



President's Message

Good Morning SCI Nation!!

I hope this letter finds you well, and that you have enjoyed another successful Fall season. It is that time of the year that we all cherish, for it provides some of the best days in field. Weather you prefer a duck blind, or a deer blind, there is nothing quite like the feel of a crisp morning breeze in your face. The anticipation of what is to come. The beauty of nature and the hope for a successful hunt, all combined with the gift of time with friends and family in the outdoors. As the fall ends and winter begins, we begin to look toward our next adventures and dream about what this next year might bring.

As SCI members, we have 2 events that you should plan on attending. First, our Annual Whitetail Night is scheduled for January 28, 2022. You are welcome to bring your best deer from either the 2020 or the 2021 season to be scored by our faithful volunteers. As always, we will enjoy seeing everyone and hearing about your fall hunts, and just catch up from the year that we seemed to lose.

Next, our Annual Fundraiser is set for March 18 and 19, 2022. As customary, it will be a 2-day event, that will include auctions on both evenings, an opportunity to talk to outfitters both days. As always, we will have long raffle tables, many awesome items on the silent auction table, and, of course, there will be card raffles to ensure that many of you take home a new rifle or handgun.

We will be sending out information in the very near future that will allow you to register, including early bird pricing and/or gift draws. See inside for registration sites and information. Registering early allows the board to plan meal counts and ensure that we can provide the best event for all our SCI members.

Enjoy your final days in the field and I wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

SCI – First for Hunters@!!

Dr. Brian Metcalf

President Safari Club International Lansing Area Chapter

“The 5-hour vacation buck” by Josh Reynolds

As life becomes more intense and busy, I have started to measure my vacations in hours instead of days. From kids' activities to working 185 days in a row, every minute of every day is accounted for and usually takes me further from my passion for hunting and what it provides to keep my soul at peace.

Now-a-days, full day sits, scouting, setting up trail cams, and setting multiple stand sights is not obtainable. Being an avid bow hunter and state land hunter for the past 25 years, I usually spent the last 2 weeks in October scouting and walking miles and miles through some of mother nature's finest scenery. Thoughts of having the right scenario and wind for the beginning of the rut for that first week in November, feeling the intense cold as that sun rises while hearing the snapping of branches just out of sight, having the adrenaline pumping and the heart racing in anticipation of that the big buck just about to be show himself as dusk sets in, the mystery of never knowing what is going to happen each time I sit in the stand, and being a part of the solitude of the woods for just those few hours is what keeps me passionate for hunting.

Three years ago, I hit rock bottom in the beginning of November. It was the first time over the course of my hunting career that there was not venison in the freezer, and I had recently lost my last hunting buddy to a car accident in September. The feeling of being alone and only having 9 days off up to that point that year drove me into a depression. Call it a blessing or a miracle but I believe my wife, Ann, saved me that day as we talked about the situation. We discussed taking a trip to a high fence ranch. Without knowing much about it, I was skeptical at first as I was raised with it being drilled into me that high fence hunting was a negative thing. I reserved a hunt with Whitehouse Whitetails in Ravenna, Mi with Pete and Laura. Hesitant at first, but after sitting in the blind for about two hours, the passion was ignited again. The opportunity to harvest a buck with a big rack presented itself. With the excitement of harvesting a big non-typical, I was intrigued at what it might score. This led me to Dr. Terry Braden who, after scoring it, invited me to attend the Lansing Area Chapter SCI Whitetail Night event. Since that moment, I have been a part of the SCI family. Surrounded by fellow hunters has been a blessing. The negatives I was taught about high fence hunting quickly vanished as I have witnessed first-hand the care these animals get.



"The 5-hour vacation buck" (continued)

This year, I was in the same predicament as three years ago. The construction work schedule was made in April for the entire year. Just a couple weeks later, my laborer decided to quit literally the day before his raise went through. Trying to stay on schedule, I carried the workload alone from one job right to the next. I went from Monday thru Sunday without any help to be hired. I was drained and exhausted, again. Then, we got a little stretch of rain and my deck job had to be put on hold. With no kid events on the calendar and most of the household chores done, I was quick to grab the phone and call Pete. Departing from my house at 9:00 a.m., traveling two hours across the state, a quick lunch, and a little visit with Pete and Laura, I found myself perched in the blind overlooking the field by noon. Just happy to be watching the deer and glassing over several bucks, a 4 ½ year old buck stepped out. After looking him over, seeing the big belly and the squared off brisket, I guessed he was close to three hundred pounds. This was my deciding factor to take the shot. The adrenaline kicked in as the safety clicked off the .30-06 and I was presented with a broadside shot at about eighty-five yards. The 180 grain bullet made contact and down he went at 4:59 p.m. The five-hour vacation was over, and the work began.

Looking back, I regret thinking negatively about high fence/estate hunts. Now, they are ninety percent of all the hunting I get to do in the year. Hopefully I will get back to state land, but I will still make one trip to support these establishments as they might help someone as much as they have helped me keep grounded and keep my hunting passion alive through these extremely busy times.



Safari Wish Hunt 2021

by Ed H. Edwards, SCI Lansing Chapter Member, avid hunter, and fisherman

Fostering Hope through Outdoor Adventures for life-challenged youth ...

Stay on him! Stay on him! Hunter, who was also the "hunter", did his best to move the Guardian System joystick and hold the screen's cross hairs on the chosen buck. Craig Mortz continued with calm direction and words of encouragement. I focused my bino's to best see the results if a shot was taken and felt my nerves form a slip knot in my gut.

Every year Safari Club International Lansing Area Chapter sponsors at least one life-challenged youth in partnership with the Foundation for Hope Outdoor Adventures at Cedar Hollow Lodge near Grayling, Michigan for a long weekend hunt.



The Foundation was initially established by Tony Semple, a former nine-year NFL veteran offensive guard for the Detroit Lions, and his great friend and business owner, Craig Mortz. Its mission is carried out with the help of many who selflessly serve this organization for the betterment of others.

Tony and Craig's love for the outdoors led them to provide this experience through the Foundation to young people who may not ever experience the combination of excitement and peace hunting provides to one's soul.

The news media nowadays seems to focus on negatively and past and present NFL players are no exception with the only thing newsworthy outside of the sports page is if they have been charged or found guilty of a misdemeanor or worse. If you think negatively of NFL players, I'm not going to try to change your mind but my time spent with Tony was a great experience with one of the kindest men I have ever spent time with.

Tony, Craig, and the other Foundation board members, including Ryan Gati, Mike Ruhlig, and Richard Buckley, all work hard to make sure everyone has a good time. Dan and Char Catlin of The Wildlife Gallery perform their taxidermy magic to help preserve each Safari Wish Hunter's wish hunt memories.

In addition to Michigan residents, many out-of-state guests come in from other Foundation referrals. The 2021 hunt had folks from Wisconsin, Indiana, and Pennsylvania which makes for interesting sports rival discussions during meals. My reply to the Bears, Packers, and Steelers fans is "the Detroit Lions have never lost a Super Bowl!"

I was once again honored to be part of this great organization's event. Now back to the hunt ...

The weather was beautiful, deer were on the move, and all hunters except us were successful the first evening or following morning. Several sits without seeing a shooter did not discourage Hunter. As long as he was seeing deer, warm, and had a few gummy bears he was in a happy place!

Safari Wish Hunt 2021 (continued)

The evening of day two we were in the right blind at the right time. Deer were coming and going from the food plot we were watching, including the one Craig wanted Hunter to take. The only problem was the chosen buck would not settle down and constantly chased does and sparred with other bucks leaving no chance of a shot.

The third time the buck returned was the charm! Broadside and away from other deer, all he needed to do was standstill. Hunter was quiet, calm, and did his best to track the buck and follow directions. Craig, Hunter's dad Derrick, and yours truly had our bino's up most of the time. I'm able to remain calm on the outside but my nerves really work me over when in an observing role! The buck and in my mind the whole world stopped as Hunter lined up the cross hairs and pushed the fire button as soon as Craig whispered shoot! The boom of the .270 broke the silence and Hunter had a buck of a lifetime!



All in all, quite a trip! That evening before falling asleep I did a lot of soul searching about why I enjoy hunting. The joy I get seeing the excitement and innocence of a wheelchair-bound twelve-year-old boy that struggles with pain every day is humbling beyond words. The time I was able to spend with Hunter was an honor and privilege.



My First Bird

by Brianna Metcalf, an avid hunter, and daughter of our current Lansing Chapter President

Bang! The bird went down, Tanner went after it and brought it to Mom. Now, most people would say that after something exciting happens, the time before and during is a blur. Not me though. I remember the immensely boring car drive out to the field. It took almost an hour to get out to the field at Perry Grove Preserve outside of Indianapolis where we hunted.



When my parents and I exited the car, our two Brittany spaniels nearly jumped over us to get out. I stood next to the car while my parents were getting our guns and gear around.

We had only been walking in the field for ten minutes when the dogs suddenly went on point. We walked up to them, but instead of them holding on point like they're supposed to, they crept up with us and spooked the bird themselves. The pheasant went up so fast that I couldn't get a shot. The same thing happened with the next 3 birds.

Though it was mostly Tanner who was not listening, it was kind of funny when Tanner ran too far away and Dad hit the shock collar button that was connected to Tanner's shock collar, but Tigger got shocked instead, so Dad tried the other one, but it shocked Tigger again. (That's when dad realized that he had connected Tigger's caller to both buttons).

Finally, on the fourth bird (1 of the 2 roosters of the day), as I walked in, the rooster flushed and flew slowly up in the wind. Bang! The bird went down, Tanner went after it and fetched it to Mom. I finally got a chance, took it, and hit the rooster! The first of hopefully many with my new Browning Citori 20 gauge.



Find us on the Web, Facebook, and Twitter!

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Veterans' Hunt 2021

by Marty Crimp, an avid hunter, fisherman, and Lansing Chapter Board Member



Nearly 100 veterans enjoyed an exciting day of pheasant hunting November 7, 2021 at the annual Veterans' Pheasant Hunt at Crooked Foot Upland Bird & Game Hunting Club. The 100 attendees was the largest ever for the event, and registration had to be closed because so many people wanted to attend.

This event, whose major sponsor is the SCI Lansing Area Chapter, started early with a raffle for the veterans in attendance, which included an array of hunting gear, and a few shotguns! The hunt started with the veterans splitting off into three groups for a traditional European tower hunt, where pheasants are released from a center tower and fly out towards the shooters positioned in a circular array of stations like spokes in a bike wheel about 75 yards away from the tower. Two veterans occupied each shooting station. By the time the pheasant were flying past the stations, they were moving at mach speeds! When the birds started flying, so did the steel shot!

Volunteers with bird dogs collected the downed birds, while others kept the veterans well stocked with shot shells. When signaled, the shooters rotated clockwise to the next station, rotating until everyone had a chance from each of the 25 stations. A total of 900 birds were released from the three towers. Once all of the birds were released and everyone had a chance to shoot (and miss) some birds from the stands, small groups of six to eight shooters set out with volunteers and dogs to walk-up hunt the many birds that were missed earlier.

Once a good number of birds were collected, all of the participants reconvened at the club house for a wonderful lunch. It began with pheasant jalapeño cream cheese popper appetizers, and then moved to a salad, smoked pork loin steaks, mashed potatoes and gravy, vegetables, with hot rolls and dessert. What a great way to cap off a wonderful day honoring our veterans! Those who chose too, took home a few brace of birds, fully cleaned by volunteers at the club.

Idaho Waterfowl a Fun Hunt!

by Ed H. Edwards, SCI Lansing Chapter Member, avid hunter, and fisherman

SCI Members from Five States Travel to Idaho and Have a Blast!

Take 'em! Four Giant Canada geese settle into our decoy spread like crows coming to fresh roadkill. Pete Shores from Florida and Dewey Mctee from Texas each drop one from the right side of the pit blind we occupied filling their limits. The two remaining make a left turn and I waste no time making a double completing my limit. Jeff Sever from Florida had already limited out and gave us high fives as considerable feathers drifted across the field. Our four-man limit of 16 geese down in about 45 minutes, a great start to our three-day hunt!

When you think of great waterfowl hunting states Arkansas, Texas, Maryland, and a few others come to mind. Idaho is known for elk, deer, and upland birds but a waterfowl destination?

Larry Shores a friend and outstanding SCI member from Florida had hunted Idaho last season with Dan Sozzi from California and they had a group hunt set up for 2021 and a member of the group canceled at the last minute. Would I be interested? Definitely!

Caldwell is a rapidly growing town approximately 30 miles from Boise and is a mecca for Canada geese and mallards with several hunting clubs and guided day hunt options. Our group hunted with Snake River Basin Outfitters and they put us on birds in both field and water set-ups.

Many of the properties have a 20 gauge and smaller restriction and due to realistic decoy spreads, well-concealed blinds, and light hunting pressure hunters using 20 and 28 gauge do well often limiting out in short order.



I've hunted waterfowl with the same 12 gauge since 1978 and intend to stick with it and admit to being very stubborn in that regard but found the sub-gauge trend interesting. Definitely a testament to the quality of hunting that exists in the area.

The most interesting and previously unheard feat I came across on this trip was a member of our group that uses a .410 for waterfowl. Will Parks a very active hunter and SCI member from Alabama is an advocate for using a .410 and shot daily limits using a 7/8 ounce load of size 9 ½.

Idaho Waterfowl a Fun Hunt! (continued)

TSS shot from Fox Trot Ammo. Developed and intended for turkey hunting these little non-toxic loads will crush a goose or mallard out to 40 yards or more In Will's capable hands! In addition to waterfowl, Will is a serious turkey hunter and has shot multiple turkey grand slams. His goal is to shoot a turkey in every state that has a season using a .410 and he already has a good start.

The way I see it, bird shooting technique and preferred equipment is knowledge developed over time from experience. For years I used BB size shots in 3" 12 gauge magnum loads both in steel and exotic metal and had to chase down many geese that took a heavy charge to the body but sailed away. Birds hit in the head/neck or had broken wings came right down and after shooting several with smaller size shots intended for ducks the "dead in the air" results increased considerably and had to be due to more pellets in the pattern.

The argument of volume hits by small pellets V.S. a smaller number of higher energy pellets probably started several thousand years ago when a shepherd boy figured out if he stuck his sling pouch full of pea gravel his chance of having fowl for dinner was much higher than loading up with a few larger stones. The same conclusion based on similar logic of using smaller size shot the validity is the result of numerical superiority and the probability of hitting the bird fatally is for no other reason than there are so many more pellets in the pattern.

Point is unlike a rose, a goose is not a goose. A goose is composed of parts of a goose, some of which are vulnerable to even a single pellet hit at a reasonable range, while other parts of the body can absorb a heavy hit without any immediate effect. Tests and reports have been made regarding how many pellets it takes to cleanly kill a duck, goose, pheasant, or whatever. Doesn't it really matter where anatomically the bird is hit rather than by how many? In real terms, a pellet or two in the head or neck is worth darn near any amount in non-immediately vital organs or meaty areas.

I'm convinced the likelihood of a drop-dead in the decoy spread shot is more likely to use more (but smaller) pellets for a denser pattern than relying on the individual pellet energy and penetration of large pellets.

In Idaho, I used the #3 shot in standard and Black Cloud and found it perfect for the 20 to 35-yard shots and had no cripples whatsoever. #3 is certainly an odd size but it worked for me and will continue to be my preferred shot size for across-the-board waterfowl hunting.

For waterfowl hunting in Idaho check out www.snakeriverbasinoutfitters.com

We stayed at the Best Western Caldwell Inn & Suites. I'm not over-fond of hunting from a hotel but this one was definitely hunter-friendly.



Please Join us January 28, 2022

We will be at the Eagle Eye Banquet Center (15500 Chandler Rd, Lansing, MI, 48808) measuring antlers, telling stories, enjoying a mouthwatering hunter's dinner, raffles, and more!

- 5:00pm Registration Doors Open – Whitetail Deer Measuring & Social Hour-
- 7:00pm Chef Carved Prime Rib Dinner and Walleye Dinner
- 7:30pm Keynote speaker: TBA, Stories will captivate all!

Each successful Deer hunter in attendance (bring tagged antlers or doe tag) will receive one (1) entry in total for the drawing of a Grizzly cooler.

Raffle Tickets for purchase to win a 9mm Kimber Handgun

PLEASE Come early, we would like the measuring completed before dinner.

Recognition will be given to hunters with the highest scoring bucks from the Jan 8, 2020, All 2021 season and through Jan. 28, 2022 hunting seasons, which will include awards for each of the following categories:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------------------|---|
| • Archery | • Junior (17 or younger) | • Crossbow |
| • Rifle | • Ladies | • Out-of-state |
| • Estate Deer | • Muzzleloader | • Overall highest scoring, free range Michigan buck |

For Tickets or more information, go to www.lansingsci.com/whitetail-night or contact us at scilansing@gmail.com

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Fundraiser Announcement!!!

Friday March 18th, 2022

Saturday March 19th, 2022

Outfitters' Night, meet with Outfitters
Live Auction (about 50 items) & Silent Auction
Free with your Saturday Ticket. Bring friends for free.
Doors open at 3:00 pm
Casual, strolling dinner starts at 5:45 pm

Meal TBD – Plan on it being great!
Meet with Outfitters
Live Auction (about 70 items) & Silent Auction
Doors open at 2:00 pm
Dinner begins at 6:00 pm

Value, excitement, and many chances of winning await you on this two day event at Eagle Eye Banquet Center! We will have Outfitters from around the world for you to visit with, story telling, great food, raffles, and auctions to support the Hunter Advocacy, Conservation, Education, and Humanitarian mission of Safari Club International and the Lansing Area Chapter.



Buy Tickets
at
lansingsci.com/fundraiser

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