

November 2014



Lansing Area Chapter Safari Club International Newsletter

2014 Lansing Area Chapter Safari Wish Hunts Valhalla Ranch

By Jim Leonard

Our Lansing Area Chapter teamed up with the Foundation For Hope – Outdoor Adventures and sponsored two of the five health-challenged young guys who hunted for a deer of a lifetime at beautiful Valhalla Ranch in early October. Braxton and Kaiden both live in Michigan. They arrived with their dads at Valhalla, about 20 miles northeast of Grayling, mid morning on



Thursday for a stay that would last thru Sunday morning. First on the agenda was a meet and greet of the other hunters and their family members and the most important people at the ranch, the cook Jenny and their two guides Jake and Chico. After lunch they were presented with a huge

duffle filled with hunting cloths, boots, Leopold binoculars, Pro-ear shooting muffs, custom knife, a hunters bible and many other items.

It was then time to get serious. One by one the boys with their guides went to the rifle range to get familiar with the rifle they would use and hone their shooting skills. A little later, the hunters got geared up and with their guide, dad, and a photographer/videographer headed out to their blind looking for the right deer. This procedure would happen every morning and evening

thereafter. Braxton hunting with Jake was the exception; he harvested a nice buck the first evening, giving him the privilege to sleep in in the mornings. Kaiden and Chico hunted hard every day. Those of us not in the blinds, got more concerned each time they returned empty handed. As we anxiously sat around the campfire Saturday evening, cheers went up as we heard the sound of a distant rifle shot. Soon Chico drove up with Kaiden, all smiles and a monster buck in the back of the truck. Now all the boys had their deer.

Getting a nice trophy buck was a great adventure for these young guys who must deal with their affliction 24 / 7 , something hard to even

imagine. Equally important however, is that they and their parent got a relaxing, peaceful, stress free few days in the beautiful Northern Michigan woods.



This life-changing gift, you as a Lansing Area Chapter gave, was only possible thru your generosity and that of the donors at our annual Chapter fundraiser. Our next fundraiser is March 20&21, 2015. Please attend. As an added bonus on Saturday, you will be able to meet the brave hunters Braxton and Kaiden and their families.

President's Message by Mike Hoskins

Does membership have its privileges?
When I joined the Lansing Area Chapter in 2001, I did so for the camaraderie with fellow hunters that was a part of life throughout my youth in the Upper Peninsula and into my adult years. SCI provided that bond between strangers and eventually friends that only the sharing of hunting stories and experiences could create. I enjoyed learning from the experiences of others in the chapter for over a decade. My membership and involvement in chapter meetings provided me a periodic break from the stresses that accompany this modern day living.

I eventually learned that membership in SCI provides far more than what my initial reason for joining was. SCI, who is First for Hunters®, is the only line of defense that protects the rights of hunters to be able to continue enjoying our hunting heritage. Without our members, SCI cannot have the resources necessary to protect wildlife and our right to hunt. Hunting has been constantly threatened but today the threats and attacks are growing. What privilege does your membership afford? Quite simply, the privilege of the right to hunt (see later in this newsletter how we recently almost lost that right in Michigan).

This Quarter's newsletter will highlight how SCI has held the line as it continues to protect wildlife and our right to hunt. It will also spotlight what your chapter members are doing to help promote the mission of SCI. Membership in SCI does have its privileges. It is now more important than ever to renew or extend your membership and make sure all your hunting buddies are also members of SCI. Your future right to hunt depends on it!
Shoot Straight

Lansing Area Chapter SCI member and DNR's Steve Schmitt named Wildlife Biologist of the Year by Safari Club International's Michigan Involvement Committee



June 18, 2014 Steve Schmitt, a wildlife veterinarian with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources, has been named Wildlife Biologist of the Year by the Michigan Involvement Committee of Safari Club International. [Pictured, left to right, are: Natural Resources Commission Vice Chairman John Matonich; DNR Director Keith Creagh; Steve Schmitt, DNR wildlife veterinarian; Bob Taylor, chairman of SCI's Michigan Involvement Committee; and DNR Wildlife Division Chief Russ Mason.]

A 36-year DNR veteran, Schmitt helps run the DNR's wildlife disease lab at the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health.

"Steve is a nationally recognized expert on wildlife diseases and a unique resource for us here in the state of Michigan," said DNR Wildlife Division Chief Russ Mason. "We are pleased and proud to see him garner this recognition from Safari Club."

Bob Taylor, chairman of SCI's Michigan Involvement Committee, noted that Michigan is one of the few places in the world with bovine tuberculosis in the wild deer herd and "we're lucky that Dr. Schmitt is here to help us manage this disease." Schmitt said it was both an honor and a pleasure to be recognized by such a top-notch conservation group as Safari Club International.

"The 11 Safari Club chapters in Michigan have spent millions of dollars here in Michigan on everything from the current predator/prey study in the Upper Peninsula to Operation Moose Lift more than 25 years ago," Schmitt said. "It's safe to say that without the Safari Club, we wouldn't have moose in Michigan today." Taylor and Mason presented the Wildlife Biologist of the Year award to Schmitt last week at the June meeting of the Natural Resources Commission in Lansing. The SCI Michigan Involvement Committee was formed in 1980 with representatives from each Safari Club International chapter in Michigan. Committee members work with the Department of Natural Resources to coordinate funding of DNR wildlife conservation programs and research projects that might otherwise not be funded.

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2014 MUCC OUTSTANDING CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR

Lansing Area Chapter of SCI's own Mike Leonard

Quoting from the MUCC Conservation Awards Banquet program: Without Mike Leonard, Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management (CPWM) would not have gathered almost 375,000 signatures in support of the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Management Act, it's as simple as that. Mike, a Board member of the Chelsea Rod & Gun Club, representing Safari Clubs International (SCI) on the CPWM steering committee, for which he served as Treasurer.

From the beginning of the campaign, Mike took charge and helped organize volunteer trainings, volunteered himself nearly every weekend and many weekdays to collect signatures, recruited volunteers, and helped perfect the way that all volunteers asked for signatures. He also set up the volunteer tables at the two most successful locations, Cabela's in Grandville and Dundee.

He also almost single-handedly raised the bulk of the fundraising required for the initiative, including over \$475,000 from SCI Chapters around Michigan and the rest of the country and making a \$100,000



personal loan to the campaign to keep it going when needed most.

Mike gave interviews on the Wild Michigan radio show and speeches to the Legislative Sportsman's Caucus. Throughout the petition drive, if you wanted to know where Mike was, it was wherever we most needed someone to collect signatures. From gun shows to banquets, Bass Pro Shops to Cabela's, Mike crisscrossed the state, even staying for days at a time in a hotel away from home to get the Cabela's Grandville location going. He wasn't just dedicated, he was effective too: collecting more signatures in one day than anyone else one day at Cabela's.

Mike was a genuine bulldog for the campaign, once he sunk his teeth into it he didn't let go, right down to spending his Memorial Day counting and sorting petitions after they'd all been turned in and finding a secure location to store them before we submitted them to the Board of Canvassers. Mike was the engine that kept the petition drive going, and for that we are proud to name him the 2014 Outstanding Conservationist of the Year.

Footnote:

The award was presented in late June but his efforts did not stop there. He spent most every day since then planning, strategizing, cajoling, and lobbying legislators. You should have seen the expression on his face as we sat in the balcony of the State House Chambers at the Capital on August 27th when the official vote of 65 for and 43 against was announced. What a great win for the Sportsmen and woman of Michigan.

UBATHI - A PICTORIAL ESSAY *Dr. Terry Braden*



This M.G.M. male lion was taken by Terry Braden at 50 yards with Peter Bucklin's .338. Four shots were needed to stop this huge male weighing 600 pounds, all from the .338. It was reassuring having a .458 on his left (Johan) and a .375 on his right (Ron) even if they were not needed. The skull measures 26 3/16 inches S.C.I. (Gold category - Record Book).



The safari was ended by a blue bag trip to a children's rescue home in Kimberly, South Africa. The entire group donated 2 blue bags (1 from Lansing Chapter and one from Tucson) full of first aid kits, soccer balls, crayolas, pencils, baby dolls, shoes, hats, clothes, paper, and over the counter medical supplies. It was rewarding.

Grand Ledge Archery 2014
by Coach Kelly Shaltry



It has been an exciting year for Grand Ledge Archery! Thanks to the generosity of Safari Club International Lansing Area Chapter, in our second year we have continued to grow as a team and as a sport. Some statistics to give you an idea of what we have accomplished with your generous support:

- Throughout the 2013-2014 school year and during summer camps, over 250 kids were introduced to the great sport of archery.
- Over 160 kids were practicing archery on a weekly basis after school. Grand Ledge High School (3 practice teams, 85 archers), Hayes Middle School (24 archers), Wacousta Elementary (28 archers), and Willow Ridge Elementary (24 archers). The goal is to have every school in the Grand Ledge School District to have a team as we branch out to other schools in the surrounding areas of mid-Michigan.
- In the course of this year, over 60,000 arrows have been shot in the High School indoor range. The kids just love shooting!
- We have had 5 new coaches trained to work with our various school teams. They have had just as much fun as the student archers.
- One of our seniors from last year's team (Class of 2013) went on to become a certified coach and a NASP official this year as he goes to college.
- Grand Ledge High School competed at the first face-to-face State Tournament at Central Michigan University, along with our younger elementary and middle school practice teams. The High School qualified for a spot at the Nationals Tournament in Louisville, Kentucky for the second year in a row!

- They also helped set the Guinness World Record for largest archery tournament (again!) being part of the 10,400 archers at the tournament. Also, the world record was set for the world's largest active archery range at almost a quarter of a mile long. 540 kids shooting at the same time. Quite exciting!
- At the National Tournament, they competed in the new IBO 3-D competition with 5 different animals set up at varying distances and they did very well, placing 34th out of 75 teams in their very first 3-D tournament.
- The Grand Ledge High School National Tournament team qualified for a coveted spot at the World Tournament held in Madison, Wisconsin on July 11-13. The team fought hard and placed 25th out of 44 teams in the High School division with a 3202 out of 3600 possible points.

It has been an amazing year for our kids. We have worked hard and it has paid off. There have been so many kids introduced to the great sport of archery and the outdoor world. It has been amazing to watch.

Last year, we talked about a single ripple that would create a tidal wave that could be felt around the world. This year was another example of how much that ripple, which was started by the Lansing Chapter of SCI just last year, is only gaining more momentum. We have a solid, self-sustaining program that will introduce more kids to archery and the outdoors than ever before. We have also had other districts like Charlotte approach us for help in starting their very own archery programs. As you go to SCI fundraising events, please understand just how much of an impact you are having on the world around you for the future of outdoor sports, the conservation of our hunting lands and traditions that go along with that. Thank you from the very bottom of our hearts in helping us start this amazing program that has begun and will continue to create a tidal wave throughout the world.





Privileges taken for Granted Almost Lost

by Mike Hoskins

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 27, 2014

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House Passes Pro-Hunting Citizen Initiative into Law

Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act now law, renders anti-hunting referendums moot

LANSING, MI—The Michigan House of Representatives passed the Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act today with a bipartisan vote of 65-43. The citizen initiative, which passed the Senate on August 13 and was supported by the signatures of almost 300,000 registered voters, allows the Natural Resources Commission to name game species and issue fisheries orders using sound science, creates a \$1 million rapid response fund to prevent Asian carp, and provides free hunting and fishing licenses for active military members.

“We are very thankful to the legislators who voted for sound science, the voters who signed the petition, the organizations who supported it, and the tireless volunteers who collected the signatures of almost 300,000 registered Michigan voters,” said Dan Eichinger, executive director for Michigan United Conservation Clubs. “This is an important step to protecting the rights to hunt, fish and trap in Michigan from radical animal rights organizations.”

The initiative also renders moot two referendums sponsored by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS), a Washington, D.C.-based anti-hunting organization, which sought to repeal two bills that would allow a regulated hunting season for wolves in certain areas of the Upper Peninsula where they have killed pets, dogs and livestock. Because the initiative contains an appropriation, it is not subject to a third referendum by HSUS or its front group, Keep Michigan Wolves Protected.

“We thought it was important to listen to the will of the 300,000 registered voters who brought this initiative to us,” said Representative Jon Bumbstead (R-Newago). “This is about more than wolves. It’s about protecting the rights of our constituents to hunt and fish by managing our fish and wildlife with sound science.”

Passage of the citizen initiative settles the wolf hunt controversy, which has moved back and forth over the past two years, providing the certainty that Department of Natural Resources biologists need to move forward with wolf management.

Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management is a coalition of conservation, hunting, fishing and trapping groups and individuals including the Michigan chapters of Safari Club International, the Michigan Bear Hunters Association, Michigan United Conservation Clubs, the Michigan Trappers and Predator Callers Association, the Michigan Hunting Dog Federation, the Upper Peninsula Sportsmen’s Alliance, U.P. Whitetails, Inc., the U.P. Bear Houndsmen, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation,

The hunting privileges that we have known our whole lives in Michigan were narrowly preserved less than a month ago through the efforts of Citizens for Professional Wildlife Management who drove legislation putting the management of our wildlife and fisheries in the hands of the Natural Resources Commission (see the news release below for details). The voice of the minority opposition to hunting is growing louder and is led by the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). Below are quotes from now President and CEO of HSUS, Wayne Pacelle, that provides insight into the goals to the well funded anti-hunting HSUS. Your renewed or extended membership along with your participation in SCI will help keep the HSUS and their ilk at bay preserving the hunting rights and traditions we have enjoyed for generations.

“We are going to use the ballot box and the democratic process to stop all hunting in the United States ... We will take it species by species until all hunting is stopped in California. Then we will take it state by state. *Wayne Pacelle, Senior VP Humane Society of the US (HSUS), formerly of Friends of Animals and Fund for Animals, Full Cry Magazine, Oct 1, 1990.*

“Our goal is to get sport hunting in the same category as cock fighting and dog fighting. Our opponents say that hunting is a tradition. We say traditions can change.” *Wayne Pacelle, Quoted in Bozeman Daily Chronicle, Oct. 8, 1991*

“If we could shut down all sport hunting in a moment, we would.” *Wayne Pacelle, Senior VP Humane Society of the US (HSUS), formerly of Friends of Animals and Fund for Animals, Associated Press, Dec 30, 1991*

“The definition of obscenity on the newsstands should be extended to many hunting magazines.” *Wayne Pacelle, quoted in Bloodties: Nature, Culture and the Hunt by Ted Kerasote, 1993, p. 265.*

“To the extent that the states placate hunters and ignore the wishes of non-hunters, there will be increasing numbers of wildlife policy questions settled by politicians and voters.”
Wayne Pacelle, Forging a New Wildlife Paradigm: Integrating Animal Protection Values (1998)



National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited and the United States Sportsmen's Alliance. The act has also received the endorsement of the National Wildlife Federation, the Michigan Salmon and Steelhead Fishermen's Association, the Lake St. Clair Walleye Association, the Lake St. Clair chapter of Muskies, Inc., and numerous local conservation groups throughout Michigan.

Please Support the Legislators that Supported Us!

Citizens Initiated Legislation Scientific Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act SFWCA

Senate Vote

Yeas- 23	Nays- 10	Excused -5
Ananich (D)	Anderson	Hopgood
Booher	Bieda	Hunter
Brandenburg	Gregory	Marleau
Casperson	Hood	Pappageorge
Caswell	Johnson	Proos
Colbeck	Nofs	
Emmons	Smith	
Green	Warren	
Hansen	Whitmer	
Hildebrand	Young	
Hune		
Jansen		
Jones		
Kahn		
Kowall		
Meekhof		
Moolenaar		
Pavlov		
Richardville		
Robertson		
Rocca		
Schuitmaker		
Walker		

HOUSE VOTE:

Aye 65:

Bolger
Brown (D)
Brunner (D)
Bumstead
Cochran (D)
Cotter
Crawford
Daley
Denby
Dianda (D)
Farrington
Forlini
Foster
Franz
Genetski
Gardon
Goike
Graves
Haines
Haugh (D)
Havemen
Heise
Hooker
Jacobsen
Jenkins
Johnson
Kelly
Kesto
Kivela (D)
Kowall
Kurtz
LaFontaine
Lauwers

LaVoy (D)	Barnett	Townsend
Leonard	Brinks	Yanez
Lori	Callton (R)	Zemke
Lund	Cavanaugh	
Lyons	Clemente	Absent:
MacGregor	Darany	
MacMaster	Dillon	Lipton
McBroom	Driskell	Phelps
McMillin	Durhal	
Muxlow	Faris	
Nesbiit	Geiss	
Oakes (D)	Greimel	
O'Brien	Hobbs	
Outman	Hovey-Wright	
Pagel	Howrylak (R)	
Pettalia	Irwin	
Poleski	Kandrevas	
Potvin	Knezek	
Price	Kosowski	
Pscholka	Lamonte	
Rendon	Lane	
Rogers	McCann	
Santana (D)	McCready (R)	
Schmidt	Nathan	
Shirkey	Olumba (I)	
Somerville	Roberts	
Stamas	Robinson	
VerHeulen	Rutledge	
Victory	Schor	
Walsh	Segal	
Yonker	Singh	
Zorn	Slavens	
	Smiley	
	Stallworth	
	Switalski	
	Talabi	
	Tliab	

Nay 43:

Abed
Banks



**Note The Michigan Chapters of Safari Club International along with SCI Chapters from other states contributed over \$476,000 to the fight.*

Kodiak Revisited

By Jerry Schave

Received a text from my long time friend and world renowned master guide, Sam Fejes in early April 2014 about a cancellation brown bear hunt on Kodiak. The original hunter had canceled due to a health problem (cancer). Sam wanted to know if I wanted to fill the spot.

I had been talking to Sam about another hunt on Kodiak it being on my bucket list to shoot a big brown bear. After my unsuccessful 11 day hunt in the fall of 2012, I had my doubts whether my age (66) and my physical condition (2 knee operations in the last 4 years) were up to the task. Now, I was presented with another opportunity but was I capable of repeating the effort?? To say I had doubts was an understatement. On the positive side the hunt would be the last one in April and the snow was almost gone (no snowshoes!!!). The big boars would be cruising looking for sows to subsequently breed. His cabin on Olga Lake also might be available if the current hunter filled his license.

I accepted Sam's offer and he arranged my flights to arrive in Kodiak on Friday April 18th. I would overnight in Kodiak and fly into camp on Saturday and start hunting on Sunday the 20th. My plan would be to fly home on the 28th but possibly earlier if I shot a big bear. This would enable me to attend Bob Garner's PATH fundraiser dinner which I would hate to miss. Unfortunately Kodiak had other plans for us. I did make it to Kodiak on Friday but the weather would be a factor on Saturday.

The weather on Saturday was windy (40+ mph) with limited visibility so the flight to camp was canceled. Easter Sunday looked possible but the Andrews air people wouldn't not be flying as it was a religious holiday meant to spend with their families. So, now the best I could hope for was a Monday departure with the hunt beginning in Tuesday. Sam received good news from Bucko (his guide stationed on Olga Lake) that the other hunter, had shot a ten footer which would open up the cabin for me. Sam would fly the hunter and Bucko into town so the hunter could fly home and Bucko could shower and have a good meal in town before we flew back to camp.

After a nice meal in Kodiak, we flew out to Olga Lake and the small cabin. The trip normally takes an hour in a float plane. The cabin was situated about a 100 yards up from shore at the base of a 1500 foot high hill overlooking a small lake that was

a mile across and 5 miles long. Three snow-capped mountains were in front of us across the lake. Each had a ravine leading down to the lake which served as a pathway to Bear Mountain at the south end of the lake. Bear Mountain was the normal destination and gathering spot for the bears. This would only be hunted when the surrounding area was checked and only when the wind was right.

Bucko explained to me that he had a very specific way of hunting. He knew bear had an incredible nose (5 times better than a bloodhound) and our scent had to be kept to a minimum. We would only enter an area to stalk a particular bear that we wanted to shoot. Minimum was 9 and one half feet and a ten footer was better. He told me he had been accused of being lazy in the past

because he never started hunting before 9am. He felt most of the bear movement was between 3pm and 8pm depending on the weather. Spreading our scent around would force the big bears to either leave the area or become nocturnal making them impossible to kill. We would spend our time glassing from the cabin for a few days before we would venture to Bear Mountain

but only if we had a good wind direction. Bucko had guided hunters for a number of years and we would be hunting native owned corporation land of which he was a member. His total take to date was 76 bears despite being only in his late 30's.

The first day Bucko and our packer, Joel, pointed out numerous sows and cubs and one eight foot boar. The area across the lake with its intersecting fingers was a prime area for boars passing through to Bear Mountain. Bucko pointed out each location where he had killed a big bear in the past which fueled my optimism. I was adept at picking out deer but all the bears had to be pointed out to me. Tuesday had the usual blowing wind and intermittent showers throughout the day. The wind was from the northeast running down the length of the lake forecasting lousy weather for the day and possibly into Wednesday.

I went to bed that night optimistic but coming down with a head cold which was not good. Wake up time would be 9am with coffee and then out the door to sit on the porch glassing the surrounding area. The wind was predicted to switch to the south which would bring Bear Mountain into play if necessary. Joel and Bucko continued to spot bears, the majority being sows and cubs. I, on the other hand, continued to pick out deer as they fed on the grass. The weather continued to improve and we were treated to the best day yet with calm winds and sunny skies. Bucko felt the bears would be up and moving in the afternoon



and early evening. Our normal routine was to have an early meal around 2pm preparing for the expected bear activity from 3 to 8 pm. Around 4pm Bucko and Joel decided to climb up the hill behind camp to gain a better vantage point. I decided to stay on the porch popping cough lozenges for my sore throat. The last thing I needed would be a coughing spell if we found a bear to stalk.

About 5 pm I spotted a dark shape three miles in the distance across the lake entering a grass field. Through eight power binoculars it looked like a deer when it faced me. But when it turned sideways it looked like a bear. At that distance I had no idea how big it was. It continued to head in our direction and it became apparent it definitely was a bear. I watched as it entered a patch of alders in the center of the field and stood up to rub its back on the branches. I decided to signal Bucko and Joel that I had a bear in sight by waving and pointing in the direction I was focused on. I sat down on the cooler and continued watching the bear as he left the alder patch and headed to the front edge of the field. I began to think that the bear must not be very big as Bucko and Joel stayed up the hill. About 20 minutes later Bucko appeared at the cabin out of breath, telling me the bear was huge and in the ten foot range. He had lost sight of the bear on the climb down and asked me where I last saw the bear. I told him I watched it enter some tag alders near the front edge of the field that was bordered by a ravine. The ravine was the right fork of the stream that ran into the lake. Another section of the main ravine ran to the left forming a shape like a Y. This section wrapped around behind the mountain facing us and ended at Bear Mountain.

We hurriedly grabbed our gear and headed down to the boat. We would have to motor across the mile width of the lake where the stream entered the lake and begin our stalk. The wind was switching through the east on the way to the south that was expected on Thursday. Bucko told me this could create problems as we had lost sight of the bear. The best case scenario was for the breeze to travel up the left fork allowing us to approach where I last saw the bear without him winding us. We moved 3 to 400 yards with Bucko constantly checking the wind direction with his lighter. We spooked a sow and cub out of the alders and watched as they headed up the mountain. Bucko was hesitant to move any further forward. The wind was now almost directly at our back. He decided we needed to back out and head back across the lake before we spooked the bear. Naturally I was disappointed but it was better to avoid ruining our chance at an exceptional bear.

Back at the cabin the guys headed back up the hill with the spotting scope to try and relocate the bear. Bucko declared if the bear was still there tomorrow and he was able to locate it we had a 90% chance of killing it. They came back to camp at dark having watched the bear enter a patch of alders hopefully to bed down just short of where we had called off the stalk. We went to bed not knowing whether the bear would cut our trail and spook or would he be short of our scent trail or continue on to Bear Mountain.

Bucko told me there were two ways of calling in a bear. You could use a predator distress call to attract a bear who came in thinking he would find an easy meal. Or the second method which he preferred was to sound like a bear invading a dominant bears territory. Hopefully we would have a chance to test one of

the methods.

Bucko was up at 7:30am instead of the usual 9am. Like all of us we were hoping to find the bear still in the area. The weather was horrible with wind, rain and fog concealing some of the mountains. At times it was difficult to see across the lake. Low lying clouds would roll in and out. There was very little game movement as everything seemed to still be bedded. Bucko and Joel kept glassing hoping to spot the bear in the alder patch where they saw him last night. I spent most of the day in the cabin trying to keep my cold from worsening. I had a tough time seeing things under the best of conditions without the handicap of today's weather.

Near 5pm, Joel spotted the bear in a small opening among the «tags» eating grass. We threw our gear together and headed to the boat which we used again to cross the lake. The stalk would be the same as the first time but on the opposite side of the ravine to take advantage of the wind. Even though the wind direction was perpendicular to the stream and ravine it still had a tendency to blow up the stream and toward the bear. We would have to be very careful. Bucko led the way through the alders to a place that was relatively open. There we crawled on our hands and knees for about 70 yards. We then reached a strip of alders which allowed us the cover to head straight at the bear. We knew approximately where he was laying down in the alders but couldn't see him. He was on the opposite bank from us about 200 yards away. Bucko positioned me and wanted me to shoot off a standing pack frame as a rest. I told him I would rather shoot from a sitting position with my front elbow resting on my knee. The noise of the stream helped conceal any noise we were making. We were situated on a 30 foot bank opposite from the bear and 100 yards from the stream. We were slightly lower in elevation than the bear. Bucko told me the only thing he asked of me was not to shoot until he gave me the okay. He then stood and let out a loud bear sound to challenge the boar we were hunting.

He told me the bear was coming because he saw the brush move as the bear made his way toward us. Soon I saw the bear cross a small opening. He had pinpointed Bucko's vocalization and was slowly walking right at us. He reached the opposite bank of the stream and headed across. Between him and us was 100 yards of short grass. Seeing him in the open caused the tension to build. Bucko told me to "let him come". I had my gun trained on him the whole time in case he saw, heard or smelled something he didn't like. I could tell he was the biggest bear I had ever seen in the wild. He walked with a "swagger" that told you he owned the place and wasn't going to tolerate any intruders. He closed to 60 yards and turned slightly quartering to me. Bucko whispered for me to "take the shot". I hit him in the shoulder which caused him to start spinning at the same time biting at the point of impact. Bucko yelled for me "to shoot again" and I hit him in the center of the body as he was running broadside. He was slowing down and my final shot hit him in the spine which caused him to collapse on the bank near the stream.

Joel managed to video the whole sequence of events. You could hear me say "wow" after my last shot. Bucko kept slapping me on the back repeating "you just shot a huge bear!" and I guess I had.....28 1/8 inch skull and 10 1/2 foot Kodiak brown bear. Finally Kodiak was off my bucket list!!!

What is the Michigan Involvement Committee (MIC)?

By Jim Leonard

I was reminded that most people in the Chapter do not know what the letters MIC stand for. As an explanation, MIC is the Safari Club International **M**ichigan **I**nvolvement **C**ommittee. It was originally formed in 1980 as a committee of representatives from each of the SCI Chapters located in the State of Michigan. They work with designated representatives of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) to coordinate funding of MDNR wildlife conservation programs and MDNR wildlife research projects that might otherwise not be funded.

MIC has grown to be the most influential partnership between SCI and a state wildlife agency in the history of this country or SCI.

The first major undertaking by SCI MIC was the reintroduction of Moose into Michigan's Upper Peninsula during the winters of 1985 and 1987 via the transplantation of a total of 61 animals from Ontario, Canada. Our Lansing Area Chapter has been an active participant in MIC since our Chapter formation in the year 2000.

Currently MIC operates with an annual budget of approximately \$50,000. The MDNR Research Projects being financed by MIC this year are: the ongoing extensive Predator Prey project in the UP, the ongoing Grey Wolf Population study also in the UP, a study to determine the factors that contribute to the distribution and abundance of Diving Ducks in Michigan, and a detailed assessment of factors that influence Deer Populations following a Major Mortality Event (remember the big EHD die off last year?). Besides these MDNR projects, MIC also provides Grants to graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in wildlife and related fields at Michigan-based institutes of high learning.

MIC has funded the following major projects:

- Michigan U.P. Moose Reintroduction
- Michigan Black Bear DNA Population Tracking/Model
- Michigan DNR Fluorescent Microscope
- Northeast Lower Michigan Elk Project
- Michigan U.P. Moose Population Model
- Southern Michigan Deer Project
- Michigan Deer Bovine TB Study
- Michigan Northern Lower Peninsula Marten Project
- Michigan Bobcat Project
- Michigan Predator/Prey Research Project
- Gray Wolf
- Southern Michigan Black Bear
- Diving Duck
- Snowshoe Hare Distribution and Abundance

Jim represents our chapter on the MIC. For more information about MIC, go to <http://www.scimic.org/>

Red Pheasant Cree Nation Hunt November 5, 2013

by Jim Wisner



I purchased this hunt for one person at the Lansing SCI banquet. After talking this hunt over with Daryl Kesler and his 3 sons (Tim, Todd & Troy), Carl Oleson, Dave Boedeker & Marvin Meyers they all booked the hunt so we had 8 hunters going to Monster's Ink in Cando, Saskatchewan. This is a very unique hunt as you get one license and you can hunt any one of the big game species that you would like (moose, elk, mule deer or white tail, even an antelope or free range buffalo and some others). Our hunt was to start October 16th but Dustin, the outfitter, said we should arrive October 15th in the afternoon to pre-scout for the hunt. When he found out we were arriving ahead of schedule he had us come to the lodge the afternoon of the 14th. This was a great deal as the hotel costs per room were running about \$170 plus meals, so he saved us considerably. He also let us talk to the husband and wife that were there hunting the week before we got there. They were very nice people and told us all about their hunt. They were very happy that they harvested one mule deer, one elk and one moose as they used the option Monster's Inc. gives you to purchase additional tags to continue hunting until your trip is complete.

The morning of the 15th arrived early and we were off to pre-scout for the hunt on the 16th. As it turned out pre-scout turned into pre-hunt as Daryl and his guide spotted a moose about an hour after sun up and the first moose was down. About 15 minutes after his was down my guide spotted the second moose and I got the second moose on the ground. That's when the guides started the work of getting them loaded and back to camp. They took us back to camp while they did the heavy lifting and while we were at camp making coffee and talking about the hunt Daryl looked out the back window and saw a bull moose across the valley. He called me over to look at it with my spotting scope and as it walked into the brush another bull moose walked out

Texas Aoudad Hunt – December 2012

by James Sloat

and followed the first one. I started looking the area over with the spotting scope and saw a good mule deer buck. Daryl walked over and looked out and spotted a second mule deer buck, so the morning was pretty darn exciting. Later that day Troy harvested the 3rd moose during the pre-hunt.

The second & third days were much slower and no animals were harvested but many were seen and passed on. The 4th day Todd got his bull moose and saw another big moose so we got the guys together in the afternoon and pushed the area where he last saw the moose. It came out where the guide thought it might and Tim got the shot or should I say, “shots”, off. Some of these moose are tougher than others and this one ran about a mile back closer to camp. We trailed it until dark then went back the next morning and found it about 50' from where we were looking. This was #5 but Dave actually got #5 on the trailer as he shot and found his while we were looking for Tim's the night before. They are still trying to decide who got theirs first. This may go on for awhile. Our last hunter, who was after a moose, had the best excuse for missing an animal that I have ever heard. Marvin says (and his guide confirmed this story but there may have been money exchanged to back this story up) they spotted a small moose and he walked closer to get a better look he decided to pass as it was a smaller moose than most he had seen. As was starting to leave, a much bigger bull moose stepped out. Marvin got back in position and just as he is pulling the trigger on the muzzle loader the guide's dog jumped out of the truck and started chasing the moose, making Marvin miss the kill shot, so no moose for Marvin.

Carl was only after a 180 and above Whitetail and he never saw one. He did however see several 140"-150" and so did some of the other guys, but not many. Carl could have shot six different Bull Moose but already had a trophy moose at home on the wall.

I did use the option of the second license and harvested a decent mule deer and two coyotes. Todd also got two coyotes, they seemed to be everywhere. We also got to see the southward migration of snow geese and Canadian geese. There were thousands of them, so I now believe the stories about the sky going dark with them. The daily limit is 30 per person. There was an annual contest going on where they have 35-man teams hunting geese. The first 6 teams all limited out. That is 6,300 geese in one day!

Monster's Ink is an outstanding place to hunt. Dustin is the man to talk to if you want an unforgettable hunt and Stewart the Chief of Red Pheasant Cree Nation is right there making sure things are going good. Ask any of the guys about the hunt, I'm sure they will be glad to talk about it (Daryl Kesler, Tim Kesler, Todd Kesler, Troy Kesler, Carl Oleson, Dave Boedeker, Marvin Meyers and Jim Wisner).

Given that my hunting partner lived in Dallas, Texas at the time, he had arranged for an Aoudad hunt with Ghostwater Creek Ranch (GCR). GCR is located near Sonoma, Texas and really reflects the unique beauty of southern Texas. My wife Jill and Caleb's wife Jaclyn drove with us to Sonoma, approximately 440 miles from Dallas.

We scheduled the hunt to be a three day excursion on GCR's 2,000 acre low-fence ranch. For those not familiar, Texas ranches are either low fenced, or high fenced. Essentially, low fenced ranches are actively managed properties where animals are truly free-ranging and come and go as they please. GCR's property encompasses a great range of terrain from the expected grasslands, to some rather broken terrain in which the aoudad call home. This rough terrain allowed for us to spot and stalk with archery equipment rather comfortably. Even though this is a great area for aoudad – the number two archery aoudad was taken on GCR last year – the property also has elk, Barbary sheep, Spanish goats, wild boar, and axis deer roaming about.

During our stay with GCR we both took very nice rams, and Caleb also took a cull Barbary sheep. The hunting was just the icing on the cake though, as the lodging was second to none. This is single-handedly the most professional place we have stayed and ate at. The facilities were first class, and everything was well organized. GCR takes great pride in its lodging, and even brings a chef down from Dallas to prepare the meals during your stay. Meals were spectacular, and the food presentation was that of a five star restaurant – it was amazing.

Our trip went so well, that we were already planning dates to return before we had even left. During our trip in December, the weather ranged between 35 to 50 degrees. Great temperatures for the type of hunting that they offer at GCR. We are looking forward to our next trip this year, and will hopefully be able to take blackbuck and possibly trophy free-range Barbary sheep. This time though, we'll be flying into Del Rio, TX where GCR offers to pick up their clients at no additional charge. Overall, this was an exceptional hunt and GCR provides exceptional value for the money.



GRAND SLAM EVEN GRANDER TIME

by Tom Belloi

One of the many benefits of our membership in the Lansing Area Chapter SCI is the chance to create great memories with great friends. The pursuit of the Wild Turkey World Slam presented another opportunity



and we took advantage of it and headed to Mexico.

Having traveled to Campeche, Mexico to successfully hunt the oscillated turkey with Maryanne & Glenn Belyea, Don Inman & Virginia Pierce and my wife Sally several years ago, it only seemed natural for our group to get together again to hunt the Gould's. Virginia, Don, Glenn and I all needed this bird to complete our World Slams. Maryanne had surpassed us all when she took the oscillated to complete her World Slam on our last Mexican adventure. We had to try to join her and become members of this select club. Terry Braden also joined our group this time to start his quest for the turkey's of the world. Since Terry has taken just about every other species of big game, it was time for him to add the turkey's of the world to his never ending wish list.

After investigating several outfitters, we booked our hunt with Alonso Ayala Grimaud at the El Durangueno Ranch in Durango, Mexico. What a great decision! The ranch has majestic



mountains, impressive canyons, pine and oak woods, green ranges and numerous dams and brooks. Diverse wildlife can be found in this magnificent natural scenery including Gould's turkeys, Coues deer and elk. As it turned out, the ranch is also a wonderful place for vacationing, horseback riding, motorcycle and bicycle riding, fishing, bird watching and simply enjoying the

beauty of its natural scenery or just plain relaxing.

The lodge itself is incredible! Beautiful large, fully appointed bedrooms with king size beds and ensuite bathrooms, comfortable and inviting seating areas with huge fireplaces, a billiard room and spacious dining room. A beautiful chapel rests high on the hill behind the lodge. The food was delicious and prepared by a marvelous cook, Emma. Alonso and his staff fulfilled our every wish and then some. Before we arrived for the hunt, he even took orders for our favorite "liquid refreshments" and fresh bottles were on hand for us to enjoy each evening after our hunt. All included in the initial price!

The hunting was fabulous. Each individual guide worked tirelessly to produce turkeys and each was highly productive. During our three day hunt (two hunts each per day), our group saw over 400 turkeys. Most of them were hens, but we were hunting very early in the season. We each saw several very nice gobblers and all of us shot a



beautiful Tom. The beards were all over 9.5 inches with the largest being 11.5. The final night was a time for celebration. As we reminisced about the trip, we weren't sure what the best memory was, the Grand Slam or the Grand time we all had? If you are just starting your turkey quest or need the Gould's to add to the list, I couldn't recommend a better place to go. El Durangueno and Alonso will not disappoint you. I guarantee you will have a grand time!



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Bucky Night Duck and Goose Hunt Success with Dan Taylor *By: Jim Houthoofd*

It was a bucky night, as the alarm clock woke me with snappy country tunes. 4 am comes early and I needed to meet with my group to hunt with Dan Taylor in Holly, MI. It was December 28th and was the first day of the two day duck and goose bonus weekend, “holy days of obligation” for any serious duck hunter. We were lucky enough to catch Dan with an opening and it was going to be a great day!

I had assembled a good group including Helmut Scherer, Mike Sheets, Jon Sheets (a senior at U of M), Dave Ratliff and Ben Ratliff (Dave’s son, in for the week from China). We met at Dan’s house at 6 am and convoyed to the hunting spot (honey hole) with the objective of getting ready by 7 am, so that when the ducks flew at 7:30 am we would be prepared.

Like clockwork, I looked down at my watch and the first group of ducks came in at exactly the legal time. If there is one thing that Dan knows, it is ducks and geese. Several waves of ducks came until we couldn’t recall exactly how many we had shot, but we knew it was either 12 or 13 or maybe 14. I can’t say that our shooting was very good or whether the ducks were bullet proof, but we did get some ducks and we had a great time. I suspect that some of the ducks fell dead from heart attacks and others died of laughing at our poor shooting, but we did our best. It was a perfect setup in a swampy area with lots of cattails and a small creek that the ducks just loved to fly into.

Dan doesn’t work with a dog, but he got into the icy water (I conveniently forgot my waders) and retrieved ducks like a prized lab. At one point, Dan was behind us grabbing a few ducks and more were coming into our decoys. I looked to my right and everybody had their guns mounted and I was still ducked down in the cattails. All I could say was “take ‘em boys!”

Unfortunately, it was a blue sky day and the ducks quit flying a little before we got our limit, but a fun time was had by all. Dan not only knows a lot about ducks and geese (and where they hang out), but he also donates a hunt and participates in the Lansing Area Chapter of SCI Fundraisers every year. Outfitters like Dan are true conservationists and we should hunt with them as often as we are lucky enough to get the opportunity. It was a bucky night!



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