie Harmes*

In 2011 I put my Mathews compound bow in storage and purchased an Excalibur Vortex crossbow with scope. Had much success hunting out of my son's canvas Bulls-



eye Blind and was able to donate the meat from 2 bucks and 5 does to those in need.

The plan for 2012 was to do the same, but work got in the way and the initial chance to hunt was November 13th. The first 8 pointer crossed in front of me at 5 p.m. and had a perfect shot. Intended to wait an hour and retrieve it. However at 5:30 p.m. a second 8 pointer crossed from the opposite direction and another good shot dropped it a little closer to home.

It turned cold that evening with a heavy frost and by the time the deer were dressed and hung it was closing in on midnight. That's when I decided never again to shoot 2 animals on the same evening. I recall making the same decision a few years ago, but this time I meant it.

During all the years that my son Mark and I hunted together we worked as a team and the whole process was easy. We both had moved away from firearms to bow

hunting and had much success in the late seasons.

Mark drew a cow elk tag in 2012 near his home outside of Flagstaff AZ and took a mature animal in the "Bows Only" area. He explained how difficult it was to load a big elk in the back of his Toyota pick-up and get it to the processor. I mentioned the work involved in dragging 2 deer home, getting them hung and ready for a trip to see Phil Bahle, professional butcher near Bath, to be processed.

Mark and I had a successful archery hunt in Alberta, Canada a few years ago with Brett Sinclair, professional guide, and have decided we need to start hunting together again. We plan to start applying for an elk tag near Flagstaff, AZ as Mark has been scouting several areas during his hiking and marathon runs through the mountains.

Mark suggests that a new world record for a bull elk trophy could come from the herds he has been scouting. Mark is going to apply for the "Archery Only Area" and I might try the "Muzzle Loader Area" with one of Ken Johnston's custom built creations.

As the Michigan 2012 archery season wound down I did get out a couple more times in Ingham County and saw more bucks than does. The last buck that I observed and greatly admired was a dandy 10 pointer with a tall, wide and thick rack. The kind that you dream about.

The 2 white tails harvested in 2012 must be sons of the granddaddy I watched after my buck tags had been filled earlier.

I wish each of you good health and exciting wildlife adventures in 2013.

## HUNTING & SHARING

*Rollie Harmes*

The December 2012 whitetail night & holiday event was well attended. There were lots of beautiful racks and mounts on display and the excellent steak dinner didn't hurt any either.

My 2 crossbow entries measured as #1 and 2 in our SCI Chapter for free ranging deer taken in Michigan. A very nice plaque is already on the wall of my office.

As luck would have it I won five \$50.00 certificates from Cabelas in a drawing which were shared with the folks at our table. In addition I had the lucky number for a large holiday basket of goodies which was donated to a family hosting young players from the Greek National Basketball Team.

Gary Lange of former Michigan Tech. University basketball fame has been providing opportunities to train foreign teenagers and has been promoting them for potential college scholarships in the USA. Gary has assisted with securing lodging and meals for these young men. So the guys are hooked on venison burgers and chili and man can they eat. They thank the SCI for the donation as well.

So I have learned that when you participate in the Lansing Chapter SCI you go into a great networking opportunity with wonderful sportsmen and women.

## "A BOLT FROM HEAVEN"

By Art Smith

AUCTIONEER / HUNTER

This story you are about to read is true, the names have not been changed as there are no innocence in the hunting world!

It all began in the fall of 2003 when I complained to my sweet wife that I had had enough of crawling up tree pegs and balancing on a little tie-on tree stand to bow hunt. I was just getting a little to decrepit to do all that climbing. So what a pleasant surprise to find a brand new double seat ladder stand sitting in the living room when I awoke on our anniversary.

It was a well-built "Old Man" tree stand that would work out just right for this Old Man. I had a moose hunt booked that fall and would be leaving the last week of September and returning home after the October 1 opener for Michigan bow season. I thought it might be a good

idea to put up my new double ladder stand before I left, that way it would be ready to go upon my return from the moose hunt. My son Noah and I put it together and laid it on a farm wagon and brought it out to the back of our little farm in northern Kent County, just on the edge of my food plot, next to the boarder of the Rouge River State Game Area. We trimmed up the limbs and ratcheted it down good with the straps that came with the stand. It was solid as a rock when I climbed up to test it out. "All set for when I come back from Newfoundland" I hollered down to Noah. Seeing that it was on my own property, and the fact that it weighed nearly 80 pounds, I did not think it was necessary to lock it up, besides I didn't have any cable to use, so I left for Newfoundland a day or so later looking forward to my return and my new ladder stand all set up and waiting for me to use.

We had a good hunt in Newfoundland taking 3 bull & 1 cow moose and 2 caribou for the four of us. The first day we were home my wife and I hosted a hayride for the kids from church. That night after dark with a big wagon load of kids we headed out the trail to the back of the farm. One of the parents was riding with me on the tractor and when we got back to the food plot I ask him if he would like to see my new ladder stand. Well being a hunter himself he says "sure". I had a big flashlight and said "it's right here in this big Oak tree".

Shining my light up the tree to show him the nice set-up for bow hunting I had put up, yep you guessed it, it



was nowhere to be seen. Some low-life had lifted my new ladder stand and I never even had a chance to use it! I was so disgusted I never even took my bow out of the case that year. In fact I had decided that it just was not worth the effort to go out any more with the bow.

Then the next year in January of 2004 my good friend Brian Braun of Braun & Helmer Auction Service out of Ann Arbor donated a 2 man free range bow hunt on his farm in Washtenaw county of Michigan to our fund raiser auction. We had been sharing photos of our hunts over the years at the Michigan State Auctioneers Association convention and I had seen some of the monsters he and his dad had taken down there and I wanted one!

I had to have a new bow string put on my bow before the hunt in Oct. of 2004 and as usual I waited till a few days before we were to leave to take it in. In the process of having a new string put on, the archery pro had me pull back and then let up on the string many times to adjust the site and other things. The old Bear Polar LTD was and is a monster and by the time we had it all set my right shoulder was just about done for. I must have pulled the shoulder muscle bad for after seeing two doctors, it took 3 months of therapy to relieve the pain. It didn't matter on the hunt as I never had a chance to draw the bow on a big one. I did pass up several smaller bucks and came home empty handed. I have tried to pull back the bow every year since 2004 but just about half way to full draw I can feel the pulled muscle protesting and don't have

the courage to take it to full draw. Combined that with the disappointment of the stolen ladder stand I figured my bow hunting days were over and I didn't bow hunt again for 6 years.

Then when they legalized cross bow hunting for the general population I thought I would like to get back into it again. Taking a trip to the Huntin Time Expo in Grand Rapids Michigan in January of 2010, one of the best hunting shows in the Midwest, I ran into Matt Poliski from Grand Valley Sporting Goods. They had a booth set up there and Matt helped me shoot my first cross bow right there at the show. I was impressed with his knowledge of archery equipment and especially the cross bow. Needless to say when it came time to purchase a cross bow a trip out to Grand Valley Sporting Goods in Allendale was in order. Matt was there and showed me many different cross bows and I had the opportunity to shoot several of them in their state of the art bow range.

I settled on the 10 Point model complete with crank up cocking mechanism as the pull up model really put a strain on my bad shoulder. Matt fixed me up with all the bells and whistles including the scope, hard case, bolts, field and hunting tips everything I would need.

The next year, January of 2011 at the MSAA convention I was able to once again outbid the competition and win the bow hunt with Brian again for that fall. Here is where the unbelievable story begins.

Cont. Next page

The first evening of the first day down at Brian's in Washtenaw County I was able to take a nice buck. My first with my new 10 Point cross bow. When I shot the buck and he ran off it was nearly evening and the bolt was stuck in the ground and I thought I had missed him. Then upon retrieving my bolt I saw it was blood from tip to fletching. I reloaded my crossbow I headed down over the hill and found him not more than 80 yards from where the Rage tipped bolt had blown right through him. He had expired when I found him so before taking photos and field dressing him I thought I better unload the cross bow. As many of you know, the proper way to unload the 10 point crossbow is to put a field tipped bolt in the bow and shoot it into a bow target. Not having a target out in the field I decided to unload it into the ground. Well, that was not very smart for when I shot the bolt into the ground it broke the bolt right in half. Well, that was going to cost me a new bolt, but being happy with my 1st cross bow kill I never gave it much thought.

We continued the hunt for another 2 days and my son Noah was able to take a nice 6 point so we came home 2 for 2 and very happy.

After we were home for a few days I went out and set up a ground blind on the edge of my food plot at the back of the farm, not 10 feet from the tree where the ladder stand was stolen 6 years earlier. The next night about 4 PM I went out to

bow hunt in the blind and yes it was still there!! Just as I got settled in the blind I looked out over the food plot, about 2 acres of alfalfa and clover, and I see an arrow sticking up out of the ground about 60 yards from where I was sitting in the blind. I could not see if it was leaning to the east or west so could not figure out where the hunter might have been when he shot the arrow, but being close to State Land there are quite often hunters in the area. I sat until almost dark, not seeing any action and when I got up to leave I remembered the arrow and wanted to pick it up as I would not want to get it in the baler the next year when the hay was cut. Here is where the story gets interesting!

I walked into the food plot to recover the arrow and as I'm walking out to it I'm still wondering which way it is leaning, indicating which way the archer was when he shot. As I walked up to the arrow I see to my surprise it is absolutely straight up and down. I mean it must have come straight down from the sky. Then I reach down to pull it out of the ground and you won't believe it but I swear it's true. It's the same brand cross bow bolt I broke down in Ann Arbor earlier that month with the same weight field tip on it!! I stood out there in the middle of that hay field just at dusk and could not believe what I had discovered. Sometimes when things like this happen you just have to thank the Good Lord for looking out for us and supplying our needs. Good luck on the hunting trail and keep in touch.



## Lansing Area Chapter - 2013 Safari Wish Hunts

*Jim Leonard*

During the last half of the first week in October a light rain fell through the colorful trees and soaked the ground but

special adaptive equipment was employed to assist but before leaving the range they each were able to shoot like a pro.

With their confidence now restored they were ready and eager to get out on their first evening's hunt. They each went to separate blinds with their guide, parent, and a videographer. When the hunters came back to camp that night, they all had exciting stories to tell about what they had seen. Colby, with a proud smile on his face, also had a nice buck for everyone to admire. Number one down. The hunts were repeated Friday morning and Friday night. Buck count now three. With two to go, the tension started to build. Saturday morning brought in number four but Jason was still without a deer and just Saturday evening left to hunt. Now the pressure was on with real reason for concern. Saturday evening everyone sat around camp anxiously hoping and waiting for some good news when a text came in "DEER DOWN". Pandemonium broke out and there was a mad scramble for seating room on the available vehicles to ride out to where Jason sat beside his nice buck with a smile from ear to ear.

New friendships and bonds were formed during the time together and it showed in the joy and comradely around the campfire that night. The parents and the young men were relaxed and refreshed from the break they had to forget the difficulties that dominate their lives. It was a sad time when they all departed Sunday morning but they all now look forward to receive and cherish their mounted trophies thanks to the generosity of The Wildlife Gallery.

not the spirits of five young life challenged young men on a hunt of their lifetime at Valhalla Ranch in Northern Michigan. Through the generosity of the donors and attendees to our Annual Fundraiser, our Lansing Area Chapter was able to sponsor

Two of these hunters, (Colby and Jason). The entire effort was coordinated by the Foundation for Hope Outdoor Adventures.

The hunters all arrived on Thursday morning anxious but a bit apprehensive as to just what they were getting into. Their happy glow started when they were presented with a full set of hunting clothing, outerwear, and boots. Also included was a great backpack, Leopold binoculars, hearing protection muffs and lots more. After lunch, the apprehension came back when they were taken to the range one at a time to assess and hone shooting skills. When their guides and helpers demonstrated utmost patience and compassion they soon settled down. In some cases,



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**Lansing Area Chapter  
Safari Club International  
14th Annual  
Fundraiser  
March 14-15, 2014  
Eagle Eye Golf Club**