

February 2013



Lansing Area Chapter Safari Club International Newsletter

Whitetail Night

By: Jim Houthoofd

One of the best attended chapter meetings of the year is the annual whitetail night, and this year was no exception. It is always interesting to see the bucks that others have taken during the hunting season, and we marvel at the size of the trophies and at the consistent success of our members.

The chef at Eagle Eye prepared an excellent meal with very nice bone-in rib eye steaks.

This year we had nearly 50 bucks spreading across a variety of categories. The overall winner with the largest free range deer, taken with a bow, was Tim Torpey. Jim Trotter brought in a beautiful firearm season buck, taken during firearm season on Omega Farms. There were several non-typical bucks, including the buck taken at Whitehouse Whitetails by Paul Spencer, with a massive score of 262 0/8. Rollie Harnes brought in several nice crossbow deer, and Jared Moffitt won the youth division with a very nice entry. It was a bucky night...

2012 White Tail Night Results

1st place	Michigan free range deer	Tim Torpey	138 1/8
1st place	Firearm/ free range	Jim Trotter	121 0/8
1st place	Estate	Paul Spencer	262 0/8
1st place	Bow	Tim Torpey	138 1/8
1st place	Cross bow	Rollie Harnes	86 6/8
1st place	Out of state	Nick Johnston	
1st place	Youth	Jared Moffitt*	112 7/8
2nd place	Youth	Cody Torpey	56 6/8

**151 yards during youth hunt!*



Paul Spencer

Jim Trotter



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Dallas English

As we begin the New Year, there are several upcoming events -- the SCI convention in Reno, several SCI chapter fundraisers as well as many outdoor shows -- all of which have several exhibitors and outfitters to provide a perfect opportunity to plan your next hunt.

As for planning our next hunts, we need to think of getting into shape sooner, and I definitely include myself in this category! A good pair of boots, already broken in, is a must, as sore feet can slow you down and make the hunt more difficult. Next, if you are hunting high altitude, go out to your hunting destination early and try to get your body somewhat used to the thin air. Altitude sickness can stop the hunt that you planned so long to take.

The most important thing is to remember, however, is safety comes first. No animal is worth a broken leg, back or arm. If you are doing any climbing, safety straps and harness are a must. If you are riding a horse on your hunt, remember when you stop and get off your horse to take your gun out of the scabbard and take it with you. Horses sometimes roll on the ground, and that could definitely change your gun. Let's be safe so we all can share the memories of your hunt!

Lastly, I would like to invite all of you to come to the Lansing Area Chapter of SCI fundraiser on March 15th and 16th, 2013. Come to the Eagle Eye Conference Center and meet exhibitors and discuss upcoming hunts, fishing trips, taxidermy, etc. You can purchase your tickets now for the banquet Saturday, March 16th and dine with us before the auction.

Wishing health, happiness and great hunting for you in 2013!

HOW IT STARTS

By Sally Ellis

Some girls grow up hunting and fishing; other girls grow up at the country club. Lynn Marla is the former, being an only child with a hunting father and being taught to enjoy the outdoors from a very early age. I, on the other hand, considered lounging by the pool and playing golf as the norm. My brother fished a bit and took out a few squirrels that were causing problems with the wiring of the street lights. He had a couple cougar skins displayed on a paneled wall in his bedroom,

but I don't know who harvested them. A few times my father entertained business associates with a bear or moose hunt in British Columbia, where he opened a lumber mill. But that was the extent of my exposure to hunting and fishing.

A sorority/fraternity blind date at Michigan State University led to my marriage to Jim, and our first vacation as a married couple was to Drummond Island perch fishing. Jim had been there several times with his family and, while I found this a strange destination for a vacation, love is blind and that's that. Fast forward about 14 years when we were visiting friends up in Harrisville and impulsively purchased a small cottage of our own. That first winter when Jim set up an ice fishing shanty and I sat on an upside down bucket jigging for perch, which you could actually see under the ice in a dreamy green kind of world, I was hooked . . . pun intended.

Getting back into his hunting mode after playing golf at the Country Club of Lansing

for several years, Jim purchased a bow at Anderson Archery and met Bob Kosisky who told him about a part-time hunting guide named Darrell Beakley in Kerrville, TX. I agreed to go with Jim on some kind of ram hunt, with both a video and still camera, as long as we spent an equal number of days shopping in San Antonio on the Riverwalk. When I called Lauri Knutson at Knutson's Travel Port to make flight reservations, her response was, "Kerrville? Where is Kerrville?" Later, Chappie Scott told me, while at his Tarkistad, South Africa home, that Arnold Schwartzneiger had a hunting place in Kerrville. Well, back to the story . . . after a few hunting trips with Darrell and taking Jim's trophies to the processor each night, I fell in love with an axis deer vest hanging

in their shop. Yes, I could have paid \$300 for it, but I told Darrell if I am going to wear an axis deer vest, I'm going to harvest my own axis deer.

Not all trophies hang on the wall, and the desire for that vest started my hunting career. Subsequently, Janet Leonard and I harpooned



alligators and had purses made. On our first trip to South Africa, I supplied the living room with a zebra rug, and on our second trip, ostrich for Lovelace to make me boots. Elk ivory rings and cougar claw necklace came next, thanks to Jim. My favorite may be my musk ox back hide on the foot of our bed, lightweight but warm and snuggly!

Okay, so hunting means different things to different people. Darrell told Jim after my first hunt (a 90-yard one-shot kill) that a monster had been created. Well, the story continues with another Sally . . . Sally Belloli. After accompanying Tom on numerous hunting adventures, desire for a zebra rug drove her to her first shot and successful trophy harvest. Good luck, Tom! Your hunting trips just doubled in cost!



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Chapter Financial Report

By: Jim Houthoofd

While normally my columns in the newsletter begin with "It was a bucky night..." I am diverting my efforts this month to provide a snapshot and some key information related to our chapter's finances.

In general, I get very positive comments from the board about the financials, but to be honest, the job has not been that difficult. The members of our chapter have been very generous with their time and their money and have been supportive of our fundraisers, as well as great chapter meetings and programs. Over the last six years of my tenure as treasurer, I have found the board to be very good stewards of the treasury and conscientious decision makers.

Below is a summary of the most recent three fundraisers, which should give you an idea how we operate. The bulk of our annual budget is directly a result of our fundraising activity. You will see that gross receipts have declined in the last several years, but this is partly due to the decision to limit the number of live auction items to a manageable number. While in certain cases we have accepted partial donations for live auction items, we have limited that number as well. We also remit 30% of the Saturday net to SCI National, in accordance with the by-laws, to fund their efforts.

Lansing Area Chapter Fundraiser Results

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Ticket Sales	\$ 17,081	\$ 18,630	\$ 16,100
Auctions	84,208	90,485	107,040
Raffles	19,260	24,090	20,156
Sponsorships	<u>2,500</u>	<u> </u>	<u>1,805</u>
Revenues	\$ 123,049	\$ 138,255	\$ 145,101
Event Production	\$ 31,627	\$ 36,208	\$ 31,111
Partial Donations & Prizes	27,693	31,001	53,398
30% to SCI	<u>17,831</u>	<u>19,142</u>	<u>15,189</u>
Expenses	\$ 77,151	\$ 86,351	\$ 99,698
Net Income	\$ 45,898	\$ 51,904	\$ 45,403

If you look at our overall program activities, we have consistently participated in many nationally recognized programs, as well as some great statewide and local programs. We separate our activities into the following areas: Humanitarian Services, Outdoor Education, Hunter Protection and Wildlife Conservation. I have also included our Chapter Meetings, Newsletter, our Trophy Book and the 30% we remit to National.

Lansing Area Chapter Programming Activities

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
Wildlife Conservation	\$ 4,200	\$ 3,600	\$ 3,600
Outdoor Education	11,100	7,044	19,471
Humanitarian Services	10,560	9,120	14,100
Hunter Protection	-	309	1,000
Chapter Meetings	1,471	4,917	6,688
Newsletter	5,768	6,260	5,482
Trophy Book	1,678	1,442	958
30% to SCI	<u>17,831</u>	<u>19,142</u>	<u>15,189</u>
	\$ 52,608	\$ 51,834	\$ 66,488

Wildlife conservation efforts have included sponsoring DNR research projects as well as sponsoring MSU graduate students and providing funding for habitat programs.

Outdoor education has consisted of donating to the new Demmer Shooting Center at MSU, sending teachers to AWLS, donating to support the AWLS Ranch facility, providing safari-in-a-box and providing funding for the Archery in the Schools program.

Our humanitarian efforts in the last three years have consisted of sponsoring safari wish hunts, providing venison to the hungry, soldier pheasant hunts and other projects.

Hunter protection in the recent past has included contributing to the SCI PAC sponsored efforts in support of hunting related issues.

Chapter meetings have included various speakers on topics of interest to our members and have been very informative and well attended.

Our trophy book has grown with the chapter and we have one of the nicest publications in the country. The most recent edition for Rest of the World and Turkeys introduces several new species and has eleven new number ones! Dr. Belyea and Dr. Braden have done an outstanding job and it honors our trophies in a most elegant way.

In conclusion, please continue to participate and support our chapter through the fundraiser and the chapter programming activities. Enjoy the chapter meetings, participate in the trophy book and write an article for the newsletter. Like any other member driven organization, we need your participation to succeed.

If you have any questions, please contact me at jhouthoofd@neogen.com.

BEAR HUNTING IN MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA

By Kent Ballard



which I estimated to be close to 300 pounds on the claw, but neither of the two large aforementioned bears came in during daylight hours. It was the perfect first night -- it allowed me to observe the animals interact with one another and see how they attacked the bait and moved around. The stand was only 10 yards from the bait, and I was about fifteen feet up in a cedar tree with great cover. The bears had no idea I was around on that first night.

The second night was very windy, as in 25-mph-winds windy. The BearMan told me this was not a bad thing, as quite often wind keeps the bear near his bedding area and it would be more apt to hit the close-by bait. I said, "It sounds like the wind is just what I need!" I arrived on stand at about 2:30 p.m. and saw only two porcupines and a few coyotes until the last 20 minutes of daylight when I happened to look back over my left shoulder and saw the "gorilla bear" quickly approaching my bait.

The night prior while watching the bears on the bait, I had decided I would draw my bow before the bear I wanted to shoot ever gave me a good shot. Then, when the animal bounced around and gave me the first good shot with the ability to drive an arrow into his chest cavity, I would release the arrow. Following this plan,

I drew as the bear approached my bait head on; it took about 30 seconds before he spun his rear end around and was between me and the bait. I gave him some as soon as that rear end swung my way. It was live action and, on impact, the animal let out a growl that was awe inspiring and intense. He hit the ground, managed to move about 40 yards, and was dead within five seconds of my shooting him.

The bear weighed 325 pounds, 5 1/2 inch pads, and 2 5/16 between the canines. What a great hunt and experience!

I would highly recommend Jim's guide service. Jim is a true expert and goes above and beyond what is needed to hold large bears. He will design the stand set-ups in advance for the hunter's weapon of choice.

The BearMan can be reached at 989-600-8672 if you would like to call him to discuss hunting opportunities. However, you might offend him if you call him Jim; he answers real well to BearMan

My hunt started with a short drive to the UP to meet up with Jim "BearMan" Nieman. Since legal baiting began, the BearMan had been sending me photos of some very large bears on his baits.

I arrived at his home about 11 a.m. on September 10th, opening day of the Michigan bear season. We were hunting a bit south of Newberry. Jim shared more trail cam photos with me and asked which stand I wanted to hunt. I took Orville's Stand (every good tree stand has a name!), where a couple large bears had been coming into the bait: one was estimated to be 500 pounds; the other was what the BearMan calls a "gorilla bear." It was a bit smaller, but was built like a gorilla.

I had seven days to hunt and planned on waiting out a large bear. The BearMan had bears coming into several stands, so all I had to do was follow his advice, and then draw my bow and anchor my pin.

The first night in Orville's Stand I saw six bears, a couple of

NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR CHAPTER HUNTER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Every year Tom Nelson presents an award, on behalf of the Lansing Area Chapter of Safari Club International, to a chapter member who has gone above and beyond in supporting the humanitarian aspect of our organization. Tom and his committee review nominations submitted.

Please forward your nominations for Lansing Area Chapter Hunter of the Year award to Tom Nelson at wcpnelson@aol.com.

Previous years' winners:

**Jim Leonard
Lynn Marla
Tony Semple**

**Jim Ellis
Mike Leonard
Craig Mortz**

10-point Whitetail Dedicated to my Grandfather

By *Bill Lukaskiewicz*

Nov 3, 2012, Jackson County, Michigan.

This is the fourth year I've hunted this property but the first year I had seen a buck of this caliber. I had taken many does over the last three years and passed on numerous smaller bucks, hoping that they would survive the firearms seasons and someday I would get my chance at a big deer.



In late August 2012, I got three trail camera photos of this buck and knew that he was the deer of a lifetime for me. I hunted other areas during the month of October,

resisting the urge to go after him, saving that one stand where I thought I could take that buck when the time and weather were right.

I sat that stand for the first time the morning of Nov 3rd, passed on a smaller 8 point just after sunrise and 30 minutes later, I saw a large deer walking quickly along the same trail. In about a one minute frenzy, I determined that he was one I would try and shoot. I stood, figured out where I could get an arrow through, turned, drew my bow, waited for him to reach the opening and shot. He went about 45 yards and crashed.



After I composed myself, I couldn't believe what had just happened. I waited about 45 minutes -- the longest 45 minutes of my life. I knew I had made a good shot and, 10 minutes later, I walked up on him and realized that it was the big 10 point I had on the trail camera. I called my wife and said, "Honey, go downstairs, get the good camera and meet me at the truck. You know where I park. I just shot the big 10 point!"

The deer has a green score of 147 and 4/8 and is currently at Legend's Taxidermy in Scottville, MI. This is the largest deer I have ever taken, and it is dedicated to my grandfather, who always took the time to teach me about the outdoors, conservation and how to hunt.

I wondered why he always wore that red and black plaid jacket when he hunted, but I don't wonder anymore. I know that he is smiling right now.

Did You Attend the Chapter Picnic?

If you attended the chapter picnic at Compounds & Crossbows in August, you may have received some archery instruction from Bob Cooley. It was not long after that night that Bob died in an automobile accident. May he rest in peace.



Robert Randall Cooley

Robert Randall Cooley Lansing Loving husband, father and grandfather, Robert Randall Cooley, age 68, died September 18, 2012. Mr. Cooley was a physical education teacher and Health Education Specialist in Okemos schools for 43 years and a sports official for 32 years. He was also a trainer for Jump Rope for Heart. Robert was an active member of Mt. Hope Church for more than 20 years, involved in choir and dramatic productions. He loved to fish and hunt. Mr. Cooley is survived by his wife of 45 years, Mary Anne; two sons, Matthew (Beth) Cooley and Mitchell (Deborah) Cooley; one daughter, Angel (Benny) Poole; eight grandchildren, Adrienne, Ashton, Braden, William, Benjamin, Laurel, Griffin and Liam; two brothers, Thomas (Jo Anne) Cooley, James (Barbara) Cooley; and one sister, Dawn Cooley (Lisa Harris).

TRICK OR TREAT

By Tom Nelson

Bow season 2012 was off to a great start: a quick trip to Wyoming yielded a nice pronghorn antelope on day number one. The fun part was that I opted for a spot-and-stalk hunt and, after closing the distance to within bow range, I made a good shot and had an antelope down. But this hunt was only a warm up for the upcoming whitetail season.



I am blessed to have the opportunity to hunt all across North America with my bow. As host of THE AMERICAN ARCHER TV SHOW, I bowhunt some 20-25 weeks a year. Of all the neat big game animals I am fortunate to pursue, whitetail deer are still my favorite big game animal. Honestly, I would rather bowhunt whitetails than any other specie of big game. Now I love my elk hunting and the physical and mental toughness it takes to bow bag a bugling bull. Sneaking to within bow range of a big old muley buck gets my heart a-pounding, and having a 1200 pound bull moose at 10 yards is almost scary. But, nothing gets this veteran bowhunter more excited than outsmarting a crafty old whitetail in his own backyard.

So it was with extreme enthusiasm that I opened my letter from the Iowa Game & Fish that held my Iowa non-resident archery license. I immediately, phoned Bryant Shermoe of Shermoe Adventures and relayed the good news. Bryant suggested I try to arrive at his camp around Halloween or as close to it as possible. I mentioned that I had a bowhunt in Saskatchewan the week before, but that I would turn around and head for Iowa as soon as I made it back to the States.

Summer flew by and fall bow season arrived quickly. I tagged out in Saskatchewan on day three with a dandy 11 point buck that green scored just at 140 inches. So, that meant I was cleared to head for Iowa. Now Iowa is one of those states a non-resident needs to apply for a tag in advance. In Shermoe's unit it can take up to three preference points to draw your tag. This was the case with me, and three years of waiting were finally coming to an end; I hoped it was worth the wait.

I arrived in camp around 2 p.m. on the 30th of October. Bryant's camp is a comfortable lodge with big screen TV and roomy bedrooms and baths. After a couple of practice shots with my BowTech Insanity, Bryant suggested we make an afternoon bowhunt just a short ways from the lodge. So we loaded bow gear, along with my cameraman's video equipment, into Bryant's truck and headed off to our stand.

Bryant owns and leases some of the best looking deer country I have seen -- rolling hills and miles of corn fields, dotted with woodlots and brushy fence rows. Ideal whitetail habitat! Hiking into our treestand, we were held up by a group of does that were being harassed by a nice 8 point. At one point they were all standing almost under the stand we were attempting to get into. Finally they moved off, and we got situated. Almost immediately we began to see deer. It was almost non-stop with small bucks and does moving through our funnel of woods towards a corn field above us. Two different nice bucks stopped at 20 yards to rub on

an eight-inch diameter tree. But neither were what I had waited three years for. Then, just before last shooting light, a magnificent tall tined buck appeared briefly above us as he chased a doe. Just seeing this jumbo buck had made my trip worthwhile.

The following morning Bryant drove us to another spot some ways from camp and suggested we utilize a buck decoy as the pre-rut was in full swing. After quickly setting up the decoy, my cameraman and I climbed up into our portable treestands. As the dawn began to break I started giving a few grunts and doe bleats every 10 or so minutes. As the Eastern sky illuminated the dawn, the first buck arrived. He was on a steady walk towards us. At 40 yards the nice eight-point stopped and surveyed the situation. The decoy was smaller rackwise than the live deer, but he was still leery of the decoy. After a short while he circled us and decided he wanted no part of the decoy and ambled off.

Later that morning a few does and smaller bucks were observed but no big guys. It was now 10 a.m. and the temperature was rising. I told my cameraman that it was most likely over as far as deer movement. With nothing to lose I decided to give one last series of grunts. After I finished I put the call in my pocket and scanned the area. Within 60 seconds a nice buck appeared along the edge of the woodlot we were hunting. He was walking with a purpose, and that purpose was to check out the source of the grunting. As he came over a small rise in the field he spotted the decoy. He was some 50 or so yards away at this point. Spying the decoy the buck bristled up and began a stiff legged walk forwards. At first I was not sure just how good a buck he was; then, as he began to cut down through the woods to get in front of the decoy, I got a good look at his rack. There were too many points to count so I just snapped on my release and focused on getting a shot.

The buck walked behind a tree and I drew. Then he walked right down in front of the decoy and there was no doubt he was looking for a fight. At 20 yards he turned broadside to me, and I aimed and shot. The buck kicked like a bucking bronco and sped off to my right. He ran low and fast but just before getting out of sight, he did a nose dive into the forest floor.

The buck turned out to be a 13 point, big bodied Iowa buck. He was a buck well worth the wait. It was Halloween day and this was no trick but most certainly a treat.

AUTHORS NOTE: Bryant Shermoe can be reached at Shermoe Adventures LLC 586-212-4319. He has an incredible success streak of 100% on his bowhunts. The other two bowhunters in camp both tagged great bucks while hunting with Bryant. Remember to apply in advance for your tags and or preference points.

Please send your photographs (300 d.p.i.), hunting stories, fishing tales, comments, etc. to either Dallas English (dallas51@hotmail.com); Jim Houthoofd (jhouthoofd@neogen.com); or Sally Ellis (sallyellis47@yahoo.com).



Lansing Area Chapter Safari Club International



13th Annual Banquet & Fundraiser

Saturday, March 16, 2013

Outfitters Night

Friday, March 15, 2013

Eagle Eye Golf Club
15500 Chandler Road
East Lansing, Michigan 48823 • 517-641-4570

Register:

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Payment:

Check. Make Payable to: **LAC - SCI**
 Visa MasterCard Expiration Date: _____
Name printed on card: _____
Card Number: _____
Card Address: _____
Signature: _____

Tickets:

- | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|---|-------|---|----------|
| 1. Saturday Banquet & Fundraiser Tickets: | \$65 Each | x | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| 2. Table of 8: | \$480 per table | x | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| <i>(Includes (8) Banquet Tickets, (8) \$20 Raffle Tickets and Special Seating)</i> | | | | | |
| 3. Chapter Sponsor Table: | \$675 per table | x | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| <i>(Receives (8) Banquet Tickets, (3) Super Gun Raffle Tickets, (16) \$20 Raffle Tickets, Premier Seating, 1/2 page ad in auction book)</i> | | | | | |
| 4. Super Gun Raffle | \$40 each or 3 for \$100 | x | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| 5. General Raffle Tickets \$100 Packet (6 Tickets \$120 value) | \$100 Each | x | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| 6. General Raffle Tickets \$200 Packet | \$200 Each | x | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| <i>(13 Tickets \$260 value)</i> | | | | | |
| 7. General Raffle Tickets \$400 Packet | \$400 Each | x | _____ | = | \$ _____ |
| <i>(30 Tickets \$600 value)</i> | | | | | |

Grand Total: \$ _____

Please List People's Names for Table

Print legibly (Name tags printed from list)

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| 1. _____ | 5. _____ |
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