

October 2009



# Lansing Area Chapter Safari Club International Newsletter

Kevin Kech is an amazing kid. He has a kind voice, gentle smile, and sparkling eyes that have not been dimmed by his Muscular Dystrophy. They were really twinkling on the evening of September 23<sup>rd</sup>, when he had just harvested his first buck. Kevin was hunting at the Muy Grande Ranch in Millersburg, Michigan with the Tony Semple Foundation for Hope, sponsored by the Lansing Area Chapter of Safari Club International.

The Tony Semple Foundation for Hope was started by Detroit Lions player Tony Semple to provide hunts to life challenged kids. Joining Kevin at the ranch were two other youngsters battling Leukemia, and another group of 6 had hunted earlier in the week.

The excitement for Kevin didn't start in the North Country but did when he learned that the Lansing Chapter was considering the 13-year-old Bronson, Michigan boy as a candidate for their Safari Wish

program. Kevin had hunted in Branch County last year but was unsuccessful in tagging a deer. Kevin's mom, Laura, said that he counted down the days before his scheduled adventure, and sleeping was hard leading up to the big day. He slept that night, even though his dad, Eric, said he was talking in his sleep.

The 1500 acre ranch has approximately 800 deer that are managed for trophies, and Kevin's 8 point was a beautiful 3-year old. Even though Kevin isn't physically able to hold up anything for long due to his illness, he was able to sight in the .243 Thompson Center rifle for an instantaneous kill. He was up early the next day to wish the other hunters luck and was all smiles for the picture taking. He was the first to congratulate

the other young hunters, Lucas from Oklahoma, and Alex from Sterling Heights, on their bucks the next evening. The three had become almost instantaneous friends and ate meals and sat together for other activities at the ranch. Songs around the campfire, hayrides around Muy Grande's breeding facility, watching Pirates of the Caribbean in the Lodge's theater, and seemingly endless food was enjoyed by all of the staff and volunteers who attended.

In just a few short days, these kids touched the lives of all of the rest present. The realization of what these kids have



fought with their diseases was humbling. Perhaps the most inspiring moment for me was when Kevin told Tony Semple that he wanted to donate the meat from his buck to others who need the meat more than his family.

The Lansing Area Chapter, as well as other SCI chapters, and the Tony Semple Foundation for Hope are always looking for

life challenged youth who would like the fulfillment of a Safari Wish. A banquet and fundraiser in March is the Lansing Chapter's main way of raising money for projects like this. People knowing of such kids or looking for more information can contact the Lansing Area Chapter at P.O. Box 72, Grand Ledge, MI 48837 or [www.scilansing.com](http://www.scilansing.com). Safari Club International Foundation, handles projects like this throughout the USA and can be contacted via Director Eva Wilson at [ewilson@safariclub.org](mailto:ewilson@safariclub.org). The Tony Semple Foundation for Hope can be contacted at [Info@TonySempleFoundation.org](mailto:Info@TonySempleFoundation.org). The website for Muy Grande Ranch and Resort is [www.muygranderanch.com](http://www.muygranderanch.com).

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## President's Message

It's here -- the time of the year that we all wait for. Sure, some of us have been able to go to Africa, South America, the South Pacific, or, like Terry Braden, all of them. But even for those lucky ones who have been able to hunt during the downtimes in the US, this is our time. The leaves are turning, there's a frost warning out for tonight, and the buck I saw in the field down the road has already shed his velvet.

The early goose season was special for me. I used to hunt ducks and geese with my dad and brothers, but I had never killed a goose. Denny Dirshell invited me to sneak onto someone else's property with him for a hunt on the second day. Denny was right that the geese would go and eat first thing in the morning before coming into their resting spot. We didn't have to get up at 4:00am, and it was actually about 8 before we set up the Big Foot decoys and I borrowed some shells. You gotta love a guy who furnishes the ammunition! We had a couple of flocks that circled us but didn't come in, then had a flock of about 10 birds that was quite low coming right at us. The plan was to pass shoot them as we thought they weren't going to land either. At Denny's war cry, we jumped up and started shooting. A puff of feathers flew from the chest of the first goose I picked out, and it tumbled down. I swung on another bird and was amazed that it too was hit when I pulled the trigger. That bird flew on for about another 50 yards before going down. What a thrill!!! We reloaded just in time to have another small flock come in from a different direction. Another bird that I picked out folded at the shot. How in the heck did that happen? I'd never killed a goose, can't shoot a shotgun worth a darn, and I just killed three geese, with a double to boot! Actually, I don't know if I shot all three or any of the three. I do know that the ones I tried to shoot fell, but I don't know which ones Denny was shooting at. Either way, I had a blast.

It reminded me of the chapter tower shoot last year at Dunn Creek. I took my step son and two grandsons. Spud was eight years old and hunted with me. That was his first hunt ever, and he was shooting a .410 single shot Rossi kid's gun and didn't put the stock up on his shoulder correctly with the first shot. Man, oh, man! He wasn't ever going to shoot that gun again after it bit him on the shoulder, but after a half dozen birds went by, he was ready to try again. A hen came almost right at us when Spud cut loose. I knocked the bird down and Spud screamed, "I got him!!" "You sure did," I told him, and he began shooting at everything within sight. That trip hooked him on hunting, and I know it will stick with him while he's helping his grandkids hunt. What does it matter who actually shot the birds?

That's what it's all about: sharing our joy with others. It doesn't matter whether it's taking a newbie hunting or donating the meat to the needy. Experiencing the joy on Kevin's face after he brought in that gorgeous buck from his Safari Wish hunt was something that I will cherish. We cherish our own successes too. Whether it's small game or bird hunting, big game hunts throughout North America, or tagging a fantastic whitetail, we love it. It's who and what we are. We are hunters and damned proud of it. We are conservationists, and we are the true environmentalists, not some bunch of wackos who are afraid to step off of concrete. And we have fun, pretty much most of the time for me. The hunting is fun, but so is teasing Terry Braden and forcing Denny to say, "But I have permission to hunt that land!" Oh sure, nice try.

Get out into the field and take someone with you. I wish you tremendous success on your upcoming trips.

Good hunting!

Ron



## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

### Sally Ellis

Thank you so very much for those who have sent in hunting stories and photographs! It is such a relief to have a few in reserve for the next month. However, please don't stop -- Please forward your hunting stories and photographs to me.

Sally Ellis  
7529 Roxborough Lane  
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

email: [sallyellis47@yahoo.com](mailto:sallyellis47@yahoo.com)

phone: 517.230.7398

# Now Open

The John and Marnie Demmer Shooting Sports Education and Training Center



The John and Marnie Demmer Shooting Sports Education and Training Center is a 24,000 sq ft, multi-purpose facility supporting NCAA Shooting programs and team sports, the National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), and hunter safety and 4-H youth programs to name a few. It also houses MSU club shooting sports—including small bore, air rifle and archery—and academic programs in shooting sports, law enforcement and related curricula.

## Training Facility

The Center will serve as the training site for future national championship caliber collegiate shooting sports teams. The facility will also provide space for public shooting sports education courses and extramural enjoyment opportunities for the public. Two indoor ranges will accommodate small-bore, air rifle and archery; an outside archery park will include beginner, field and competitive ranges.

## Open To The Public

The Demmer Center will be open to MSU faculty, staff, students and the public. It will integrate and expand academic and certification programming. Among the programs requiring firearm safety and education certifications are the conservation officer specialization and environmental crime certificate offered through the departments of Fisheries and Wildlife, Criminal Justice and ROTC training and recruitment. The Center will also accommodate State programming and certification in firearm safety for all age groups. DNR conservation officer and MSU Police Officer certification training will also be a part of the educational training portfolio.

3365 East Jolly RD Lansing, MI 48910  
Phone: 517.884.0550  
<http://demmercenter.msu.edu>

Monday, Wednesday, and Friday: Public Shooting Hours -- 11:30am – 8pm  
Saturday: Public Shooting Hours -- 11am – 6pm  
Sunday: Public Shooting Hours -- Noon – 5pm  
Tuesday and Thursday: Reserved for Classes and Organized Activities

## Catered Gourmet Dinner



**By:**  
**Derrick**  
**Hubbell**

At the SCI fundraiser banquet in March, I bought in the live auction Jim Ellis's Catered

Gourmet Dinner and set up with Jim the date of June 6th for the meal. In conversations leading up to the dinner I was a little apprehensive that I was not informed of the menu before the event but I was pleasantly shocked and amazed at the wonderful culinary display that Jim and Sally brought to our home.

While our guests, my wife and I enjoyed cocktails in the game room, we were presented with three different and tasty appetizers (basil/pesto bruschetta, sundried tomato bruschetta, and crabmeat mayonnaise). Then

we were called to the table and enjoyed a wonderful shrimp bisque, followed by a flavorful salad (Texas Cowboy Steak House salad, Kerrville, TX) and the main course was unbelievable. Three entrées were presented for our enjoyment and all had terrific flavor (beef bourguignon, chicken marsala, and Greek style fish fillets). Just when we thought it could not get better, dessert (English trifle) was brought out, and now I know why Jim is the head chef at Muy Grande Ranch!

What a great event for myself, my wife and the other couples. Thanks to Jim and Sally for donating this to SCI and I am sure to bid on this again next year!



# My Awesome Experience At Camp

By: Lily Heald

This summer I had an awesome experience at Indianhead Ranch apprentice camp in Del Rio, Texas. I earned my hunters and bow hunters certifications. I even got to shoot an axis doe and an axis buck. When I first arrived at camp I didn't know what to expect but right off the bat we were at the range shooting 243's, muzzle loaders, and skeet with a 20 gauge. Sometimes we would have to stop shooting because buffalo would walk right through the range.



There were only 10 kids: two girls and eight boys. I was the youngest kid there and the first one to shoot an axis doe. My guide had me sit down on a rocky hillside looking down on a clearing; then he set me up on shooting sticks. Within the first hour several axis started to come out of the brush. We picked out a nice management doe and waited until she separated from the others. My guide, Mike, told me I could shoot when I was ready, so I took aim and squeezed the trigger. She ran about 15 feet and dropped!



During the rest of the week we were mostly outside. One day we had a GPS class. They blindfolded us and drove us out to a marked spot and had us mark it on our GPS. Then they dropped us way out in the middle of nowhere and had us find our way back using our GPS. Another day we climbed up into caves to look at petroglyphs. That night we spent the night in a dried up riverbed below the caves. We had a scavenger hunt to win cots to sleep on. The girls won! We cooked



our dinner over the fire. Some of us stayed up until 3 in the morning with two of the guides.

The last day of camp was horrible because seven of the kids had to go home, but two of the boys were staying for the advanced camp. I was staying because my mom and uncle were coming so I could go hunting for a trophy axis buck. I had been waking up at 5 in the morning all week long but I was still excited to wake up so early again to go hunting for my axis buck. The downfall was in the middle



of my hunt when it all caught up to me! I was fighting so hard to stay awake that I barely heard my guides say, "Let's go check another spot." The next thing I knew we were stalking up on a clearing with a MONSTER axis buck and a couple of axis does. This time I had to stand up and use shooting sticks. But, lucky me, I had the pair of sticks that were broken! So one of the guides bent over and told me to use his back as a rest! His breathing made his back move so I decided to go back to the sticks. One of my guides held on to the broken part so the sticks wouldn't move anymore. By now the buck had moved a couple yards and was now slightly quartered towards me. My other guide, Mike, said, "Whenever you are ready." So I took the gun off of safety and slowly pulled the trigger. My buck ran about 10 yards and drooped.



After I saw him drop I had to shake out all of the jitters! My guide hadn't told me how far away he was before I shot so he told me that my axis had been 180 yards away!

The day that I had to go home was the worst day EVER. But going to Indianhead Ranch apprentice camp was something I will never forget. Thank you to my uncle and my grandparents who paid for everything, and thank you to everyone at Indianhead Ranch



## MICHIGAN HUNTERS AGAINST HUNGER

Interesting – have you ever noticed that the difference between “hunter” and “hunger” is one letter? And it's not the “t” or the “g” – it's the “l” -- “I will help the cause!” or “I will help feed the hungry!” Let's all join in and help those less fortunate than ourselves.

If you choose to donate venison to this fine program, remember that you can use any processor. However, the following five processors provide their services at a discounted rate. Five approved processors for mid-Michigan are:

**Beef Barn**, 3095 Cooper St., Jackson, 517-782-3000  
**Countryside Quality Meats**, 1184 Adolph Rd., Union City, MI, 517-741-4275  
**Hanna Davis Fine Meats**, 4151 E. Eaton Hwy, Sunfield, 517-566-8003  
**Rick's Deer Processing**, 3320 S. Onondaga Rd., Eaton Rapids, 517-628-2263  
**Specialized Deer Processing**, 2571 W. Price Rd., St. Johns, 989-227-2825

The Board would like to keep track of donations made by our chapter members. If you donate venison to MSAH, would you please let Bruce Caltrider know? What we receive is satisfaction in knowing how generous our LAC/SCI members are. Thank you in advance.



# THE LUCK OF THE DRAW

By Steve Bair

Bair's Hunting Adventures Ltd.

(989) 471-2160

Here it is August 15, 2009 at Camp Perry Ohio, and I'm competing in the Long Range National Championships. Having shot two mediocre scores at 1000 yards, Janine's advice to stop procrastinating and write about my October, 2008 Shiras Moose hunt in the Bitterroot Mountains of Idaho has finally sunk in.

The 2008 draw was exceptionally good to me with a Shiras tag being the frosting on the cake. My personal choice on western hunts is to go self-guided whenever possible. Since Janine had never been in Montana, she accompanied



me to Missoula, Montana, thoroughly enjoying "Big Sky Country" with its mule deer, antelope and scenic vistas. Early morning, September 28<sup>th</sup>, I dropped her at the Missoula airport and we parted company.

I headed for my unit, fueling up the truck and extra gas cans along the way. My tag was good for October 1 – 14, which was intended to coincide with the rut. However, on the drive out, the temperatures had been unseasonably warm, hitting the 80's. This had me worried because I was afraid the temps would shut down the rut. Unfortunately, my fears were confirmed with only four moose sighted in three days of scouting and four days of hunting. The morning of the 5<sup>th</sup>, I awoke to frost on the test. I broke camp and drove to my first clear cut and sighted a small bull courting a cow. By noon I found a number of fresh tracks and located a very large bull that unfortunately required a helicopter to reach. That same afternoon the temperatures climbed into the 70's and no amount of glassing or calling could produce any more sightings.

Finally on October 6, 2008, the day of days had arrived! Crawling out of my tent to boil some coffee, I was greeted by a nice skiff of snow. Hurrying through breakfast, I arrived at my first glassing location. At first light I was thrilled to see two moose about a half mile apart, with the closest being a

nice bull. After a short stalk I was within 150 yards of him when I ran out of cover. He was a beautiful sight, with a sapling lodged in his antlers. I made a good lung shot, and he ran into the brush. Fortunately he ran along a grown-over access trail cut into the side of the mountain. Unfortunately he took a hard left down the side of the mountain, traveling 30 yards before running into some spruce trees.

After some cutting of brush and trees I was able to get my 4WD to the edge of the trail and, with tow straps and ½ inch rope (which broke three times), I managed to drag him up onto the trail. Three and a half hours later I had the moose caped, salted and quartered with all the meat cooling nicely.

While taking a break in my truck and having a well deserved Pepsi, I noticed that: (a) the sun had come out, and (b) the temperature had risen to 52 degrees. Upon inspecting the meat I noticed that blowflies had magically appeared on the gut pile. As it was only 3:00 in the afternoon, this was definitely a problem. The ensuing Chinese fire drill will be a memorable event for me for years to come, as the meat and cape had become considerably heavier at the end of the day. Two hours later I arrived in the nearest town, registered my trophy, bought a large quantity of ice and headed for the meat locker in Missoula, arriving at 11:00 p.m. A



little rest and three days later, I arrived in Black River, MI with approximately 400 pounds of excellent venison and a beautiful rack that now has a prime location in my trophy room.

My wife recently informed me that we still have 70 pounds of said moose in the freezer and that this could be a problem due to the fact that I have drawn a New Mexico elk tag, a Kansas deer tag and a New Mexico Barbary sheep tag for the 2009 season. I have decided these were good problems to have!

Good hunting.

## The Historical results of Gun Control

In 1929, the Soviet Union established gun control.  
From 1929 to 1953, about 20 million dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

In 1911, Turkey established gun control.  
From 1915 to 1917, 1.5 million Armenians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Germany established gun control in 1938  
From 1939 to 1945, 13 million Jews and others who were unable to defend themselves were rounded up and exterminated.

China established gun control in 1935.  
From 1948 to 1952, 20 million political dissidents, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Guatemala established gun control in 1964.  
From 1964 to 1981, 100,000 Mayan Indians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Uganda established gun control in 1970.  
From 1971 to 1979, 300,000 Christians, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Cambodia established gun control in 1956.  
From 1975 to 1977, one million 'educated' people, unable to defend themselves, were rounded up and exterminated.

Defenseless people rounded up and exterminated in the 20th Century because of gun control: 56 million.

Guns in the hands of honest citizens save lives and property and, yes, gun-control laws affect only the law-abiding citizens. **With guns, we are citizens. Without them, we are subjects.**

# NEW ZEALAND 2009

By Don Card

I met Neville and Sandra Cunningham of Mt. Cook Trophy Hunting at our March, 2009 fundraiser. After talking with



Jim and Mike Leonard, who have hunted with Mt. Cook, I placed a deposit on the five-animal special promo hunt for a June/July date. I invited my son, Aaron, to accompany me, which he gladly accepted. After quick preparation followed by a long flight on New Zealand Air, Neville met us at Christ Church.



After a great seafood lunch, we headed to his home near Timaru, where we met his wife and partner, Sandra. Since Neville had to drive back to Christ Church for another pick-up, Sandra took charge the next morning and drove us to the Mt. Cook campsite, along with a lunch and sight-seeing on the side.

After settling in and meeting Tony Barber, my PH and guide, we prepared for the first day hunt start. This time of the year is their winter – not too cold, but snow is common in this mountain country. Tony was always checking the weather patterns because part of my hunt was a helicopter trip into the



mountains for chamois and tahr, and the sky must be clear and free of fog.

Lots of game was spotted on the first day, but no silver



medal stag with good horns was seen. On the second day luck changed, and I took my stag, along with a silver fallow buck.

The next phase of the hunt was for an Arapawa ram. After taking my ram, we waited for the weather to cooperate for my helicopter hunt. After the second day of waiting, the perfect

hour came. Tony explained in detail the dangers and safety for this hunt. The object was to fly into the mountains and look for a quality tahr. After spotting one, we had to drop off and get into a shooting position. The tahr had to cooperate for the shot. The pilot had to find a near touch on a steep incline in deep snow. After the second attempt, I watched my trophy plummet down the mountain side. The retrieval was harder yet. The chamois was next. It was the same process over again. It took four drops for the two animals.



After that, we settled down below on a snowy flat and took some great photos. This all happened in two and a half hours, from start to finish!

From there we packed up and returned to Timaru. We finished the last day with a night hunt for wallaby and rabbits, all this in seven days!

I would highly recommend this hunt to everyone. I know there are other Lansing chapter members who have hunted with Mt. Cook Trophy Hunting. Neville is a superb host, and Sandra is a great cook with a super personality.

I'm 72 years old and if I can do this, so can anyone. This is a family operation with a lot of personal attention.



# ARGENTINA ADVENTURE

By Glenn Belyea

In early May this year Maryanne and I headed south to Argentina. We have been to several South American countries to bird watch and sightsee, but never to hunt and never to Argentina. After a 10 hour overnight flight from Atlanta we were met in the Buenos Aires airport by Rafael Tagliacozzo, owner of Argentina Expeditions. We then drove six hours north to Corrientes Province and the 28,000 acre cattle ranch known as El



Rezongo where we would be hunting. Originally we had intended to hunt only native Argentina animals, but in the two years since we booked the hunt the Argentina government and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have changed the rules regarding which animals can be exported or imported. Thus, while we were still able to hunt the native Gray-brown Brocket Deer and



Capybara, the others had to be introduced animals like Asian Water Buffalo and Feral Boar. The El Rezongo ranch is thick brush with scattered openings and wetlands. It made for tough hunting. Rafael prides himself in offering only real hunting, not "shopping" as he deems hunting behind a high fence.

In 5 days of hunting I took an Asian Water Buffalo, a Gray-brown Brocket Deer and a Capybara. Due to the unusually dry conditions (and maybe just bad luck), I never had an opportunity for a Feral Boar. Maryanne only wanted a Capyba-

ra, the world's largest rodent, which she got. In nearly 30 years of teaching 1st grade and regularly reading a story to the kids about a capybara entitled "Capyboppy", she became intrigued with hunting one. As the world's largest rodent they are semi-aquatic, live in small groups with a dominant male, and can weigh over 100 pounds. Quite an unusual animal!

Several friends who had hunted previously in Argentina with another outfitter had warned me that they had been forced to shoot the first Asian Water Buffalo they sighted. Well, I also shot the first Water Buffalo I saw, not because I was forced to, but because it was a great trophy. We saw several others during the days of hunting, but none any better. It was a good choice.

We chose to rent one of Rafael's rifles instead of taking our own. He advised a minimum of a .375 H & H for the buffalo and that was the rifle we both used throughout the hunt. We just changed bullet types and had no problem of being over gunned for the smaller animals. In fact, it worked so well we shot all of our animals with one shot each and all but the buffalo, which ran less than 50 yards, dropped in their tracks. That was especially important with the Capybara, as they were al-



ways close to water. If they make it into the water you have to hope you made a fatal shot and then wait three hours or so for them to float to the surface, much like hippo hunting in Africa. We had been advised to take our own shooting sticks, and this proved to be great advice. We couldn't have made some of the shots without them.

Gray-brown Brocket Deer are strictly nocturnal and are hunted at night by spotlighting from a hunting vehicle. It is challenging hunt. You first spot their eyes and then try to approach close enough to be sure it is a Brocket Deer, not something else like a Gray Fox or a nightjar (type of bird). Then you have to determine whether it is an adult male, and with their small 5" spike antlers and large ears this can be tough. All this has to happen before they disappear back in the brush. It took three long, late night hunts to finally get a shot at one of these tiny, 35 lb. deer. Luckily, I connected.

After the hunt we spent three days touring Buenos Aires, sightseeing, shopping, eating at their famous steak houses and taking in one of their "must do" tango shows. It was a great adventure!!

  
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**FIRST FOR HUNTERS**  
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### **REMINDER:**

### **CHAPTER TROPHY BOOK**

This year – 2009 -- our Lansing Area Chapter will update the Rest of the World including North American Exotics and Turkeys section of our trophy book. We encourage all members to participate. It is a tribute to the animal taken, as well as the hunter, to be included in our trophy book and we welcome all entries.

There is no minimum score for the Lansing Area Chapter Trophy Book. Send your SCI scoring forms for animals in the above categories to either Dr. Terry Braden, 951 Haslett Road, Williamston, MI 48895 or Glenn Belyea, 8051 Clark Road, Bath, MI 48808 by October 31, 2009. If your trophies have not been scored, contact one of our chapter scorers in the August 2009 newsletter.

### **A Little Humor**

Seamus and Jimmy, two Newfoundlanders, got a pilot to fly them in to Labrador to hunt moose. They had great luck, and managed to bag six.

As they were loading the plane to return, the pilot said the plane could take only four moose. The two lads objected strongly. "Last year we shot six. The pilot let us take them all and he had the same plane as yours."

Reluctantly, the pilot gave in and all six moose were loaded. However, even on full power, the little plane couldn't handle the load and went down. Somehow, surrounded by the moose bodies, Seamus and Jimmy survived the crash.

After climbing out of the wreckage, Seamus asked Jimmy, "Any idea where we are?"

Jimmy replied, "I think we're pretty close to where we crashed last year."

Congratulations to Lynn Marla on her retirement as BOW director for the State of Michigan.

