

HUNTERS

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF SCI CHAPTERS IN WISCONSIN AND ILLINOIS
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

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HUNTERS

Official Magazine of SCI Chapters in Wisconsin and Illinois
September/October 2024

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SCI Chapters welcome you!

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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Illinois & Chicago Chapter

President Brett Hensley

www.sci-illinois.com

Lake Superior Chapter

President Scott Olson

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SCI Region 16 Representative

Charmaine Wargolet

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SCI Region 16 Report

by Charmaine Wargolet, Regional Representative

It's September and the start of fall! Great time of year for a hunter. I hope everyone had a great summer though, it is fairly short up here in the northern Midwest. I personally just got back from vacation, and it was wonderful.

Some of our chapters have had events during the summer which I hope you had a chance to participate in with your SCI friends! Golf outing, sporting clays shoots, picnics, our chapters are really active! I had a ball shooting in my WI chapter clays shoot but wish I could have made it to some of the other events. They sounded like fun.

I hope everyone has been keeping up with our national news. Our headquarters is all set up in San Antonio and from the pictures, looks awesome. Our Hunters Embassy has been hosting a slew of events and even hosting a visit from former President Donald Trump! SCI is really becoming a force to be reckoned with like never before. Which leads me to November.



In our country, one of our most precious freedoms is the right to VOTE! Please, please get out in November and cast your vote, and encourage any of your family and friends to do the same. This country needs new leadership and the only way that happens is if we make our voices heard. Our country is a laughingstock on both our home stage and on the world stage. The only way we can keep the enemies of our freedoms at bay is to get politicians friendly to everything we hold dear, our way of life, and hunting!

Another exciting event coming is the SCI convention! Be sure to register and make your hotel reservations early!

As always, my friends, shoot straight, be well, and God Bless!



Rick Rollo, sponsor of the Big AI Fund of SCI and WI Chapter President present two \$1000 donor checks to the Williams family for the Great Cancer Shootout Fundraiser!

Lake Superior Chapter Report

by Scott Olson, President

Hello from the Lake Superior Chapter. Summer is here and that means safari season. My phone, emails, and Facebook have been flooded with photos and reports from chapter members who have been successful on their trips. It is always fun to hear stories of people fulfilling lifelong dreams. What an amazing time we live in. Adventures overseas are often less expensive than adventures here in the USA. When sharing the SCI message with interested outdoor enthusiasts, I often hear the comment "I could never afford to Africa (or South

America, or New Zealand or...)," and when I explain the costs, people are shocked. I invite them to attend a SCI event, talk to exhibitors and watch the auction. Most people are pleasantly surprised.

The Lake Superior Chapter's board has been busy over the summer planning our annual Youth Day at Wings North Hunt Club in Pine City, MN on September 8. We host 40 youth each year for a round of trap shooting, a guided pheasant hunt and a lunch. This year, we are adding archery and rifle shooting activities to introduce youth to all facets of hunting.

The chapter is also hosting a golf tournament at Black Bear Golf Club in Minong, WI on August 9. Chapter founder and Board member Jay Link and his amazing daughter Keira organize the event. This will be our second year of the event and it was great fun. I'm not a golfer, but I assisted Keira and I know everyone had a great time. We gave away an African Safari at Africa Maximum, tickets to our annual fundraiser and several firearms last year. The event this year should be even more fun!

In closing, I hope everyone has a safe and fun summer. Hunting seasons are just around the corner!

WI Chapter at Wern Valley

Sharon Yunk was the ladies top score winner at the 35th Annual Sporting Clays event at Wern Valley Sportsmen's Club in Waukesha. More than 65 shooters enjoyed sunny 85-degree weather, a great sporting clays course, nice lunch, wonderful raffle prizes, and fun camaraderie while raising money to support the SCI mission in Wisconsin.



Help Wanted:

Have fun and make a difference being part of SCI Humanitarian Services. One or more times each year we need someone to deliver a Sensory Safari trailer in Wisconsin. SCI and OHEC education trailers reach more than a quarter-million people with a positive pro-hunting message at venues all across the state BUT we need your help. If you don't have a truck, we could rent one for you that day. To learn more about tow vehicle size or how this program might work for your schedule and your interest in passing along our outdoor heritage, email Ruthann@OHECyes.org today.



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Wildlife Trailer Refresh

The Illinois & Chicago Chapter refreshed the look of its sensory safari Wildlife Trailer. With the help of chapter members Ron and Colleen Riggsbee, and board members Steve Corcoran and Dale Rimkus, it was completed in time to exhibit at the Illinois Deer Classic in Peoria, Illinois.

The interior of the trailer is still full of many beautiful wildlife mounts, with most species from North America and some from Africa. When the trailer

arrives for an exhibit, the larger mounts are moved to the outside of the trailer for display, including full body mounts of a grizzly bear, black bear, whitetail deer, mountain lion, wild turkey and coyote. It also features a moose head and caribou head that mount to the outside of the trailer.

The Wildlife Trailer is a great way for the chapter to interact with the public and to educate about wildlife conservation and the important role filled by hunters and hunting. It's a great way to let people know about our chapter and Safari Club International. If you know of an event, or a school, or an

organization that would be appropriate for the trailer to visit, please contact any board member. And we are always in need of volunteers to help staff the trailer at events - no experience required!

Illinois & Chicago Chapter Events

Everyone is welcome to the chapter's events, like the Member Appreciation Picnic & Cocktail Party, September 15. Looking further ahead, mark your calendar for the Annual Christmas Brunch, December 8 and the 53rd Annual Fundraiser & Banquet, April 12, 2025. Find details at <https://sci-illinois.com>.



Northeast Wisconsin Chapter Report

by Kathryn Thede, President

Be the change you want to see in the world. As a hunter, summer usually is more of a "down time," a time to plan for the upcoming seasons, fine tune your shots, work on food plots, or travel overseas on a big adventure. This summer has provided me some opportunities to witness some inspiring things and that got me thinking of what we can do to change the world.

This December we will be traveling to the Texas Panhandle with Drake Dawson (Safari Unlimited) to hunt Sandhill Cranes. We had been interested in doing a stateside hunt that we can take our camper and our pups, this hunt checked all our criteria boxes while supporting someone who does so much for SCI and is an all-around great guy. We have never done wing shooting before so starting in March we started having "date days" shooting sporting clays at J&H Game Farm in Navarino, WI. The first time we showed up to get a feel for what it all entailed, we were invited to walk the trails, and check it out. At the first station there were two young men there. These young men, in their early 20s, took time to answer our questions, invited us to tag along, and gave us some tips and advise on the sport. As a couple in our mid- 40s, my husband and I are grateful to Nathan and Travis for inviting us along, exchanging numbers with us (and offers to go shooting with us), going out on a limb- mentoring and taking a "middle-aged couple" under their wings. Which leads me to part of the inspiring events of the summer. As a group passionate about all things hunting, it was an important to be reminded that no matter your age or expertise level, there is someone who can benefit from what you know. The ripples you can create as you share your hunting stories, experiences, and knowledge not only serve as a testament to your legacy but might just cause a spark that could ignite a passion for hunting...maybe even extending for generations to come!

On June 1, 2024, in Oshkosh I was part of a group of about 10 people who

became Certified Hunter Safety Instructors. The class itself was about five hours long, informative, hands-on, and relatively painless! Kayla Sasse is the DNR's Outdoor Skills Trainer. Her phone number is 920-360-2361. Kayla keeps the class engaged, answers questions, has helpful handouts, and has been amazing to work with. (She also makes a pretty good lunch that was provided during the class!) This is another of those inspiring experiences (and something to think about becoming certified to help out with classes. They are always looking for volunteers and you are able to pick and choose when you are able to help out.)

Shooting sports and archery in the schools are on the increase (YAY!) but the number of hunters in the field are on the decline (Boo!) as a group we should find this exciting and disheartening at the same time. We need to get involved and figure out how we can get the youth, who are already taking the first step of practicing with targets and figure out how we can mentor or get them interested in hunting; After all they ARE our future!

I know, as a group we are a wealth of information. Each person I have met,



talked to at Expo, and at our member meetings has a story to tell, experiences to share, and the power to inspire and mentor future hunters whether they know it or not! Never underestimate the power of YOU and the difference YOU can make in the world around you. After all, I know we ALL remember the person who took the time to get us into hunting and all the memories that have been created because of them!

Please do not hesitate if there is any way as a chapter we can be of assistance. Check out our webpage NEWISCI.org for information on our board of directors and upcoming events. Enjoy the rest of summer and good luck on the upcoming Bow Season.

Kathryn with Kayla Sasse, DNR Outdoor Skills Trainer



Wisconsin Chapter Report

by Dean LePoidevin, President

Welcome to fall in Wisconsin, the best time of the year in my humble opinion. While many of us will soon be preparing for goose, pheasant or grouse hunting, or the elk, turkey and deer seasons, be sure to add the following dates to your calendars.

The first is Thursday, September 19, when the SCI Wisconsin chapter will host its fall kickoff meeting at the Westmoor Country Club in Brookfield. On tap will be Joel Kleefisch with his presentation on a very successful hunt for Mouflon and Dalmatian Sheep in Croatia. See photos. Cocktails at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00, followed by this exciting program.

In October be sure to join us for a special program featuring Dave and Dana Bahl and their adventures in Alaska. While there, they were joined by outfitter Clay Roberts on a tour of his

trap lines and wildlife sightings. So, mark your calendar for the October 17 member meeting at the Delafield Brewhouse, in Delafield, WI. Check our website at www.sciwi.org for details.

While still a few months away, it is worth noting two more upcoming events for SCI WI members and their guests. On Friday, December 6, join the Wisconsin chapter in celebration of Christmas at the Ingleside Hotel, in Pewaukee, WI. Then, in February, be sure to attend our annual Banquet and Fundraiser at the Brookfield Conference Center, in Brookfield, WI, on Friday and Saturday, February 14-15, 2025. Remember, free admission on that Saturday from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Of course, all our events, including the Christmas Party, are held in support



of hunter's rights. As we are all aware, strong opposition from a growing number of anti-hunting groups continue to threaten our way of life, and they are not letting up.

It is through your ongoing support of SCI – locally and nationally – that we stand united in our efforts to educate the public on the benefits of conservation, support local and statewide lobbying efforts, and help fund valuable wildlife and youth programs.

Badgerland Chapter Report

by Randy Mayes, President

Thank you for allowing me to serve the Badgerland Chapter as President again. Kudos to John Martinson for serving as president the last few years. John has been a very dedicated Badgerland board member for many years.

Being only a matter of weeks from a very important election, I hope you will set aside time on November 5th to do your part in choosing the right people to run our country and state. Unfortunately, many don't. I'll be bowhunting in Illinois, but you can be sure, my votes will be cast prior to heading south. I hope to be celebrating taking a nice whitetail and my candidates winning at the same time! Hopefully, I can "Make Illinois Bow Hunting Great Again!" I've bow hunted there the last few years but just haven't seen "Mr. Right."

This month I'm heading to Newfoundland for moose. I've been applying for moose in Wyoming for 23 years and it is looking like there's a good chance I will not live to see a tag... and no, I'm not ill. There are about 400 people who have the same number of points I have and another 400 people who have more. After cutting nonresident moose tags in half starting this year, Wyoming is now issuing 27 per year. Do the math... IF I ever do get a tag, I may be chasing them with a walker! My friend and I who have been applying together all these years figured it may be best to go now, while we're still able.

"Go now, while you're still able," has been my mantra. We are fortunate to have so many opportunities to go hunting... at least for now. Who knows what tomorrow will bring. Your health, changing game laws limiting or



eliminating hunting, our economy, they all may prevent you from going on that trip "you always wanted to go on." If you wait until everything is "just right," you may be forever only dreaming about it.

One of the many advantages of being involved in SCI is when you are ready to plan "that trip," there are often other local members who have been that or done that. Go to a monthly meeting. Chat with other members. Most are more than happy to share their experiences and knowledge. This is typically much more valuable than outfitter references.



Badgerland Members Gather, Dan Small Shares Behind the Scenes

Outgoing President John Martinson passed the torch back to Randy Mayes at Dino's in Portage. At the monthly meeting, Mayes had Executive Director Ruth Ann Lee of the Outdoor Heritage Education Center report about the recent Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo successes in two locations, and had SCI Badgerland Chapter member Dan Small share highlights from 50 years of hunting and fishing adventures in Wisconsin, including his 36-years as host of the PBS programs "Outdoor Wisconsin" plus "Deer Hunt Wisconsin" which he produces each year with SCI Life Member and OHEC Founder Mark LaBarbera. Dan shared behind-the-scenes stories, photos, and video of outings that went as planned and some that did not, including hunts for deer, turkey, upland game, and waterfowl, as well as fishing trips for muskie and salmon.



Members applaud John Martinson's years of service as he hands the Badgerland Chapter presidency to Randy Mayes.



OHEC E.D. Ruth Ann Lee thanks Badgerland for supporting two big MOHEE youth events.



Randy Mayes' intro also talked about Dan Small's long-term membership in, and support of, SCI and chapter activities.

Bryce Did It Again!

Brent Cochem was so happy to see his son's hunting success photos in SCI HUNTERS magazine. Brent made it clear that it would be good to manage expectation, telling his son Bryce and fellow members how lucky the teenager was last year. But he noted that odds were small of continuing that level of success.

And then this photo showed up, making us wonder if it's more than luck.

Bryce did it again. His 2024 wild turkey was 24 pounds with a 10-inch beard. Having a good mentor surely helps.

The teenage hunter's smile speaks volumes about how much he enjoys time spent outdoors hunting wild game.



SCI/OHEC at WI Scholastic Shoot

The SCI logo on OHEC's Touch of the Wild sensory safari trailer was a great backdrop as partners like Friends of Poynette Game Farm and Pass It On—Outdoor Mentors helped recruit students for Learn to Hunts and other outings. As OHEC Founder Mark LaBarbera said during the rainy Scholastic Clay Target State Tournament near Nekoosa, "These students already know how to handle firearms safely, so it's an easy next step for us to take them on their first hunts."

As SCI Chapters sponsor new archery and scholastic shooting sports teams in school districts across the state, we can all remind coaches, teachers, parents, and students that we also have hunting opportunities for them.

It's not only for the kids. We encourage adults who have not hunted at all or have not hunted a certain species to sign up online for one of the OHEC Pass It On—Outdoor Mentors events.

Wildlife Councils for Public Education

by Bob Matthews, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

As many SCI members are likely aware, it is an unfortunate truth that the general public is often-times completely unaware of the critical role that sportsmen and women play in fish and wildlife conservation. That lack of understanding by the general public has contributed to the overall decline in support America's time-honored outdoor traditions, according to "Survey: Public Approval for Hunting Drops Sharply," Outdoor Life, Andrew McKean. July 6, 2023.

A partner of SCI for more than three decades, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) is actively working with its robust network of more than 2,400 state legislators to promote a remedy to this problem through a concept that is currently present in only two states: Wildlife Councils for Public Education, with the purpose of educating the non-hunting and non-angling public about the numerous benefits that hunters and anglers provide to the conservation efforts of their state.

Sportsmen and women help fund the management efforts of state fish and wildlife agencies both by purchasing hunting and fishing licenses and, thanks to both the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Programs which collect and distribute the revenue from self-imposed excise taxes levied on the manufacturers of sporting goods, including firearms, ammunition, fishing rods and tackle, and more. Through this unique American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF), hunters and anglers in Wisconsin generated more than \$117.8 million for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) last year alone, and the Badger State's historic funding total is more than \$3.4 billion. These funds are specifically earmarked to support the DNR's efforts to manage fish and wildlife resources, provide hunter's education, develop shooting ranges, acquire land for public recreational access, and construct and maintain access to the State's waters. To put it simply: Hunters and anglers are the backbone of conservation and its funding.

As participation rates in general have declined over recent decades, it is

imperative for that simple fact to be properly messaged to those who have not yet experienced the peaceful thrill of being afield or on the water – even in a state like Wisconsin, where outdoor pursuits have a particularly strong role in its history and identity. Just across the lake, the Michigan Wildlife Council has been educating its non-sporting public on the role of sportsmen and women for a decade, and the Colorado Wildlife Council has been doing so since 1998.

Funded by a surcharge on each hunting and fishing license sold in the state (\$1.00 in Michigan and \$1.50 in Colorado), these Wildlife Councils are comprised of individuals that are knowledgeable about hunting and angling, but with differing perspectives on its positive impacts, who are appointed to serve as Council members. Some members must be recommended by in-state sportsmen's groups and regularly hold hunting and fishing licenses, while another must have a background in marketing, and the remaining members must represent the interests of various groups including agriculture, the State's rural areas, and local hunting and fishing businesses.

Rather than having decision-making authority that impacts sportsmen and women, these councilmembers work alongside a marketing firm to develop an advertising campaign that informs the public of the funding and management benefits hunters and anglers provide to the state. This can include billboards, bus signs, radio and television ads, social

media marketing, and more with the sole purpose of spreading the good word that fish and wildlife conservation, as well as public land and water access, is not funded by public taxes, but instead by hunting and fishing license sales and sporting goods purchases. According to the advertising company used by the Michigan Wildlife Council, thanks to its efforts, **44% more non-hunters** in southeast Michigan agree that wildlife requires management by humans to thrive, and there was a **16-point increase in knowledge among non-hunters** in west Michigan of the positive impact that hunting and fishing has on Michigan jobs. See the Gud Marketing Case Study: Michigan Wildlife Council at <https://gudmarketing.com/work-old/case-study-mwc/>

Wildlife Councils are an increasingly important piece of the puzzle in rebuilding support and even participation in hunting and fishing amongst Americans. Created by state legislatures, they are able to address state-specific issues and considerations, and, given their funding model, their message can be conveyed at a larger scale and with a more organized, focused approach than state rod-and-gun clubs could deliver individually. While every reader of this magazine has a go-to hunting story they love to share, the most important pursuit that sportsmen and women share is the continued protection of our time-honored outdoor traditions, and Wildlife Councils offer that opportunity.

Wisconsin DNR Announces New Regional Secretary's Directors

MADISON, Wis. – The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources today announced three new regional Secretary's Directors, effective July 14. Connie Antonuk will be the new Secretary's Director for the Northeast region, Jill Schoen for the West Central region, and Shelly Allness for the South Central region.

The DNR's Secretary's Directors serve within their respective regions, acting as the department's eyes, ears and voice throughout the state, ensuring prompt attention to local issues and improved responsiveness to opportunities.

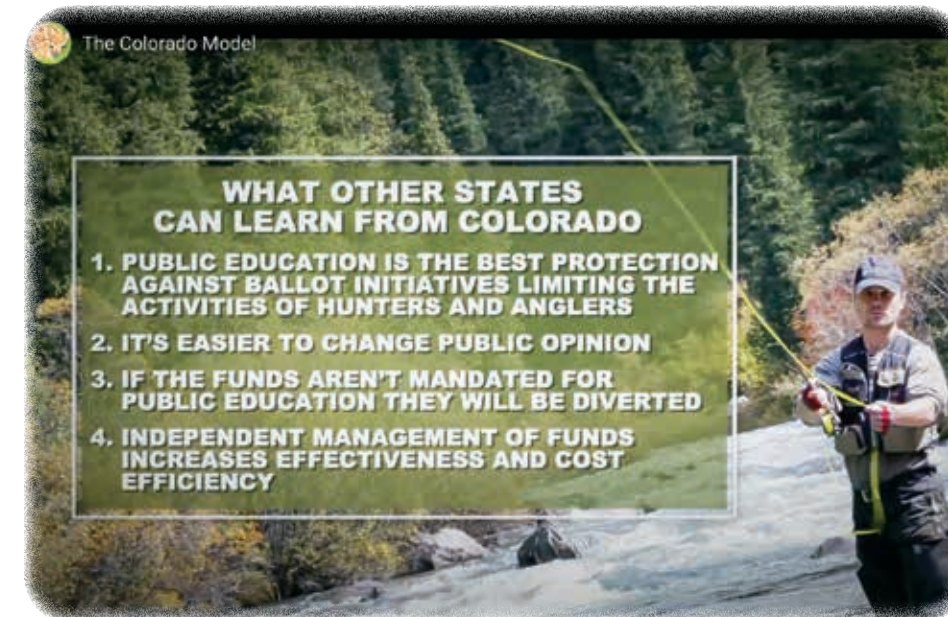
Connie Antonuk has been with the DNR for 31 years, most recently serving as the Northern Region Field Integration Leader. Connie started her career as a limited term employee at the Escanaba Lake Research station as a creel clerk measuring walleyes and talking with anglers. She then went on to write preliminary site assessments for the Superfund program. Her first full-time position at the DNR was with

the Remediation and Redevelopment program, cleaning up leaking underground storage tank sites. She then moved to the Park Falls DNR office, where she worked with the Forestry, Wildlife, and Parks and Recreation programs. While in Park Falls, Connie also worked with the Hayward tree nursery, Flambeau River State Forest and the fire management program. In 2006, Connie was appointed Air and Waste Leader for the Northern Region, eventually transitioning to the Field Integration Leader position. Before joining the DNR, Connie worked for the US Fish and Wildlife Service raising lake trout at a federal fish hatchery.

Jill Schoen has over 30 years of experience in natural resources management, serving the department in various capacities. She was introduced to the agency through an internship and later began her professional career as a Program and Planning Analyst for what was then the Water Resources Management Program in Madison. She moved to the West Central Region and subsequently served as a Field Specialist

and Policy and Plan Review Expert in the Waste and Materials Management Program, a Regional Supervisor in both the Waste & Materials Management and Waterways Programs, and Field Operations Director for the Watershed Program. Most recently, Jill most recently served as Program Director for the Watershed Management Program.

As a 25-year public servant, Shelly Allness has happily been with the DNR for over 20 years. Most recently, Shelly served as the South Central Region Field Integration Leader; before that, she was the Deputy Legislative Director and the Agency Tribal Liaison. Shelly started her DNR career as a DOT Liaison/Environmental Analysis Specialist in the Northeast. She later served as the Division Policy Advisor for the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks predecessor, the Lands Division. Shelly was also a member of the leadership team working within the Secretary's Office at the Department of Tourism for several years, where she worked on various topics and regularly engaged with the outdoor recreation and tourism industry.



In memoria:

Sal Mazza, Sr.

SCI members who knew Sal Mazza, Sr. usually recall that he loved to fish and that he won a new truck for catching the 1991 Salmon-A-Rama's largest fish. He also was a member of Great Lakes Sport Fishermen.

Whether you knew him as Sal, Ted, Turuzzo or Boss, he greeted you with that Ernest Borgnine smile. At his Celebration of Life July 21 friends and family shared stories of his childhood in Sicily and his life in America.

Sal was born in Sant'Agata di Militello, Sicily, Italy on June 27, 1943. He passed away on July 10, 2024, at age 81.

He apprenticed as a tailor, starting at age 8, worked his younger years in Sicily but longed for a new life in the United States. Starting that journey at the age of 18 years old, he traveled on the Luxury Liner the Leonardo Da Vinci with his mother and his 2 younger sisters. They lived in Cleveland, Ohio for a short time, but ended up in Milwaukee. There he worked as a tailor for several large department stores and

eventually opened his own tailor shop (Ted's Tailor Shop). He married the love of his life, Theresa Corrao, on August 1, 1964. Sal and Theresa had 2 sons and a daughter plus seven grandchildren.

Sal was one of the first sport fishermen on Lake Michigan starting in 1966. Fishing was his second love, and he mastered the sport aboard the "Sicilian Hustler." Beginning in 2006, Sal and Theresa relocated to Cape Coral, Florida where they enjoyed retirement life which included many days of playing Bocce, boating and spending time with their many friends.

He is survived by his wife Theresa, sons Charles (Vickie), Salvatore Jr. (Karyn), daughter Maria Klamik (Richard Fenger), grandchildren Zachary, Tyler, Marissa (Jon Carr), Cassandra (Drew Johnson), Krysta, Justin (Adeana Bentley) Klamik, Gina Klamik. Also survived by sisters Nancy Lazzaro, Salvina (Bruce) Maresh, brothers-in-law Tony Corrao, Vince (Nina) Corrao and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.



The family is grateful for SCI members and other visitors who visited and sent their well wishes over the final months of Sal's life. Special thanks to the dedicated staff at Ruth Hospice. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Ruth Hospice, Vitas Inpatient Hospice Unit, 8300 W. Beloit Road, West Allis, WI 53219, or to a youth fishing program near you.

Helping Scouts Earn 260 Merit Badges

SCI's support of Scouting is legendary and inspiring. When a Milwaukee area Scout Master Donavon Steinmetz works others on the annual shooting sports merit badges, it's all hands on deck. The weekend event in June again this year was at the Daniel Boone Conservation League in Hubertus. SCI Life Member Mark LaBarbera delivered Outdoor Heritage Education Center loaner guns, bows,

arrows, targets, and other gear to Steinmetz who reported on the impressive results. One hundred thirty scouts earned 260 shooting sports merit badges! Steinmetz is already planning ahead for next year and reserved the OHEC loaner equipment.



Other scout groups have used OHEC's Touch of the Wild trailers, including the deer anatomy and shot placement exhibit from the National Bowhunters Education Foundation.



Scouts gathered indoors and spent time at the archery, rifle, and shotgun ranges.

IWLA Supports Outdoor Education

SCI ally Marion Lovell, President of the SW WI Chapter of Izaak Walton League of America, accepted a pass-through donation from IWLA WI Division Treasurer Don Klecker to support successful statewide programs of the Outdoor Heritage Education Center charitable nonprofit. SCI's longstanding support of OHEC helps others feel confident that these are winning programs that have a positive impact in Wisconsin and bordering states.



Fuge Adds Blinds to Mobile Closet

Mike and Angela Fuge of Stevens Point donated portable hunting blinds for youth and adult to use for Learn to Hunt and other educational safety training. Mike is President of the Wisconsin Division of Izaak Walton League of America and personally has been one of the strongest advocates for getting people outdoors, whether it's through his bear hunts for veterans, youth hunts, volunteer time at the huge Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo, or other activities, he is a leader in Wisconsin efforts to recruit, retain, and reactivate "HATS" (Hunters, Anglers, Trappers, Shooters)





Bonde Boys

Larry Bonde brought smiles to our faces and heart-warming memories from our youth when he shared these photos of his grandsons TJ Eckhardt, 6, and Jayden Bonde, 8. We are reminded of the pure joy of being outdoors and connecting with nature through traditional skills. Our outdoor heritage is alive and well in the Bonde family.



Combos & Coins Help R3

by Mark LaBarbera

Bas Pro Shops/Cabela's donated wishing well coins and fishing rod & reel combos to help SCI-partner Outdoor Heritage Education Center's efforts to recruit, retain, and reactivate anglers, hunters, and other shooting sports enthusiasts.

Every year, Randy Christensen and associates at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin, donate to OHEC's efforts as they see successful programs connect thousands of youth and adults to nature.



SCI & Grand Slam Club/Ovis

Chapter members in Wisconsin and Illinois noticed that Safari Club International CEO W. Laird Hamberlin and Grand Slam Club/Ovis (GSCO) Executive Director Jason Price are feeling good about a first of its kind agreement between their organizations that created a long-term partnership to yield groundbreaking experiences for members.

It began with SCI's 52nd Annual Hunter's Convention, January 31 through February 4, 2024. GSCO had its event on February 4, 2024. Both events were at the fantastic Music City Center in Nashville.

For more than 50 years SCI's and GSCO's paths had run parallel and so they naturally came together for this true partnership in conservation. They brought two of the oldest, most prestigious organizations together under one roof.

Hosting SCI's Annual Hunter's Convention and GSCO's annual events consecutively fosters the emerging alliance between SCI and GSCO, bringing the greatest outdoor advocacy opportunities under one roof to further expand what Forbes calls "the Super Bowl of hunting shows."

SCI members enjoyed the unique opportunity to stay for an extra day in Nashville to experience this first-of-its-kind collaboration. Complementing SCI's Annual Hunter's Convention, GSCO held a life-member breakfast, awards luncheon, and evening banquet and auction on February 4, 2024, highlighting their core mission and objectives. GSCO's Pantheon Award

was presented during SCI's Saturday banquet.

This new partnership extends beyond the floors of the convention and is a huge step forward in uniting all hunters.

"The collaboration between SCI and GSCO is an enormous opportunity for both of our organizations. It's an occasion for us to unite our like-minded hunting communities and better connect all hunters," says GSCO Executive Director Jason Price. "We will again look forward to working with SCI leading up to their Annual Convention in Nashville, ensuring that celebrating

hunting and hunters is at the top of the agenda."

"I am thrilled for the new opportunities that the SCI and GSCO partnership will bring again in 2025 and beyond," notes SCI CEO W. Laird Hamberlin. "By partnering, GSCO will further enhance SCI's mission of being FIRST FOR HUNTERS and bolster our efforts to promote conservation through responsible and sustainable hunting practices. I, and our SCI membership, look forward to the opportunity to participate in GSCO's events and support our joint advocacy for hunters' interests all in one trip to Nashville."

Bighorn Basics

SCI members travel the world for big rams and various species of sheep. In North America, members pursue desert bighorns, Rocky Mountain bighorns, and others. Here are some basic facts to add to your knowledge.

Desert bighorns inhabit mountain ranges in the southwestern US, including Utah, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico, as well as beyond our southern border in Mexico.

Rocky Mountain bighorns are a little bigger and dwell a bit to the north. They are the most abundant and widespread bighorn, numbering between 31,500 - 34,500. They are found in British

Columbia, Alberta, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona.

What state has the best bighorn sheep hunt?

At over 900 Rocky Mountain bighorn Boone & Crockett entries over the years, Montana has put more rams into the record book than all other states combined. What are the odds of drawing a bighorn sheep tag?

In any given year, the odds of a first-time resident applicant drawing a sheep tag in any one of these states is less than 1%.



Photo by Bob Haase

More R3 Mobile Closets Available, Two Trailers Added for OHEC Schedulers

SCI Mentors, Learn to Hunt organizers, and others now have access to free loaner gear in three "Mobile Closets" that go anywhere in Wisconsin. At its July 15 board meeting, Friends of Poynette Game Farm entered into an agreement with Outdoor Heritage Education Center, a charitable non-profit organization based in Hazel Green. The collaboration adds OHEC hunting clothes, boots, and gear to FPGF's two Learn to Hunt trailers that also carry other shooting sports equipment and supplies.

"Once event organizers learn what we can provide for their guests with these Mobile Closets to add to their safety, comfort, and success," said FPGF President Kevyn Quamme, "we expect demand will increase quite a bit, so it's important to register online asap to reserve a unit."

The three Mobile Closets, like OHEC's seven Touch of the Wild education trailers are available to event organizers, according to OHEC Executive Director Ruth Ann Lee, who coordinates scheduling through www.OHECyes.org.

Lee said that other OHEC Touch of the Wild trailers are staged in Green Bay, southeastern Wisconsin, southwestern Wisconsin, Stevens Point, and south central Wisconsin making them easily accessible in each region. Mobile Closets are currently staged north of Madison and south of Platteville. Anyone who would like to be a permanent Wisconsin staging venue should contact RuthAnn@OHECyes.org. However, all three Mobile Closets and any of the seven ToW trailers can be transported anywhere. To fully appreciate the scheduling challenge and all the places that host a Touch of the Wild, Lee recommends watching the "Everywhere" music video on OHEC's website.

Lee said, "Great partners like SCI and Friends of Poynette Game Farm have been working with OHEC on MOHEE and other projects for years.



This Mobile Closets collaboration will be helping youth and adults gain a deeper appreciation for the outdoors as we recruit, retain, and reactivate hunters and shooting sports enthusiasts."

Each May, OHEC hosts the big SCI-sponsored Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expos in Poynette and Milwaukee, reaching thousands of students, teachers, and parents. Year-round, OHEC operates the Touch of the Wild fleet of hands-on sensory safari education trailers that travel across Wisconsin educating new hunters and anglers. For decades, OHEC has also supported school archery and clay target teams, fostering outdoor skills and passions. And now the three mobile closets will help SCI, FPGF, and other partners who help recruit, retain, and reactivate anglers, hunters, and other shooting sports enthusiasts.



34 Years of Deer Hunt Wisconsin

by Dan Small

The 34th annual episode of Deer Hunt Wisconsin will air in November on Bally Sports Wisconsin, Bally Sports North, and multiple Wisconsin Community Media

stations, as well as on Milwaukee PBS and PBS Wisconsin. Air dates and times have not yet been announced, but historically, SCI members know that the show has aired the week before the opening weekend of Wisconsin's firearms deer season. Our goals with this show are to provide an update on deer biology, research, and hunting opportunities and help new and seasoned hunters prepare for the annual firearms deer hunt.

Deer Hunt Wisconsin was originally a joint production of Milwaukee PBS and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. For the first several years, it aired for a full hour as a live simulcast on Milwaukee PBS, all PBS Wisconsin stations, and WDSE-TV in Duluth/Superior. Milwaukee PBS produced the live broadcast, which featured interviews with DNR staff, pre-recorded segments, and several dozen DNR biologists, wardens, and administrators manning phones to answer viewers' questions.

The very first episode in 1991 garnered the largest audience

of any program aired on Milwaukee PBS for the entire month of November, beating out everything from This Old House and Sesame Street to Nature and National Geographic. A perfect storm of new regulations, partnerships with the DNR and PBS Wisconsin, and the lack of online sources for information combined to create a huge and engaged audience for a live, call-in show. The phones were still ringing an hour after the show ended, so several of us took all the phones off the hook to put an end to the calls.

Deer Hunt Wisconsin no longer airs as a live broadcast, but programs follow a familiar pattern. Each year, we offer information on new regulations, safe hunting practices, chats with DNR wardens and biologists, a hunting forecast for each region of the state, and stories from successful hunters. Many episodes have featured SCI members and other hunters from diverse backgrounds, some with physical or developmental challenges. Viewers have consistently told us how much they appreciate the show and the information it delivers.

Over its long run, Deer Hunt Wisconsin has undergone many changes. My company, Dan Small Outdoors LLC, now owns and produces the show in partnership with Mark LaBarbera and Associates. In recent years, Dave Roll, of Figaro Productions,



is our videographer and editor. Mark and I also shoot some segments, and we all contribute content ideas.

Funding sources have changed, too. The Wisconsin DNR was a major sponsor until 2017, and the Wisconsin Department of Tourism sponsored the show from 2011 through 2018. Several SCI chapters have provided funding support since 2011. SCI Wisconsin (13 years) and Badgerland (12 years) chapters have sponsored the show for more than a decade. SCI Bowhunters (two years), Lake Superior (three years), and Northeast Wisconsin (two years) chapters have also sponsored the show. Together, these chapters have helped us demonstrate to a broad and diverse audience that SCI supports efforts to depict hunters and the hunting lifestyle in an accurate and positive light.

New sponsors of this year's episode include Izaak Walton League of America Wisconsin Division through the

Southwestern WI Chapter, Jacquart Fabrics (makers of the iconic Stormy Kromer caps), and Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Sports Show. Several sponsors are returning for another year: MEC Outdoors (14 years), Outdoor News Publications (13 years), Serpent Arms (two years), Whitetail Sanctuary Solutions (five years), Wildlife Research Center (13 years), Wisconsin Wildlife Federation (three years), Wild Eagle Lodge (five years), and Vortex Optics (five years). We welcome additional sponsors. Contact my partner Mark at mabarbera57@icloud.com or 520-730-9252.

The biggest change to Deer Hunt Wisconsin came in 2011, when we began



education instructor. We'll demonstrate an air-powered rifle made in Wisconsin that is now legal for hunting deer in the Badger State, and we'll learn how to reload metallic cartridges at MEC Outdoors in Mayville. We'll also talk to a hunter who shot a buck that turned out to be an antlered doe, get an update on CWD and other diseases from DNR biologists, look at hunting prospects around the state, and showcase photos sent in by viewers. We invite you to send photos of yourself, your family and friends with deer for possible use in this year's show to dsoradio@gmail.com. Thanks to Dave Roll's skillful editing, we'll pack all that and more into Deer Hunt Wisconsin 2024. We think you'll enjoy this year's show and learn something as well.

Editor's note: Past episodes of Deer Hunt Wisconsin are archived at: <https://www.youtube.com/@DeerHuntWisconsin>. This year's show will also be archived there in early November.



producing two versions of the show: one for the Fox Sports (now Bally Sports) Network, and one for PBS audiences. The Bally version allows us to include commercial messages from our many sponsors, whereas the PBS version is free of commercials. In addition to Wisconsin, Bally Sports North and Bally Sports Wisconsin reach audiences in Minnesota, Iowa, and both Dakotas, which greatly expands our reach and coverage.

For the past several years, we have also made the show available to the Wisconsin Community Media Association, whose members operate local cable stations in every corner of the state. These stations are hungry for good content, and they often air our show multiple times in November and

December, adding greatly to our in-state audience.

Over the years, Deer Hunt Wisconsin has won many awards from the Outdoor Writers Association of America, the Association of Great Lakes Outdoor Writers, and the Best of the Midwest Media Fest in contests that include the nation's best producers. We hope this year's show will be another award winner like last year.

We began planning this year's episode during last year's deer season, when we recorded several hunts and interviews with successful hunters. Some of those hunters took their first deer, so you can imagine their excitement as they discovered the centuries-old tradition we all know and love. We'll meet a young woman who, despite being confined to a wheelchair, loves to hunt and has become a hunter



WI Turkey Restoration Memorialized at BPS/Cabela's in Prairie du Chien

by Mark LaBarbera

Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's is a huge supporter of SCI and other major conservation groups here in Illinois and Wisconsin and across North America, but all eyes were on the Cabela's Prairie du Chien store July 27 for a special dedication.

Three bronze cairns or plaques permanently installed in front of the store were unveiled as state and national dignitaries honored the restoration of wild turkeys in Wisconsin and the hunter conservationists who helped lead the effort.

Cabela's Randy Christensen, an avid turkey hunter and mentor featured in SCI HUNTERS and other publications, along with fellow associates welcomed about 100 people to the outdoor ceremony.

National Wild Turkey Federation's Zac Morton, National Director of Annual Giving, praised Wisconsin's leadership. Former NWTF CEO Rob Keck who is a Bass Pro Shops/Cabela's ambassador and friend of founder John L. Morris, recounted Wisconsin's successful reintroduction of wild turkeys by early volunteers and Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.



DNR's Sam Jonas thanked NWTF leaders and volunteers, Cabela's, and others who provided valuable resources to the agency then and now.

Event organizer Tom Glines, NWTF director of annual giving in this region, said "We are beyond excited to gather all of our partners, volunteers and major donors from across the state to celebrate one of America's greatest wildlife conservation success stories, both across the nation and here in Wisconsin."

Glines said, "These cairns will stand as enduring symbols of the incredible restoration of the wild turkey in Wisconsin and the collective efforts that made it possible."

Wisconsin NWTF State Chapter President Al May, include NWTF

co-CEO Jason Burckhalter, major donor and former national board member from Wisconsin Tom Berenz, and Randy Christensen were among the VIP speakers.

SCI-sponsored Touch of the Wild 4 trailer was featured at the event. Its huge deer and turkey graphics attracted a lot of attention. Inside and outside, the Outdoor Heritage Education Center's mobile education unit highlights the positive historic and ongoing role of hunters and anglers in wildlife restoration and conservation.

Glines noted that, "Collaborative efforts over the last 50-plus years brought the wild turkey back from being locally extinct in Wisconsin. The result is a robust wild turkey population throughout Wisconsin and the opportunity to hunt them during permitted seasons."



"SAVE THESE DATES"

FEBRUARY 21-23, 2025

Join us, the NE Wisconsin Chapter for our Annual SCI Hunter's Banquet and Hunt Expo 2025.

Saturday Night we will be hosting our "26th Annual SCI Hunter's Banquet", Live and Silent Auctions along with Firearm, Optics and Merchandise Raffles at Stadium View Bar & Grill.

Our Hunter Expo is held in conjunction with the "Wisconsin State Hunting and Fishing Expo". With over 175 vendors, there will surely be something that will interest you.

Banquet tickets are only \$75 and include a free pass to the Sport Show.

WWW.SCIHUNTEREXPO.COM



Tornado's Toll:

55,000 Birds Dead or Escaped, \$2+ Million in Damages

At MacFarlane Pheasants, our roots run deep. For 95 years, MacFarlane has been dedicated to producing the finest game birds in the US and even the world. Unfortunately, at the end of June, a devastating tornado struck our Janesville farm, bringing unforeseen challenges.

The damage has been significant. This storm has reduced our bird population, and our operations have been greatly impacted. Today, we want to share the extent of the impact and our determined steps toward recovery.

One of the most profound losses we've experienced is the collapse of a building housing Spanish Red Leg

Partridges. Sadly, we lost approximately 27,000 Spanish Red Leg Partridges in this disaster, which represents over 30% of our annual red leg production.

Finding Secure Housing

With this damage, we are now facing the challenge of rebuilding these critical structures. The immediate focus has been on securing temporary shelters and ensuring that all our birds are safely housed, but the road to full recovery will be a long one.

We have worked to secure barns in Orfordville, Jefferson, and Janesville to temporarily house our birds while we work toward recovery.

Financial Impact & Recovery Costs

The financial implications of this disaster are substantial. The cost of repairing infrastructure, renting additional barns, and managing the displaced birds will cost well over two million dollars.

The loss of our Spanish Red Leg Partridges alone represents a significant financial setback, compounded by the broader impact on our operations. Despite these challenges, we are committed to maintaining our high standards and fulfilling our client commitments.

Big Al's Update:

October 6 Fundraiser Full Speed Ahead

by Rick Rollo

Thought it was a good idea to send out a reminder and fill you in on some very important information.

First, the information, a couple of weeks ago a tornado went through Janesville and surrounding areas. Unfortunately, MacFarlane Pheasants took a direct hit. A number of brooder barns were hit along with some 16 acres of pheasant pens. As you can imagine the total amount of destruction is a moving target. At last

estimates they have lost some 55,000 birds and tremendous property damage totaling over \$2,000,000.00 !

I have spoken to a number of people that are in the know and they tell me the employees of MacFarlane along with strong leadership from Bill and Dori are hard at it to rebuild and recover from this horrible disaster. I would ask that you please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they tackle this monumental task.

Of course, the obvious question is, where does that put the Big Al Hunt.

Well believe it or not the wonderful people at MacFarlane tell me that we will have birds. I was astonished when I was told this and it goes directly to the heart of how MacFarlane operates.

So, remember that we will all meet at Wern Valley on October 6, 2024 to raise money for sick kids and vets and maybe toast a few to the dedicated, hard working people at MacFarlane Pheasants that will allow us to do so!

Thank you all



Supporting Dedicated Employees

At the heart of MacFarlane Pheasants are our 90 dedicated employees. Each member of our team plays a crucial role in our success, and their safety and well-being have been our top priority throughout this ordeal.

In the aftermath of the tornado, our employees have shown remarkable resilience and adaptability. Many have taken on new roles to assist with the recovery efforts, working tirelessly to stabilize operations and care for our birds.

Humane Practices and Future Resilience

While this tornado has undoubtedly set us back, it has also reinforced our resolve to rebuild stronger and more resilient than before. We are already

laying out plans to enhance our facilities and operations to withstand future challenges.

As we move forward, we extend our deepest gratitude to our team for their hard work and to our community for their unwavering support. We are confident in our ability to overcome these setbacks and continue our legacy of excellence and humane care.

For more updates on our recovery efforts and operations, stay connected with us through our blog and social media channels.



Trees for Tomorrow & Outdoor Heritage Education Center Unveil “Touch of the Wild 7” at Forest Fest in Eagle River

Starting July 26, SCI members, teachers, students and families across northern Wisconsin gained even easier access to a “Touch of the Wild” thanks to the Outdoor Heritage Education Center nonprofit group and Trees for Tomorrow, Eagle River. At Forest Fest that day, OHEC and TFT unveiled Touch of the Wild 7, a walk-through, hands-on education trailer with a forest, fish and wildlife theme.

Visitors stepping into the trailer are immersed in Wisconsin forests from north to south and challenged to a scavenger hunt that includes taxidermy like deer, elk, cougar, wild turkey, fox and its rabbit prey, plus dozens of insects, flora, and other hidden specimens.

Before they enter, visitors are greeted by engaging images wrapping ToW 7, including forests, wolf, bear, photographer Bob Haase’s gray fox climbing a tree, and more. OHEC’s “What is your Wingspan?” art on one side invites youth and adults to spread their arms against colorful overlays of crane, eagle, turkey, goose, swan, and other birds like similar art on other ToW trailers sponsored by SCI chapters. Visitors will explore other educational displays inside and out, like a “tree cookie,” or cross-section of a tree trunk. Like the OHEC logo with hidden wolf and eagle carrying a fish, there’s more to ToW 7 than first meets the eye.



Available to schools, county fairs, conservation clubs, and other event organizers, the mobile exhibit, like the other six education trailers owned and operated by OHEC, can be scheduled through www.OHECyes.org, according to OHEC Executive Director Ruth Ann Lee.

“The team at Trees for Tomorrow guided ToW 7’s creation with valuable and fun content,” she said, adding, “so it’s only natural that we will house the

trailer at Trees in Eagle River so educators there can use it year-round. And it will be conveniently located where other teachers, hunter education instructors, and event organizers can schedule to come and get it for their venues.”

Lee said other OHEC Touch of the Wild trailers are staged in Green Bay, southeastern Wisconsin, southwestern Wisconsin, Stevens Point, and south central Wisconsin where they are easy to access in each region, but any of the ToW trailers can go anywhere. To fully appreciate her scheduling challenge and all the places that host a Touch of the Wild, she recommends watching the “Everywhere” music video on OHEC’s website.

TFT Executive Director Cheryl Todea said her staff will be using ToW 7 on-site but also at many of the places they visit throughout the state.

Kim Feller, TFT Education Manager, and her team began working on ideas for OHEC’s trailer in 2022 based on best practices and what they found most successful in teaching forest-based conservation to youth and adults for many years. Then it was up to Lee, plus OHEC founder & chief volunteer Mark

LaBarbera and Lakescape Solutions’ Nick Homan to turn those ideas into ToW 7.

Feller and Todea quoted the TFT/OHEC Memorandum of Agreement signed in December 2022: “The Parties share a vision and goals of preparing today’s youth to be tomorrow’s stewards of our natural world, and of increasing the public’s awareness and understanding of and participation in outdoor activities and promoting sustainable management of our natural resources that support human needs through transformative educational experiences.”

The MOA explained what else the collaborators would like to accomplish: “In addition, the TFT and OHEC seek to increase public awareness of TFT and OHEC, their missions and vision, and opportunities for involvement with TFT and OHEC. The OHEC purchased, enhanced, and schedules its Touch of

the Wild trailers as part of its natural resources education efforts throughout Wisconsin. OHEC is willing to expand its forest resources components. OHEC would like to make it easier for northeastern Wisconsin venues to access its trailers and to connect more youth and adults in that region to natural resources-based activities and educational opportunities. TFT would like to increase its visibility and outreach.”

Lee said, “OHEC thrives when working with partners that share our passion and vision to help youth and adults gain a deeper appreciation for the outdoors. We value working with TFT and developing ToW 7 as a critical step in helping individuals deepen their understanding of forestry, wildlife and other environmental concerns.”

OHEC hosts the big Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expos in Poynette and Milwaukee, reaching thousands of students, teachers, and parents each May. It operates the fleet of Touch of the Wild hands-on education trailers that criss-cross Wisconsin, and for decades it has helped teach new hunters and anglers as well as help launch and support school archery and clay target teams.

OHEC collaboration with Trees for Tomorrow will help ensure that the Wisconsin outdoor heritage is successfully passed along to the next generation, expanding what OHEC does so successfully with various SCI Chapters throughout the state. See www.OHECyes.org or email RuthAnn@OHECyes.org.



About Trees for Tomorrow

Trees For Tomorrow promotes sustainable management of natural resources through transformative educational experiences. Its field-based programs place people in direct contact with the natural resources that support human needs and provide the knowledge and skills that lead to responsible lifestyle choices. A Trees For Tomorrow experience inspires informed participation in policymaking and promotes stewardship and renewal of natural resources for use by future generations. Trees For Tomorrow promotes the following values as central to success:

- **Balance:** Managing natural resources for the long-term benefit of everyone.
- **Sustainability:** Proper management and responsible use of our natural resources is essential.
- **Collaboration:** Strong, mutually supportive relationships with a variety of partner organizations.
- **Professionalism:** The highest standards of excellence are maintained by professionally qualified staff.
- **Fun:** Experiences at Trees For Tomorrow include enjoying the environment and sharing our enthusiasm with others.

Learn more at www.treesfortomorrow.com. Contact Cheryl Todea, Executive Director, at todea@treesfortomorrow.com





Humanitarian Services:

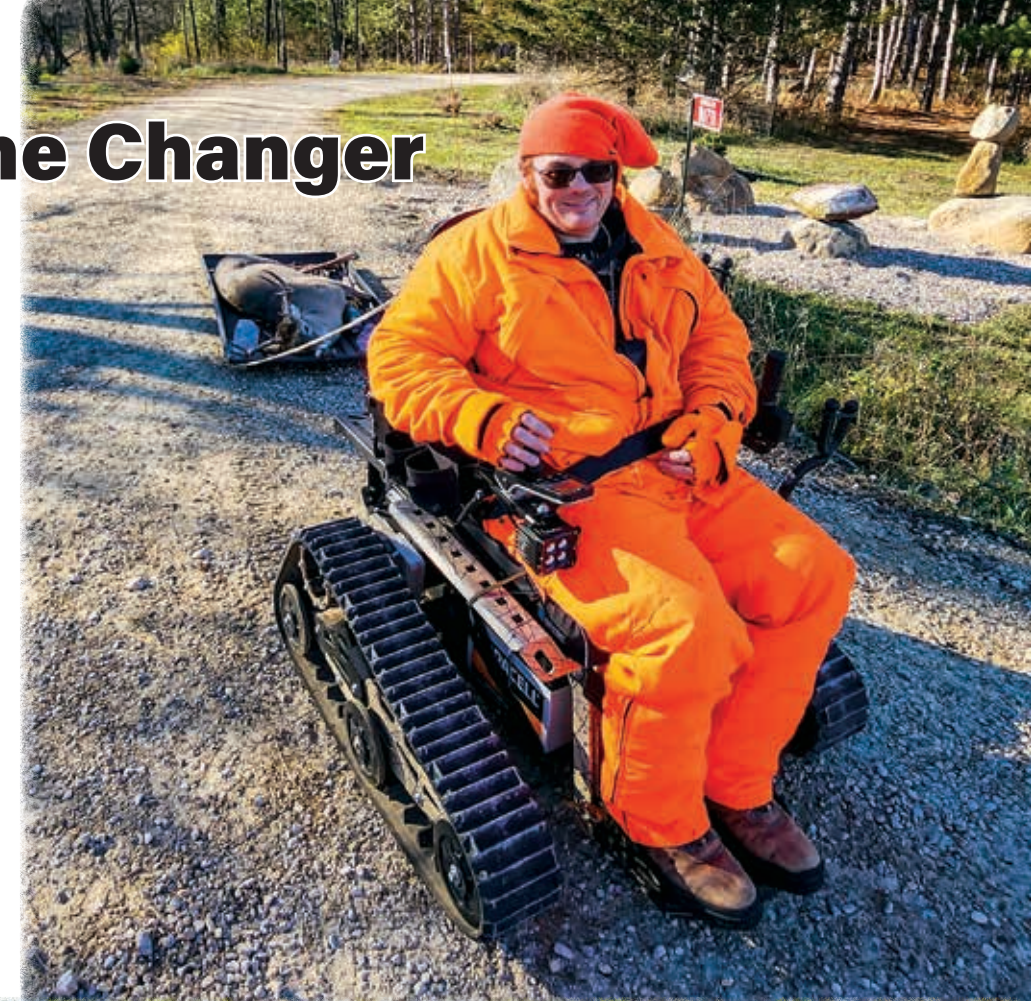
Chair is Game Changer

by Chuck Bordeau

SCI members in Illinois and Wisconsin might enjoy seeing some pictures of my son Dustin and a deer he shot in Columbia County.

Dustin was left unable to walk about 20 years ago from an auto accident. Before then he was an avid deer hunter. After the accident it was difficult for him to get into the woods. We tried hunting from a vehicle with a permit, but it wasn't working. In 2016 we came across an all-terrain wheelchair and it was a game changer. Since then, Dustin has shot a few bucks and pulled them out of the woods behind his chair, but this one is the biggest.

A variety of groups, like Wings Over Wisconsin and Access Ability Wisconsin, buy wheelchairs for others to use to get outdoors, often with help from SCI members and chapters. As Dustin has proven, it can change a person's life to own or have access to an outdoor wheelchair.



A Nature Adventure for Reid

by Scott Olson

The mountains of central Idaho are a special place. Idaho became one of my favorite destinations about 25 years ago when I first hunted the Frank Church Wilderness for elk. Rugged terrain, beautiful scenery, and friendly people all contribute to satisfying trips to the region. I met Mike

Popp of Mike Popp's Nature Adventures more than 20 years ago while hunting in the region. Mike and his whole family have become great friends over the years. Mountain Lion, Bobcat, Wolf, Black Bear and lately Whitetail Deer have drawn me out to Mike's at least twice a year for many years. Over 30 members of the Lake Superior Chapter

have hunted with Mike, mostly for mountain lions, but also spring and fall bears too.

3 years ago, I invited Reid Tjosvold and his father, Rick, on our annual spring bear hunting trip. Reid is an amazing young man who shakes your hand firmly while he looks you in the eye and beyond polite. Reid and Rick

have helped at the Lake Superior Chapter fundraiser for a few years now as dock workers, ticket sellers, firearm runners and entertainment.

On our trip in 2022, we had a great time, but Reid didn't get his bear. We did learn a few things on that trip though. Rick doesn't like heights, at all. Rick doesn't like narrow trails on a

mountain side either. We also learned a folding metal chair will rattle incredibly loud when a 70# Reid is sitting on it and a bear comes into the bait! We treed several bears on the trip, and saw several on baits too, just none were shooters.

Fast forward to 2024 and off we go. Reid was ready to hunt bears again, this time equipped with a brand new Bergara 300 Win. Mag rifle he won at this year's Lake Superior event. All of us on the trip agreed Reid was our first shooter if a bear was treed, or we had an especially nice bear coming into a bait regularly. Also on the trip was my wife, Lake Superior Treasurer Lisa Gingrich-Olson and Lake Superior Board members Lucky Dave Jaeger and Troy Braiedy along with a few other friends.

Alarms went off at 4:00am for the coffee to start, and breakfast about 5:00am. We then load ATV's with bait and lunch and off we go for the day. Each morning, we headed up the mountain to check baits and trail cameras while Mike would take some hounds from his house across Lolo Creek from the cabin and strike the forest roads until we would meet Mike around 7:00am. Afternoons and evenings were spent sitting on baits.

Mike struck a bear the first morning of the hunt and treed a 100# cinnamon colored bear. We all walked to the treed bear for photos and make the shoot/don't shoot decision. We were off to a good start!

Lisa and I sat on a bait named Scott' Slide, a hillside where I shot a B&C mountain lion with my bow years ago, all week and had 5 decent bears come in. All were black and around 125-150# (probably the same 2-3 bears all week). Lisa shot her first bear last year, and she wanted a bear bigger than her first, so we passed on all the bears, although the one standing on it's hind legs after winding us at 20 yards was awfully tempting. Later that week, we also





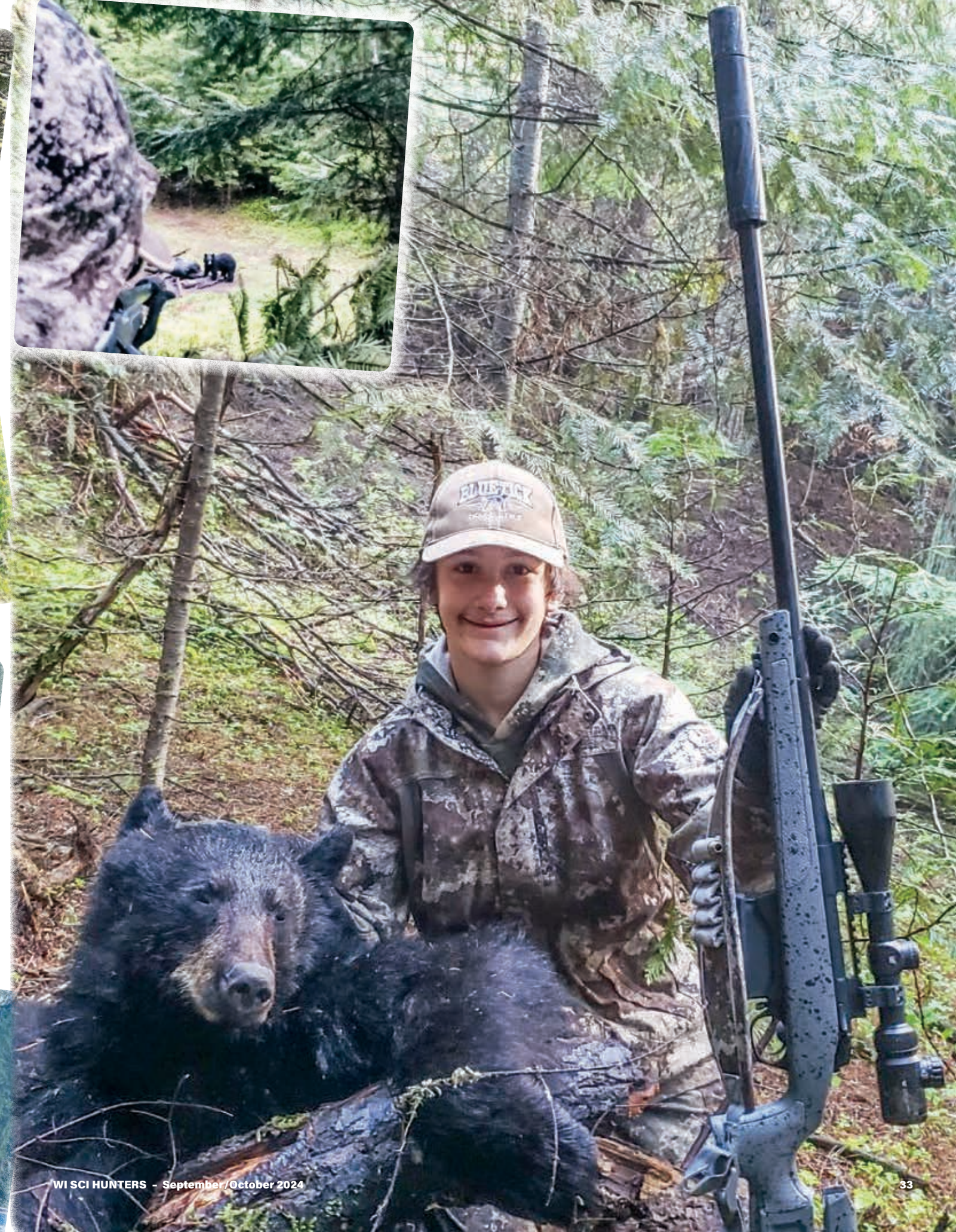
walked in on another bear in a tree, a cinnamon colored 2 year old that we had no interest in shooting. Another member of our party missed a nice bear on a bait early in the trip.

Weather was cooperating and temperatures were not too high. The baits simply seemed to slow down except for a bait we call Wolf Junction. It would be baited early in the day and when rechecked at noon, the bait was gone. Daytime sits were unproductive, but the trail camera photos showed a nice bear visiting the bait, often right after the hunters would leave.

Reid, Rick and Lucky Dave sat on the Wolf Junction bait on the second to last night of the hunt and a beautiful black bear came into the bait early enough for good identification. The bear was definitely a shooter and Reid shot the bear while his father, Rick, videoed the event over Reid's shoulder. The bear spun at the shot and ran off down into a deep wooded ravine. Not wanting to spook the bear, they wisely backed out

and waited for the other hunters at the trail head. It was raining when Lisa and I came down off the mountain and we discussed the situation. As a group, we decided to wait until daylight and to have the hounds available for back up if the bear had moved out of the ravine. With the assistance of Mike the next morning, we found the bear about 60 yards down the steep ravine early the next morning. Handshakes and hugs took place. The bear was skinned and quartered and loaded onto packs. Reid carried the frame pack with the hide and skull up and out of the ravine. The pack weighed more than Reid did. Adrenaline and youth assisted in that pack out!

This was the sixth annual spring trip out to Mike Popp's Nature Adventures with the primary goal of introducing a new hunter to bears. Every year is fun and eventful. As Mike says, "It was a real nature adventure"





Ruff Deer Season

by Mark LaBarbera

Brian Peden just wanted to hunt deer on the Marquette County property. He wasn't looking for companionship. He didn't need to start a tailgate party or fan club. When he arrived at the deer woods he was happy and not grouching about anything. But this Wisconsin ruffed grouse showed up and would not leave him alone during the gun deer season.

The bird spent time on the platform of Brian's ladder stand, as well as on his gun barrel. Not knowing, he winged it as he thought about what to do next. While Brian took a selfie, old ruff looked down on him from atop the hunter's head.

Did Brian have a grouse dinner?

No. Flush with happiness from the experience, he simply let the bird-brained visitor entertain him.



Whitetail Sanctuary Solutions Tip:

Setting and Preparing your stand for an "EASY SHOT!"



by Michael Murphy

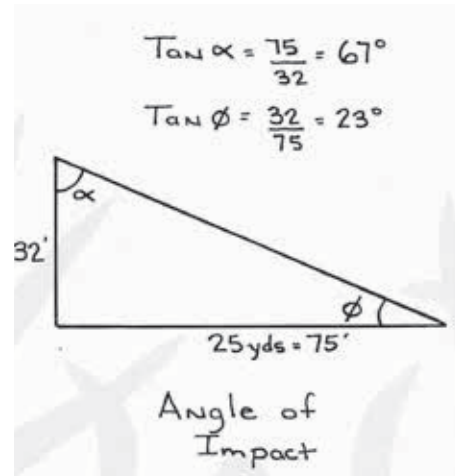
Plan Ahead! Do not look for your stand location just days before you hunt.

- You will be disturbing the area you plan on hunting.
- You need to scout and review your cameras months in advance of the hunt to be familiar with deer patterns in that area.
- Based on the deer patterns you need to know how they will be passing your stand. For example, if you are right-handed, you don't want them coming in over your right shoulder or from behind you. That would be a difficult shot!
- Use a stand you are comfortable in. There are a lot of options out there to choose from. You need to be comfortable for long sits in your stand. Fidgeting in your stand will get 'ya busted!
 - Also, make sure you are safe -- not only climbing into the stand but you are safely -- strapped in with an approved harness. No buck is worth falling out of a tree and possibly being severely injured. Use a "Lifeline" or at minimum the "Contact 3 Method" of climbing into your stand. Contact 3 is two hands and one foot or two feet and one hand on the ladder at all times when climbing into your stand.
- Set your stand so it is facing the direction the deer will be passing your stand to give you that easy shot.
 - You do not want them coming in from behind you.

- You do not want to be looking into the sun -- it should be behind you. For example, if you plan on it being mainly a morning stand it should face west so the sun does not blind you. Also, the deer approaching you will struggle to see you with the sun in their eyes.
- You must always factor in wind and not just prevailing winds but thermals if they are present in your area.
- Thermals occur as the temperature starts to change, normally in the morning, evening or as a cold front moves in. Even 50 to 100 feet differential in elevation can create thermals. Pay attention to changes in terrain -- water, swamps, marshes, ridges, rock outcroppings, areas that hold temps longer than the air. These areas can result in thermals or swirling winds.
- Study your potential stand location(s) -- is it:
 - On a route to or from bedding and feeding -- what direction will they be traveling when you are in the stand?
 - Look for funnel/bottleneck areas where deer are funneled into an area again based on the main time you will be hunting that stand -- what direction will they be coming from?
- Can you get to stand undetected?
- Do not strip all the tree limbs from around you.
 - You need to break up your silhouette.
 - Also, when you turn your head in your stand put your head against the tree behind you and slowly turn your head. This will break up your silhouette.
- Practice the Way you Hunt! I've talked to many hunters over my 47 years of Deer Hunting. Everyone has their opinions on what is best and that is perfectly fine. For me, I am not a fan of very

high tree stands. I will tell you why -- your stand does not need to be 25 to 32 feet off the ground so the deer will not smell you. First, you need to take care of your body and clothes, so you are as scent free as possible when you enter the woods.

The number one reason I do not prefer stands this high is because of the impact angle with the deer. Due to the height of the stands the angle of impact on a 25-yard shot could be around 67 degrees to the vertical of 23 degrees with the horizontal for a 32-foot-high stand. So even if you aim for the top of the vitals on



With a 13" wide deer chest cavity the arrow/bullet exiting would be 5½" lower than the entry location - missing the vitals completely.

the entry side you could miss the vitals on the exit side by a few inches. This can cause a lot of deer to be wounded. So, I am not saying you should not use high stands if you prefer them.

- Practice the way you hunt. Shoot how you will shoot in the woods so you can see the arrow or bullet's entry and exit. This way you have the knowledge to make that clean kill.
- Go through every possible scenario in your mind. If that Trophy Buck comes from any direction, it will be muscle memory. Now you will be ready for that "EASY SHOT!"

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