

January 2009



Lansing Area Chapter Safari Club International *Newsletter*

2008 WHITETAIL NIGHT

The December general membership meeting, commonly called “Whitetail Night,” is the second most fun event that our chapter puts on, second only to the annual Fundraising Banquet/Outfitter Night. Not only is it a time to show off racks (large and small) and have them measured, tell amusing stories, socialize, enter drawings (the 50-50 as well as a \$250 Cabela’s gift certificate – tickets given for each buck or doe taken since last year’s Whitetail Night), and enjoy a terrific meal and program (featuring Perry Heleski and Mark Klos of Muy Grande Ranch), but also we had a few shopping opportunities for Christmas gifts. Marilyn Burtram brought up some of her fur and leather goods; Lynn Marla had her handmade rugs; and Sally Ellis sold stingray leather products and some handmade goodies, including potato baking bags (they are awesome). Bob Lacina brought some of his wonderful homemade sausage, along with cheese and crackers. There were a few auction items and whitetail awards. And thanks to everyone who bought early Fundraising Banquet tickets – enjoy your complimentary raffle tickets. If you didn’t attend this year, be sure to be there next year!



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**President's Message
Ronald Lanford, DVM**

Hello Everybody,

It's Christmas day while I write this, partly to get out of doing the dishes, but partly because Sally Ellis will beat me up if I don't get it written. Actually, she and Jim are in Florida already so all she can do is threaten until they get up here for the banquet. Hopefully, she'll forget by then.

Deer season is about to wrap up here. The late doe season in the southern counties goes until the beginning of next year and I was out this morning, seeing one antlerless deer a couple of hundred yards away, and finding out what wind-chill means. I was hunting last night too. I swear I heard hoof-beats somewhere around midnight and I grabbed my Ken Johnston made Ultimate Muzzleloader and went to check things out. The nice thing about that gun is that if you shoot it after dark, it lights up everything around so you can see pretty clearly. You can't hear a darn thing for a while, but hearing isn't everything. Anyway, back to my hunt. I looked up the fireplace where most of the noise was coming from but quickly went outside so I could have some maneuvering room. Up on the roof I spied a whole herd of them! There must have been 8 or 9 with a couple of them with nice racks. They looked like reindeer to me. The SCI world record for North American introduced reindeer is

746-6/8 and the free range record is 534-0/8. I don't think these were free range since there was a bearded fat guy wearing a red and white jump suit up there with them. He was cracking a whip calling out, "On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer..." I'll tell you one thing, behavior like that will get you arrested in 18 states, and I wasn't going to take the chance of killing one of the "stags" and being brought up on charges of a hate crime! So I let them go. I don't think the littlest one with the red nose was much of a trophy anyway. Maybe next year.

Of course all of you have heard of the rotten economy. This year my Christmas present was downsized. I didn't get a regular lump of coal like usual. This year I got a bunch of little ones. They actually looked like cat turds but I didn't feed one to the dogs to find out. The economy might force some of us to cut back on our hunting adventures this year. That might mean fewer hunts or less exotic lands, but the adventures should be great anyway. Fortunately, our 9th annual banquet is taking shape and looks to be better than ever. We will have our outfitter night on Friday March 13th, with the banquet on Saturday March 14th. It will again be held at Eagle Eye Golf Resort. We have something special planned on Friday night. Country recording star Kevin Blake Weldon will be performing a private mini concert presented by Muy Grande Ranch for all those in attendance. In addition, many outfitters will be present to visit with you about their operations. We have many trips coming in for big game hunts around the world, bird hunting, and fishing trips, and special vacations. Fortunately for them, the people that purchase these trips generally pay much less than the actual value. How can you beat that in a down economy? Of course, the more money we raise, the more we can meet our chapter's objectives and the more good we can do. You'll be hearing of the donations as the banquet gets closer.

The dishes are finally finished, so I'm going to get another helping of dessert. I sincerely hope that each of you had a safe, enjoyable Christmas and holiday season.

Ron

Calendar

2009	
January 7 Board meeting	March 4 Board meeting
January 15 Chapter meeting Eagle Eye	March 13, 2009 Outfitter Night Eagle Eye
January 21-24 SCI Hunters Convention Reno, NV	March 14, 2009 Fundraising Banquet And Auction Eagle Eye
February 4 Board meeting	May 20, 2009 Board meeting
February 12 Chapter meeting Eagle Eye	June 11 Chapter meeting Eagle Eye

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We need your hunting stories and photographs.

Please remember that first-time contributors are eligible for a \$50 Cabela's gift certificate.

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Glenn Belyea checking in Mike Spence and friends



Jim and Mike Leonard measuring racks



Marilyn Burtram showing her wares



Lynn Marla showing Treasurer Jim Houthoofd her rugs



Sharing stories



Bruce Champion and Will Schultz



Some Muy Grande trophies



Measured racks



Perry's presentation

Whitetail Night's program started off with Perry Heleski talking about the importance of providing nutritious crops for whitetail deer. Using a non-salt-based fertilizer allows the plants' nutrients to be better absorbed by the deer, increasing antler growth, much as dairy cattle milk production increases. If you would like to attend a spring food plot two-day event at Muy Grande Ranch, the fertilizer and seed representatives will be there. It will be held June 13 and 14; you are invited to come for the day free of charge, or stay for dinner, deer viewing, and an evening bonfire for \$20/adult or \$5/child, lodging included. If you would like more information, email Perry at perry@muygranderranch.com. Reservations required.

Additional Muy Grande dates of interest: Youth Weekend July 17-19; and Women's Outdoor Adventure Week June 25-29. More information will be provided in future newsletters.



Ken Johnston sharing his hunting adventure



Midge Rafferty's story



Jim Ellis, Perry Heleski and Mark Klos enjoying hunting stories



Let's start the bidding . . .

Here are the award winners from whitetail night.
All are free ranging except estate category.

Out of state

1st place Tim Torpey 168-5/8
 2nd place Ken Johnston 168-3/8

Estate

1st place Bill Kahl 202-1/8*
 2nd place Jim Ellis 168-0/8

Youth

1st place Kaitlyn Caltrider 67-0/8

Modern Firearm

1st place Jay Stout 136-4/8
 2nd place Ed Edwards 97-2/8

Woman

1st place Midge Rafferty 139-2/8 (2nd largest muzzleloader)
 2nd place Linda Schroeder 115-0/8

Archery

1st place Carl Metter 146-4/8
 2nd place Rollie Harms 133-5/8

Largest Free Range Michigan Trophy

Terry Usiak 149-1/8 Muzzleloader

\$250 Cabela's gift certificate winner

Jay Stout

* Bill's deer is the new number 6 typical in an estate hunt, pending dry score measurement.



And the winner is . . .

Thanksgiving Pheasant Hunt

It was a very bucky night as Bruce and I had just shared the day with two hunters, one young but eager to learn, and one seasoned but looking to expand his horizons. In this day and age of low hunter recruitment, fewer opportunities and more obligations,



it is both satisfying and very important to introduce our sport of hunting to others.

About a year ago, my nephew Chris started asking

me about guns and hunting and I knew that soon he would arrange to take his hunter's safety class. My standing offer was to take him hunting only after successfully completing this very important class. In September, he finally delivered and called me late one Sunday evening. I couldn't have been happier than to extend the offer.

My IT guy, Kevin, is a really experienced bow-hunter. He fills two buck tags every year and is very dedicated and persistent. I was rounding out the group and I asked Kevin if he might be interested in going along. You could have knocked me over with a feather when he said yes. Even though Kevin has a couple of guns in his closet, he would clearly rather be out with his stick and string.



I'm not sure that I can explain all of the things I like about pheasant hunting, but one of the best parts is working with well-trained dogs. I had never hunted



with Bruce's yellow lab nor had I really thought of his house dog as a hunting dog, but she is a heck of a flushing dog. I was sure that Bruce's daughters had transformed his otherwise useful hunting

companion into a soft lap dog, more skilled at stealing ice cream than flushing pheasant. I don't think that she gets out

more than once or twice a year but she did a great job.

We also took out one of Paul Mahaney's pointing dogs (did I mention that Paul's dogs are super dogs?). I have said it before, but Paul runs a beautiful operation close to home, with a wonderful lodge and a great facility. Initially, I wondered if a pointing dog and a flushing dog could work well together, but they made an awesome team. In my head I pictured chaos, but it was more like a finely tuned orchestra. The pointer would wind a bird and lock up while the flushing dog would go in quietly and cautiously for the flush.

And I was pleasantly surprised with our shooting too. Even though we didn't spend days on end practicing on clay pigeons, we did end up taking most of the birds. Actually, I can only remember one or two that were flushed and got away. It was a great first pheasant hunt for Chris and Kevin and it was a very bucky night...

Mary Siegrist and African Trophies



Hunting with Jim Shockey

By John McCollum

Here is a picture of the Whitetail that I took the first week of November in Northern Saskatchewan hunting with Jim Shockey's Canadian Whitetail Adventures. The deer's weight grossed a little over 330 lbs.

Jim Shockey had a cameraman in the blind with me and filmed my entire hunt, videoing over eight hours of footage. If everything goes well at the production studio, my hunt will be featured in 2009 on one of Jim Shockey's Sunday night's Hunting Adventures shows on the Outdoor Channel.

Our camp went 9 for 10, and the 10th hunter could have shot any number of bucks that he saw; however, he was looking for a 170 class buck, aren't we all? Here is a picture of seven of the first racks taken early in the six-day hunt.



MUZZLELOADER MULIES

By Glenn Belyea

In late November my son-in-law, Dan Flavin, and I headed to the Sandhills area of western Nebraska to hunt with Lyndon Branson on the 135,000 acre Monahan Ranch, the largest family-owned ranch in Nebraska. Muzzleloader deer season opens on Dec. 1, and Nebraska law allows either one whitetail buck or one mule deer buck on their deer license. In previous years both of us have taken several great whitetails on this ranch, so this year we had our sights set on a nice mule deer.

The first couple of days were quite mild, and though we saw lots of deer we didn't find any shooters. The third morning was cold with an inch of new snow on the ground. This changed the game! Within the first hour I had my nice 4 X 4 mulie buck. One shot in the shoulder from Ken Johnston's 50 cal. Ultimate Muzzleloader did the trick. Later in the day Dan took a similar buck with his Ultimate Muzzleloader. After caping for shoulder mounts and de-boning all the meat to comply with current Michigan law, we headed home. Two trophy mule deer, two happy hunters!!



MY ELK IS BIGGER THAN MY HUSBAND'S!!

By: Robin Atkinson

It was October 10, 2008 and we started out on a trip to Mackinaw Island, yes just the two of us. My goal was to get a bigger elk than my husband. The weekend was full of love and fun, and a little teasing with a bunch of other military couples.



Our excursion took us two nights on the island, one night in the city, and two nights in Escanaba before our final destination in Ewen, Michigan at HUSCHITT'S JAGD REVIER. I purchased this hunt at the SCI Lansing auction while my husband was serving in Iraq. He

had no idea I was going to do this. I made up for it by purchasing him a hunt too.

We got to the ranch a day early by mistake. The website had not changed their 2007 dates so we arrived on October 15th when we should have arrived on the 16th. We informed the outfitter that they still had the old dates on their website. They said it was okay and they were great about accommodating us a day early with a great meal.

We started out on Thursday morning and did some stalking and blind sitting. We saw a shooter, but I didn't want to be in a hurry to shoot the first day. So we sat and enjoyed the wonderful scenery that morning. Headed back out about 3:30pm, but didn't get to the blind until



almost 4:00pm and I truly think the big ones were gone.

Sitting in our blind we were entertained by some doe, a fox, and the all wondrous SKUNK! This skunk was keeping everything away and the closer it got to the blind a little more nervous I became. So just before dark, with my eyes never leaving the skunk coming toward us, we slowly got out of the blind to escape the ferocious skunk! Needless to say, I moved very quickly away from the

area.

Because of the skunk the night before, we headed out on Friday morning to a different blind and we heard bugling and fighting, which lasted for about an hour. We stalked once again, but they moved on and we saw nothing.

It was now Friday night and I was getting a little anxious about getting my bull. That night we left about 3:00pm to get in the blind by 3:30pm. We ended up going back to the same blind we were in Thursday, but no skunk that night! We got settled into the blind and in about a half an hour after seeing some nice bulls, a huge, beautiful bull came strolling in. It didn't take long for me to make my decision that I wanted him, but wasn't sure if he was in the class range. I told the guide I would like him. After a few moments of what seemed to be a lifetime, my guide said go ahead and shoot. SO I DID!

I took my shot with a Browning 7mm WSM at 80yds. My first shot was a good one, just behind the shoulders. The big bull ran about 20 yards and stopped and we thought he was going to drop at any point. After what seemed to be a lifetime of waiting (about 30 seconds), he finally started walking directly away from us. I began to get nervous until he made his mistake and turned at about 120 yds, which gave me the shot I needed, and down he went.



As I walked up to him his horns grew with every step; he was even bigger than we had thought. He was an 8x10 which included the non-typical stickers. His spread was 48" and he measured typical 395 5/8 and non-typical 403 1/8. I was so excited. This was my first elk and he was beautiful.

My husband's elk is 7x8, with a spread of 42" and he measured 369 6/8 (typical). As you can see mine is definitely BIGGER. I had a goal and I succeeded and, yes, we are still married and loving our hunts together! We always have a great time when we hunt together, and take our kids when we can. We are going to have to build another room onto the house with this one.

If you get a chance, check out the outfitter that gave us this wonderful hunt.

U.P. Trophy Elk & Deer
Huschitt's Jagd Revier
Frank Huschitt, Chairman (new owner 2007)
224-578-1972
Craig Davis, Manager
224-578-5556

www.uptrophyhunting.com
info@uptrophyhunting.com

Ya gotta be there!

By Jim Ellis

March 13 & 14, Friday and Saturday, are the dates of our annual fundraiser banquet. Like I said in the title, "Ya gotta be there."

First, let's talk about Friday. In addition to the great outfitters and chance to meet with old friends in SCI, we will be presenting Nashville recording artist Kevin Blake Weldon for a special private concert just for our members and guests. The Lansing Area Chapter wishes to thank Muy Grande Ranch and Resort and ranch owners Perry and Paulette Heleski who are sponsoring the Kevin Blake Weldon performance. Those of you who have heard Kevin know how great an entertainer he is; those of you who have not and want to know more about him can go to his website:

www.kevinblakeweldon.com.

In addition to the concert a light dinner will be served, the MSU cheerleaders will again be in attendance, and you will have the opportunity to win door prizes, raffles, and much more. It will be a truly fun night. Specific times will be forthcoming.

Saturday will begin with a chance to meet with outfitters and friends from around the world, participate in the silent auction and raffles. A fine meal will be served, and, of course, the main attractions will be our live auction and selecting raffle winners.

Remember the fundraiser sells out and in the past we have had a waiting list. We have already sold over 130 tickets, so don't miss out. A registration flyer will be coming to you in the mail soon. Send it back with your reservation as soon as you receive it. If you don't want to wait, call Glenn Belyea at 517.641.4224 and you can register by phone with a credit card number.

See you there!

New Public Hunting Lands Maps Available Online

By Jim Leonard

The Department of Natural Resources officials have announced the creation of a new collection of maps on the agency's Web-site that identifies all lands open to public hunting in Michigan.

Hunters can click on a particular county and see not only the state forest, wildlife management, and parks and recreation lands open to hunting that are administered by the DNR, but also all federal lands as well as private lands that are open to public through the Hunter Access Program (HAP) or Commercial Forest Act.

"Compiling a data base of all lands open to public hunting was a recommendation of the Hunter Recruitment and Retention Work Group," said DNR Director Becky Humphries. "It took a lot of effort from our staffs in the Wildlife, Parks, and Recreation, and Forest, Mineral, and Fire Management divisions to get this accomplished, and we are very pleased with the results.

"Our work group identified access as a potential hurdle to would be hunters," Humphries continued. "Now hunters can find access to land with the click of a mouse."

To find the maps, go to the DNR Web Site at www.michigan.gov/dnr and click on "Publications & Maps."

SPORTSMEN AGAINST HUNGER

Reprinted from the December 18, 2008 Lansing State Journal

WILLIAMSTON - In the past couple of months, local deer hunters have served up more than 11,000 quarter-pounders to local food banks and soup kitchens.

Tom Cullimore, a board member of the Lansing Chapter of Safari Club International - and chief promoter of the Sportsmen Against Hunger effort - did the math for me: Hunters donated 69 deer, which, at an average of 40 pounds of meat per deer, adds up to 2,760 pounds of ground venison, or 11,040 quarter-pound servings. Not bad, considering that Cullimore, who lives in Williamston, launched the local effort only two years ago. In the first season, Cullimore delivered half a moose and four deer - three of which he killed himself - to the Williamston Area Food Bank. Last year hunters donated 54 deer.

This year, the meat went to various groups, including the Volunteers of America soup kitchen, the Salvation Army, and food banks in Williamston, Haslett and Dansville. "They were all very appreciative," Cullimore said. Safari [Club] International pays for the processing. Cullimore gets all the meat ground because that's the most versatile form. It's perfect for dishes like chili, sloppy joes and spaghetti sauce.

Safari [Club] International started Sportsmen Against Hunger in 1989, distributing game, through its local chapters, to agencies that feed the needy. As everybody knows, food banks and soup kitchens are under extra pressure these days. Meanwhile, the deer hunting season continues, in some form, through Jan. 1. "We can give away all the venison we can get," Cullimore said. You may reach him at 665-3960.


SCI
FIRST FOR HUNTERS
Safari Club International
Lansing Area Chapter
P.O. Box 72
Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Non-Profit
U.S. Postage
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Ann Arbor, MI
Permit No. 709

FRIDAY
MARCH 13, 2009
OUTFITTER NIGHT
Featuring entertainment by
Nashville
Recording artist
Kevin Blake Weldon
Sponsored by Muy Grande Ranch & Resort

SATURDAY
MARCH 14, 2009
CHAPTER FUND RAISING
BANQUET
LIVE and SILENT AUCTIONS
RAFFLES and much more

