

September 2011



Lansing Area Chapter Safari Club International Newsletter

CHAPTER RECORD BOOK

This year – 2011 -- our Lansing Area Chapter will update the **African** section of our record book, and we encourage all members to participate. It is a tribute to the animal taken as well as the hunter to be included in our record book, and we welcome all entries. There is no minimum score.

Send your SCI scoring forms for animals in the above category to **Glenn Belyea, 8051 Clark Road, Bath, MI 48808 by October 1, 2011**. If your trophies have not been scored, contact one of our chapter scorers listed below.

Participate, join in the fun, and enter your animals in our chapter record book.

Tom Belloli	Official	517-339-1052	Haslett
Glenn Belyea	Official	517-641-4224	Bath
Terry Braden	Master	517-655-4157	Williamston
Gary Bradish	Official	517-676-4965	Mason
Ken Johnston	Master	517-349-2976	Okemos
Ron Lanford	Master	517-278-5667	Coldwater
Jim Leonard	Official	517-323-3361	Lansing
Mike Leonard	Official	734-231-3226	Dexter
John Murray	Official	517-627-2147	Grand Ledge
Tim Torpey	Official	989-382-7089	Barrington

CHAPTER AWARDS PROGRAM

President Ron Lanford needs your photographs!

If you have ever attended a Chapter Awards Program in the past, you will agree it is one of the most entertaining events this chapter puts on! President Ron Lanford's humor and creativity combine to create an extremely enjoyable program, complete with a slide show. The awards program for this year covers the North American animals. Please send your photographs and score sheets to him as soon as possible for inclusion in the program.

Pictures of animals from any year are invited, although awards will only be considered from animals taken in the past four years, and not entered in previous awards programs.. If in doubt, send them in and they will be entered if eligible. You are already entered if your animals are already in the trophy book, but please send pictures. The awards program will be presented soon!

Send CD's or pictures to be scanned to Ron at 657 Hodunk Rd. Coldwater, MI 49036. You can also e-mail them to him at Lanforddoc@directv.net

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President's Message

by Ron Lanford

Hey everyone,

I hope you're all getting ready for your fall hunting season. Many were able to go to Africa or the Southern Hemisphere for some great adventures, and we all look forward to stories, or at least pictures. We're going to have a drawing for Cabela's certificates from all of the pictures submitted for the newsletter, so send in any that you have. I also need them for the awards programs. I hope you send in pictures of your kids or grandkids too. Pictures of small game, fish, birds, and, of course, big game are needed, and don't forget to get pictures of your deer -- does as well as bucks. Our whitetail night meeting is scheduled for December 15th at Eagle Eye and it's going to be another great meeting. This year, all successful youth hunters will receive an award! We'll have awards for the largest and second largest bucks in youth, ladies, archery, crossbow, muzzleloader, modern firearm, estate, and out of state, as well as a trophy for the largest deer killed in Michigan. All deer submitted regardless of size or gender will be in the drawing for a \$250 Cabela's gift certificate too. This is a meeting you won't want to miss.

Our October 13th chapter meeting at Eagle Eye is going to be great also. Bill Figge from W4 Hunting and Fishing will give a presentation on his 28 day hunt in Iran that he's currently on. He'll also talk about the whitetail and exotic hunts that he provides. I will be doing the awards program if I get pictures and scores for your North

American animals harvested from 2007 through this year. You can send pictures of other year's North American animals too, but they won't be considered for the awards. If you're in doubt, just send them in and I'll get them in the correct category.

Jim Leonard, Terry Braden, Ed Curtis, and I just returned from the SCI board meeting held in Tucson. I'm excited about the direction that national is moving, and they are working hard to protect our freedom to hunt. I presented our chapter's 30% check from our fundraiser, which was for over \$19,000, to SCI President Kevin Anderson. You can be as proud as I am of the tremendous support all of the Michigan chapters contribute



for SCI's goals. National is streamlining and cutting costs so more money can be spent on preserving our hunting rights, humanitarian services, and wildlife conservation.

I think this is going to be a special year for me. I'm taking my dad up to hunt at Muy Grande Ranch. I bought this hunt at our last banquet, and it might be the last and will probably be the largest buck that my 82 year old dad will harvest. Try to take someone for a special hunt of your own. You never know when you won't get another chance.

Good Hunting!! Ron

Editor's Comments

By Sally Ellis

Ahhhh, this is the BEST time of the year -- cooler nights, fresh breezes, kids back in school, and anticipation for the autumn hunting season. For us, of course, that means something a little different than for most of you. My husband, Jim, is the chef at Muy Grande Ranch, so he spends virtually three and a half months in Millersburg, while I travel back and forth between helping him and tending to local grandchildren.

The whitetail deer season begins early at Muy Grande Ranch (Member Bill Kahl and a couple of his buddies have already taken grandchildren to MGR to harvest bucks) and mid-September the Tony Semple Foundation for Hope will have 10 hunters there. Quality Deer Management recently was at MGR with 28 youth shooting five-stand, rifle, and archery as well as fishing. The Lansing Area Chapter of SCI contributes to both of those programs and stories will run in future newsletters.

Please respond to the requests in this newsletter, sending photographs to President Ron Lanford for the Chapter Awards Night, sending trophy information to Glenn Belyea, and considering joining the chapter goose hunt. Remember, the strength of our chapter depends on your participation. And, speaking of that, please continue sending me your hunting stories and photographs:

Sally Ellis - email: sallyellis47@yahoo.com
7529 Roxborough Lane, Grand Ledge, MI 48837
phone: 517.230.7398

**September 21,
2011**
Board Meeting

Whitetail Night
Eagle Eye
Upper Level

March 7, 2012
Board Meeting

**October 13,
2011**
Chapter Meeting
Eagle Eye

**January 4,
2012**
Board Meeting

March 23, 2012
**Outfitter
Night**
Eagle Eye

**November 9,
2011**
Board Meeting
**December 15,
2011**

**February 1,
2012**
Board Meeting

**February 9,
2012**
Chap. Meeting
Eagle Eye

March 24, 2012
**Fundraiser
Banquet**
Eagle Eye

PHEASANT HUNT

Tower Shoot and Walk-Up Hunt and Lunch

Join our wounded veterans on a pheasant hunt sponsored by LAC/SCI and Pheasants Forever, Ingham County Chapter

Dunn Creek Hunt Club
10446 S. Shaftsbury Rd, Laingsburg

October 16
9:30 a.m.



\$160 per person – 6 bird tower shoot, great lunch and walk-up hunt – you are welcome to bring your own dog for the walk-up hunt. This is a great opportunity to meet some of our Iraqi- Afghanistan veterans and to thank them for their service. It is also a chance to see first-hand the good work our chapters (LAC/SCI and PF) are doing and to meet some new friends. We have room for only 12 hunters, so please send your registration ASAP

Please contact Mike Hoskins at 517-974-9565 if you have questions.
Please send the money and your registration form to Mike Hoskins,
7668 Oneida Road, Grand Ledge, MI 48837

Hunters (all names please) _____

phone _____ email _____

\$160 enclosed for each hunter _____ x \$160 = _____

Checks made out to LAC/SCI

A Bucky Night at the W4 Ranch in D'Hanis, Texas

By: Jim Houthoofd

It was a bucky night, as we touched down on the tarmac at San Antonio International Airport. The trip was surprisingly easy, as I had left Lansing at 5:30 pm and arrived in San Antonio at 10:19 pm, via Detroit on Delta Airlines. Ron Lanford had gone out two days earlier than I in search of a big dama gazelle, on a ranch 100 miles to the west of the W4, and I was eager to hear the results.



Our host, Bill Figge, had hunted on this ranch before and had said this brute might score in the top 10 of SCI. Ron tried his hardest to keep his story together about a hunting trip gone haywire, and that the dama gazelle only scored bronze,



but two minutes into his story he came clean...they had found and chased the big gazelle and it was awesome! It will easily score in the top 10. The first two days had been better than expected.

One of the highlights of the trip was to meet Bill's family and to get to know Bill a little. To say that our host, Bill Figge, is experienced is an understatement. Bill has hunted all over the world and at the ripe old age of 38, has taken over 300 species. To see his not-yet-complete, new trophy room is worth the trip to Texas alone. It will be very special when he gets it done. Bill's wife, Romy, and their daughter are very supportive and take on very big roles in assisting Bill with the hunters. I was surprised to learn that Bill guides all of his hunters personally, and he takes great pride in addressing even the smallest details. Romy cooks all meals and keeps a spotless lodge. I'm not sure that she had ever had a hunter who was avoiding glutens, but she became an expert and gave us wonderful meals. The entire family was great, and there is no way to ever thank them enough.



Tip to future hunters: Romy's brother runs a hunting operation in Austria, where I am told the hunting is awesome. I secretly have already made plans to get there in the next few years. I need to meet him at the SCI show in Las Vegas, but don't tell anybody, especially my wife.

On day one, we traveled to the Chalk Creek Ranch in Junction, Texas. Bill had not hunted there in the past, but a friend had suggested that there were several scimitar horned oryx over



40 inches on this ranch. The owner and his son, Sam and Mike, were very helpful and knowledgeable. It was interesting to learn that Sam was a retired teacher and Mike had recently graduated from college and was out looking for a job. We wish them the best! At the end of the day Ron and I were very lucky and had two wonderful big old bulls, and we slept with smiles on our faces. It was a bucky night!!

Note to future Texas Hunters: If you like it warm, Texas in July is the place to hunt. While we were there it went down to 80 degrees at night and up to 103 degrees in the daytime. Of course it's not too bad when you are riding around in the truck with the windows down, but it is really sweaty when you are stalking a blackbuck in the afternoon sun. On the positive side, my creaky old back felt nice and loose.

The following day we awoke bright and early and made a plan to look at the seriously large blackbuck antelope that Bill has on the W4 ranch. I had been told that they were large and that the herd was quite impressive, but each one was successively larger than the last. After seeing and agreeing on several incredible animals that might work for me, we chased them for hours around the ranch. We finally did connect on one of our afternoon stalks, and I ended up taking a beautiful old ram at about 180 yards. He will go high in the record books (as will just about all of the blackbuck on Bill's ranch).



Later that day, I also connected on a beautiful Texas Dall Sheep with very dramatic sweeping horns. It was an incredible trip and it was a very bucky night!

Please plan on attending the October 13 General Membership Meeting. Bill Figge will be our featured speaker. Let's give him a warm Lansing welcome!

Spring Snow Goose Hunting

By Jim Sloat

February 18, 19 and 20 doesn't sound like spring, but I took my grandsons Sam and Spencer Frink, along with four other friends, to Dexter, Missouri on a spring snow goose hunt with John Neu of Neu Outdoors. The boys took a couple days off from school (as it turned out, they had a snow day and school was closed). The weather in Missouri was nice – a little rain one day and nice weather thereafter, mostly 40 degrees in the early morning to 70 degrees in the afternoon. We hunted about 20 miles from our motel every day: up at 4 a.m., left at 5:30 a.m. and in the field by 6:45 a.m. and stayed until shooting hours ended at 6:30 p.m.

All the fields we hunted were rice or corn. Two thousand decoys at each field and Final Approach layout blinds were provided as well. We had snacks of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, oranges and water. We saw thousands of geese every day; it was exciting to see the geese come to the decoys and set their wings to come down. There was no limit on Snow or Blue Geese, but we couldn't shoot Speckled Bellies. Also duck plugs are not needed; many people had tube extenders to load 10 shells in the gun.

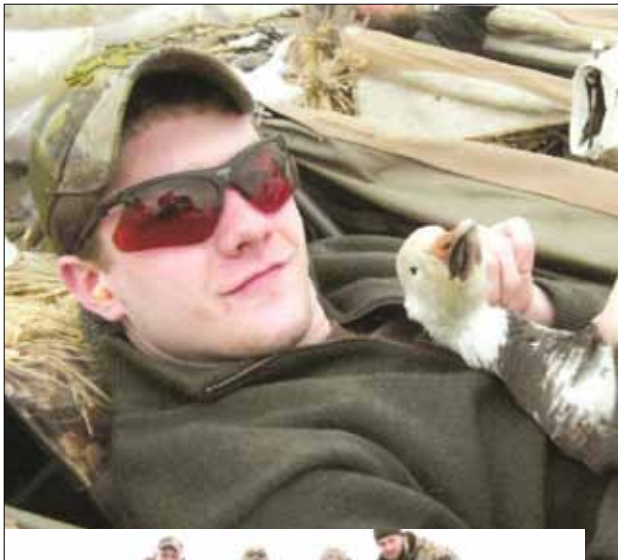
Our guide had a 10-year-old wire haired terrier that loved to hide in the blind and wait for the shooting. He was fun to watch! We shot 52 birds on Friday, 56 Saturday, and 102 birds on Sunday. We each went through a case of shells on the weekend. We cleaned our birds at the motel in the evening after our hunt. We had a cleaning device my friends Joe and Chad made that made it very easy. One hundred and two birds in 30 minutes.

Six or seven groups of hunters, seven or eight hunters per group, hunt from February 1st through March. The day we arrived all of the groups combined shot 584 birds. They had great success this spring, shooting 4,118 birds!

Contact information:

Neu Outdoors, spring snow goose and fall waterfowl hunting; email: info@neuoutdoors.com; www.neuoutdoors.com.

John Neu, 3706 Kristi Lane, Yankton, SD 57078; 1.877.860.7663 or 1.605.661.2460



UNEXPECTED VISITOR

By Tom Nelson

Movement off to my right once again snapped me out of my trance: two deer, appearing as if ghosts. I did not even bother to grab my bow as they neared my tree stand position high in a branchy conifer. My visitors were a doe with a small eight-point buck in tow. Back home in Michigan I would have instantly gone into the predator mode, but here in Saskatchewan a buck of this caliber was of no interest.



I was bowhunting in the fringe area of north central Saskatchewan where the farmland diminishes and the vast boreal forest takes over. My outfitter was my long time friend Rob Nye. Rob is a true professional when it comes to outfitting. He runs a tight ship with excellent food and accommodations. Best of all, his hunting area encompasses some of the Province's best wildlife habitat with elk, bear, moose and deer in abundance.

I had elected to bowhunt the end of October (2010) with Rob to try and take advantage of the pre-rut and hunt before rifle season begins. Rob has some 40 stand set ups ready to hunt, with most situated on or near crop fields, rub lines, or scrapes. Multiple sighting of bucks can be expected everyday and normally we hunt dawn to dark. I had taken three good bucks at Rob's camp in the past, all between the hours of 2-4 PM. So, long sits were the norm on this hunt.

Day three of my hunt was typical of the previous two: lots of deer activity until 10 AM; then a lull until around 3 PM. Of course there were always stragglers during the lull, typically all bucks. To this point I had passed up two 125 class bucks, one eight and one young 10 point, plus a host of other younger bucks. I would know my buck when I saw him.

Just before 5 PM I had several doe and fawns move through my area. Then they all scattered, drawing me to attention. I spotted a deer coming towards my stand, some 50 yards away.

As he cleared the brush I noticed he was another young eight point. Slowly he meandered to within 30 yards of me. Then he went to attention, staring back the way he had come. Grabbing my binos I began to raise them when I spotted another deer. Putting the optics on him I saw he was a fine buck with five visible points on his right side; his left side was hidden from my view. I was skeptical if he was a shooter, but grabbed my bow just the same. As the buck approached within 40 yards he turned toward me and started

coming right at me. That is when I saw the "junk" on his antlers, drop tines, stickers: all the "junk" a whitetail fanatic loves.

As the buck cleared the brush he again turned broadside. I drew my BowTech bow and carefully aimed, 30 yards I told myself and released the arrow. At the shot the buck leapt high and sprinted off. I waited 10 minutes and slowly climbed down to check my arrow that was visibly sticking in the ground. Upon reaching the arrow I was pleased to see it painted with crimson. I waited another long 10 minutes and quietly took up the blood trail. Albeit, the trail started slow, within 30 yards it became apparent this buck would not go far. With a copious amount of blood to follow, I found my buck another 30 yards away. I was pleased to see he was everything I was hoping: chocolate horned, heavy and lots of "junk". He truly was an unexpected visitor.

HUNTER SAFETY EDUCATION

In Eaton County, free Hunter Safety classes are offered beginning September 12, and, according to *The State Journal*, "last year the response was tremendous and the classes were very well received." You can go to the DNR website to see where and when classes are offered in your area. According to the website:

- You must take hunter safety if you were born after January 1, 1960.
- A hunter safety certificate or previous hunting license is required to purchase any Michigan Hunting License.
- Hunters anticipating an out-of-state hunting trip need to obtain a certificate prior to their trip, most states require hunters to carry their certificate when hunting and need it to purchase a license.



Muy Grande Ranch & Resort and SCI Lansing Chapter host Quality Deer Management Assn Youth Outdoor Sportsman Weekend

Ever get tired of seeing our youth with a video game controller in hand or texting cell phone messages. Perry and Paulette Heleski believe that our next generation needs to learn outdoor sportsmanship. Teaming with Michigan's thumb area QDMA chapter, Muy Grand Ranch & Resort generously offered to host archery, rifle, skeet lessons and friendly competition. Each youth had a chance to earn points towards the ultimate prize - one Muy Grande Whitetail hunt.

SCI Lansing Chapter heard of the upcoming event and generously donated funds for food and the Archery skills of Ralph Cagle.

26 youth (both male/female) and parents attended the weekend event August 19-21th. Points were award based on competition results in each category.





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LANSING AREA CHAPTER LIFE MEMBERSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

Your Lansing Area Chapter Board voted to make a **Chapter Life Memberships** 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. We have had many people take advantage of this so far.

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

www.scilansing.com