

January 2011



Lansing Area Chapter Safari Club International Newsletter

GET READY FOR THE 2011 LAC/SCI FUNDRAISER! March 18 & 19 AT EAGLE EYE

In our chapter newsletters, all year long, you read stories about hunts, fishing trips, etc. which were purchased at our annual fundraising banquet. Purchasing these items at our fundraiser is a no-brainer: it takes so much of the worry and stress out of deciding which outfitter you choose. You have read stories of our own chapter members who have used these outfitters and all the success they have realized. Have you wondered why some people take the time and expense to go out west, for example, for an elk and come back empty-handed? ***Why not support the people who support our chapter and go with trusted and successful guides?*** It's a win-win for everyone. We could not continue with our humanitarian, educational and conservation efforts without the generosity of our many donors. Please suppose those who support us.

Here is a partial list of some of the items received to date. Please check the website, www.scilansing.com, for updates.

- South African Safari with Ubathi Game & Hunt,
• www.ubathi.co.za
- Alaskan brown bear hunt with Ron Lind
- Trophy coues deer hunt arranged by Stoney Creek Adventures,
• www.stoneycreekadventures.com
- Trophy bluegill fishing trip on private, northern Michigan lake with chapter members Don Inman and Virginia Pierce
- Saskatchewan black bear hunt with Hepburn Lake Lodge,
• www.hepburnlakelodge.net
- Custom rifle action from Pierce Engineering.
• www.pierceengineeringltd.com
- Wild game dinner for six in your home courtesy of chapter members Jim & Sally Ellis
- Muy Grande Ranch & Resort luxury couples weekend for four couples,
• www.muygranderanch.com
- Muy Grande Ranch & Resort whitetail deer hunt for deer up to 139 SCI,
• www.muygranderanch.com
- South African Safari with African Game Hunters,
www.africangamehunters.com
- South African Safari with Africa Sport Hunting Safaris,
www.africasporthuntingsafaris.com
- Michigan black bear hunt with Wild Spirit Guide Service,
• www.wildspiritguide.com
- Taxidermy by Dourlain, www.dourlain.com
- Michigan goose hunt with Hilde Hunting Services
- Shooting course at Front Sight Firearms Training Institute,
• www.frontsight.com
- South African Safari with Marula Safaris,
• www.plainsgame.co.za
- Blackbuck hunt in Argentina with Jorge Robles,
• www.huntinargentina.com
- New Zealand tahr hunt with Mt. Cook Trophy Hunting, www.mtcooktrophyhunting.co.nz
- Alberta varmint hunt with Porcupine Creek Outfitters,
www.trophyhuntamerica.com
- Fauna and Flora trophy clearing, www.faunaandflora.com
- Ultimate Muzzleloader courtesy of Ultimate Firearms,
www.ultimatefirearms.com
- Texas Aoudad hunt at DeVuyst Game Ranch,
• www.devuystgameranch.com

www.scilansing.com

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Publisher: Mike Leonard
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President's Message

by Ron Lanford

Hey Everyone,

It looks like most big game hunts are done for the year, but there are still some great outings to be had. Squirrel and rabbit seasons run until spring, and right now board member Glenn Belyea is in the north country trying to harvest a bobcat. It's great time for cougar hunting too, and we have several of our donors that offer fantastic cougar hunts for great cats. [See Brent Sinclair's article.] I was thinking about the trips I had this year, and except for whitetail on my property, all of my hunts and fishing trips were the result of our banquet.

It started in the spring when Margaret DeLong and her husband Matt traveled to Coldwater for a turkey hunt that I donated. I worked really hard to bring in a bird for her. Actually, I was just making a few soft clucks with my slate and a silent gobbler walked out about five yards away and went in to do battle with my strutting gobbler decoy. Margaret had some trouble getting the bird in the scope with him that close, and he started to move off, suspicious of us. Amazingly, he stopped at about 20 yards and she whacked him with her 20 gauge. It was a fun hunt, and I went home and went back to bed. My next trip was a walleye fishing trip on Lake Erie with Jerry Schave. Jerry has donated a trip to



In December, I once again accompanied Tom Lennard, this time on a trip to Indianhead Ranch. Diane and Laurent DeLagrange have donated hunts to our chapter for years, and we had a nice time. Tom collected a beautiful blackbuck and I harvested a wonderful Addax. I worry that the anti-hunters will be able to get Addax and Scimitar Horned Oryx hunting banned. They're almost extinct in their native lands, but have large populations in Texas and some in Florida. If the ban goes through, the only way outfitters may be able to sell the hunts is if they do expensive studies showing they have sustainable breeding herds that won't have a decrease in survival of the species if some are harvested. Of course, if they are able to shoot some of them, the cost will go through the roof. It will get so high that people won't want to spend the money to hunt them. So all of these really expensive animals won't be worth anything and, in fact, will be a detriment to the landowners because of the amount of food the animals eat that would support animals that could be sold. Kind of a catch 22, eh?

In addition to getting some great animals on the banquet related hunts, I'm also having mounts done on them from taxidermists that have donated to our chapter. I bought certificates donated by Jamie Flewelling of Legends Taxidermy and Dan & Emily Weeks of Nature's Pride Taxidermy. I missed my chance at a couple from Dourlain and The Wildlife Gallery. All of these taxidermists do tremendous work and have donated many years to our banquet, and I know I will have beautiful mounts to remind me of my experiences.

This year you can load up on some great opportunities too. Our banquet is shaping up to be our best ever. High class donations from high class outfitters are sure to give the winners some great memories. I encourage you to look over the donations in our website, www.scilansing.com, and make some plans of your own.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

By Sally Ellis

This is the time of year to be planning and saving for the biggest event of the SCI/LAC year – the annual Fundraiser. Be sure to check the website on a regular basis to see updated auction items. Websites for donors are available so you can do your research BEFORE the event. Be prepared to bid! And if you are feeling lucky, buy extra raffle tickets! Remember, there is something for everyone at the Fundraiser.

Please keep on sending articles and photos! They can be sent via email to:

sallyellis47@yahoo.com, or mailed to me at 9770 SW County Road 769, #141, Arcadia, FL 34269.

Phone: 517.230.7398.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February 2, 2011
Board of Directors Meeting

March 19, 2011
**FUNDRAISING BANQUET &
AUCTION**
Eagle Eye

February 10, 2011
Chapter Meeting
Eagle Eye

May 18, 2011
Board Meeting

March 18, 2011
OUTFITTERS NIGHT
Eagle Eye

our banquet every year, and it's a fun way to get some great tasting fish for your freezer.

I accompanied Tom Lennard on a musky fishing trip on Lake St Clair with Rob Stanley in September. Tom bought this trip at the banquet and we went out to battle some huge fish. The musky really crank up their eating when it gets colder, and Rob said that some of the best musky fishing is when the ice is trying to cover the lake. Rob donates duck hunts to our chapter every year too, and said that a combination duck hunt and musky trip is usually really good for both. I'm going to have to try to get that booked soon for this coming fall, as he fills his schedule quickly. Later that month found me in Spain being treated like a king. I bought a hunt from Huntinspain at one of our banquets and I finally was able to use it. I wish I hadn't waited so long.

HUNT REPORT FROM ALBERTA, CA

The following is from an e-mail I received from good friend Brent Sinclair. I thought you would enjoy reading about these unusual conditions. Sally Ellis, Editor

We've had great conditions and the worst you could get..... all in 3 days. It went from +44F to -5F in a 3 mile distance the other day, then we got 4 inches of fresh snow and I found 5 different lion tracks, nothing big enough to run. And now the wind is howling!!!!!! We harvested this lion today with wind gusts of over 70 mph... travel advisory said do not travel and wind warnings on the news for the next 2 days.



I was running the hounds behind the truck after checking wolf sets and they took off across an open flat, I was screaming my guts out wondering what they were after.....they went over a bench into the timber and when I got there after being almost blown into Saskatchewan they had this big lion bayed up under a fir... it grabbed my Cameron female and bit her then caught my big half Cameron 1/2 B&T male and worked him over. I had no leads and the lion would not tree. He had a wolf snare around his flanks from some novice wanna-be wolf killers that had snares

set about 1/2 a mile up river from where I am trapping.

I had to tie Sam the Cameron/B&T male up with my belt and go get the client still sitting in the truck 1/2 a mile down the road. When we got back the lion had got hold of both hounds again before Dave got a bullet in him...luck they didn't get hurt real bad. (Dave Leonard is the outfitter in Alaska I do some of my Grizzly Caribou and Sheep hunts with. Great guy.) I guess we had a drive by!!!!

He's a big ol' tom, worn down teeth and real skinny from being in the snare and still scores 150. Here's the last wolf I caught yesterday, 6 so far....

Good Hunting.

Brent

www.trophyhuntamerica.smugmug.com

Brent and Wendy Sinclair
 PORCUPINE CREEK OUTFITTERS Ltd.
 TROPHY HUNT AMERICA
 SAFARI CONNECTION
 Box 2442 Pincher Creek Alberta, Canada TOK 1W0
 (403)627-2540

LANSING CHAPTER SCI HUNTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

It is time to submit your nominations for the chapter's Hunter of the Year Award. Past winners include Jim Leonard, Jim Ellis, Lynn Marla, Mike Leonard, and Tony Semple.

If you know of a chapter member who is deserving of this honor, please take the time to nominate him or her. Past nominations are not considered, so please, even if you have nominated someone in the past, take the time to nominate him/her again.

Criteria to be considered is not just the hunting ability of the nominee, but his or her contributions to the chapter, conservation and promotion of hunting.

Please forward any nominations with a short nomination letter to: Tom Nelson @ wcpnelson@aol.com.

LAC/SCI BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Ron Lanford	Chapter President	lanforddoc@directv.net	517.278.5667
Dallas English	Vice President	dallas51@hotmail.com	517.521.3363
Lynn Marla	Secretary	marlal4323@broadstripe.net	517.627.2704
James Houthoofd	Treasurer	jhouthoofd@aol.com	517.339.6842
Tom Belloli	Director	tsbelloli@yahoo.com	517.339.1052
Dr. Glenn Belyea	Director	gm.belyea@frontier.com	517.641.4224
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Craig Mortz	Director	Craig.Mortz@nixmechanical.com	248.521.0981
Linda Schroeder	Director	daslls@netzero.net	517.626.6862

WOMAN'S WEEKEND GET-AWAY AT MUY GRANDE RANCH

Muy Grande Women's Weekend is scheduled for May 13-15, 2011. This is your opportunity to spend a wonderfully relaxing weekend being pampered and having fun outdoors in beautiful northern Michigan. Muy Grande Ranch is near Millersburg (Presque Isle County) www.muygranderanch.com. Women will have an opportunity to shoot shotguns and rifles, fish in the stocked pond, go horseback riding and enjoy a hayride. Full spa services will be available. The base price is \$290 for room, board, shooting, fishing, chick flicks and evening activities. To include the horseback riding and a 45-minute massage the price is \$365. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Lynn Marla marlal4323@broadstripe.net or call 517-599-7722 or 517-627-2704. The registration form will be available shortly at the Muy Grande website www.muygranderanch.com



Taking Care of Our Hunting Companions

By Lynn Marla

It is very special when you find a friend that shares your love of the hunt, whether it is a cold miserable hunting blind in a steady drizzle waiting for the greenheads to come in or tramping through a blizzard in South Dakota hunting wild pheasants where you can barely keep your eyes open when you go against the wind. They stick with you through thick and thin, through missed easy shots and retrieves into impossible conditions. I am, of course, talking about my two yellow labs,



Scout and Scout's Prairie Sky. Scout is twelve and a half years old and has had a fairly rough year. Dr. Ron Lanford neutered both dogs this summer and later in the fall Scout's cataract eye turned to glaucoma and I was not able to control the pressure in it with medication. My daughter drove us all the way from Muy Grande Ranch to Coldwater for the removal of his eye. At the same time it was discovered that Scout had a disease called Masticatory muscle myositis affecting the muscles of mastication (chewing). If let untreated the dog would eventually be unable to open the mouth. Dr. Ron prescribed Prednisone and it started helping



but Scout would not eat for four days and so my daughter and I cooked rice and good old MG venison hamburger and pureed it in the blender and force-fed him.

I am sure some people felt all this treatment and fuss was a waste of time but this dog is now thriving and feeling better than he has in a long time. In fact over the Christmas holiday which we spent at Muy Grande, Perry kindly released some pheasants for the old guy and he had a ball working the birds and even running one down Perry shot that came down hard but got up and ran. This dog has shared so many adventures with me, working as the "official" DNR dog, hunting for Becoming an Outdoor's Woman programs and introducing new hunters to the joy of upland bird hunting, and of course being my dear friend for all these years. I feel strongly about giving our dogs the best food, veterinary care and attention we can. I know that our time together has been wonderful and I wish for his son Sky the same good times.

"The perfection of a life with a gun dog, like the perfection of autumn, is disturbing because you know, even as it begins, that it must end. Time bestows the gift and steals it in the process."

George Bird Evans;
An Affair With Grouse

Results of 2010 Whitetail Night

Category	2 nd place	Score	1 st place	Score
Youth	Spencer Sowles	112	Jacob Quain	132
Women	Maryanne Belyea	59+	Sena Loseth	108+
Estate	Pam Flewelling	161+	Jim Houthoofd	202+
Out of state	Jay Stout	92	Kent Ballard	152+
Crossbow	Gabe Kesler	52	Mark Mishler	147+
Bow	Shane Orbell	131	Craig Gerard	161+
Firearm	Mark Waldrop	127	Jim Wisner	132
Muzzleloader	Nick Johnston	148	Kris Ambrose	180+



PRESS RELEASE

Safari Club of Lansing Awards DeVries

Owosso, MI – This December the DeVries Nature Conservancy was the proud recipient of a “Safari in a Box” from the Safari Club International – Lansing Area Chapter. The Safari in a Box is an educational kit containing animal pelts, skulls, replicated tracks and scat, that can be used in classrooms and with educational field trips. The kit also comes with educational activity guides, posters and field guides to aid in teaching about wildlife.

The Safari Club International Lansing Area Chapter supports DeVries’ educational endeavors through the donation of the Safari in a Box. Tracy McMullen, DeVries Educational Coordinator said, “This is a wonderful donation to our center. Safari Club of Lansing has helped us to expand and enhance the programs we will be able to offer in the future. Teaching today’s children about our animals, conservation and hunting ethics builds well informed and environmentally responsible adults.”

The Safari in a Box is especially fitting for DeVries since many of the animals whose pelts and skulls are in the kit, reside on the property at DeVries Nature Conservancy. “Beavers roam the Shiawassee River, skunks root around in our soil for grubs, and raccoons prowl the grounds at night here at DNC. We even have a coyote den in our floodplain. But it is hard to teach about wildlife that the kids may never see. The Safari in a Box provides us the tools to teach about these amazing animals through hands on lessons and artifacts,” says McMullen.

Safari Club of Lansing Director Tom Belloli, his wife Sally and their two grandchildren, Jack and Anna visited DeVries on December 22 to deliver the Safari in a Box.

“Tracy and all the staff and volunteers at DeVries are doing an excellent job promoting many of the educational ideals that are a part of the mission statement of the Lansing Area Chapter of SCI. It is a pleasure to partner with them to reach out to the families and young people of the greater Lansing Area.” Said Tom Belloli, Director for SCI Lansing.

***Picture Caption: DeVries Environmental Education Coordinator, Tracy McMullen (far right) was awarded a Safari in a Box by the Safari Club International Lansing Area Chapter.

#The DeVries Nature Conservancy is located at 2635 North M-52, ¼-mile north of the Northside Animal Hospital.

The DeVries Nature Conservancy is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation and demonstration of the natural habitat and agricultural heritage of Shiawassee County.











SUCCESSFUL HUNT IN SPAIN

By Ron Lanford

The gorgeous fallow buck jumped from his bed at the shot and my game scout, Pedro, was right behind him. I wasn't about to be left behind, so I was up and running too. I don't like shooting at bedded animals but sometimes you have to go with what they give you. I caught up with Pedro quickly and saw the buck on the opposite hillside and I could tell he was hit hard. A quick follow up shot put my first European animal down for good.

We were the guests of Alfonso Fabres Jr. and his father at their beautiful lodge a short drive from Salamanca. I'm not used to being treated like royalty, even though my lovely bride frequently says I'm a royal pain in the butt, yet here we were in Spain being pampered. We started and finished our trip with overnights in Madrid at the Santo Mauro Hotel, which was the palace of the Duke of Santo Mauro. What a gorgeous place. We were able to walk around downtown Madrid and had dinner under the trees of the outdoor restaurant. Everyone



treated us very well. We were treated even better by the staff of Huntinspain between our stays in Madrid. Alfonso has donated eight trophy fallow deer hunts to our chapter's banquets, and I had purchased one a few years ago. Dawn had never accompanied me on a hunting trip and wasn't real excited about spending a week with me in the wilderness. She didn't have to worry. We were the only guests in the lodge and had the attention of our own waiter and maid. I should say we settled into one of the lodges. They have three, and different hunting groups have their own lodge. Wonderful gourmet meals were presented to us each lunch and dinner, and we even started liking the red wine that was always on the table. The stag rut, or roar, was just starting and late in the evening we could hear them bellowing across the hills. Huntinspain has a section of fenced property next to the lodges stocked with stags and deer for the viewing pleasure of their guests.

We heard them from our room during the night and, on one occasion, it sounded like a stag was right outside our window bellowing. So I answered him. I scared the crap out of Dawn, who was sound asleep just before my "Urrrgggghh" lifted her more than a few inches off of the bed. Sometimes I think she hates me.

The Fabres family is well known throughout Spain as breeders of very high quality bulls for the bullrings. There are two types of bulls bred for the ring: larger bulls that are less aggressive, or the smaller, quicker, and more aggressive bulls, like the ones that are bred on the Fabres estate. We toured the family home which dates back hundreds of years. They have a private fighting ring next to the main house where they put on demonstrations with some of the breeding cows. It would be kind of interesting watching one of these being milked! There are large numbers of animal mounts in the estate. Unlike the lodges which are full of trophies Alfonso has collected from around the world, the walls of the family estate hold mounts of bulls that were exceptional in the bull ring. Most of them had their ears cut off. What the heck?! The judges at the bullring will honor exceptional performances by rewarding the matadors with the ears of the slain bull.

The increasing order of appreciation is an ear, both ears, ears and the tail, and the highest honor awarded to the most impressive bulls is to spare their life and let them pass along their genes at the breeding farms. It sure does look different seeing mounts with their ears cut off, and I think I might try it at Terry Braden's house to start a new fad.

My guide Fernando, Pedro, and I hunted in the beautiful oak covered hills around the village of Aldeanueva, and found large numbers of fallow deer. Alfonso Fabres, owner of Huntinspain, suggested hunting in September since the fallow deer hadn't started to rut yet. During the rut, the very aggressive fallow bucks break most of their top points off while fighting, and I wanted something with fully intact antlers. Many of the bucks sported beautiful palmated antlers, and we looked over a lot of them searching for one we wanted and one we could work in on. The hunting was fun. We hunted by slowly walking through the hills trying to spot a decent animal to stalk.

They seem to be quite wary but didn't blast out of the area like a whitetail does. Of course, I was the first hunter of the season, and Fernando said they would get a lot spookier. The second morning I got a shot at a red stag that we spotted as he was working an oak tree with his antlers. I had to take a shot through some heavy brush, but the bullet didn't touch him. He sure moved out when the rifle barked. I also got a shot at a fallow buck that we spotted that afternoon. The buck was with a group and was lying down, and my shot went right over his back. He didn't stick around long to see what was going on either. I wonder if Pedro and Fernando were about to grab the rifle from me and see what they could do. Fortunately, the misses were over. Early in the morning of the third day we spotted a nice buck up the hill. We worked slowly up in that direction and watched him lie down. The buck was about 80 yards away quartering to us and I had a steady hold with

the .300 Win Mag. I aimed low on the chest, after having shot over the previous one, and put the slug through his lungs. He jumped and ran with Pedro and me right after him, taking the largest buck of the season for Huntinspain.

I've always felt that fallow deer are very attractive. I thought they were about the same size as our whitetail, but they're quite a bit smaller. The antlers remind me of a caribou's with the palmation and forward sweep. The fallows in Spain all have the original wild coat of white spots on a reddish brown base up to the shoulders. They turn darker from the shoulders forward and the spots disappear. They don't have the different colors or patterns that we find in other places. There were other animals in the hills too. Smaller numbers of red stag and mouflon sheep call the area home. The mouflon are the smallest of the wild sheep, and the red stags are quite a bit smaller than our elk. The stags are not the size of the giant stags of New Zealand, but they still have beautiful branching antlers with a crown of tines in the larger ones. The mouflon have pretty horns that curve around and back, sweeping up to the jaw. I was planning on taking a red stag, but didn't plan on taking a mouflon until Lucia said they had an extra tag available.

They were doing a driven red legged partridge hunt in the hills where we were hunting, so we shifted to a different hunting area for a crack at red stag. They had a partridge hunt before Dawn and I arrived, and they ended up with 2,300 birds killed by four hunters. Those hunters were from Russia and did everything to extreme. In fact, one of them decided to dive into the shallow end of the swimming pool while drunk. I don't know if he was drunk enough not to know he broke his neck, but everyone else did and thought he was dead. He survived, but was stuck at the hospital in Salamanca for quite a while waiting for everything to be worked out so he could get an air ambulance home. The new area was a private preserve with a lot of animals. It was sprinkling a little when we first got there, but it cleared up quickly, and we were slowly sneaking around looking for a nice stag. We finally found a nice animal and were able to work our way in on him. He roared his dominance to the other stags just before my bullet hit his right shoulder. He was rocked heavily and swung around in the opposite direction. My second shot smacked his other shoulder and his front end collapsed. It didn't take long for him to go down for good, and we were taking pictures of my beautiful red deer.

Our next task was to find a gorgeous ram, and it didn't take long before we found a group of about a dozen and a half rams with two that were the tops in this group. It took us a while to figure which we wanted, and it took a lot longer to try to get this golden horned ram in the open and with a clear shot that would hit only him. We had to follow the group for quite a ways and finally figured that we might be able to cut them off. We looped around the rams and were set up when the group came into sight. Like before, trying to pick out the right ram and having him step clear took some time, and some nerves. The crosshairs were still though when he finally was in the open and the Blaser barked. The ram went down almost immediately, and my first hunt in Spain was over.

Dawn and I spent several afternoons touring Salamanca and some of the smaller towns in the area. While not quite as grand as Rome, Salamanca is absolutely beautiful. They have two cathedrals in Salamanca open for public tours, and the architecture and history is amazing. Christopher Columbus stayed in Salamanca while he was preparing for his trip to discover America. All of the villages and cities we visited were very clean and all of the people seemed very friendly. The area is known for Iberic ham, a special ham that is produced there from a semi-feral black footed pig. The pigs are fattened on acorns and the hams are air dried for two years before they're ready to eat. The flavor is absolutely amazing and my mouth waters at the remembrance. Every butcher shop had hams for sale hanging from the rafters.



I did see another amazing sight. We were sneaking around in the hills, when we spotted a woman who must have never given a thought about the possibility of hunters with binoculars imposing on her quest for expanding her suntan onto usually unseen areas of the upper torso. No, it wasn't. Her 42D's had turned into 37 Longs, and it looked like she had four arms. I tried to find a stick to poke my eyes out, but couldn't find any that were sharp enough, and Pedro wouldn't give me a knife. He actually knew the woman and worked with her son-in-law. I don't think it took long for everyone miles around to hear of our discovery. She got off the mountain pretty quickly when she saw us. We did too, but we ran in the other direction.

It was an amazing trip for both Dawn and me. I found a beautiful country with wonderful people and an outfitter who provides exceptional care for his clients. Not only that, but I took the largest fallow deer, red stag, and mouflon of the season. Well, the season to that point. It doesn't matter that I was the first hunter with the first animals; they were all gorgeous trophies, and the memory of the trip will stay with me.

Alfonso has donated another hunt for this year's banquet. If you want the royal treatment, this might be one you don't want to pass up.



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

Non-Profit
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Permit No. 709

11th Annual Banquet & Fundraiser
Saturday, March 19, 2011

Doors Open 3:00 p.m Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

6th Annual Outfitters Night
Friday, March 18, 2011

Doors Open 4:00 p.m

Eagle Eye Golf Club
1550 Chandler Road
East Lansing, Michigan
48823

Visit www.scilansing.com to view auction items