

HUNTERS

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF SCI CHAPTERS IN WISCONSIN AND ILLINOIS
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2022



**SAMI & MARTY LACOURT
AFTER THE "HUNTINGMOON"**

- **McClintic's Elk**
- **Conservation Issues**
- **Chapter Reports & Events**
- **Humanitarian & Education News**

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Editor/Publishers: Mark & Coni LaBarbera

HUNTERS is a bimonthly publication for members of SCI chapters in Wisconsin, plus bonus electronic circulation, which includes some of the world's most avid and affluent conservationists who enjoy hunting here and around the world. They have earned a reputation of leadership on natural resources issues and giving to protect and support the future of hunting and conservation here and abroad. To share your message with them, send ads and editorial submissions to Mark LaBarbera at wiscimag@peoplepc.com.

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January/February	November 20
March/April	January 20
May/June	March 20
July/August	May 20
September/October	July 20
November/December	September 20

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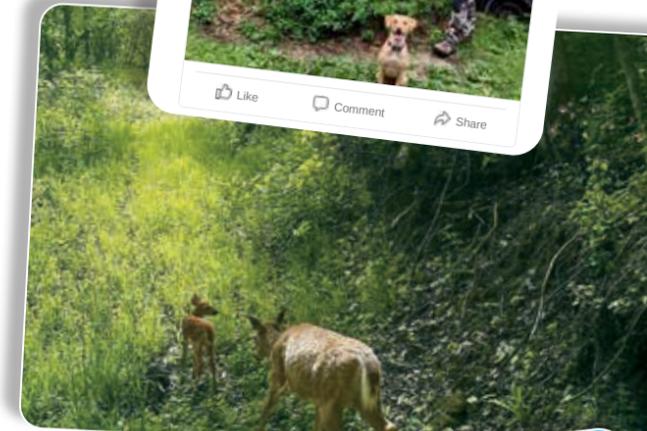
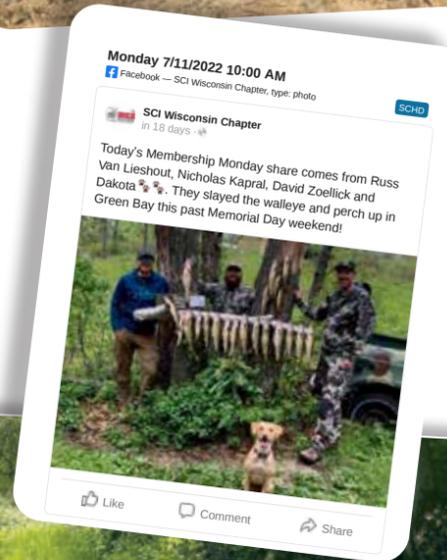
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HUNTERS

Official Magazine of SCI Chapters in Wisconsin and Illinois
September/October 2022

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New members and your families are always welcome at SCI! Visit these websites and join a chapter to start your adventure. Members enjoy great fun, meet new friends, make a difference in their community and help the future of hunting, plus you will discover new deals and opportunities that improve your hunting skill and enjoyment. We invite you to join online today.

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President Sean Coykendall
www.sciwi.org

SCI Region 16 Representative

Charmaine Wargolet
charmainew@ameritech.net

SCI Region 16 Report

by Charmaine Wargolet,
Regional Representative

Ahhh, September, when every hunter's heart starts to beat just a tad faster in anticipation of hunting season in Wisconsin! Our great state is a hunter's paradise in fall, so enjoy!

But first, what a great summer! All of our chapters hosting picnics, sporting clay shoots, meetings, and the Bowhunter's banquet. So many hours of sharing our passion with our fellow sportsmen and women, makes it time well spent. Life is good!

We have had a couple of changes in chapter leadership over the past several months. The Badgerland Chapter's new President is John Martinson, who has been involved in SCI for years, and will do a great job as he has always done. A huge thanks to Randy Mayes for all of his time and energy over the past several years as President, as he did an incredible job of keeping the Badgerland Chapter successful!

Dale and Marla Rimkus from the Illinois/Chicago Chapter have exchanged leadership roles a couple of times and have literally been a force of nature! If you have never attended their Christmas brunch event, you need to attend to see what I am talking about. It is amazing, as is their annual fundraiser.

Some of you are probably aware that for the last two years I have been Wisconsin Chapter President as well as Regional Rep. It has been an honor and



I loved the chance to serve. Now Sean Coykendall has taken over and he is going to bring new ideas and energy, and along with our Board will certainly take the Wisconsin Chapter to a new level.

The Southeast Wisconsin Bowhunters Chapter has added some new board members and, along with President Alex Valley, continue to work tirelessly for hunter advocacy, their main mission!

The NE Chapter and Lake Superior Chapter also continue to do all of the things that have made them so successful! The Lake Superior fundraiser is something to behold (selling special "cakes" for hundreds of dollars) and Marty Witczak, President of NE is a real firecracker, working with his board to promote SCI and be a constant credit to SCI National.

Our national organization is well aware of Region 16 and all of the hard-working chapters within it. So, whichever chapter you are a member of, please try to remember to thank those folks who work so hard at the leadership level to keep your chapter strong! And please know that they welcome your increased involvement.

As always, shoot straight, be well, and God bless!

Northeast Wisconsin Chapter Report

by Marty Witczak, President

It saddens me to know that daylight hours are shrinking, and the warm temperatures will be replaced with cooler days and nights. However, this year I don't mind the approach of fall because I just happen to have a couple of out west hunts to look forward to.

I will be sharing these hunting experiences with two different hunting partners and two different outfitters.

The first hunt will take place in September, hunting for elk in Montana. I'll be hunting with friend Mike Strzok, and we'll be going with Forrest Lewton's Montana Trophy Outfitters who exhibited at our hunting expo.

The second hunt will also be an elk hunt but in the State of Washington. I'll be hunting with friend Craig Cloutier. Shawn, owner of Northwest West Outfitters, who also exhibited at our hunting expo, will take care of us and other SCI members who book with him.

I'll give you more details on each adventure in future hunting articles for our SCI Region 16 magazine, HUNTERS.

Our board has continued to meet monthly, and our conversations are beginning to revolve around plans and

preparations for the hunting and fishing expo next February 2023. All of you SCI members had the opportunity to meet our newest board members which I introduced to you in the July/August issue.

I would also like you all to get to know Samantha and Marty LaCourt who share our passion for a great African hunt! You can read about their safari adventures in this issue and see photos that include the grateful students and teachers from the school and orphanage where Sami and Marty delivered SCI Blue Bags loaded with supplies.

Our Northeast Wisconsin Chapter has a long proud history of supporting humanitarian efforts here in Wisconsin and around the world. Physically challenged outdoorsmen and military veterans receive goods and services as part of our humanitarian program. We also deliver adventures and lifelong memories that leave a positive lasting impression on not only the veterans but also our members who volunteer at these events and on these trips.

Part of our chapter's humanitarian efforts, the Sensory Safari, is also part of our education program. Member Walt Jahnke, Jr. once again is spearheading the

chapter's efforts with the Wisconsin State Hunting and Fishing Expo to have the Touch of the Wild 5 Sensory Safari education trailer at the Green Bay event. Walt also helps run the show, so if you or someone you know is a friend of SCI and wants to buy exhibit space there, Walt is the guy to talk to, but do it soon.

It looks like the February 24-26, 2023, event at the Resch Center will be sold out of exhibit space and the aisles will have a steady flow of customers again this year.

The photos in the May/June issue tell the story of the show's success, including our chapter's trophy scoring area. It all helps sell SCI memberships as well as lets more people know about the great things being done by chapters like ours.

You can see why it's a pleasure to be chapter president and to look for ways that we and other SCI members can continue to do great things here and around the world.

Until the next report in November when I'll let you know how the first elk hunt goes, thanks for all you do to help SCI chapters and fellow members show the public the positive impact that hunters and hunting have on conservation of natural resources and on society.

Legislative Update

by Dan Trawicki, SCI Lobbyist

Make your vote count! Now more than ever, you should understand how important your vote is. Many people (including me) believed incorrectly that hunters get involved and vote on a regular basis. As it turns out, nothing could be further from the truth. Recent studies conducted by Hunter Nation have shown here in Wisconsin over 380,000 hunters have been identified as rarely (if ever) casting a ballot during our most recent elections. While that sounds like a large percentage, and it is, let's put it in perspective.

The vote difference in the 2020 Presidential election in Wisconsin was 20,682.

The vote difference in the 2016 Presidential election in Wisconsin was 22,748.

The vote difference in the 2018 Gubernatorial election in Wisconsin was 29,227.

If you care about preserving a future for our children and grandchildren in the great outdoors, its time to get involved and vote! I'm not even beginning to talk

about the responsibility we all have to acknowledge the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in order to preserve this freedom.

I personally found the apathy Wisconsin hunters are showing as shocking. The hunters I encounter on a regular basis are passionate and concerned. We all certainly seem to complain enough about what seems like a lack of representation for our elected officials. I guess I now know why our officials don't seem too concerned about conservation issues. We simply are not coming forward and supporting those candidates that support our cause. It's time for that to change, and we have a golden opportunity this fall. Hunter Nation and Safari Club will be reaching out to those uninformed sportsmen this fall. You will be seeing media attention, national celebrities, and special events to bring out voters.

For years now, Safari Club has been involved in our elective process. The Bow

Chapter and Northeast Chapter, as 501(c)4 nonprofit organizations, have donated over \$25,000 to elected officials who support our hunting heritage. As the administrator of the conduit fund for SCI, I donate on behalf of Safari Club to both Republican and Democratic candidates. We are heavily involved in this year's Governor's race, Attorney General race, and U.S. Senate race among others. I attend many of the candidates' fundraisers to not only donate but to make sure the candidates know that Safari Club is the donor and is involved.

In this last legislative session in Wisconsin, only four bills made it to the Governor's desk for signing. Our Governor vetoed all four bills. That alone speaks volumes. Myself and others can work as hard as we want to create change for our sport, but if we have no legislative support, it's a dead-end street. Get involved now (by voting this fall and in the future), before it's too late.

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Wisconsin Chapter Report

by Sean Coykendall, President

The Wisconsin Chapter had more than 75 people come out for our 33rd Annual Sporting Clays Outing. The day was hot, but it didn't keep shooters from coming out to break clays and try to win some raffle prizes. Mike Wettstein was our High Overall Score, while Ashley Schwiner was the High Woman shooter and Viktor Bull was the High Youth shooter.

Now that the summer is winding down, we are ramping up the planning for our 46th Grand Banquet on February 10th and 11th at the Brookfield Convention Center. We have many new board members this year that are bringing new ideas and energy to the chapter in hopes of making this our best banquet yet. Be on the lookout for the different ways we will be looking to make sure you enjoy the weekend and see our appreciation for your support.

Our September membership meeting will be extremely entertaining and informational. We will be heading to Ojibwa

Bow Hunters Archery Club and Kyle Schmidt of Northwoods Taxidermy will be providing a demonstration on deer caping and field butchering. Whether you're a veteran hunter or just getting started, this will be an event that all can learn something from.

September is my favorite time of year because it means that bowhunting season for whitetails has finally arrived. Hunters are starting to plan their next couple months chasing their target bucks. It also means another year that someone will be hunting for the first time. If you know a child, teenager or adult that has expressed interest in getting out in the woods, we owe it to each other and the future of hunting to take him or her afield. Most of us were introduced to hunting by a family member or friend that went out of their way to let you



experience the thrill of hunting. Pay it forward by being that person to take an individual on their first hunting adventure.

Good luck to all of you who are lucky enough to be entering the woods in the coming months!

Join Big Al's Fun

SCI member Rick Rollo welcomes you to join the fun October 16 at Wern Valley Sportsmen's Club.

"We are only about six weeks out from the 25th Big Al! That may seem like a long time," said Rollo, "but as we all know it will be here before we know it!"

The fundraising shoot, raffles, and meal raise money to help veterans, sick and physically challenged individuals enjoy the great outdoors, and to showcase the humanitarian good work of hunters and shooting sports enthusiasts. With the help of Mark LaBarbera and

Dan Small on the media side, Rollo and all Big Al donors and participants are educating the public, including many who might never see gun owners in the media in such positive light.

Back in August as this issue of SCI HUNTERS magazine was getting ready to go to press, there were 56 spots available when Rollo sent some housekeeping reminders.

"I will remind all again to look for shells now. It does seem to be opening up a bit, but the right loads and size can be difficult," he said. "In way of a reminder, the

experts tell me between #6 and #7 1/2 seem to be the best size load. A windy day will certainly look to a heavier shot. Please no Magnum loads but 3-inch are fine."

Rollo added, "Craig is working hard on the website (bigalcharityhunt.com) and will be updated soon. We hope to have a place to donate on the site if for some sad reason you can't make it. We have already received a couple of really nice donations for the raffle! If you can find it in your heart to donate something to the raffle it just makes it more fun for all of us."

If you have someone that you think might like to be on the mailing list, please send their email to rickwrollo@gmail.com.

He said, "I will be happy to add you and them to the list for Big Al's news. They don't have to be shooters. If they just would like to support a great cause they would be more than welcome."



Projects Funded by SCI Wisconsin Chapter

Every SCI member can be proud of the good deeds and great work that we support here in Region 16. Thank you for the role you play in these success stories! Each chapter here in the Midwest is contributing to conser-

vation, hunters' rights, humanitarian programs, and education efforts with partners who support our SCI mission. Some chapters use social media and their websites to help tell the story of where they spend the net proceeds

from fundraisers. The Wisconsin Chapter also publishes an annual brochure to handout at sports shows and other venues. Here's a copy of it on pages 7 and 8. The new one for 2022 will also be available soon.



PROJECT FUNDING REPORT

\$45,000

2021 BANQUET CONTRIBUTION TO SCI NATIONAL

\$81,063

ANNUAL GRAND TOTAL



FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021

Safari Club International allows its Chapters to spend 70% of the profit from their major fundraiser, locally.



*The "Big Al Fund" was established by Eldridge (Rick) Rollo, in honor of his father Al, who was an avid hunter. Al passed away due to cancer, which cut short his sporting pursuits. Rick runs an annual pheasant hunt event to raise funds for hunting or fishing trips, for physically challenged or terminally ill children and veterans. Whether it be a dream hunt or fishing trip, Big Al smiles down on the hunter as he or she pursues the sport that Al so loved.



www.sciwi.org
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PROJECT FUNDING REPORT SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL WISCONSIN CHAPTER INC.

JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021

SCI'S PURPOSE AND INTENT

- To promote good fellowship among all whom love the outdoors and hunting.
- To promote conservation of the world's renewable wildlife resources, recognizing hunting as one of the many management tools.
- To educate youth, sportsmen and the public in conservation of our wildlife and our forests, which are our natural heritage.
- To preserve our hunting heritage and share our hunting experiences and information among our membership.
- To operate the association as a non-profit organization, consistent with its charitable purposes, while providing enjoyment for our members, always with the goal of helping to conserve the animals that we love to hunt today - for those who will come to love the sport tomorrow.

Safari Club International Wisconsin Chapter Inc. is proud to report that over the past 44 years it has contributed \$3,487,670 to further the goals of Safari Club International. A summary is as follows:

Conservation Projects	\$710,722
Education of Youth & Non-Hunting Public	\$1,633,327
Hunters' Rights	\$862,420
Humanitarian	\$281,201

TOTAL \$3,487,670



PROJECT FUNDING REPORT

JULY 1, 2020 - JUNE 30, 2021 FISCAL YEAR

EDUCATION

SCI - National General Fund	\$11,250
<i>30% Banquet Contribution to SCI National</i>	
SCI Foundation - American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS)	\$1,500
<i>Essential Supplies & Equipment</i>	
Central Falcons Trap & Skeeet Team Team Expenses	\$1,500
Edgerton Area Youth Shooting Team Team Expenses	\$1,000
Ojibwa Bowhunters Archery Club Annual Youth Day Event	\$1,000
Waterford Wolverine Shooting Team Team Expenses	\$1,000
Wauwatosa East West Trap Shooting Club Team Expenses	\$1,000
Phantom Lake YMCA Camp Archery/Rifle Center for the Summer Camp	\$750

TOTAL EDUCATION

\$19,000

HUMANITARIAN

SCI - National General Fund	\$11,250
<i>30% Banquet Contribution to SCI National</i>	
*Share The Impact Outfitter Benefit	\$11,000
<i>22 Outfitters that have loyally supported SCI Wisconsin received a \$500 check</i>	
*Dan Small Outdoors Disabled Hunters covered in 2020 Deerhunt WI TV program	\$3,500
*American Cancer Society July 2020 - Cancer Shoot Out at Wern Valley	\$1,013
*Schultz's Rod & Gun Club 2021 Take Aim at Cancer Event	\$1,100
*Adaptive Sportsmen July 2020 - Annual Shooting Picnic	\$800
*Adaptive Sportsmen June 2021 - Annual Shooting Picnic	\$800
*Adaptive Sportsmen September 2020 Disabled Pheasant Hunt at Feather Ridge Game Farm	\$500

TOTAL HUMANITARIAN

\$29,963

HUNTERS' RIGHTS

SCI - National General Fund	\$11,250
<i>30% Banquet Contribution to SCI National</i>	
DJT Lobbying & Consulting	\$9,600

TOTAL HUNTERS' RIGHTS

\$20,850

CONSERVATION

SCI - National General Fund	\$11,250
<i>30% Banquet Contribution to SCI National</i>	

TOTAL CONSERVATION

\$11,250

GRAND TOTAL FOR 2021

\$81,063

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Book Review:

Become The Arrow

A avid hunter and friend of SCI, Glenn Helgeland of Target Communications, released with author Byron Ferguson the new 2nd Edition of "Become The Arrow... the art of modern barebow shooting." Ferguson is a world-renowned archery trick shot, a regular on cable television 'amazing shots' programs, a long-time performer at deer-and-turkey hunting expos and other outdoor shows, a longbow manufacturer and a long-time successful bowhunter.

If you're interested in bowhunting and archery, even if you already have the First Edition, you'll discover plenty of useful tips and more new info in this second edition, including:

1) An entire chapter on target panic. Ferguson had it and whipped it. Here he tells you how he believes you can whip it, too, when target panic inevitably catches up with you.

2) Byron's international shooting performances in all 13 countries where he has performed and attracted great crowds.

3) An expanded photo display of the big game and other trophies Byron has taken with his longbow, including more than 300 whitetails.

4) Special awards and honors Byron has received.

5) Many of the new photos in the book are printed in full color, improving the book's overall appearance.

The core of the book, learning to "become the arrow," is unchanged from when Ferguson developed this shooting system for longbow and recurve shooters. It is easy to learn, reliable and puts your mental and physical focus where it belongs, on the target. He

why you should "become the arrow". He calls it "the art of modern barebow shooting, taking accurate shooting one long step beyond the bow."

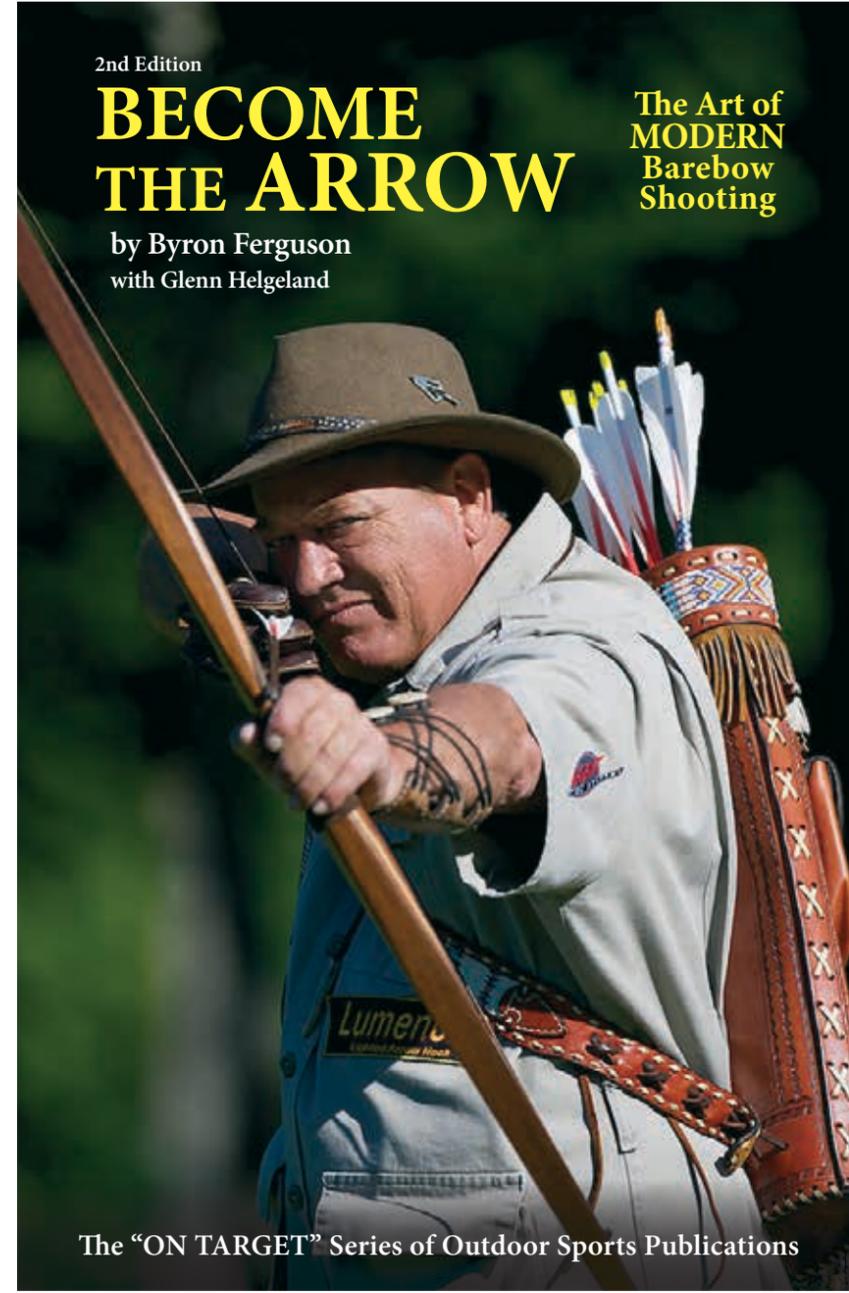
By applying what Ferguson shares in this book, you also will learn the incredible value of visualization. When you

visualize the arrow hitting the exact spot you intended it to hit, then you will become a more deadly shot.

Plus, this book for SCI members and friends, has extensive, in-depth bowhunting tips from Byron that pay off. Remember, he's shot more than 300 whitetail deer with his longbow, plus record-book black bear, moose, pronghorn, mule deer, upland game birds and countless small game. He gives you the benefit of his hunting experience in sections on moon phases, tidal charts, treestand placement, funneling deer, how to handle the moment of truth, deer body language, the five priorities of bowhunting, the 10 most frequent bowhunting mistakes, and more.

The book is paperback, 5-1/2" x 8-1/2", 122 pages. Its ISBN number is 978-0-913305-22-5. Retail price is \$14.95.

It can be ordered most easily from www.targetcommbooks.com, Amazon, at some (but not all) Cabela's and Bass Pro Shops stores, from Lancaster Archery Supply in Pennsylvania, and from some bookstores in the Midwest.



The "ON TARGET" Series of Outdoor Sports Publications

points out, "Your arrow is the only bridge between you and the target, the only thing that contacts the target. That's

Lake Superior Chapter Report

by Jennifer Piasecki-Dums, Secretary

The Lake Superior Chapter of SCI welcomed everyone back to the highly anticipated 2022 banquet April 1st and 2nd after a 2-year hiatus. All of our outfitters, members and donors were just as excited as we were to resume our efforts to support conservation and the SCI mission.

This year's banquet was nothing short of an exhilarating, entertainment-packed event with an enormous variety of hunting opportunities and items up for bid.

We welcomed Nick Hoffman from Nick's Wild Ride (Outdoor Channel) as one of our three guest speakers. Nick captured the audience's attention with his unique blend of storytelling, fiddling, singing and a touch of comedy.

One of our speakers was none other than the SCI National President Sven Lindquist who kept us up to date on all things related to SCI membership, conservation and organization. Our final speaker was Luke Hilgemann CEO

of Hunter Nation. His grassroots efforts to bring awareness to the importance of voting conservative to ensure our rights remain intact has made an impact in the outdoor community here and across the US.

We enjoyed two nights of Live Auction activity jam packed with hunting and fishing opportunities along with our silent auctions, gun raffles and various other prize packages.

We had so many small events taking place throughout the weekend it would be difficult to name them all!

Last but certainly not least, we were pleased to have Forrest Pike for our dinner music entertainment. Everyone raved about his performance.

The event was a huge success and we are currently working through our donation lists to be able to support our community within our goals of Youth Education, Veterans, Humanitarian, Conservation and Protecting our Rights.

Thank you all who came, donated, and supported our mission, we look forward to seeing everyone next year!



Badgerland Chapter Report

by John Martinson, President

SCI Badgerland Chapter and Outdoor Heritage Education Center (OHEC) are in the process of joining together our on-the-ground humanitarian and education efforts to dramatically increase their reach and effectiveness. We already collaborate on other efforts, including the big Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo that reaches thousands of students, teachers, and parent chaperones.

Now, we are teaming up to multiply exponentially the number of venues and people who get to experience the SCI Badgerland Chapter sensory safari education trailer and Outdoor Heritage Education Center's five other Touch of the Wild sensory trailers. The purpose is to increase exposure to kids and adults to give them hands on experiences of conservation education, hunters advocacy, and humanitarian efforts. Many young adults don't

have the opportunity to get hands on experiences and have a volunteer explain to them the different hides and mounts of animals from around the world. Our goal is to reach more of the public and to promote the positive image of hunters and our important historic and continuing role in conservation funding and wildlife management that benefits all species and healthy natural resources.

Badgerland also hosted a fun and exciting sporting clay's shooting event in August called Shoot for Adventure at the Rio Conservation Club. Around 60 to a thousand shooters give or take a few enjoyed a round or two of sporting clays, lunch, and other fun shooting games.

They also had the opportunity to get in on the big five gun raffle and donate to the local food pantry.



Whether you wear pink Crocs or ortho footwear, Badgerland's August clays event was fun for all.



Humanitarian Update:

Blue Bags Delivery Came After LaCourtship & Huntingmoon

It is true what people say, once you experience Africa for the first time, you will want to go back. Samantha (Sami) LaCourt, age 28, and her husband Marty LaCourt, age 33, returned from their third trip to Africa in late April 2022. Their Africa addiction started when Sami's father, Ronald Hugo, took the whole family to Africa in 2016. That trip was a combination of a hunting safari and touring that started out at Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. From there, the family headed to the western cape to hunt with Ken Whiley of Gamka Safaris. In total, there were over 30 trophies harvested on this first trip with Sami and Marty harvesting 11 of them. Sami's first African animal, and number one on her list, was a zebra. She also harvested an impala, springbok, gemsbok, and red hartebeest. Marty was lucky to harvest a unique, 52" cape kudu along with a baboon, porcupine, springbok, bushbuck, and blesbok. This first trip ended touring Cape Town and experiencing Table Mountain.

Fast forward two years later, Sami and Marty had their wedding day and decided to go back to Africa with Gamka Safaris for an African "Huntingmoon." Wanting to share their passion for Africa, this trip they brought Marty's parents, his little brother, and another couple with them but this time to the Eastern Cape. It was another successful safari with their Gamka Safaris with over 25 trophies being harvested. Marty finished his spiral horn slam by taking a nyala and eland. He also harvested a bushpig, black wildebeest, and steenbok. Sami was successful again as well as she harvested a blue wildebeest, lechwe, and waterbuck.

Marty and Sami's most recent trip was this past April. Sami's parents, Ronald and Wanda Hugo, joined them again as well as another couple. With a layover in Johannesburg, they spent a night at Afton Safari Lodge which is an organization that specializes in helping hunters with their gun transfers. The

crew then flew into Port Elizabeth and hunted in the Eastern Cape with Gamka Safaris again. They stayed at Lodge Ufumene which was absolutely beautiful. Each couple had their own suite. The lodge also had a wonderful recreation area with a pool table and bar, a pool, firepit, and the meals every day were outstanding. In total, there were 35 trophies harvested with Sami and Marty taking 12 of them. This trip, Marty and Sami focused on some bigger animals that were on their bucket list.

One of the animals Sami has been after for years was a Sable and Ken was able to help make that dream a reality. After sighting in rifles, the hunt was on. Sami, Marty, Ronald, and Wanda set out to look for a sable. After driving around the concession for a few hours, the perfect sable was spotted, and it was time to make a stalk. The end result was a magnificent 46" sable bull.

Number one on Marty's list this trip was a cape buffalo. Marty and Ronald drove with Ken about 3 hours north of



homebase. It was a hot day, with a lot of walking involved. Although Marty was after a cape buffalo, they spotted a big roan and couldn't pass up the opportunity. Marty harvested the roan and was quickly back on the cape buffalo hunt. The area was thick, and they couldn't see the buffalo well in the bushes, but they could hear them. Lots of hours and miles were put into this hunt and it paid off. In the words of Ken, Marty was able to harvest the "bull of a lifetime" with massive bosses and a nice 42" spread.

Although Marty and Sami harvested the number one animals on their list, there was still plenty of hunting to do. Sami also hunted a zebra, vervet monkey, warthog, and a kudu. Sami was very lucky with her kudu. The ranch manager took Sami and Marty to a property next door that was completely free range and that is where they found the 50" free range cape kudu by the watering hole. A 250-yard shot and Sami was able to drop him in the water. Marty also had great luck on the rest of his animals as he hunted a vervet





monkey, springbok, caracal, and giraffe. It is hard for some people to imagine hunting a giraffe, but when asked why Marty decided to hunt one, he has the perfect answer and that is conservation. No matter how beautiful an animal is, hunters are still needed to help keep the population in check and help the younger bulls be able to step up and take their reign.

Besides just hunting on this trip, the crew also participated in the SCI Foundation Blue Bag program. The donation turnout was incredible, and they were able to bring over medical supplies, diapers, toys, coloring books, and more for the children. Due to having so many donations, they were able to go to a local school and a local orphanage. Seeing how excited and grateful all the children were was humbling and a trip highlight for Sami and Marty. This was



their second time participating in the SCI Foundation Blue Bag Program as they also participated on their first trip.

In all three trips to Africa, Sami and Marty have never had a negative experience with their outfitter Ken at Gamka Safaris. Accommodations, meals, and of course the hunting are always phenomenal. If you are interested in an African safari or a hunt anywhere around the world, Sami and Marty can assist. They have begun taking over A-Fox Hunting consultants which was founded by Ronald Hugo in 1980. A-Fox Hunting uses our passion and experiences to help you book your hunt of a lifetime. From locations locally throughout the United States to anywhere in the world that your hunting goals may take you. Please visit our website at www.afox-hunting.com for more information.



Be Bear Aware

Although black bears are most common in the northern half of the state, populations have been slowly expanding south over the last decade. Wisconsinites are encouraged to take the same bear precautions no matter where they are in Wisconsin.

Bear sightings in southern Wisconsin remain rare. Sightings in Waukesha and Washington Counties this summer are a reminder that bears can be found in any county.

Sightings usually increase in early summer when young bears strike out on their own for the first time. Bear breeding season also occurs in early summer resulting in many male bears wandering around in search of a mate.

If a bear is near your home or cabin:

- From a safe location, wave your arms and make noise to scare it away. Back away slowly and seek a safe location where you can wait for the bear to leave.
- When scaring a bear away, make sure it has a clear escape route; never corner a bear.
- If you encounter a bear while in the woods, DO NOT RUN, stay calm and do not approach the bear.
- Never approach any bear.
- For your safety, do not attempt to break up a fight between your pet and a bear.

Black bears are naturally cautious animals that normally avoid contact with people for their safety, but conflicts between people and bears can arise. Additionally, bears can quickly learn to associate humans with food when food sources are available.

If a bear finds food, such as bird feed or garbage near your home or cabin, it will likely return for more. Bear visits are more likely to stop when food is no longer available. Bears will periodically check sites where food was once available, so it may take several days to weeks after a food source has been removed for a bear to completely discontinue visiting food sites.

It is important to make sure these tasty food sources are hidden from bears at all times of the year, but it's

especially important in warmer months when bears are more active.

Follow these steps to avoid attracting black bears:

- Do not knowingly feed a bear.
- Completely remove bird feeders, even during daytime hours – bears are active during the day and may cause problems even if the feeders are out only during that time.
- Clean areas where bird feeders were located so that accumulated deposits of spilled seed are removed.
- Reduce garbage odors by rinsing food cans before putting them in covered recycling containers or garbage cans.
- Keep meat scraps in the freezer until garbage day, and if possible, keep garbage cans in a closed building until the morning of pick-up.
- Be sure to lock commercial dumpsters.
- Keep pet food inside or inaccessible to bears even during daytime hours.

- Keep grills and picnic tables clean.

Bears are normally solitary forest animals, but their powerful sense of smell can lead them into urban areas in search of food. Black bears are secretive animals and usually try to avoid people. However, conflicts with humans can occur when bears destroy gardens, bird feeders, apiaries and trash cans.

By understanding bear behavior, there are several ways people can reduce negative human-bear conflicts around their homes. The DNR's Living With Black Bears In Wisconsin pamphlet is a great resource for learning more about co-existing with bears in Wisconsin.

The department partners with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services Program to respond to approximately 800 bear-related complaints reported in Wisconsin each year.

If unable to resolve a conflict with a bear, contact the USDA Wildlife Services toll-free line at 1-800-433-0663 for properties in Southern Wisconsin and 1-800-228-1368 for properties in Northern Wisconsin. Most complaints are resolved through technical advice.



A Simple Way to Help Retain Hunters, Anglers & Trappers

by Mark LaBarbera

It's not complicated. If you want more people to stop hunting and fishing, simply make the rules lengthy and difficult to understand.

SCI ally Wisconsin State Senator Mary Felzkowski, like-minded legislators and fellow SCI members will be happy to hear that the need for simplifying state laws and administrative rules regulating hunting, fishing and trapping activities are mentioned in the Wisconsin Sporting Heritage Council report that we recently delivered to the Governor and Natural Resources Board.

I've served on the SHC since its inception when I was appointed to represent Wisconsin's outdoor enthusiasts and bird hunters in particular. SCI members will learn more about the Council and its work, but for now let's focus on simplifying the regulations.

The SHC report says, "Potential new participants in any outdoor recreational activity may need to acquire new physical skills, learn about the life history of various fish and wildlife species, find locations for activities, and learn the regulations for an activity. Regulations that are overly complex, numerous, or which may be outdated are seen as a barrier to participation."

Anyone who thinks about fishing for trout in this state can relate.

"Research that investigated the reasons former trout anglers were not participating did identify regulations complexity as one issue in a 2012 report of research conducted by the department's Bureau of Science Services," according to the Sporting Heritage Council, which was established to help recommend and monitor recruitment, retention, and reactivation of hunters, anglers, and trappers. "Trout regulations were a cause for anglers to break their participation... The state's inland trout regulations were cited by 12 percent of lapsed trout anglers as either their first or second most important reason they no longer pursue inland trout."

The other reason, lack of time, is a common default answer in such surveys. When someone says they don't have time, it usually hides the real reason that results in them not making the time to engage in an activity.

The Sporting Heritage Council's recent report explains that "Prior to 2020, the wildlife management bureau published four hunting regulations pamphlets including a deer hunting pamphlet that was 48 pages long. The small game pamphlet and the migratory bird pamphlet were each 32 pages long, and the bear publication was 12. The new hunting regulations pamphlet is 32 pages in color with illustrations and printed in a larger size, 8 1/2" x 11". The new pamphlet includes information for bear, deer, small game, migratory birds, small game, turkey and elk in one location."

The report also made these points:

The new pamphlet contains slightly over 19,000 words. In comparison, the previous deer regulation pamphlet alone contained over 34,000 words.

Considerable effort was made to remove redundant and outdated language.

A large amount of information was removed that was not regulatory in nature but rather informational.

The effort identified many potential rule deletions and simplifications that were made during the 2021 spring hearing and housekeeping rule processes.

The department is in a better position to insert advertising in the pamphlet in the future which would help defray future costs.

Production and review of one pamphlet instead of four saves staff time currently spent on annual review and revisions.

The new pamphlet offers a more professional appearance and print stock is more durable than previous newsprint.

Consolidated regulations reduced shipping costs, printing costs, and the cost to produce translations in the Spanish and Hmong languages.

The Council's recent report also noted, "There has been some discussion among policy-makers but no legislation was passed in the biennium covered by this Sporting Heritage Council Report. Highlighting the report in this document may lead to public discussion that includes the many interest groups who are our conservation partners."

The full report is located on the council's website: 2020 Legislative Interim Research Report on Streamlining the

Hunting, Trapping, and Fishing Licensure System (wisconsin.gov)

The department does not make specific recommendations but rather, identifies areas where some people have said our licensing framework is complicated. A couple of concepts the report discusses are:

Consolidating licenses in order to simplify - For deer alone, there are 52 license types that authorize hunting. There are different licenses for each weapon type hunters can use. For each license type, there are offerings for people of different ages, status as a veteran or disabled veteran, state residency, completion of safety courses, novice hunters, new hunter recruiters, and options to purchase combinations of licenses.

Simplifying the discounted licenses - A simple percentage discount framework could be established, similar to the approach most retailers commonly use. Under this system for instance, it would no longer be necessary to treat first time buyers' licenses, mentored hunting licenses, and senior licenses as individual products. Instead, there would be a single license authorizing an activity with a "base" price. Individuals who are first time buyers would still purchase the same license but would be eligible for a single standardized discount applicable to multiple base price products rather than their own specialized products and prices.

This approach would reduce the number of products because it is a price check point. The current discounts could be accommodated with just 11 discounts rather than the current 173 discounted product stock keeping units (20 disabled, 26 youth, 10 senior, 3 college, 17 military, 6 veteran, 28 Fort McCoy (issued federally through ISportsman), 21 Purple Heart, 15 mentored, 25 new buyers, and 2 recruiter products.

We all have a lot of work ahead of us as we recruit, retain, and reactivate new hunters, but it should get a little easier as we find the right balance between too complicated and not enough information. Feel free to share your thoughts for future issues. Send Word document attachments with your ideas to WiScImag@peoplepc.com and put My R3 Ideas in the Subject line.

Like a Soap Opera

by Mark LaBarbera

My dad used to joke with mom about her efforts to never miss her favorite afternoon soap operas.

"Who's cheating on who this week, and who's stealing from

the other guy now?" he would ask her, and "Which character is pretending to be in a coma?"

Dad claimed that he could miss four out of five episodes and still keep track of what's going on, so there's no need to be so devoted to watching every episode.

I thought about him today, and his theory about how things tend to stay the same, when I came across an old column that I wrote for North American Hunter magazine for members of the North American Hunting Club.

As I read the article about anti-hunting efforts nearly 40 years ago, I was reminded of the old saying about "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

Thought you might get a kick out of it, so here it is.

Mark's Column

by Mark LaBarbera

Anti-Hunter's Words Enrage NAHC

There's no humor in "Mark's Column" this issue, unless you can laugh at the outrageous ramblings of a writer appearing in *The Animals' Agenda*, one of those slick anti-hunting, anti-science, anti-farming, anti-everything-related-to-animals magazines.

A portion of the article that ran in the September 1986 magazine for animal rights activists (you know, the folks who want pigs and cows to be represented in court by lawyers who could bring lawsuits against sausage makers) was excerpted from *AV Magazine*, April 1985, a publication of The American Anti-Vivisection Society. That original article was titled, "The Psychology of Hunting."

This will give you an idea of how you and other hunters are being portrayed by anti-hunters.

I quote: "A reason why hunters overreact to the merest suggestion that their indiscriminate butchery be curbed was offered to me last year by Dr. Maurice E. Linden just before he died. A psychiatrist, Dr. Linden was also director of the mental health division in the Philadelphia Department of Health.

"I think many of these hunters make a fetish of guns and hunting," he said. "These men become over-attached to these guns, which become the external embodiment of the vigor and masculine aggressiveness (they) lack in themselves. In other words, the gun becomes a crutch or a stiffening mechanism. It puts starch in the spine. Separation from the gun is like separation from courage. I think they feel personally threatened.

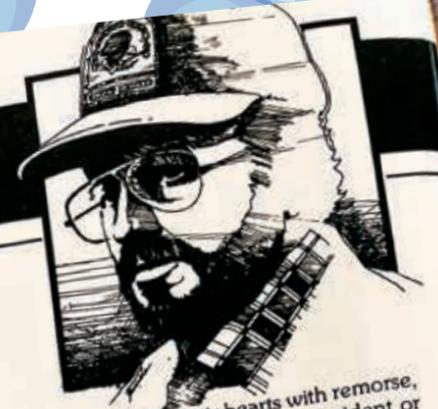
"Most of their talk about the right to bear arms," he continued, "is a rationalization of the love of guns that has nothing to do with civil rights. I don't want to generalize too much, but many of these men are brutes. Many are poor men with little self-

esteem, little love and affection in their lives, an uptight macho surface and an inability to demonstrate warmth toward other people..."

"Many of those I have examined are unconscious murderers. Deep down inside there is tremendous hostility to commit violence against these other human beings. So they murder animals instead, which is not only acceptable in this society, but is seen as a sign of manhood."

"Dr. Linden's comments reminded me of the Rev. Frederick F. Powers, rector of St. Giles Episcopal Church in suburban Philadelphia, who once devised a most unusual prayer for hunters.

"Lord, went the prayer, 'render the hunters' gunpowder wet and soggy, the gun barrels bent and rusty, and their bow and arrows limp and



broken. Fill their hearts with remorse, and return them without accident or trophy."

"According to Rev. Powers, 'Hunting for sport seems to have only one purpose—the thrill of killing. The ancient canons—the laws of the church—outlawed sport hunting for clergymen, and I think it's high time for the laity to be called to the same standards of conduct.'"

This outraged me enough to share it with you and to subscribe to that anti-hunting organization's publications so we can continue to keep you informed about the propaganda and threats to our sport.

United we stand. Divided we would fall, especially now as the anti-hunters continue to develop their slick media attacks on hunting.

Member Shots Tips

With a huge backlog of Member Shots, the *North American Hunter* editorial staff has to be very selective in accepting photos for publication.

The following is a list of the details that make a good Member Shot: 1) the photo shows little or no blood, 2) the animal's tongue is not hanging out, 3) the animal is tastefully positioned, not hanging from a rope or lying in the bed of a pickup truck, 4) photo is taken in the environment in which the animal was hunted, with no vehicle or buildings in the background 5) the photo shows safe handling of firearms, 6) there are no alcohol containers appearing in the photo, and 7) the photo prominently shows the trophy and NAHC member who took it. It's a bonus if the member is wearing an NAHC patch or cap!

As photos from the backlog are published in future issues, shots of African game appear. However, as of January 1, 1987 no shots of game taken outside of America will be accepted for future publication in Member Shots.

The photo shown here is of NAHC President Steve Burke with a mule deer head. The photo shown here is of NAHC President Steve Burke with a mule deer head. The photo shown here is of NAHC President Steve Burke with a mule deer head. Send your top-notch Member Shot to: Editorial Dept., North American Hunter Club, P.O. Box 35557, Minneapolis, MN 55435.



North American Hunter Club

A Toast to Those Who Post

Thank you to all of the SCI members who share their great photos and Facebook posts online. It's great to see the hunting and travel adventures of fellow chapter members and members of other chapters from Illinois and Wisconsin.

In the meantime, please join us in toasting the fun and success of SCI members who posted these items for others to enjoy.

Please share your stories and photos for the magazine at wiscimag@peoplepc.com and on your chapter's website and social media outlets.

Monday 12/6/2021 10:30 AM
 Facebook — SCI Wisconsin Chapter, type: status

SCI Wisconsin Chapter
 7 months ago · LIVE

We asked, and you guys are delivering! We love sharing these "Membership Monday" posts. Here's some awesome photos from Dan Trawicki on a father/daughter hunt. We send a big congratulations to Abby on her impressive Opening Day buck!

Like Comment

Monday 6/20/2022 11:01 AM
 Facebook — SCI Wisconsin Chapter, type: photo

SCI Wisconsin Chapter
 3 days ago · LIVE

Another "Membership Monday" post for you - today's success story belongs to one of our board of directors, Harry Mattox on this black bear, harvested this spring in SE Manitoba, Canada. Very impressive!

Like Comment Share

[view on Facebook](#)

Monday 11/1/2021 10:00 AM
 Facebook — SCI Wisconsin Chapter, type: status

SCI Wisconsin Chapter
 8 months ago · LIVE

We would REALLY like to make "Membership Monday" a weekly thing around here...

Thanks to one of our dedicated Directors, Nick Heim for sharing these photos from a recent hunt to Namibia with Justus Brits of [Afrihunt Safaris](#). Congratulations Nick on your Eland, Gemsbok, Steenbok, Red Hartebeest and Impala!

We encourage everyone to share your recent hunt photos!

Like Comment

Monday 12/13/2021 9:30 AM
 Facebook — SCI Wisconsin Chapter, type: status

SCI Wisconsin Chapter
 6 months ago · LIVE

Today's Membership Monday post features our very own Treasurer, Tim Novak. Here's what he had to say: "Buffalo and Tuskless Elephant hunt with Thaba Mmoyo safaris in south eastern Zimbabwe near Gonarezhou National Park. Harvested a fine old "Dagga Boy" bull with beautiful fully hard bosses. The Elephant hunt was long and arduous and climaxed with a hair raising experience of the herd charging back in because we had taken out the matriarch of the herd. All of the Elephant was utilized and hundreds of villagers came to get the meat."

Like Comment Share

[view on Facebook](#)





Tuesday 6/28/2022 13:00 PM
Facebook — SCI Wisconsin Chapter, type: photo

SCI Wisconsin Chapter
in 5 days ·

Board of Director Russ Van Lieshout was busy this past Spring 2022 turkey season! Check out this gorgeous Merriam turkey harvested in Nebraska.

Congrats, Russ!

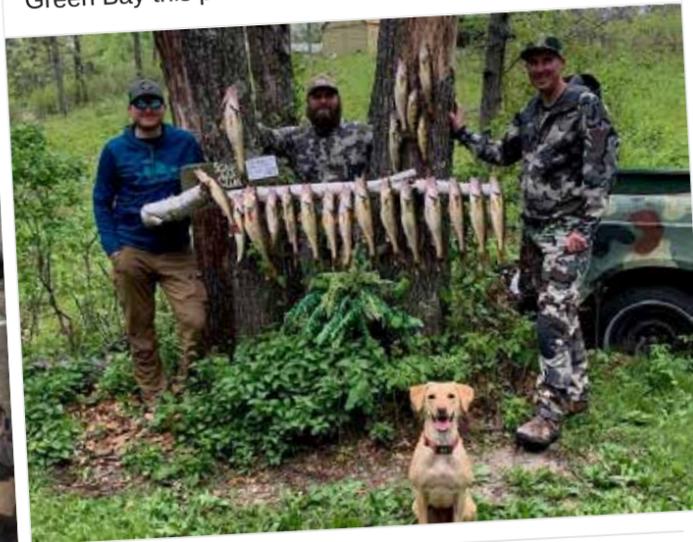


Monday 7/11/2022 10:00 AM

Facebook — SCI Wisconsin Chapter, type: photo

SCI Wisconsin Chapter
in 18 days ·

Today's Membership Monday share comes from Russ Van Lieshout, Nicholas Kapral, David Zoellick and Dakota 🐾🐾. They slayed the walleye and perch up in Green Bay this past Memorial Day weekend!



Like Comment Share

Tuesday 5/31/2022 9:00 AM

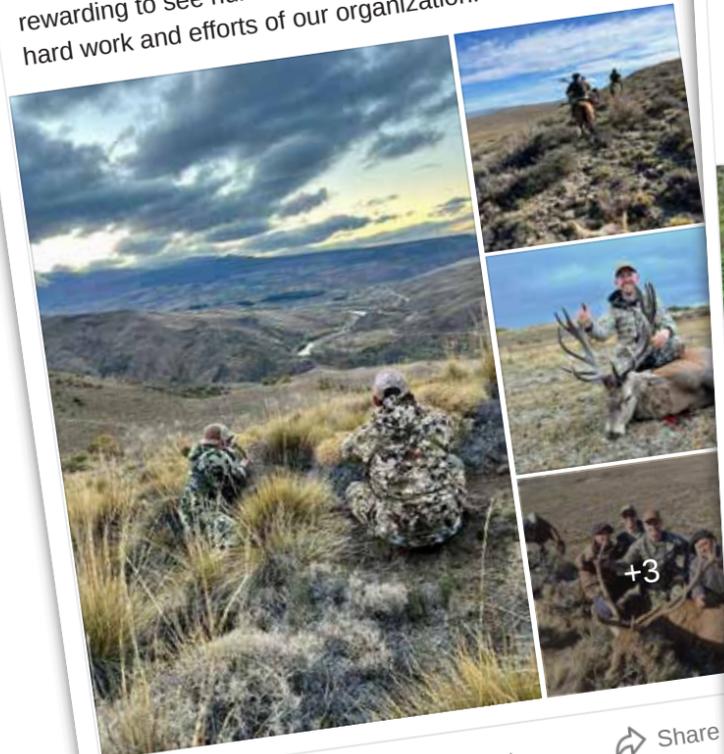
Facebook — SCI Wisconsin Chapter, type: status

LIVE

SCI Wisconsin Chapter
23 days ago ·

Reminder that there are no membership meetings in June or July, but that doesn't mean we can't share some awesome pictures!

Kort Carlsen and Andrew Phillips had a wonderful Red Stag hunting experience with Norte Hunters in Northern Patagonia, thanks to a live auction package won at our Grand Banquet event in February. It's incredibly rewarding to see hunters' dreams come true through the hard work and efforts of our organization!



Like Comment Share

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Whitetail Sanctuary Solutions Tip:

Food Plot Season is Here!

by Michael Murphy

The end of August or beginning of September is the best time of the year for planting your food plots (unless planting corn or beans)!

Weed Control: Spray Roundup or other similar products a minimum of 2½ weeks before you plan to plant your food plots. I prefer three weeks especially if the soil is dry. You do not want residual chemical in the soil—this will affect the seed germination.

Plan ahead on those new food plots by clearing the site and applying the first application of Roundup six weeks

prior to planting. A new food plot location most likely will need two applications of weed control before you plant. The second application should be done three weeks from planting that was not completely killed on the first application. This will give you a great seed bed without competing weeds.

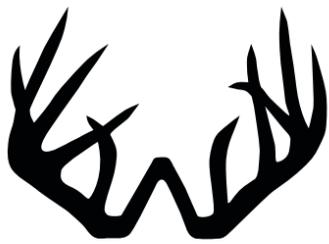
If you are planting a new food plot make sure you are checking the soil PH prior to planting. See Hunters SCI magazine September/October 2021 "The Plot Thickens" article for the

proper way to correct your soil's PH level.

I like planting high protein food to help build a bigger, stronger deer herd. My Favorite Five to plant in a food plot includes:

Clover (Perennial): Use 10-10-10 and Pot Ash after first year.

- Plant dates are August 1 to September 1
- Very High Protein—critical for antler development and bone and muscle growth. Good for does milk production and deliver



- heavier and healthier fawns (herd management)
- Extreme Cold Tolerant

Chic Magnet (Chicory/Perennial)

- Plant dates are August 1 to September 1
- High Protein—44% Kale/Chicory
- Extreme Cold Tolerant
- Drought Resistant

Winter Greens (Brassicac/Annual)

- Plant dates are July 1 to September 1
- Late Season Food Source
- Grows Fast
- Withstands Extreme Cold Temperatures
- Stands Tall in Snow
- Highly Drought Resistant

Winter Peas (Austrian/Annual)

- Plant dates are August 1 to September 15
- High Sugar and Protein
- Extreme Cold Tolerant

Oats (Annual)

- Plant dates are August 15 to September 15
- Very high sugar content when reaches 6-9 inches in height
- Grows Quickly
- Grows Almost Anywhere
- Winter Hardy

If you want to plant your food plots all at once, plant between August 15 and September 1 to cover the plant dates for the five listed above.

In addition to the five (5) seed mixes to plant in your food plots, don't forget to plant fruit trees and hybrid oaks in your food plots for additional food sources. Remember, most fruit trees are planted in pairs unless noted otherwise for pollination.

Now with these new "High Protein" food plots not only are you attracting deer to your property, but you are also providing a high protein food source. This will help you with your deer herd management in providing better herd genetics and have those trophy bucks living on your property!

I would be happy to provide an individualized plan of your property to attract and retain trophy bucks on your property! Happy and safe hunting from your SCI fellow member at whitetail-sanctuariesolutions.com.

In our opinion:

HR 8167 is a Major Threat to Hunters

by Mark LaBarbera
and George Meyer

Engrained in the DNA of SCI members, and in other hunters, anglers and trappers in Wisconsin and throughout the United States, is the principle that sportsmen and women are willing to pay for the management of fish and wildlife. This has been the basis for the North American Model of Wildlife Management, which over the last century, has been a historic success in restoring fish and wildlife species.

This model has resulted in the U.S. having the most successful programs for managing fish and wildlife in the world. Furthermore, sportsmen and women fully understand that successful management of fish and wildlife species requires a substantial amount of funding.

That is why in 1937, in the country's worst depression, led by the National Wildlife Federation and its noted leader Ding Darling, sportsmen and women and other conservationists from throughout the country successfully lobbied Congress to adopt the Pittman-Robertson Act which placed an excise tax on firearms, ammunition and archery equipment to be dedicated for funding wildlife management and firearm safety.

In 1950 sportsmen and women returned to the Capitol once again to successfully lobby Congress to adopt the Dingell-Johnson Act which placed an excise tax on the purchase of fishing tackle dedicated for funding fisheries management.

In 1984 the Wallop-Breaux Act was passed by Congress tripling the funding for this program.

But now this heritage of sportsmen and women self-funding fish and wildlife management is threatened by a new bill in Congress, HR 8167, which eliminates sportspersons' funding of all of the Pittman-Robertson program and a majority of the Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux program.

HR 8167 moves the funding source for these programs from the excise tax

on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment and fishing gear and replaces it with royalties from the sale of oil and gas from Federal lands and waters. However, the bill provides substantially less revenue from the royalties than would be collected from the revenue generated from the current excise taxes. This change will significantly reduce funding for fish and wildlife management in Wisconsin.

Since 1937 sportsmen and women have realized that taxing themselves for the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux programs provides secure dedicated funding to protect the country's hunting, fishing, and trapping heritage for their children and future generations.

They understand that funding conservation from other federal revenue sources such as oil and gas royalties will constantly be difficult and never guaranteed because of the country's many other competing societal financial needs.

Also, sportsmen and women understand that by self-funding the greatest share of fish and wildlife management they help assure that they will have a major say on how the Pittman-Robertson and Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux funds are spent.

SCI members here know this is especially important as hunters, anglers and trappers become a smaller percentage of U.S. and state populations.

HR 8167 was introduced by Georgia Congressman Andrew Clyde and attracted 58 sponsors in the House, all members of the current minority party including Representatives Glenn Grothman and Tom Tiffany from Wisconsin.

Some legislators realized they were misled and have since removed their name from the bill. We asked Congressmen Grothman and Tiffany to do the same.

Clyde states that the Pittman-Robertson excise tax "infringes on Americans' ability to exercise their Second Amendment rights." This

misguided reasoning is used despite the fact that it was sportsmen and women who demanded that Congress adopt the current Pittman-Robertson excise tax.

In addition, SCI and more than 40 organizations representing millions of hunters, anglers, and trappers such as the NRA, National Wildlife Federation, National Wild Turkey Federation, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever and Back Country Hunters and Anglers have stated their opposition to the bill.

Also, Clyde's Second Amendment argument does not make sense for reducing funding for the Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux fisheries program.

Sportsmen and women throughout the country are now contacting their Congressional members and asking them to not support the bill and asking those who have already signed on, such as Representatives Grothman and Tiffany, to withdraw their support.

We ask that you make sure that your US Representative and Senators know that you are opposed to HR 8167 and ask them not to support it.

In Wisconsin P-R funds are used for wildlife habitat, wildlife research, wildlife disease management, hunter education, hunter recruitment (R3) and shooting ranges (state and sports clubs). In 2022 DNR increased the sports club shooting range grant program from \$250,000 a year to \$800,000 thanks to Pittman-Robertson funding.

Wisconsin's Dingell-Johnson/Wallop-Breaux funding is used for fish propagation and stocking, fisheries assessments, managing DNR boat accesses, aquatic education, fishery area management and fisheries research.

It would be a huge mistake to eliminate these proven programs. Instead, we should be building upon their success and enhancing our natural resources infrastructure for future generations of sporting conservationists.

REMEMBER THESE DATES!

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AND
FEBRUARY 24-26, 2023 FOR
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Impressum Media Inc., Los Angeles, CA (www.FirearmsGuide.com) – July 28, 2022 – For gunsmiths and shooting industry professionals worldwide, Impressum Media Inc published new Firearms Guide 13th Edition that is not only the largest searchable guns & ammo reference guide, gun values guide, but also largest online Gunsmithing Library.

Published since 2009 at www.FirearmsGuide.com for shooting industry professionals, Firearms Guide is used worldwide by private, police and military gunsmiths, gunsmithing schools and students, ballistic labs, sheriffs and police departments, gun shops, public defenders, and law offices in the USA and Internationally.

"The New Firearms Guide 13th Edition is the world's largest searchable guns & ammo reference guide that presents over 80,000 antique and modern firearms, air guns, and ammunition from 1,633 manufacturers from 62 countries. With its 14 search criteria, Firearms Guide enables fast, complex searches of 80,000 antique and modern guns and side-by-side comparisons of search results. Guns are cross-referenced with the huge ammunition database. Firearms Guide searchable Ammo Database has over 7,000 different rounds with ballistics and ammo pictures and is often used by ballistic labs and police departments. Guns and ammo are presented with prices, tech specifications, features, gun values, ballistic, and up to 12 high-resolution zoomable color pictures.

With over 58,000 gun pictures (in resolution up to 4000 x 1240) and with the biggest online visual (graphic) Gun Codes, Proof Marks, Stamps, and Crests Guide, Firearms Guide is a great tool for fast and precise firearms identification of antique and modern civilian and military guns from 1,633 manufacturers and 62 countries" says Chris Mijic, publisher of Firearms Guide.

"Gunsmiths will love the fact that the Gunsmithing Library of the new 13th Edition has over 21,583 zoomable and

printable high-resolution gun schematics, blueprints, manuals, and antique catalogs that they can zoom in on their large computer screens and print out when they work on a client's gun. It saves work hours/money for gunsmiths that can now get schematics, parts lists, and armorers manuals instantly and concentrate on their work. After they fix their client's gun, they can print the manual for that gun and give it to their clients. It is a nice touch that your clients will appreciate."

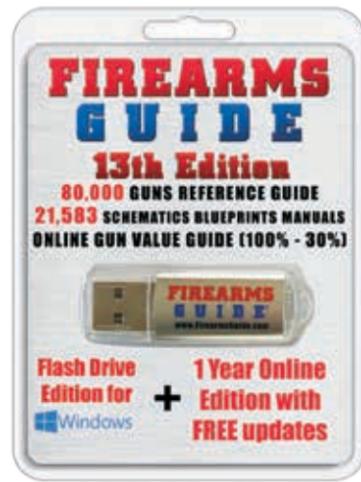
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GUIDE**



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Published since 2009 for shooting industry professionals and gun enthusiasts, with its new 13th Edition published at www.FirearmsGuide.com, Firearms Guide is:

1. A Reference Guide that presents over 80,000 antique and modern firearms, air guns, and ammunition from 1,633 manufacturers from 62 countries.
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- Firearms Guide 13th Edition is available with free updates at www.firearmsguide.com.
- Impressum Media Inc., founded in 2009 in Los Angeles, California is the publisher of the Firearms Guide series of digital firearms, air guns & ammunition references & value guides for gun enthusiasts and industry professionals.

In Memorium

Mark Sosin

by Mark LaBarbera

I can't stop thinking about the positive influence Mark Sosin had on the lives of so many people from the Midwest to the Atlantic, including myself.

The legendary fishing writer and television fishing personality died on Thursday, June 30, 2022, in Boca Raton, Florida. He was 88 years old.

Our friendship began more than 40 years ago at a meeting of the Outdoor Writers Association of America. I was the 20-something Editor of North American Hunter magazine and active OWAA professional member. He was a Past President of the national media association that included my childhood heroes whose adventures captured readers' imaginations on the pages of Outdoor Life, Field & Stream, and Sports Afield.

For some reason, we hit it off from the start. He cared about outdoor education, having fun, and passing along our outdoor heritage to the next generation. He was also a firearms enthusiast.

Years later when I was preparing to launch North American Fisherman magazine, Mark was my first choice as a saltwater columnist. He helped us increase circulation to 750,000 anglers across the country. He was a positive, upbeat influence, and he was respected by everyone for his angling skills and knowledge as well as his conservation ethic. I enjoyed our saltwater adventures as well as our conversations under the palm trees in various destinations or in hospitality suites at writers' conferences and international sportfishing and boating expos.

I valued his business sense, his ability to work with various personalities in the industry, and his even-keeled approach to challenges.

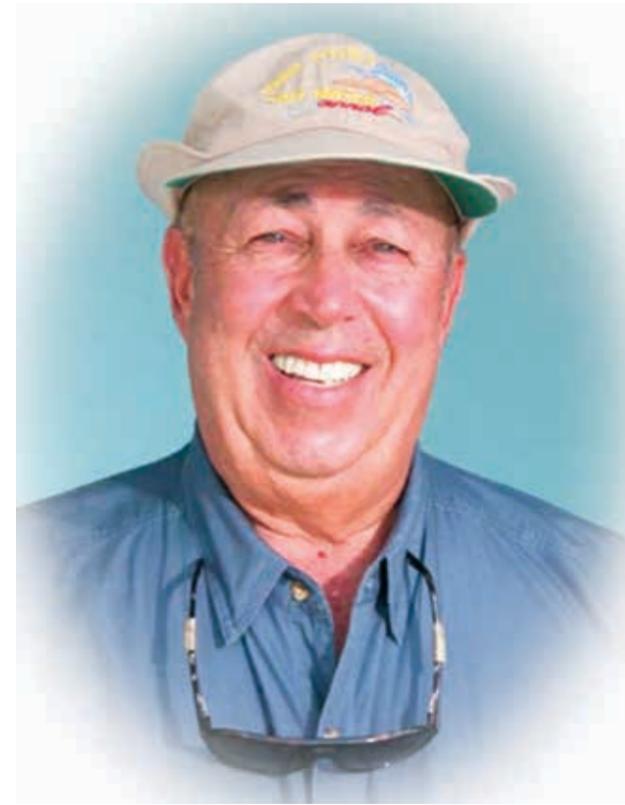
There were times when I would sit back and admire his tactics and tenacity as he stood by his convictions, like during our annual TV producers'

meetings at ESPN HQs in Bristol, Connecticut.

Mark Jessurun Sosin was a force of nature, and I will miss him.

Our friends at The Fishing Wire shared his history:

He was born on July 7, 1933, in Highland Park, New Jersey. Under the tutelage of his father, he fell in love with fishing as a young boy and enjoyed several trips to Florida before he was 10



years old. He caught his first bonefish at age nine.

In a 2004 interview with the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, Sosin was quoted as saying, "My father — at a time when nobody was — was a conservationist. He'd take what he needed and put the rest back." It was a philosophy that Sosin would follow for the rest of his life. In fact, close friends say they never saw him keep a fish and that he abhorred tournaments because they targeted large brood stock fish.

Sosin graduated from the prestigious Wharton School of Business at the

University of Pennsylvania and subsequently earned a master's degree in business administration from New York University. He planned to become a lawyer, but his education was interrupted by four years of active service in the U.S. Navy. When he was discharged, he went to work with a company that made electrical wire and cable, then took a position with Revlon and later worked as a management consultant.

All during this time, he fished along the New Jersey shore and dreamed of making his passion into a career. In the 1960s, he began writing magazine articles and books on fishing. From 1968 to 1973, he worked for WCBS Radio in New York, doing short segments on fishing, hunting, camping, and conservation.

In 1979, he and his wife, Susan, moved to Boca Raton, Florida. A few years later, he got into television, launching "Mark Sosin's Saltwater Journal" in 1983.

"When I looked at the marketplace, there were guys doing bass shows," he was quoted as saying in 2004. "I went for the hole in the market and did a saltwater show. The gurus and pundits at the time told me a show like that wouldn't last to its second season." In fact, Sosin's program ran for 27 years, making it one of the longest-running fishing programs in television history.

All the while, Sosin was writing magazine articles (more than 3,000 in his career according to some estimates) and books (more than two dozen). Though most of his work was on saltwater fishing, he also wrote two bass books with Bill Dance, a knot book with Lefty Kreh, and a conservation book on the Everglades.

Many of his book titles feature phrases like "how to" and "practical" which clearly display his focus on education. And it's almost certainly true that's where Sosin achieved his greatest impact. He helped to teach generations of anglers how to fish and how to care for the resource.

Suppress the Fear

The National Firearms Act of 1934 has kept silencers behind a shroud of mystery for nearly 100 years. Now they are becoming more popular for hunting and target shooting.

SilencerCo's Suppress The Fear campaign aims to spread the truth about silencers all across the country to gun owners like yourself by letting you experience the bliss of shooting

from a robustly built, short and light-weight suppressor. The Harvester Evo is the next generation of hunting optimized suppressors and the successor to the firearm industry's most popular and widely recognized hunting silencer. The Harvester Evo addresses the feedback SilencerCo has received from shooters throughout the years. It provides users with a shorter and lighter, tubeless

NATO, 16" barrels for .308 WIN/7.62mm NATO, and 20" barrels for .300 WM. It is compatible with all SilencerCo Bravo Mounting accessories, including the Bravo ASR Mount, Bravo Direct Thread Mounts and all ASR Muzzle Brakes and Flash hiders.

The company is promoting to SCI a number of products, including the Osprey suppressor.

Osprey's unique shape makes it the only multi-caliber polygonal pistol silencer on the market. The monocoore baffle design allows for greater internal volume and therefore better sound performance. The Osprey utilizes a push button locking system for quick indexing. This system allows the majority of the suppressor to sit below the shooter's line of sight, thereby not impeding standard pistol sights.

The Osprey 2.0 was designed to be used "wet" or "dry." Shooting "wet" temporarily improves sound suppression by inserting a small amount of media, like about 5cc's (or a typical water bottle cap full) of clean water or clear wire pulling gel into the back of the silencer.



suppressed in person. Silencers significantly mitigate the two biggest fears of shooting guns: the noise, and the recoil.

Once you experience shooting suppressed, any fears you have will melt away and you'll never want to go back, they said. You can learn more at their website. Plus, SilencerCo will give SCI members and others 15% off online orders at SilencerCo.com if you sign up for their newsletter.

One of the company's hunting suppressors is The Harvester Evo. It provides the everyday shooter and hunter with world class sound reduction

design making it easily maneuverable and ideally suited for long treks, where every inch and every ounce matters.

The Harvester Evo is a hunting rifle suppressor that works for precision target shooters too, and it is semi-auto rated. It's compatible with the most commonly used centerfire rifle calibers including .223 REM, .300 BLK, .243 WIN, .260 REM, .308 WIN, and 6.5 Creedmoor up to and including .300 WM (not to exceed the case capacity and burn rate of .300 WM). The Harvester Evo is rated down to 16" barrels for .223 Remington/5.56mm



Hunt Report:

First Elk

by Ron McClintic

My hunting philosophy is to select hunts that, regardless of the outcome, I can look back on it as a success. I want to go to new places, see new things, meet new people, walk new ground. And the more remote the better. If my cell phone is still working wherever the driving ends and walking starts, then I did not pick the right trip.

This hunt fit the bill.

Having shot a bear with my bow on its maiden hunt, I thought an elk

would be nice to try next. Plus, we were almost out of moose in the freezer. I talked my oldest boy, Lt. Cmdr. Jason, into buying a bow, learning to shoot it, and ponying up his share of the costs. How hard could it be?

Being totally ignorant in the ways of elk hunting, I connected with Joe Leyo, Leyo Outfitting, out of Big Timber, Montana. After missing him at an SCI banquet (canceled due to Covid) we exchanged several phone calls and booked our hunt.

Joe provides outstanding accommodations, both room and board, as well as the horses and guide service. We had tags for both public and private land hunts.

As is Joe's custom, there were just 2 other hunters in camp, who we only saw at breakfast, dinner, and some of the trail ride in.

We did receive very personal attention. His mother-in-law cooked for us; his dad came in mid-hunt to help guide; his wife Lisa hosted dinner, and his one-year-old son Coe came and



amused us all. We did feel--if not quite part of the family--then certainly more than just customers.

There was one other member of Joe's team that I met on the hunt. His name is Bud. He accompanied us on most days. A stocky, quiet type, always horsing around, but he was very reliable and very capable. Joe assigned him the task of helping me get around safely on the trails, as I might have looked a little old and a little heavy. We did turn out to become friends, if not best buddies. My sure-footed friend kept me out of trouble on the steepest trails, and somehow knew to guide me to slightly easier paths than the others took.

From Madison to the Billings airport to meet Jason, flying in from San Diego, I drove the truck that was optimistically filled with four 125-quart freezers.

We then drove on west to Big Timber, from interstate, to paved road to gravel to a couple miles of dirt track to a very large and impressive log building at 4,400 feet of elevation.

We had breakfast Saturday morning at 4:30 am, rode in trucks for two hours at about five miles an hour over U.S. Forest Service roads, or what I called "goat tracks." Then we unloaded the horses, saddled up and rode into the Absoroka mountain range for another two hours, then started hunting.

Hunting. Hah! It was mountain climbing punctuated by Joe calling for elk. We were aiming for a high saddle that elk were known to cross.

The day I arrived at camp, was my 62nd birthday. I jog, I am active, but perhaps 30 pounds (okay maybe closer to 50 pounds) above my ideal weight. I had just expanded my jogging to five miles for one run in early August, then the Canadian wildfire smoke came to Madison and shut me down, but still I thought I was in shape. Sadly, no. My legs were stretched, but it was my breathing. The thin air was tough. Every hundred steps I stopped to catch my breath. But we made it to the top, a saddle that elk have used to cross over the ridge.

Nothing responded to the calls.

After lunch we took a nap. Since elk take mid-day naps, so should the elk hunter.

Then Joe took Jason in a loop through the woods, leaving me to watch the saddle. His thought was that either he and Jason would call an elk in or drive it past me.

Nothing happened at all.

Then we made the entire trip in reverse to get to dinner. I have no idea what time we ate dinner. Not that first night nor all week. I did not want to know. I do know 4:30 breakfast was

determined to be too late, so Joe moved it up to 4:15. Unlike most camps I have been in, there was almost zero after dinner conversation. It was clean the table and go to bed.

This was how the five days went. Sometimes we drove to more open ground and hiked in, and some days we were back on the horses. Bud only came along on horse days. His expertise was needed. I missed his steady presence on the hikes. I observed how Bud operated. He made sure we were further back in the pack, so he could watch the other riders and horses. Everyone else had their hats knocked off or a leg rubbed against a tree, but not me. While the trails were tight in the trees, Bud somehow knew just where to step, how to weave and dodge. He was incredible.

At one point the trail went up steeply, over a bald rock face, for about 30 feet. Since metal horseshoes are slick on smooth rock, all the other horses and riders tried to circle it, but every horse slipped and went down on at least two knees. Joe's horse went down on all four. After watching this Bud didn't say a word but led me straight up the rock. And up we went, no problem. My horse was the only one that did not go down.

On Sunday we were hiking on open ground, with a parallel series of modest hills and valleys perpendicular to our line of sight, with a large alfalfa field just in view several miles away to the north.

Joe called in a bull.

It was too far away to tell if it was worth shooting (turned out it was), but it was making a bee line for what it thought was a cow, but it was Joe.

When it dipped down into a valley, Joe positioned me to the west, and Jason to the east, with Joe between us but higher up the hill. The intent was to call it in between us. Jason was in a tree line; I was in the open hiding behind a tree. There was a small stand of trees lower down the slope from me and would be the last obstacle the bull had to clear to get to the cow. The ground rose slightly between Jason and I so we could not see each other, and enough that we would not shoot one another.

Had the bull continued straight on, he would have cleared the woods, then angled to his left diagonally up the hill to the call. That was going to give me about a 25-yard broadside shot. And he would still be far enough away from

Joe to not detect that it was not a cow calling.

But he didn't. Just before clearing the trees, he turned left and went far enough that when he exited the trees, he went straight up the hill toward Joe. That gave me a quartering on shot, which I have been taught you don't try with a bow. But, if he came far enough up the hill, I would get my broadside angle.

He spotted me, but Joe would call, and he would come closer.

I needed him to take five more steps.

He took one of those, realized by now he should see a cow, turned, and left the country.

Had I not been on my first hunt, when he stayed in the trees, I could have used that for cover, dropped down closer to the woods behind a downed tree and had a shot as soon as he stepped out of the woods. But I was too in the moment to think straight. I do believe a lesson was learned. Next time, have a backup plan.

On Monday we again trailered the horses then rode up to a mountain meadow where Joe had a base camp of two large wall tents surrounded by an eight-strand solar powered electric fence. Once again Bud kept me safe on the trail. We chose not to camp there, as we needed to seek out very dispersed elk. It would be used heavily in rifle season. We then hiked over 50 or 60 mountains; okay it was two, and were surveying a large, forested valley ringed by mountains.

Two of the guides, Matt, and Ryan, took Jason and I one way while Joe took Anthony and Mike another. After



crossing two peaks we ended up on top overlooking the valley at one end, they were on the bottom at the other end. The only response either group received to our calls was each other. Unfortunately, we also found fresh wolf tracks. Between the wolves, dry weather and the unseasonable warm temps, the elk were not moving, and the rut had not started yet.

On Tuesday we headed to new territory, requiring only a short truck ride then rode the horses on what otherwise would have been a very pleasant trail ride. It wound through open ground, a creek bottom, some dense underbrush

and across rolling grassland. But no elk. Anywhere. Old sign abounded, nothing recent.

During that ride Joe got a call from a neighbor of the private land we had permission to hunt. He had seen a bull and two or three cows just across the fence line on his property. So, we cut it short, returned to the truck, dropped the horses off at the barn and skedaddled over.

The terrain was more or less flat, but with scattered groves of trees. We were walking and calling and getting nothing.

Suddenly, having gone as far as we could and now within 100 feet of the





property line, while standing in an open area about 60 feet from the nearest tree line, two different cows chirped in response.

Before we could get under cover, a bull stepped into view.

The three of us tried to hide behind one lone 10-inch pine in the middle of open ground. Felt like a Three Stooges episode.

Jason nocked an arrow, and Joe called the bull in.

The bull jumped the fence that bordered the property and got with 60 yards, but the angle of the shot was all wrong. It would have been a head on shot.

The bull knew something was not right, and turned away, but Joe called him back. This was repeated three or four times until the bull left for good. Watching Joe bring that bull back time and again was awesome. Had we enough sense to instantly get to cover, maybe the outcome would have been different. That was the second and final elk we were able to even make a try at. Anthony and Mike did not even achieve that much.

We hunted until dark on the last day, then

headed home. This time Jason rode with me to Madison, so he could see his mom before returning to San Diego and the Navy. All the way home we started planning to return to Leyo Outfitting. It was an outstanding hunting trip.

Joe and I had a lot of time to discuss the hunt. In May of 2021, just after we purchased the tags, that area received two feet of snow, followed immediately by a summer of drought. The grass never had a chance. All the local

ranchers were irrigating alfalfa to have food for their herds, and that was where the elk were. Then during the normal rut season, the temps were 15 degrees above normal.

He was more bummed than I was. I grew up on horses but had not been on one for almost 40 years. That part was great. I had never been in the mountains and that was great. My son and I usually get along okay, but this trip, it was awesome. Possibly because we were worn out, but I chose to believe it was because of the overall experience being simply wonderful. Having said that, if the day before we bought the tags, we had known what the conditions were going to be, we would have passed. But we didn't. And that is why it is called hunting and not harvesting.

We made lasting friends and are going back. Yesterday I called Joe to make the next reservation. I did make sure to say goodbye to Bud before I left. Bud wasn't a guide per se, just an expert on trails. He was my horse. He kept me safe on the mountain and served as one more reminder that good people add so much to our hunting adventures and lifelong memories.



Wisconsin Makes Best Rods on Earth

It's been a busy year in Park Falls, Wisconsin. St. Croix Rod handcrafters are unveiling 12 new or reengineered series for 2023.

Legend Tournament Bass Series

Headlined by three all-new swimbait models featuring the GRASP reel seat, St. Croix's Legend Tournament Bass Series expands to 19 technique-specific casting models and eight spinning models. Featuring SCIV+ carbon blanks and iACT Glass blanks on select reaction bait-models, the rods feature refined angler ergonomics and cosmetics. Retail: \$290-\$395 with a 15-year warranty.



All-New St. Croix Skandic Ice Series

The 12 models ranging from 24" to 36" and ultralight to heavy power, are crafted from precision-taper solid carbon blanks with custom handle configurations optimized based on angler preference and in support of intended techniques. Skandic Ice rods feature St. Croix's most durable cork material ever and guides coated for line control in extreme conditions. Retail: \$75 to \$110 with a five-year warranty.



In-Person Hunter Ed is Better

If you don't like the idea of sharing the landscape with other hunters who don't necessarily know how to handle a firearm safely, then you're not going to be happy with the push for online training instead of in-person classes and testing.

Thankfully, SCI members in Wisconsin are pushing back and are supporting the Wisconsin Hunter Education Coalition for in-person,

hands-on requirements. COVID-19 opened the door for the Wisconsin DNR to waive classroom requirements.

Now some agency professionals want to move permanently to only online training. Thousands of volunteer hunter education instructors know the risk and are pushing back. They have seen online students pass the online test but then not be able to demonstrate how to safely handle a firearm, work the action,

or explain the basic four rules of firearms safety.

Here's a letter from one of those experienced instructors writing to DNR Secretary Preston Cole. He provides great arguments that you, too, can use to explain why in-person hunter education is better than online training and testing.

Good morning, Secretary Cole,

My name is Dan Nauman and I have been a certified WDNR hunter education instructor since 2009. I am also 65 years old and have been an avid hunter, fisherman, trapper, and bird watcher in Wisconsin since 1971. I was born in Milwaukee and have lived in Wisconsin my entire life. I support Ducks Unlimited, the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association, The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and the National Rifle Association. I took my first hunter education class in 1970 through an NRA class at Whitefish Bay High School (in a suburb of Milwaukee).

I would like to voice my opinion about how hunter education can best benefit the student and fellow hunters:

I strongly disagree with online teaching as I believe in-person instruction goes much further to impact the importance of many aspects of firearm and hunting safety. Each instructor has many unique experiences to share that can emphasize the importance of safety. This type of personal teaching cannot happen online. Further, **instructors get to know each individual student's strengths and weaknesses**; a computer cannot determine or evaluate accurately a student's shortcomings or problems.

The one rule that is broken more than any other is 'Keep your finger out of the trigger guard until ready to fire.' This rule is critical to firearm safety and, again, **a computer cannot recognize when a student has a tendency to place their finger inside the trigger guard** (which is an offense that can be grounds for failure...as it should be).

I have taught numerous people, young and old alike. If they have never handled a firearm, doing so for them is much like handling and eating with chopsticks for the first time; it's confusing and difficult for them. Simply put, **a computer cannot recognize nor coach a student as to how to safely and confidently handle a firearm.**

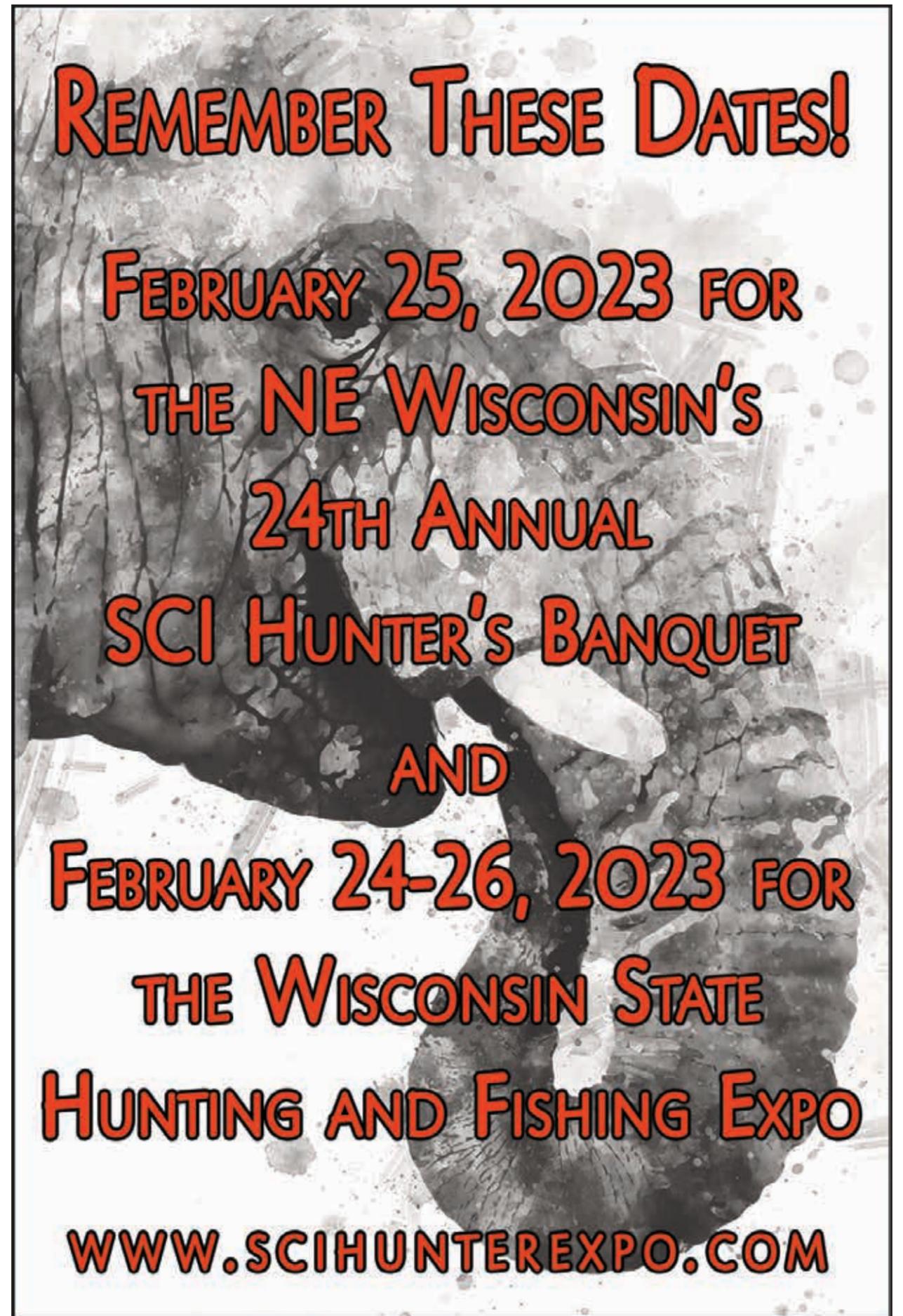
A student may do well in verbal or written tests, but handling a firearm safely and confidently is a whole different ballgame. The student may seem to have a grasp of things one day, but the next day (or session) while handling a firearm with a different action, he/she might be all thumbs and/or constantly place their finger inside the trigger guard. I have reluctantly passed students since they met the DNR requirements but have then had serious conversations with their parents telling them that I feel that though their child passed, they still need more training and experience before safely heading out into the field. **This intimate interaction will not happen with online courses.**

A computer does not get to know a student's tendencies and personality. So again, face to face interaction far exceeds impersonal online training because of the simple warmth of the human experience. Many instructors go well beyond what the WDNR specifies and gives the students much more than simple instruction. It becomes an enriching lifelong experience that creates fond memories.

Finally, training to be safe out in the field by computer is a paradox. Please...let's get back to what this is really all about: enjoying the reality and beauty of the great outdoors and the human experience, human relationships...not doing so via the virtual world.

Thank you for your time. I hope you highly reconsider the way Wisconsin trains people to be safe with firearms.

Regards,
Dan Nauman



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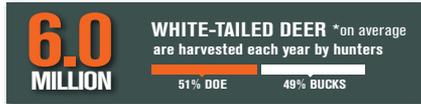
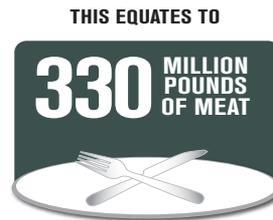
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- IOWA 312,000 LBS 2
- MISSOURI 237,000 LBS 3
- TEXAS 214,000 LBS 4
- OHIO 180,000 LBS 5

VENISON DONATIONS BY REGION

MIDWEST	NORTHEAST	WEST	SOUTH
46% of total donations	8% of total donations	*1% of total donations	45% of total donations
1,300,000 lbs 5,200,000 meals	200,000 lbs 800,000 meals	28,000 lbs 110,000 meals	1,250,000 lbs 5,000,000 meals
IA - IL - IN - KS - MI - MN - MO - NE - OH - SD - WI	CT - MA - ME - NH - NJ - NY - PA - RI - VT	AK - AZ - CA - CO - HI - ID - MT - NM - NV - OR - UT - WA - WY	AL - AR - DE - FL - GA - KY - LA - MD - MS - NC - OK - SC - TN - TX - VA - WV

* May be under-reported. limited data sources available for the west

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