

June 2009



Lansing Area Chapter Safari Club International Newsletter

2009 FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

By Sally and Jim Ellis

It is hard to believe that our annual fundraising banquet is more than two months behind us! Despite the state of the economy in Michigan, our fundraiser was a success. Though the money raised is less than in most years past, it was greater than the Board Treasurer Jim Houthoof anticipated. And, we are happy to say that, thanks to the support of our members, guests, and donors, the Lansing Area Chapter can continue to send teachers to the AWLS ranch, send young people with life altering health concerns hunting, make contributions to educational programs, and of course continue to support humanitarian efforts. Big thanks to everyone who attended and volunteered to help with the banquet.

Friday night was a special night for us as we were able to reacquaint with exhibitors and friends. Some of these people we see only once a year! The Eagle Eye staff served some great hamburgers and fish and chips. For those of you who did not attend Friday night, you really missed some good food! The highlight of the night was the performance by Kevin Blake Weldon. He did a great job, as we knew he would.

The Lansing Chapter thanks Perry and Paulette Heleski of Muy Grande Ranch and Resort for covering Kevin's appearance fee and travel expenses. Thanks also go out to Bill Kahl, his son Doug, and Bruce Caltrider, of Kahl, Kahl and Caltrider for writing the chapter a check to help offset our food costs for the evening. Bill also generously opened his home to Kevin Weldon during his stay here in Lansing. Bill's motive may

have been less than altruistic – perhaps he wanted to score points with his wife Jan with a private concert in their home!

There also were silent and live auctions Friday night – some great deals were made – and thanks to the MSU cheerleaders for their help.

Saturday, of course, was the main event. We had a wonderful dinner and live auction. Thanks yet again Eagle Eye for the dinner and thanks to Art Smith our auctioneer. Thanks also to our master of ceremonies Tom Belloli who may become our master of ceremonies for life.

The real highlight of the night was the "Hunter of the Year" award presented by Tom Nelson of Wolf Creek Productions. Mike Leonard was announced as the winner of the award. It was a very touching moment indeed. The award is not given just for hunting prowess, but additionally for contributions of time to humanitarian, conservation, and educational projects. Those of you who know Mike agree that the choice was an inspired one. Mike contributes countless hours to our chapter, the Tony Semple Foundation for Hope, conservation initiatives such as the recent dove bill legislation and others far too numerous to mention. Thank you, Mike, for all you do!

Enclosed in this month's newsletter are several pictures from our event. Enjoy your journey down memory lane.....

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Chapter/SCI
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EDITOR'S COMMENTS

If you enjoy reading hunting stories, especially when you know the people hunting and guiding the hunts, just think how other chapter members would enjoy reading about YOUR hunting adventures! Please don't be shy! Take a few minutes to write a story and send it to me, along with some photographs. (And, while you are at it, send an extra copy of your trophy photos to Ron Lanford for the chapter records.) THIS NEWSLETTER CAN ONLY BE AS GOOD AS YOU – THE MEMBERS – MAKE IT! So please send your stories to me at:

Sally Ellis, 7529 Roxborough Lane, Grand Ledge, MI 48837
Email: sallyellis47@yahoo.com
Phone: 517.230.7398

And first-time contributors are eligible for a \$50 Cabela's gift certificate!



Kevin Weldon with some of the MSU cheerleaders



Art Smith, the auctioneer, did a great job for us again this year



Daryl Kesler looking over items on silent auction



Fundraising chairs Sally & Jim Ellis



Janet & Jim Leonard with canoe raffle



Ron Lanford does such a great job with the raffle



Kevin Weldon wowed the crowd!



Les Lindsmier writing in his bid



Ron presenting Daryl with thank you plaque

President's Message

Ronald Lanford, DVM

Hey Everybody,

I'm at the national meeting of SCI in Washington DC as I write this; it's 6:00 am, and Jim Leonard is snoring in the bed across the room. I might start throwing my used socks at him at any minute.

My turkey season is over for the year with the meat from a nice tom in the freezer and memories of a fantastic hunt to see me through until next year. I'm going to try to get birds in for my step-son and grandson in the late season, and that would end it perfectly. The season is over for many of you too, but for others, your turkey season has just begun. Perhaps it's a bear hunt in Canada or the western states, a hunt in South America, or the southern islands that has you in anticipation. I wish you each a safe and successful hunt with great memories of your own.

I wasn't planning on attending the meeting in DC until about 3 weeks ago when I attended a Michigan presidents meeting held in Lansing. Merle Shepard, Novi chapter member and current National President, and Bruce Eavenson, Flint chapter member, National vice-president, and chair of the 2009 Reno convention, were in attendance. They talked of the convention and the issues that were going to need to be addressed concerning the effects the downturn in the economy is having on all of us. It was then that I decided that I needed to attend and do what I can for this great organization.

What strikes me and amazes me the most is the commitment that these people have made. Each one of the hundreds of people in attendance came up through the individual chapters, starting as members, becoming local board members, ascending to board presidents, then moving up to the national ranks as regional reps like our founding president Jim Leonard, national committee members, directors at large, and the executive board. Each one of these people volunteers his time for the good of SCI. The dedication that these people show is almost unbelievable, all working toward the goals and missions of our club being first for hunters. Michigan is hugely represented on a national level, and our chapters are responsible for a tremendous percentage of the money

that chapters contribute to national. Jim Leonard and Terry Braden have given a large amount of their time on behalf of us. Jim serves not only on several committees and his work with half of the Michigan chapters as regional rep, but we can count on him to spearhead or assist on many chapter activities, as well as tell stories at our meetings at Eagle Eye. Terry Braden is working almost a full time job with the Trophy Records committee. (I wonder if slipping him an extra \$20 will move my animals up in the book. It didn't work with my grades in school, but everybody has their price!) Not all of us can donate this much of our time and lives, but each of us can be involved. I've heard many times that SCI is a chapter-based organization. I think, more correctly, that it's a chapter-member-based organization. Please make your commitment to SCI. One of the most important things we can do is attend our chapter meetings and get others interested and signed up as members of this organization. Many people have never heard of SCI and some who have, feel that we are just an organization of rich people. We need to change that. We need to let our hunting friends and acquaintances know about us and sign them up as members. We need to let them see that we are all deer and rabbit hunters, and if lucky, some of us get to go to more exotic locales. But first and foremost, we are hunters. I would encourage you also to get involved with the board and chapter activities, and if able, to move up to the national level.

Yesterday I was almost dreading meeting with our representatives in Washington to get our message to them. We met with Rep. Mike Rogers and his assistant, and assistants of Rep. Schauer and Kildee, as well as those of Senators Stabenow and Levin. We let them know what SCI feels is important on many of the bills facing them now. I am really glad that I attended and feel that we do make a difference. Are they going to go along with everything we believe? No, but we do have a tremendous influence on what goes on.

Well, my fingers are tired, and Jim just woke up. He's covered in many pieces of my discarded wardrobe, but I think it was my tennis shoe that woke him up, and we need to get to committee meetings.

Take care, and good hunting.

Ron

Calendar

June 11, 2009 Chapter meeting Election of Directors Eagle Eye	Sept. 16, 2009 Board Meeting	Whitetail night Eagle Eye Upper Level	Mar. 3, 2010 Board Meeting
July 2009 Board meeting Muy Grande Ranch	Oct. 8, 2009 Chapter meeting Eagle Eye	Jan. 6, 2010 Board Meeting	Mar. 13, 2010 Outfitter Night Eagle Eye full facility
Aug. 13, 2009 Chapter meeting/picnic	Nov. 11, 2009 Board Meeting	Feb. 3, 2010 Board Meeting	Mar. 14, 2010 Fundraising Banquet Eagle Eye full facility
	Dec. 10, 2009 Chapter Meeting	Feb. 11, 2010 Chapter Meeting Eagle Eye	

CHAPTER BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

The election for directors of the chapter will be at the June 11th meeting at Eagle Eye. Please consider serving on the board. We need your fresh ideas and assistance!

If you are interested in being on the board, please contact Ron Lanford (517.278.5667). In any event, please attend the meeting on June 11 to vote!

MSU Shooting Sports Facility Update

By Jim Leonard

MSU is busy building their new John & Marnie Demmer Shooting Sports, Education & Training Center. The Center will create new recreational shooting opportunities for the university community, Michigan residents, and regional and national competitors. Because the range will have both a smallbore/air rifle range and archery ranges, it will provide a venue for a multitude of both educational and competitive programs.

When the Center was in the planning stages, your Chapter board saw the value it would have to promote our Chapter's mission so a pledge of \$30,000 was made towards its construction. The pledge is being paid at \$10,000/year and the second installment will soon be made.

The first photo was taken at the ground breaking in late July of last year. (Two of our Chapter members, Becky Humphrey and John Demmer are in this photo.) Since then it has already proceeded to what is shown in the second photo taken at the end of this April.

If you travel on Jolly Road on the MSU Campus, check it out. It is on the south side of the road. We all can take pride in our support of this grand facility.

DONATED RIFLE RAFFLED AT FUNDRAISER FOR BOW

By Lynn Marla

The Becoming an Outdoors Woman program is a program for women 18 years and older and is sponsored through the Department of Natural Resources. Over the years, this program has received invaluable support from SCI. The most recent instance of this includes a donation of a Remington 700 ADL 300 Win. Mag. given by S.E. Michigan Bowhunters SCI. Ralph Cagle, Bob Easterbrook Jr. and Bob Sr. have been instrumental in financial support as well as are always willing to teach archery classes. This latest donation was raffled off at our Fundraiser March 14th. With the able help of John, an MSU cheerleader, we were able to sell \$1370 worth of tickets on this gun. BOW is happy to share that money equally with LAC/SCI.

Two instances of financial help from both Lansing Area Chapter and S.E. Michigan Bowhunters were made to help defray costs of a new BOW brochure that is coming off the press shortly. Both logos appear prominently on the new brochure.

I would just like to take this time to personally thank both of these chapters for your faith in BOW and your honest desire to see more women participating in hunting, shooting, and outdoor sports

"Outdoor Adventure" Candidates Needed

The Lansing Area Chapter of SCI will again be sponsoring a life-challenged young person on an "Outdoor Adventure" with the Tony Semple Foundation for Hope. Please forward any candidates to a LAC/SC board member as soon as possible. For more information and applications please go to www.tonysemplefoundation.org or call 517 372-8300.



TONY SEMPLE
FOUNDATION FOR HOPE

As editor of this newsletter, I face challenges which are unlimited! Like this photo which Jim Houthoofd sent me with this message: ***“Attached is a photo from my turkey hunt with Ron on Sunday. We finished the season with a bang!”*** When you see Jim or Ron, be sure to get the story!



Lead In Venison

A recent report by a North Dakota researcher has brought up the issue of lead fragments in venison, prompting the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to inform hunters of ways to reduce their exposure to lead in venison.

As many hunters know, a controversy has developed surrounding lead contamination of venison. This is because high velocity rifle bullets will sometimes fragment on impact, especially if they hit bone. The small fragments are likely too small to be seen or felt while chewing.

There are a number of ways to reduce potential exposure to lead. For example, hunters may select loads that are less likely to fragment; or non toxic loads that contain little or no lead. In addition, slower shotguns and M7 projectiles do not fragment the way high-velocity lead bullets do.

Regardless of weapon, once a deer has been taken, liberal trimming around the wound channel will help limit lead exposure. Discard any meat that is bruised, discolored or contains hair, dirt, or bone fragments.

A study by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on whether lead in venison poses health risks to humans is expected to be completed soon.

“Lead fragments have been found, but we don’t know that it’s a health risk,” said Michigan Department of Natural Resources veterinarian Steve Schmitt. “People have been consuming venison for hundreds of years and may have been consuming some lead fragments, but we’re not aware of any health problems. Whether or not it’s a risk, we don’t know.”

People who are concerned about ingesting lead with their venison might limit themselves to whole

cuts, as opposed to ground meat.

The issue of lead fragments in venison came about after a North Dakota researcher found that 56 percent of the packaged venison he examined, which had been donated to food banks, contained lead fragments. Subsequent testing of venison in other Midwest states showed lower percentages of lead contamination in donated venison.

In 2007, when Minnesota and North Dakota pulled venison from food banks and had it destroyed, other Midwest states did not. In Michigan, all venison from the state’s Sportsmen Against Hunger program already had been distributed, so there was none in food banks to pull or test.

For more information about white tailed deer hunting in Michigan, visit the DNR’s Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnrhunting.

BLACKTAIL BONANZA

*By Tom Nelson
Host, Dead Down Wind's
American Archer*

Elusive and shy the Columbia blacktail deer is one of the most sought after of all the North American deer species. Often confused with the Sitka blacktail, the Columbian blacktail is found throughout California and coastal Oregon and Washington, while the Sitka version is found on the isles and coastal areas of SE Alaska.

SCI minimum score for Columbia blacktail for entry is only 90 inches. With that any mature 3x3 or better will most likely make the "book." Back in 2004 in northern California I bow bagged a big 2x2 blacktail buck with brow tines that scored 96". Since then I have often thought of bowhunting these shy deer. So, when outfitter Steve Leigh from Oregon phoned me and asked if I had any interest in bowhunting blacktails again, I immediately said, "Yes!"

I stepped off the NWA flight in Medford, Oregon in late November. An unusual sunny day greeted us as we loaded my bags into Steve's truck and began our hour drive to camp. Steve's ranch is small by western standards, only encompassing a few hundred acres. Steve went on to tell me that it's not about size but location that makes a good blacktail hunting ranch. He explained that a person can own thousands of acres yet have almost no blacktail bucks on

it. Blacktail bucks spend 11 months a year in the high country, migrating down to the lower areas during the late November rut. Steve's ranch, albeit small, was located on a migration trail that blacktail bucks used as if it were a highway, funneling down from the back country to seek out does in the lower elevations where they stayed.

The following morning found the cameraman and me settled into a Double Bull blind well before sunup. Our blind was placed overlooking three torn up deer trails that looked as if cattle had been traveling on them. But the tracks did not lie: they were all deer tracks and plenty of them.

We had been in the blind less than 10 minutes when shadows of deer started moving past us. As daylight came so did more and more deer. By 10 a.m. we had seen some 50 or so deer and several bucks. I was holding out for a 4x4 with eye guards. Steve had stated that if I were patient, I would have a good chance at one. Shortly after 10 I spotted what appeared to be a very good buck chasing a doe all over the canyon below us. But soon he was high tailing it out of sight. I laid my Nikon optics down and once again settled into my chair. Seconds later my



cameraman whispered, "Here comes that big buck again and he's heading right at us". Sure enough, the buck was dogging the doe and they were 50 yards from us and closing fast. As they neared our blind I grunted and stopped the buck. Placing my 30 yard pin on his vitals I aimed and released. With a thud the arrow hit home, and the buck tumbled and fell and then stumbled another 20 yards and went down for keeps.

My blacktail was an old 5x5 with teeth worn to the gum. He green scored 132 and should easily make the SCI top ten with a bow. As we packed the buck down off the mountain we had another buck as good or better amble by us at less than 30 yards, nose to the ground, oblivious of us. Watching the buck disappear into the thick cover I looked over at Steve and asked, "Is there a spot for me next year?"



Safari Club International

Lansing Area Chapter - Application for Membership

DEAR FELLOW HUNTER:

PLEASE ANSWER THE FEW QUESTIONS BELOW. THEY ARE DESIGNED TO GIVE US A PICTURE OF YOUR INTERESTS.

I HEREBY APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP. NAME _____
FIRST MIDDLE LAST

FILL OUT BOTH ADDRESSES BELOW AND CHECK THE ONE TO WHICH CLUB NOTICES SHOULD BE SENT.

HOME ADDRESS

BUSINESS ADDRESS

STREET _____

STREET _____

CITY STATE ZIP _____

CITY STATE ZIP _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

PLACE OF BIRTH DATE OF BIRTH CITIZEN? _____

VOCATION AND PRESENT BUSINESS OR PROFESSION,(POSITION OCCUPIED)

PLEASE INDICATE THE COMMITTEES IN WHICH YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advertising | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership Meeting Programs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Banquets | <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Publication | <input type="checkbox"/> Sportsmen Against Hunger |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chapter Trophy Record Book | <input type="checkbox"/> Legislative | <input type="checkbox"/> Trophy Awards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Membership | |

NAMES OF CLUBS AND ASSOCIATIONS CONNECTED WITH THE FIELD OF HUNTING IN WHICH YOU HOLD MEMBERSHIP

NRA MEMBER? YES NO NRA MEMBERSHIP #

SIGNED _____ DATE _____ 20____

NOTE: A CHECK FOR \$75.00 (\$55.00 NATIONAL & \$20.00 CHAPTER) DUES MUST ACCOMPANY THIS APPLICATION. PAYABLE TO SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL. MAIL TO: LANSING AREA CHAPTER-SCI, P.O. BOX 72, GRAND LEDGE, MI 48837

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LANSING AREA CHAPTER LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOW AVAILABLE

By: Jim Leonard

At our last meeting, your Lansing Area Chapter Board voted to make a **chapter life membership** position available to our members. To be eligible the member must first be a **national life member**. The cost was set at \$500, with a senior price for persons over 60 years old set at \$350.

If you are already a national life member and have an interest in a chapter life membership, feel free to contact me. Obviously you also have the option of becoming both a national and chapter life member at the same time.

Jim Leonard
517-323-3361

