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QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF SAFARI CLUB LAANSING CHAPTER

# SCI supports Moose Habitat at Potter Park Zoo

Conservation Humanitarian Education

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The Chapter Dinner Meeting was Wednesday, June 8 was held at Potter Park Zoo and began with enjoying Moose Exhibit open house. After the Chapter toured the Exhibit, they congregated in the community room for Dinner. The meeting opened with a presentation about SCI's involvement with the Michigan Moose and Lansing Area and Mid-Michigan Chapter's participation in the Potter Park Moose Exhibit followed by a spectacular story from a teacher about his unique AWLS adventures.

Potter Park Zoo's Alaskan moose exhibit beginning Monday, June 2, 2014, when Willow, the zoo's first moose, arrived. She was just over one year old and was rescued from the Anchorage, Alaska area after her mother was hit by a car. She has been at the zoo since fall 2013.

The key to a successful animal transfer is a lot of planning and communication prior to the big day. The Alaska Zoo, Fed-Ex, Alaska Fish and Game and Michigan Department of Agriculture were all instrumental in the success of this transfer.

The male moose arrived at Potter Park Zoo in September 2014. Like every new addition to

**"WE SEE THE ZOO AS A GATEWAY TO LEARNING ABOUT CONSERVATION AND RESPECT AND CARE FOR ANIMALS," SAID TOM HUGGLER OF THE GLASSEN FOUNDATION**

the zoo, he entered into a quarantine period as required in the regulations of the Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) of which Potter Park Zoo is an accredited member. Quarantine is a

period of time in which strict biosecurity protocols must be adhered to until criteria determined by the vet staff has been met. These criteria are established to protect



**FACTS:** The Alaskan Moose are long-legged and heavy bodied with a drooping nose. Under their chin they have a fold of hair-covered skin called a dewlap or bell. Alaskan moose also have a short tail. Their large antlers make them easily recognized but are only carried by males. The largest sized antlers (trophy size) are usually developed by ages 10-12.

Meeko was separated from his mother in nature and taken to the Alaska Zoo as an orphan to be cared for until his transfer to Michigan. Our Animal Curator, Cynthia Wagner, was able to accompany the moose on his trip back to the mitten and it proved to be a valuable excursion.

the health and safety of the male moose and the rest of the animals at Potter Park Zoo. Once cleared from quarantine, the new moose was

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# Safari Wish Hunt

## Hunter Advocacy Conservation Humanitarian Education

**Advocacy:** Since 2000, SCI has spent over \$140 million on protecting the freedom to hunt through policy advocacy, litigation, and education for federal and state legislators to ensure hunting is protected for future generations. Through direct involvement and partnerships with like-minded organizations, SCI has become a political force in Washington, D.C. and other countries.

**Conservation:** The SCI Foundation conservation team funds and manages worldwide programs dedicated to wildlife conservation. Each of our programs – Africa, Asia, and North America – has specific areas of focus, from disease to predator-prey interaction to conservation to hunting management. We work closely with SCI Chapters and members to advance many local, regional, and global wildlife conservation projects each year. Chapters around the world are involved in projects to promote conservation of wildlife. Watch for news and details of how the Upper Peninsula of Michigan deer herd was named as the conservation committee's #1 North American project for 2015.

**Education:** Education makes a difference in wildlife conservation. Sportsmen and women, avid in their passion of the outdoors, pass on their knowledge to peers and young people to continue our outdoor heritage. Our chapter has sent many teachers to the American Wilderness Leadership School in Jackson, Wyoming and Laurentian, Wisconsin, supported Archery in the Schools and Salmon in the Schools along with many other education programs.

**Humanitarian Services:** Through SCI Foundation's myriad of humanitarian programs, SCI chapters and individual members demonstrate the highest levels of philanthropy by directly reaching out to people in need throughout the world. The Lansing Chapter provides Veterans with hunt opportunities, schools and hospitals with blue bags via the SafariCare™ program, and life challenged youth with wish hunts.

It was cool in the early morning of Thursday October 8th as Janet and I set out for four days of hunting with five young health challenged boys at Valhalla Ranch, north and east of Grayling. The hunt was scheduled by the Foundation for Hope Outdoor Adventures. Our Lansing Area Chapter had arranged to cosponsor two of the hunters, Dalton and Devin. (Unfortunately, at the last minute Devin's doctor said he had to immediately start a daily routine of chemo treatments so he was unable to go. We are hoping to get him hunting yet this fall when his doctor gives the ok.) With this development the hunters were trimmed to four.

Soon after we got in Camp, Dalton and his dad and the other boys, each with a parent, started arriving. They were graciously greeted and then settled into their assigned rooms. After a nice lunch, each hunter was presented a travel bag packed with camo hunting cloths, boots, binoculars, pro-ear hearing protection, a custom made knife, sportsman's bible, and other assorted goodies. With a quick session at the rifle range they all demonstrated that they were ready to go. The hunting, which I will get into in a bit later, fell into a routine of hunter, guide, parent, and someone with a video camera going to a blind in the late afternoon and then again in the morning before daylight for a few hours. This left several hours midday for play and play they did! It was heart warming to watch the lasting friendships develop. Rob Jellison, coach of the winning Hartland School system archery program, showed up with an enclosed trailer full of archery equipment. He had an 8-foot high by 50-foot long arrow

stopping backdrop that got strung between trees. Then in front of it he set up dozens of 3-D animal targets. Finally out came several Genesis bows and hundreds of arrows. That was all it took. From then on, the four boys, parents, guests, and camp staff were constantly peppering the targets with

“WE WISH YOU ALL COULD EXPERIENCE THE LIFE ALTERING EXPERIENCE OF BEING WITH THESE BRAVE YOUNG PEOPLE.”

arrows. To add more excitement, Brian Parks, owner of Valhalla ranch and also President of Strothers Bows set up moving 3-D targets



that traveled on a rail system. Dalton who is confined to a wheelchair and has restricted use of his hands was still able to shoot with the best of them using a low power crossbow rigged to a rifle support attached to his wheelchair. This is just a sample of the many mid day activities that the kids and adults had to make lasting memories of their enjoyable experience in this beautiful Michigan northern woods setting. I failed to mention that while all this was going on we also got to watch several majestic bald eagles sail overhead.

This is a report of the Wish Hunt so I better get back to the actual hunting activities. Thursday night Dalton and the other three young

guys headed to the woods for their first try. When it got too dark to see, they came back to camp and young Lane, who is also wheelchair bound, was all smiles as he showed us the nice buck he had harvested. Friday morning and then again Friday night two more boys filled their dreams with a nice trophy. Dalton was still drawing a blank.

When he came in Saturday morning still empty-handed concerns started to really grow. Saturday night was it. We all had our fingers crossed as he went back out that evening. Since no other hunters were out, Janet and I were taken to another blind to watch for deer. As we sat looking at deer and turkeys it was getting darker and we still had not heard a gun shot. Suddenly Bang! The faint sound came echoing through the woods. What a relief. We got back to camp in time to see Dalton arrive, all smiles with a beautiful whitetail.

Sunday morning the experience of a lifetime was over and heartwarming but sad farewells were exchanged as the brave young guys had to return back to reality and their life at home.

I've said this before but it is still true. We wish you all could experience the life altering experience of being with these brave young people. More importantly, YOU are the only reason these hunts can happen. Between the generous donors and your attendance and participation at our Chapter Fundraiser, your Chapter is able to fund these hunts.

THANKS TO EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU!!

# SCI supports Moose Habitat

at Potter Park Zoo (Concluded)



Q. How do you mail a moose?

A. **FedEx**.

introduced to the twenty-month-old female moose, Willow, and her habitat.

With now having two moose, the Potter Park began the process of creating a new enclosure. "The reason why we wanted an exhibit of this size and with the features because that is something that's needed by the moose," said Amy Morris, Director of External Affairs. "We are one of nine in the United States that have Alaskan moose and the reason for that is because they have difficulty in warmer climates."

This state-of-the-art exhibit took a giant leap forward with a generous gift from the Hal and Jean Glassen Memorial Foundation. "Receiving a \$200,000 matching grant from the Glassen Foundation jump starts our fundraising efforts for this important project," said Sherrie Graham, Director of Potter Park Zoo. Hal and Jean Glassen were avid hunters and lifelong conservationists. They believed so strongly in the scientific management of wildlife they estab-



lished the Glassen Memorial Foundation before their deaths in 1992 to carry on the goals they worked for throughout their lives.

Potter Park Zoo's new moose exhibit will support research and programs aimed at habitat improvement. The exhibit was specially designed to replicate the moose's natural habitat, providing them with a large cooling pond. Besides the cooling effect of water, from which moose are seldom far away, it provides a food source and the water protects against biting insects and offers good food supply. The enclosure balances the needs of the animals and safety of the visitors. The Zoo says a part of safety is how it designs its enclosures, which is why it used wooden posts, which won't hurt anyone but aren't comfortable for a child to sit on. "If somebody should actually get up too high on the barrier and fall in, we have a network of cables that will actually serve as sort of a kid catcher, if you will, to make sure that no one can actually go into the exhibit," Laidler said.



FROM ITS HUMBLE BEGINNINGS  
TO OPENING THIS WONDERFUL HABITATE,  
POTTER PARK ZOO HAS SEEN A  
MULTITUDE OF EXCITING CHANGES.  
THANK YOU SCI FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

# SCI Lansing – Pheasant Hunt

By Jim Houthoofd

It was a bucky morning - as I rolled out of bed at 7 am and strolled down the driveway to get the Sunday newspaper. The autumn air was cool. As I ate some toast and read the morning paper, I could barely concentrate because I was eager to get going. It was a short 15 minute drive to Dunn Creek Outfitters in Laingsburg, MI.

We were again hosting a great group of soldiers for the Chapter Soldier Pheasant Hunt. The schedule was to be as follows:

9:00 am Arrive to a continental breakfast

9:30 am Safety Instructions

10:00 am European Tower Hunt

12:00 pm Lunch

1:00 pm clean up hunt

The lodge is a very impressive and comfortable place built in the tradition of a southern plantation style quail hunting operations, with a green tin roof and knotty pine interior. The lodge is outfitted with a huge stone

fireplace, comfortable leather furniture, a full kitchen with granite counters and stainless appliances. It is very classy.

The hunters, 29 soldiers and 7 members, had a combination of 12 and 20 gauge shotguns for the tower hunt. They came in several shapes, sizes and brands – over and unders, pumps and semi-automatics. Remington, Browning, Ithaca, Mossberg and Weatherby – all were represented. In my humble opinion the 12 is likely the best choice for the tower hunt as the birds sometimes fly high and far.

For the walk up hunt the best

choice is likely one of the smaller gauge guns, such as a 16 or 20 gauge.

One great thing about the hunt was my chance to hunt behind some really great dogs. Apparently, they have an impressive list of dog trainers that they call on to help with the hunts. Note to all future participants: There is nothing as civilized as walking up behind a dog on point and taking a leisurely one shot, unhurried bird.

In the end, 180 birds were released to 18 hunters and many were recovered by the hunters. Young and old hunters enjoyed the camaraderie that comes with a walk on a Sunday. The dogs were happy as was my heart. Hopefully, there will be more bucky nights...



**We invite you to join us in activities, projects and membership as we fulfill our stewardship responsibilities in managing our wildlife, fisheries, and natural resources for our enjoyment today and in the future**

## Thankful to get to share another Bucky Night

by Jim Houthoofd

Thanksgiving weekend is always a great time of year, not only to reflect on our good fortune and of the advantages that we have been given, but to get a final weekend of deer hunting in before December arrives. For the last several years I've been lucky enough to hunt with Paul Maliskey in Montana and stay with him at Trail Creek Lodge. The lodge is comfortable but not

overly ornate, maybe it could be described as business like, but with all of the comforts of home. The food is great and Paul hunts on several large cattle ranches at the base of the Crazy Mountain range.

This year Paul and I, on one of our stalks, this one in the creek bottom, came upon a very nice whitetail buck with several does. Paul is very calm and is usually pretty cool and understated, so when he said "That's

a really nice buck. Do you like him?" I didn't need to be asked twice.

We were able to get to a fallen log with a 286 yard shot, but the buck took his time and made us wait nearly 30 minutes to get clear. Having taken a long range shooting class and having my model 70 recently back from Pierce Engineering, the short shot was like a chip shot. The

trigger broke cleanly and the buck crumpled where he had stood.



*It was a Bucky Night!!*

# Alaskan Grizzle Hunt 2015

By Jim Munk



North of camp and had yet to see any sign of bears. It turned out to be the right choice as we found a sow and 2 cubs about 3 hours into the trip. Brian showed me the den, from a couple miles away, so I would know what to look for when we stopped and glass for bears.

Later that day we found a kill site. A bear and some wolves had been fighting over the kill, not long before we arrived. Brian said it looked like only a couple of hours had passed since the bear left. Brian was very excited as the bear

so I knew things were going to happen soon. We had traveled about 10 hours and we were about 6 hours from camp if we went straight back. One of the guys who was helping Brian said he had relatives in the town not far away and that we should just spend the night there instead of getting back to camp so late. One call on the satellite phone and away we went.

The next day we set out to hunt our way back to the kill site in hopes of maybe seeing the giant bear that had left the tracks the day before. About two hours into the

drive we stopped on a hill top and glasses for a while. While we were glassing I saw a brown spot on the side of a mountain that looked very similar to the one we saw the day before. I let Brian know and he said it looked like maybe a den but that we were so far away. Hard to

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## SUCCESSFUL YOUTH HUNTERS

Delaney Flavin, age 12, shot this large doe, her first ever deer, on opening morning of the firearm deer season. She was hunting with her dad, Dan, on private land in Jackson County. They hunted out of a tent blind and she used a .50 caliber muzzleloader built by Ken Johnston to drop her doe at about 100 yards.

The following Saturday Dan took 10 year old son, Chase, back to the same blind. Soon after daylight Chase shot this nice 8 point buck, his very first



deer also. He used the same Ken Johnston muzzleloader and dropped his buck at 94 yards.

### NOTE FROM A YOUTH HUNTER Adam Lake, Age 10

It was youth hunting weekend and my first time ever hunting and sitting in a blind. Jim and

I went out in the early morning and I was so excited but we didn't see anything. We went back out in the afternoon and that is when I saw the big

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tracks were of a bear in the 10 foot range. We followed the tracks as far as we could but they headed up a mountain that we couldn't climb with our snowmobiles. Brian said it was one of the largest grizzly bear tracks he had seen in his 27 years of guiding.

We continued on, saw another set of tracks that were a day old. We were seeing sign and Brian was getting more excited,



I booked my grizzly bear hunt with Brian Simpson of Whitrock Outfitters on the advice of Dr. Terry Braden. I flew into Shishmaref Alaska from Nome on a very windy snowy day that made me very nervous. I was having a hard time believing I was going hunting for an animal that had the choice of staying in a nice warm den or walking around in this kind of weather. Once I arrived in Shishmaref, I was greeted by a couple of young guys who quickly took me from the airport to the home of one of the guides for Brian. I was relieved to have survived the flight. A few hours later I was in hunting camp where I was going to be staying while hunting.

The first day was spent waiting for Brian to come back from an overnight hunt with another hunter. It was hot outside, a complete change in weather from the day before. I was walking around in a t-shirt and wasn't cold at all.

Brian and the other hunter arrived back at camp around 2 am and Brian said we would head out in the morning, so I had better get a good night's sleep. I could hardly sleep at all, I was about to begin one of my all time dream hunts. We left about 11 am the next morning and headed South from camp. Brian had been hunting

## Alaskan Grizzle Hunt 2015 (Concluded)

# Trophy Pics



### SUCCESSFUL YOUTH HUNTERS (Concluded)

doe, my heart was going a million miles per hour and then I shoot! Jim told me I made a perfect shot with my cross bow and it hit right in the lung. My favorite part was tracking the blood and finding my deer! I can't wait to hunt again!

The Hidden Horns Game Ranch was the perfect first hunting trip for our kids. Hanna, 12yrs, Adam 11yrs and Jessica 9yrs each had a great experience hunting for rams with the crossbow. This was the kids first time on a hunting trip and staying over night made the experience that more exciting for them. The owner, Brent Fisk was awesome with our kids and us. He made the entire experience well worth the trip for our family. We were able to stalk and hunt together as a family and each of the kids picked out which ram they wanted to hunt. It was a great hunting experience that the kids will remember forever.

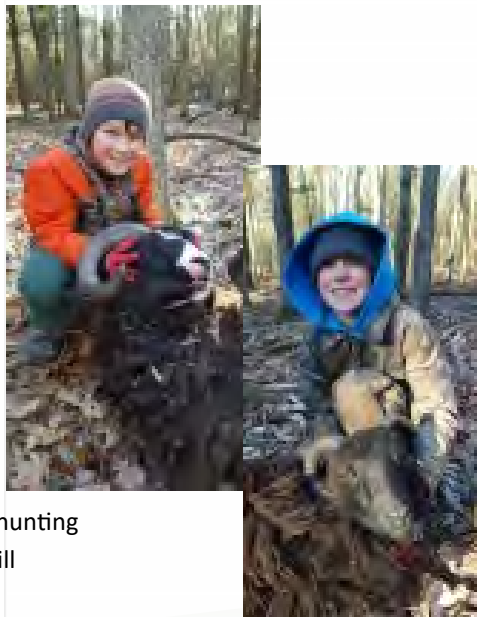
Down hunting in old Mexico with Beto Valdes and I got this really nice Crookii mule deer. Hopefully, we'll run into some nice whitetail for Tim McLaughlin.

-Dr. Ron Lanford



Spring Turkey Hunt

-Jim Houthoofd



tell, until a bear decided it was time to come out and head up the mountain. We watched it for about 45 minutes and then Brian made a plan of attack.

The bear headed straight to the top of the mountain and then went over the top and out of sight. We took off and headed to the right side of the mountain in hopes of seeing the bear on the other side. We were riding to the other side when we found the bear running across the flat tundra to the right of us. Brian handed me my gun and said this was my bear, go get him. I got to about 75 yards from the bear and then he slowed down and looked like he wanted to fight.

So I stopped the snowmobile and got ready for a shot. Now he was over 100 yards away and running full speed directly away from me, 3 good shots from my Browning A bolt in 338 magnum and he was down. What an exciting and thrilling experience, a dream come true. Back at camp we measured the bear at 7.5 feet square and Brian said he figured the bear to be about 20 years old by looking at the rotted front teeth. It turned out to be a dry sow.

I was talking about my hunt to a couple of the other real estate agents in my office and one of the guys said he couldn't believe I shot a grizzly bear. I asked him why and he replied that grizzly bears were almost extinct and should be protected from hunting. I asked him where he got that information from and he said everybody knows that, the media has been talking about it for years. I told him to go spend a week in Alaska talking to people



who live there, and who have to deal with bears on daily basis and then tell me how extinct they are. I've not heard one word about how terrible hunting is from him since.



**SCI**  
**FIRST FOR HUNTERS®**  
**Lansing Area Chapter**

## President's Message

Can you believe that by the time you receive this newsletter that we will be working on the back side of 2016? Where did the first half of the year go?!? How are your New Year's resolutions going?

I recently escaped for a two day trip to the Western UP. Although out of those 48 hours 16 were spent in the car and 12 were spent sleeping, I was able to get a short time to enjoy absolutely perfect 70 degree no humidity UP weather. It was the perfect get-a-way in the outdoors that snapped me back into focusing on the important things in life and how the first half of this year has blown by with me stuck in the grind of daily life missing out on time with friends, family, and solitude in the outdoors.

I hope you are able to take a walk in the woods, cast a line, shoot some targets and visit with friends during these summer months. In August, our chapter meeting will allow you to do almost all of the above (no casting). Watch for more information in the mail and in this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you there to catch up on the events of the first half of the year and hear what you have planned for the second half of the year. We only have 2 months left to get ready for the Michigan Fall hunting season. So much to do and so little time.

*Shoot Straight!*

*Mike Hoskins*



## Chapter Picnic and Meeting

Join us for a picnic, networking with friends, and a gun suppressor demonstration on the range. Chapter Member and Past President, Jim Ellis, along with his sous chef and Chapter Member, Sally Ellis, will be serving their famous pulled pork with all the fixings.

Networking starts at 5:30, the suppressor demonstration on the rifle range starts at 6:30 pm, a picnic dinner starts approximately at 7:00 pm and the presentation of requirements for obtaining a suppressor will follow dinner.

Hearing protection is very important in the shooting sports. Member Bill Parks, owner

of Michigan Police Equipment, will have some suppressors and suppressor equipped rifles to demonstrate on the range and present the benefits of suppressors. Wade Cunningham, also of Michigan Police Equipment, will present and describe the requirements to obtain a suppressor.

**WHEN:** Thursday, August 11

**AT:** 5:30 - 8:30 PM

**WHERE:** Capital Area Sportsmen's League

7534 Old River Trail,

Lansing, Michigan 48917

**Tickets Available \$10**

The Lansing Area Chapter is a 501(c)4 that is dedicated to investing its members' resources in promoting the goals and objectives of Safari Club International in Tucson, AZ. The Chapter's primary focus is Hunter Advocacy as SCI is First For Hunters® and is the leading worldwide advocate for hunters' rights and the protector of our hunting heritage.

Many thanks to Jovon Potter for volunteering to coordinate the newsletter (Mike was struggling being President and Editor). We hope to more constantly get out a quarterly newsletter and we need your help. Please send pictures and short write-ups of your local, regional, national and worldwide hunting, fishing, outdoors and conservation adventures. Articles and pictures can be sent to scilansing@gmail.com. We would be remiss if we did not again not express our appreciation to Mike Leonard for formatting and printing our newsletter.



Tickets through Eventbrite  
 (Checkout Chapter  
 Facebook page for link)

Or register on the Chapter website:  
<http://www.scilansing.com>

# New & Events

## Leopard Hunting Warning

It has come to our attention that there has been an increase by hunting professionals in Namibia to offer Leopard "management" hunts. In other words, Leopard hunts where no Leopard tag is available. These Leopards are then sold as non-exportable hunts, or "problem animal" hunts. We would hereby like to warn all NAPHA members that the offering of such hunts is strictly illegal in terms of the Nature Conservation Ordinance and that any person who is found to offer such hunts is not only in breach of the NAPHA Code of Conduct, he or she is also in breach of the law and could be subject to prosecution of disciplinary action by the NAPHA DC.

We therefore strongly advise all our members to refrain from either advertising or offering such hunts as this not only places the future of hunting in jeopardy, you will also be exposing yourself to a world of legal troubles.

Apparently the NAPHA office received names of outfitters who offer these "non-exportable Leopard" hunts, please do not accept any of these hunt if offered as a donation. Also please warn the members as the last thing I want to see is one of the chapter members get in trouble over this side. With South-Africa not issuing Leopard permits our guys from MET will be on the lookout for anything not above board.

## Chapter Events

### Chapter Dinner Meeting

-August 11, 2016

### Chapter Dinner Meeting

-October 13, 2016

### Whitetail Night

-December 8, 2016

### Chapter Dinner Meeting

-February 9, 2017

### Annual Fundraiser Banquet

- March 17 and 18, 2017

Outfitters Night at Eagle Eye on the 17th  
Fundraiser Banquet at Eagle Eye on the 18th

