Kubichek’s Bezoar Ibex

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Why Join SCI Today?

Safari Club International is the leader in protecting the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide. These primary missions are supported through many parts of the organization and the SCI Foundation. But our success depends on hunters like you joining an SCI chapter right here near your home. Please do your part to help us help you and other hunters in this area.

You can join simply by signing up at one of the chapter websites listed on the next page.

Please join today and we will welcome you like a new friend and old hunting buddy. Here’s an overview of how we help all hunters, especially those living right here in our own backyard.

Advocate: Since 2000, SCI has spent $140 million on protecting the freedom to hunt through policy advocacy, litigation, and education for federal and state legislators to ensure hunting is protected for future generations. Through direct involvement and partnerships with like-minded organizations, SCI has become a political force in Washington, D.C. and other world capitals.

Connect: When you become a member of SCI, you join a network of over 55,000 like-minded individuals all over the world. In your local community there may already be an official SCI chapter. Working side by side, holding similar attitudes about the importance and responsibility of being a hunter, SCI members make a tangible difference through conservation efforts in their communities and voicing their concerns to representatives who take them to the floors of Washington.

Educate: The weekly E-Newsletters In The Crosshairs and Hunt Now! provide breaking news, legal issues, government actions, product reviews, and exciting stories of the hunt, to more than 45,000 members. Through our publications, Safari Magazine and Safari Times, we keep you up to date on events and board actions as well, teach you some tips and techniques, and stories about other members’ hunting expeditions.

Represent: SCI members help shape and promote the image of the hunter to non-hunters through their words and actions. In addition to practicing ethical hunting while in the field and around others, members can give back by participating in humanitarian efforts taking place across the globe through the affiliated charitable organization, Safari Club International Foundation.

Conservation Programs: SCI Foundation ensures the best available science is used in wildlife policy and management, and demonstrates the constructive role that hunting and hunters play in the conservation of biodiversity worldwide. The organization is “First for Wildlife,” investing millions of dollars into wildlife conservation and education every year. Conservation efforts never cease, and through chapter projects, SCI Foundation grants and scholarships, and regional programs, members of Safari Club International make a difference in the life of the environment and the animals that live there.

Education Programs: SCI programs for both children and adults provide a hands-on opportunity to experience the outdoors and to spread the knowledge of conservation and wildlife management. One of these education programs is Sensory Safari, a program in which the blind can learn about nature through touch exhibits. SCI Foundation also opened the International Wildlife Museum in Tucson, Arizona, to increase knowledge of, and appreciation for, the diverse wildlife of the world.

Humanitarian Programs: The SCI Foundation, through Sportsmen Against Hunger and SafariCare, provides food and supplies to those in need, both in our backyard and in remote places of the world. The Disabled Hunter program fosters opportunities for disabled sportsmen and women to experience the hunting tradition. SafariWish grants hunting related wishes to those dealing with terminal or life-threatening illnesses.

Success depends on hunters like you joining an SCI chapter right here near your home. Join today by signing up at one of the chapter websites listed on the next page.
For over 25 years, Northwoods Taxidermy of Waukesha has been quietly producing quality work at a fair price with a reasonable return on investment. We invite you to join online today.

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• SICK OF NOT GETTING YOUR WORK BACK?
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HUNTERS is a bimonthly publication for members of SCI chapters in Wisconsin, plus bonus electronic circulation, which includes some of the world’s most avid and affluent conservationists who enjoy hunting here and around the world. They have earned a reputation of leadership on natural resources issues and giving to protect and support the future of hunting and conservation here and abroad. To share your message with them, send ads and editorial submissions to Mark LaBarbera at wissmag@weplpc.com.

Submission of story and photos means that you are giving SCI permission to use them free in SCI printed or electronic form.

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January/February November 20
March/April January 20
May/June March 20
July/August May 20
September/October July 20
November/December September 20

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The number of advertisers allowed in WI SCI HUNTERS magazine is limited. If you would like your ad to be considered for publication, contact Mark at wissmag@weplpc.com. New advertisers who are accepted and prepay for a 6x schedule receive substantial discounts as listed below. All amounts are net U.S. dollars.

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Full Pg. 8.25”w x 10.75”h $300  $1,100/yr.
Covers 8.25”w x 10.75”h $300  $1,300/yr.

Delivery ads with 1/8” margin on four sides, plus ¼” for bleeds.

Send ad fees to Treasurer Janean Gehl, W157N10472 Fieldstone Pass, Germantown, WI 53022. No attempt is made to verify the accuracy of ballistic information or hunt reports submitted. Ads in this publication are not considered endorsements or approval of such advertiser by Safari Club International. If your address changed, please notify Janean Gehl at office@wissmag.org.

On the cover: John Kubichek’s research, planning and determination paid off as he completed his quest for the Bezoar Ibex.

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Region 16 Report

by Charmaine Wargolet, Regional Representative

So, fundraiser season is nearly here and we are in the middle of the turkey hunting season! Hope you all drew a permit for your favorite area to hunt these incredible birds. I love turkey hunting! They are so much fun to watch and quite a challenge to harvest, but then any day spent out in the woods is a great day!

At this writing, I have attended two of my chapter fundraisers and both were a huge success. The Wisconsin SCI Region 16 Stats

Six SCI chapters based in Wisconsin and Illinois make up SCI Region 16. Most chapter members live in those states and Minnesota, but these six chapters have also attracted members from nearly every state.

Chapter success reaches beyond Region 16. Working individually and collectively, chapters have contributed to national and international conservation work and hunters’ rights efforts. Most of their work, including conservation, hunters’ rights as well as education and humanitarian services, is accomplished within the region, like the Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo, the largest free outdoor skills school field trip in America.

Because of SCI leadership, clot, wealth, and effective strategic action with entrepreneurial speed, the chapters have been successful without having huge membership numbers. Here are the six chapters and members of paid members as of April 10, 2019:

- Southeast Wisconsin Bowhunters 48
- Illinois & Chicago 116
- Badgerland 149
- Northeast Wisconsin 154
- Lake Superior 214
- Wisconsin 290

To become a chapter member, see “Join Us” on page 4. To learn more about SCI, see page 3.

Chapter (my home chapter) and the Badgerland Chapter. The Northeast Chapter event was on the same weekend as Wisconsin, but I know they had a great show up there in Green Bay. They always do! The Wisconsin event had just a few less people but those who came spent money and had a great time! SCI President-Elect, Steve Skold and his wife Sue were in attendance, Dan Small was the guest emcee and anyone who attended can readily see how much work goes into this show. From the quality and number of hunts and auction items, to Tim the auctioneer, who makes that portion of the evening fun for everyone, to the quality of raffles and giveaways, and to the camaraderie of being with others who share the same passion.

The Badgerland event was a very nicely run event. The hard work by the committee was very evident start to finish. Quality auction items, both silent and vocal, and very nice raffle items! Jay Link was their guest emcee and did a great job! On Sunday morning as I was leaving, I ran into one of the hard working volunteers and after I complimented her on a good job, she said “We are a small chapter in ways, but a mighty one in a lot of other ways”! I love hearing comments like that! Pride and dedication is what make our chapters successful. And you guys knocked it out of the park!

I know the Illinois/Chicago chapter will be putting on their usual quality event as well as Lake Superior chapter! We will look for reports and pictures of all the fundraisers!

If you worked your chapter event, THANK YOU!!! It takes a gargantuan amount of effort to put on these incredibly successful events and it would not happen without you!

And if you attended an event (or two or three of them), thank you, thank you!! It would not be an event without attendees and we would not make any money without you all! To contribute to the mission of SCI, we need the funds raised and as chapters we get to keep 70% of the monies raised to do with what we please. Most of that money is spent right here in our state on conservation, education, hunter advocacy and humanitarian projects and programs! So gobble, gobble, happy hunting!!

Safari Club International’s President-Elect Thanks Members Here

by Steve Skold, President-Elect

It is truly an honor to address the Wisconsin Chapter and all of your southern neighbors. Your history is one of the best in SCI. Just think of all the funds raised and mission programs accomplished by you folks over the years. We have accomplished so much that SCI chapters have been here in the state as well as nationally and internationally.

We all take great pride in your support of the SCI Foundation’s American Wilderness Leadership School and the number of teachers that you have sponsored over the years to this program in Wisconsin. That program is near and dear to me as I was a recipient of a scholarship to attend that program back in 1977. Yes, 41 years ago when I was a high school junior. That experience has shaped my life every step of the way since, and I take great pride in being involved with SCI and the many great things that we do every day.

I am sure you all have had experiences that have shaped what you have done, what you have accomplished and what you can take pride in.

SCI Pride! What just is that? Just by being here you have shown that you are interested in the future welfare of hunting. As you know SCI is strong on hunter advocacy with our office in Washington DC being active in not only US politics but also what is going on around the world through CITES and traveling with guns. We are the ones fighting for permits, public access, and shutting down Federal government overreach. You can take pride in supporting SCI advocacy programs.

The list goes on and on. And while you may not agree with absolutely everything that SCI does or stands for, I know that there will be 10 other things that you can recognize as programs or actions that you do appreciate and support. So how do we show that support?

Don’t we have a responsibility beyond just being here tonight? How much is enough when we send that in check or purchase that item tonight? Should our financial support be a perception for SCI or our SCI budget? I would suggest that it not pale in comparison.

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How much do you value this way of life? This way of life for your children and grandchildren? Or how about taking a kid hunting. Or even taking an adult that just hasn’t had the opportunity. We were fortunate this past summer to take our daughter and son to Namibia for his first hunt. I believe we have started him down a hunting path.

It could even be as simple as just talking to the person next to you on the plane or in the doctor’s office about the many marvels of hunting that we experience. Go ahead and share. Remember that 70% of the population is not against hunting, but they are being swayed by terms that have been hijacked from us. Terms like “conservation” and “trophy.” It’s time to take the message to that 70% and help them understand that hunters are the true conservationists and that “trophy” is not a bad word.

Go ahead and share the “Why” of the hunt and not just because it is part of the North American model of game management and conservation. Get into the emotions, the word “trophy,” and what it means to you, and how it fulfills your life. The facts and science are fine but with the anti’s gaining ground based on emotions we are going to have to fight this fight with emotions. We can not hide, we can not stop telling our friends that we hunt, and we should not quit posting (although we need to do it smartly) just because it may offend someone. We must look at that as an opportunity to educate.

HUNTER PRIDE. Our future depends on it. We all have a responsibility for the future of our hunting.

I thank you for the opportunity to partake in your evening.

Touch of the Wild Sensory Safari

One of the most popular attractions at the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel Sport Show were the Touch of the Wild Sensory Safari education and outreach trailers, where parents and youth can touch the animals.

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Or maybe your interests are in the areas of Outdoor Education, Conservation, or some of our Humanitarian programs reach for Safari Club International Foundation. These programs are far reaching with scholarships, teacher training, chapter matching grants, joint education programs with both the Boys and Girls Clubs and the Salvation Army, conservation projects across the globe and Sportsmen Against Hunger support for chapters. Then back under SCI you have our record book and world hunting awards programs. You can take pride in knowing that your organization touches so many worthwhile operations.

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Wisconsin Chapter Report

by Fred Spiewak, President

Summer is here in all its great splendor. Game species are rapidly increasing their young and increasing their numbers. This is happening even as predator/prey relationships continue to balance each other for the benefit of their future. Our place in all of this is as manager and caretaker. The need for our careful management is evermore necessary as we help keep habitat and game numbers in balance. Summer is the time we witness the benefits of all the hard work put in by individuals on their own land. The efforts by state agencies to benefit everyone who enjoys the outdoors are also evident on public lands.

I encourage you to be aware of the efforts by the state legislature to change these cherished places and management practices. Please contact your representative and give them your input about any bills that will impact the things we take for granted. We have a State Constitutional Right to Hunt, Fish, and Trap with only “reasonable” restrictions. It behooves us to remind our representatives of this before “restrictive” laws are passed. It is far harder to remove restrictions later.

A testament to its popularity, a number of Wisconsin and Kentucky this spring. These are the final transfers of a multi-year reintroduction project. This year we will likely have another elk hunt in Wisconsin. The tag application process should be online in May.

A joint research project between the DNR and UWM is studying the elk vs wolf relationship to help better understand what future management of these two game animals should look like.

This summer, decisions are being made regarding the possibility of a continuation of the Wisconsin wolf hunt. Since the hunt was suspended, the DNR has kept track of preference points. Should the hunt be scheduled for this fall, May will be the likely time for permit applications.

Turkey hunting is in full swing. As of this writing only preparation is taking place. I hope that all of you have the opportunity to enjoy this special time of year. Get outdoors, experience the changing of Wisconsin from winter to spring.

More elk have arrived in Wisconsin from Kentucky this spring. For more information, go to all-inoutdoors.com.


Go to our website sciwi.org for information about our upcoming 30th Annual Clays Outing & Picnic. This year we will be returning to The Highlands in Cascade, Wisconsin. This is a special event which has great food and fellowship during the summer. I hope to see you there.

Legislative Update: Lobbying for SCI

by Dan Trawick, SCI Lobbyist

With the new year underway and a new Governor in office, SCI is starting to take shape around the capital. There have been a number of legislative issues that SCI has weighed in on from our watch list recently. There have been fairly easy and straightforward while others are more complex. I will approach them individually and try let you know what’s happening.

Senate Bill 85

This bill deals with the issuance of conservation patron licenses to disabled vets at a reduced rate. There is a stipulation that the portion of disability is 50% or more and does have a very minor fiscal impact. This is expected to move forward, and have gone on record in support.

Assembly Bill 75

This is a simple bill that would allow the honorary discharge of firearms in municipalities that currently have ordinances that would prohibit same. By honorary, we are talking about military/police funerals and similar events. This expected to move forward, and have gone on record in support.

Senate Bill 38

This bill introduces an oversight. This would include any contest bill, it was introduced by Sen. Fred Risser of Madison. It has some controversial bills to be introduced in some time. Known as the “Killing disabled vets at a reduced rate. There is a stipulation that the portion of disability is 50% or more and does have a very minor fiscal impact. This is expected to move forward, and have gone on record in support.

Senate Bill 10

Assembly Bill 29

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Geneva in February. This was their first time. Known as the “Killing disabled vets at a reduced rate. There is a stipulation that the portion of disability is 50% or more and does have a very minor fiscal impact. This is expected to move forward, and have gone on record in support.

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We’re All-In for LegCuffs

At the recent Field & Stream Outdoor Life Sportshow in Madison, formerly the Wisconsin Deer & Turkey Expo, a few new products caught the editor’s attention, including a compact deer and turkey tote system. SCI members thought the product was innovative and something they dealers can be found online.

Cap-Pack Products

Cap-Pack Truck Products was selected to have a booth at the SCI Grand Banquet in Lake Geneva in February. This was their first time exhibiting. The response was great.

Cap-Pack Sport was designed with the avid outdoorsman in mind. It mounts with four bolts to the roof of a cap on a pick-up truck. It makes use of space high that is otherwise wasted. The aluminum, lightweight storage design is different and can store guns, bows, ammunition, and any other equipment that you want to keep out of the bed of your truck. With dual locks, it offers added security for that valuable equipment.

Cap-Pack Sport offers a unique storage solution. Check it out. And Elevate Your Storage.
Northeast Wisconsin Chapter Report

by Mark Jablonic, President

As I write this, many of our areas are under severe flooding. If you were affected by this, I’m sorry for you. Hopefully you are able to easily rebound from this. With spring comes new beginnings. Now that it’s ice out, I just wonder what type of impact it will have on fish waters and on nesting birds.

Unless you are one of the fortunate people who are headed to the southern hemisphere this year, and I know a lot of them, most of our seasons are over and we are going into that void we experience before the fall when it all gets going again. Most turkey seasons are nearly over by now. If you hunted turkey this year I hope you came away with stories to tell and knowledge for the future. The toms that frequent my backyard hadn’t started gobbling yet in late March. There are some spring bear hunts yet and I keep telling myself it’s been too long since I’ve been on one. Whatever you did and where ever you went, I’m jealous. But that’s OK because I’m trying to get in shape for a goat hunt in British Columbia I bid on at our fundraiser this September. That old saying is so true, “It’s easier to stay in shape than to get in shape.”

I wanted to give you a “heads up” in case you are a veteran or know some. Otto and Mary Reetz, two of our Board members, run an organization called Wounded Warriors United. They have some events coming up and a wonderful way to thank the vets for their service. They have too many events to go into here, I’ll list a few, but you can go to www.woundedwarriorsunited.com and check it out:

- They had seven vets on a snow goose hunt in South Dakota in March;
- They have a triple purpleheart recipient going to Triple O ranch in Idaho for a bear hunt in May sponsored by the Northeast Wisconsin chapter;
- They have an all-female vets fishing event May 31;
- They have a bass tournament in Beechwood, WI on July 13 that will feature 50 vets;
- They have an all-female vets pronghorn antelope hunt in Wyoming in September; and
- They’ll take 75 vets fishing on August 10 at Skipper Bud’s in Oshkosh. This event is open to the public. There will be lunch, raffles and awards. This is their major fundraiser for all of the activities listed above so please turn out and help them.

These events are all funded by private donations, local businesses and SCI chapters. If you have an interest in donating or attending, you can contact Otto or Mary.

One last thing, Smokey Bear is 75 years old. I remember that baritone voice from my youth telling me, “Only you can prevent forest fires.” Over the years he told us how to make sure our camp fires were out and safe. I understand now he gives hugs to campers who do it correctly. Oh well.

June will be our last members’ meeting before we take the summer off. Member meetings will begin again in September. Look for your yellow cards in the mail, especially you new members who joined at our show. Come on by and check us out. Heck, you paid for it. Now go outside and play.

Education:
Volunteer Safety Instructors Honored

Marlin “Spin” Spindler and Paul “Jumper” Mayer are familiar faces at the SCI-supported Midwest Outdoor Heritage Education Expo. Recently they were honored for the years of volunteer service they have given, especially when it comes to hunter and bowhunter education. Spindler has been teaching firearms safety for 40 years, helping to train and inspire 4,865 new hunters and 253 new bowhunters. The Wisconsin Wildlife Federation honored him as Hunter Safety Instructor of the Year in 1992, and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources gave him a similar top honor in 2011.

Mayer is close behind with 35 years of volunteer service that helped safely train 5,090 new hunters and shooters. He earned WWF Hunter Safety Instructor of the Year top honors in 2004, according to Kim Cooley and Heather Gottschalk of the DNR’s Bureau of Law Enforcement, the agency that coordinates safety training in the state.
Protect Rights, Conserve Wildlife

Conservation:

SCI Supports Hunter Nation to Protect Rights, Conserve Wildlife

Safai Club International (SCI) today announced its support for Hunter Nation with a $15,000 donation to help fund efforts to protect the right to hunt and to conserve wildlife resources.

“We are proud to help support Hunter Nation in their mission of protecting and preserving hunting and hunters’ rights, as well as wildlife conservation programs funded by hunters,” said SCI President Paul Babaz. “Hunter Nation and SCI’s missions directly align and we are excited to work together on shaping policies and programs that benefit hunters and conservation efforts.”

“With active chapters and passionate members all across the U.S. and internationally, SCI has long been a leading voice in promoting the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide,” said Mark DeYoung, CEO of Hunter Nation. “We are grateful for their commitment to support Hunter Nation and together we will raise a louder and more effective voice for all hunters.”

“SCI is not only a leader in shaping a favorable legislative and regulatory environment for hunters, but they also have a track record of giving back to our communities through educational, civic and conservation programs,” said Keith Meiller, Co-Founder of Hunter Nation. “We are looking forward to working with SCI to further promote these efforts.”

Badgerland Chapter Report

by Randy Mayes, President

We had a great 2019 Hunter’s Expo in Madison! We made a few changes to our event and I think it worked out great! If you were able to make it, we thank you very much for your support. We are always open to suggestions if you have any. Call me at 715-344-4868.

As long as I am doing out appreciation, I want to thank all of our exhibitors and donors. An event like this would not happen if it weren’t for you! Just so you can plan it into your schedule, mark down February 14-15, 2020 on your calendar. We will be at the Chula Vista Resort in Wisconsin Dells. We want everyone to get involved in this event. The show aired on Fox Sports Wisconsin, community access stations, Milwaukee PBS and Wisconsin Public Television network, and online, including segments that help recruit, retain and reactivate hunters, as well as create and encourage mentors.

Near the end of the two-and-a-half-hour WPR interview, one caller from Hillboro said, “I just want to say thank you to Dan for taking me, my son and my dad hunting and for helping my son learn a reverence for nature and realize it’s important to stay connected to nature.”

Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin Unveils $1.1 Million Campaign

by Ruth Oppedahl

May 10 was the first time I had an idea that anyone beyond my family and colleagues was following my Wisconsin kayak trip down the Wisconsin River in fall 2015. As I paddled into Tomahawk I asked a man if he might please take a picture of me to mark this milestone. He responded, “Are you the one I read about in the paper?” He had seen an article explaining that this trip was my way of sharing my concern about the state cuts to state parks, science positions, and to conservation nonprofit organizations including our Foundation. That was the first time I recognized the power of this solo journey to manifest the impact of our work. Thanks to the incredible generosity of our members, we have raised $950,000 toward our $1 million goal.

I know you Wisconsin as much as I do. What do our lands, waters, and wildlife mean to you? We hope you can make a gift that reflects the depth of your love for Wisconsin. I am so thankful for everything we have accomplished together for the state we love. Thank you for considering a gift to this Campaign at conservation.org.

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A THOUSAND DAYS

I love waking up on safari. There is, of course, no place like Africa. After 52 hunts in seven different countries, I have never spent a minute in Africa wishing I were somewhere else. Africa has become a “must-visit” safari destination. I have experienced and seeming to take some delight in my imminent departure and thinking that I may never be able to return. It was at the end of my first and long anticipated “once in a lifetime Safari” to a land that I had dreamed about from a very early age. I had been influenced by the television series The American Sportsman and Wild Kingdom. I had just ended 14 whirlwind days of delight, adventure, and romance. I had fallen in love with the idea of Africa many years before, but now I had finally consummated the relationship.

In my state of self-pity I could not imagine, or foresee, the multiple hunts for lion, buffalo, crocodile, hippo, elephant and lechwe, bushbuck, zebra, impala along rivers with names like Zambezi, Luangwa, Munyamadzi, Kilombero, Kafue, Angwa, Okavango, Luangwa, Gwaai, Umzingwani, Shashi, and others.

This was August of 1982. I was in my late 20’s and I had borrowed the money for the trip from my mother, who had been widowed when I was nearly eight years old. I am the oldest, my Mom had worked three jobs to raise four children, mortgaged her house to provide the money for my dream. She had instilled in her children a supreme work ethic and a commitment to integrity. I was never late on the following 36 months of employment, but I wondered how I could ever afford to return to Africa.

There would be, most importantly, the making of friendships, friendships that would enrich my soul in ways far greater than can be explained. My meeting a true kindred spirit, a man who would share and expose the true fortunes of Africa to me, giving and sharing with me the greatest gift I have ever received. Klaasen? Maybe!

Maybe it was the tears that blured my vision and kept me from seeing across the river to the Republic of South Africa and the eventual safari the future would bring to me. There would be hunts along the southern bank of the Limpopo in the Transvast. There would be safaris to the Eastern Cape for Vaal rhebok, mountain reedbuck, oribi, grysbok, Cape bushbuck, blue duiker, black wildebeest, blesbok and its funny the ladies at the casino called me up and down my spine. I captured him to porcupine quills imbedded in his left short grass being unwilling to flee due none the less. The experience would put me within spitting distance of a full-maned ginger-colored lion pancaked in his legs. I swear I could see the tears in his eyes.

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There would be more buffalo and lion hunts in other countries.

The Luangwa River valley in Zambia is a magnificent ecosystem. The river is home to one of the largest populations of hippo and crocodile on the continent. Thornicroft’s giraffe inhabits its forests, and mango trees are seemingly everywhere. Watching the people of the Senga tribe dismember my hippo trophy with precision and efficiency was fascinating, every edible portion happily utilized. Fishing for huge catfish called Vundu and eating the delectable flaky white flesh was satisfying and a welcomed break from prolonged mastication of tough-as-leather Cape buffalo steaks. Collecting a Chobe bushbuck with 18 ½ inch horns was gratifying. Making a 93-meter brain shot on a 13-foot crocodile on the far bank of the river was impressive.

The road trip across the top of the Northern Cape from Jo’burg, to Windhoek provided new names for my African vocabulary. Names like Hotazel, Brey, Tosca, and Kuruman, a prosperous cattle and mining area on the Ghaap Plateau. A place of permanent water, the Oasis of the Kaaihle and Die Oog, the Eye. Crystal clear mineral water, almost gin like, filled with Tilapia Bream. Drinking my first, distinctly South African Pinotage wine, a cross between a Pinot noir and Cinsault grape. Drinking the wine from a water
In later years Namibia would give up its second lion. A huge male pulled out of the Etosha National Park, having developed his feline taste for beef on the cattle farms bordering the park. Circumstance played a role in my being invited to join in on a fencing attempt at aynua hunting. Upon our arrival, Nature Conservation was issuing a P.A.C., problem animal control, tag for lion to the farmer. Sometimes Fate wears a beautiful smile.

There would be incredible days spent hunting springbok, between the seemingly endless Kalahari red sand dunes. In years of good rain, the bright yellow, wintery sour grass carpeted the troughs between the crests of the red dunes. The color contrasts with the cloudless blue of the sky providing breathtaking vistas. The light providing a clear view of the regions yet to be explored.

There would be that sweet taste of the Cook Sister pastries of Philipolis, a town in the foothills of the Orange Free State. That visit was the result of an invitation to "shoot" for a new friend’s meat hunt. I remember walking the quaint, almost deserted, Vautrekker Road and a visit with history in the Dutch Reformed Church and its olive wood pulpit, having been built without a single nail. My introduction to Karoo lamb and the making of the traditional "farmers sausage" Boerewors, and biltong and the palate pleasing and socially binding experience, of a traditional African barbeque known as a boerdery groaning of compressing sand as the color contrasts with the troughs between the crests of the red dunes. The color contrasts with the cloudless blue of the sky providing breathtaking vistas. The light providing a clear view of the regions yet to be explored.

There would be an evening at Okaukuejo water hole and rest camp, leaving a waterhole known as Oryx being bathed in the long yellow light cast by the late afternoon sun. Oryx being bathed in the long yellow light cast by the late afternoon sun.

I had yet to hear the deafening silence of the Namib desert or the auditory groaning of compressing sand as a land cruiser with severely deflated tires crested dune after dune on a trek from Solitaire to the Atlantic Coast. A GPSP government permit in the kit, with enough water and provisions for the four-day trek. I could not envision the days spent gliding over the Sandwich Harbor and the pink string of flaminosis that waved in the shallows as we crested that last golden sand dune and eased our way down the steep slope to the lapping salt water waves licking the golden sands. Sands deposited over eons of time from the Orange River, far to the south, and ferried up the coast in the waters of the Benguela current.

I return to Africa, a feeling that says I am where I ought to be. There is a magic to Africa, not the illusionary or stage magic, but more of a religious type, the type that is life-altering.

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Those days will be here and gone before I know it. The anticipation of this trip is nearly as enjoyable as the realization will be. It is always that way.

Famed author and lover of Africa Karen Blixen noted, “If I could just do one more thing, it would be to go on safari once again.” I know exactly what she meant!
Schools and police departments in southwestern Wisconsin are welcoming volunteers and donations to help fulfill a critical need. Non-profit organizations have agreed to help students, administrators and officers, but more support is needed.

In recent years, schools in Benton, Hazel Green, Platteville and Shullsburg have joined more than 80 teams and more than 2,000 student athletes in Wisconsin’s fastest-growing high school sport. They are engaging students in one of the safest sports and it is gaining in popularity across the state and the USA.

Education experts point to the positive impact and success, especially at increasing the percentage...
of students participating in extra-curricular activities, including many youth not involved in ball sports or other extra-curriculars.

As other districts, like Cuba City in southwestern Wisconsin, consider starting a team and joining the Wisconsin State High School Clay Target League (WISHSCTL), they are discovering that there is only one trap field in the area. The lone trap range at the Izaak Walton League's Southwestern Wisconsin Chapter's club includes shooting ranges that are available to other high school trap teams within the spring league. This is accomplished by providing a safe, comfortable, positive team environment that enhances a student athlete's character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in shooting sports. With the assistance of hundreds of volunteer coaches and parents, student athletes participate in these activities and compete in weekly trap shooting at the local shooting range. In this southwestern Wisconsin case study, a new local range needs to be built, and soon, according to experts.

AY HIGH SCHOOL CAN JOIN
Any public, private or parochial high school in Wisconsin is invited to participate. Teams require:
• Approval from the school (School Board, Principal, and/or Activities/Athletic Director);
• Use of the school name;
• A head coach;
• Access to a local shooting range and
• A minimum of five student athletes (no maximum).

LETTER SPORT
Schools in southwestern Wisconsin offer varsity letters to student athletes, just like other schools participating in the League. Each school has different criteria for awarding letters.

YEARBOOK PHOTO FOR YOUR TEAM
Schools are strongly encouraged to include the trap team in the school's yearbook as a sport or activity. Most current teams, including some in this case study of southwest Wisconsin, provide this for the team.

STATE & NATIONAL TOURNAMENTS
Upon completion of the Spring League, student athletes are invited to participate in individual and team competitions at the state tournament at the Wisconsin Trapshooting Association's Shooting Complex in Nekoosa, WI. Students in the southwestern Wisconsin case study have participated in the state and national competitions in Texas. Area high school athletes in other states make it to state, but rarely do they make it to national tournaments like these students did through clay target shooting.

THE LEAGUE attracts student athletes, including those who don't play ball or partake in other sports or extra-curricular activities, to participate in safe shooting sports while creating a friendly competition among high schools throughout Wisconsin. Scores are submitted online and compared against other high school trap teams within their conference. This is accomplished by providing a safe, comfortable, positive team environment that enhances a student athlete's character and personal growth through safe, educational and socially acceptable involvement in shooting sports. With the assistance of hundreds of volunteer coaches and parents, student athletes participate in these activities and compete in weekly trap shooting at the local shooting range. In this southwestern Wisconsin case study, a new local range needs to be built, and soon, according to experts.

T he USA High School Clay Target League Scholarship is offered to student athletes that participate in the spring league. This opportunity is to provide financial assistance for a student that is continuing his/her education after high school and to reward a student who is seeking a career in environmental sciences or conservation industries. To be eligible for the scholarships, the student athlete must:
1. Be a member of a participating League team in the spring league;
2. Be a high school senior graduating in the current year;
3. Demonstrate an interest in furthering his/her education in the field of environmental sciences and/or conservation of our natural resources;
4. Adhere to all school district rules, policies and requirements concerning student activities including, but not limited to, attendance, conduct, scholastic standing and other eligibility requirements; and
5. Athlete must submit all necessary documentation before May 15th.

The winner of the scholarship will be announced at the state tournament.

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Strong Policies and Procedures

S
hooting ranges that host League teams, including new ones built to fulfill an area’s growing needs, should familiarize themselves with the League’s Policies and Procedures. This document is the first resource that clubs, teams, and coaches should refer to if there are any questions.

The new southwestern Wisconsin shooting range like the other ranges will set clear expectations with teams and athletes regarding shooting range rules and safety procedures. In all cases, shooting range safety procedures and product specifications supersede any League policies and/or procedures. The League also recommends shooting ranges should provide each team a copy of their emergency management plan before the season begins. The new southwestern Wisconsin range’s emergency manage- ment plan will contain local emergency services contact information, inclement weather requirements and evacuation procedures, and shooting range contact information.

ALCOHOL AND TOBACCO USE

Clay target team events should be held to the same requirements as other high school events. Therefore, no alcohol or tobacco will be used during League events at the shooting range.

FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

Shooting ranges in general have similar requirements for firearms and ammunition use. It is very important that all participating student athletes and teams acquire and understand the shooting range’s requirements prior to purchasing or bringing firearms and ammunition to the range.

 Shotguns: No chamber larger than 12 gauge can be used.
 Ammunition: All student athletes must use factory ammunition. Ammunition load, shot size, and velocity (feet per second) specifications must meet the use requirements of the shooting range during the event.
 A student athlete cannot use
 • Reloaded cartridges; o
 • Tracers, copper and nickel coated shot;

FIELD AND TARGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Ensuring a consistent and fair shooting experience throughout the state and the League is important to the enjoyment of the sport for all participants. The League encourages shooting ranges to adhere to standard range and target specifications to the best of the shooting range’s abilities.

TRAP FIELD

The Amateur Trapshooting Association has provided a set of complete specification diagrams for the layout of trap shooting ranges, including trap house design, walkway specifications, and shot-fall areas. The first and second diagrams on the right will provide the specifications for fields and trap houses. Shooting ranges are important partners for high school clay target teams and play a vital role in providing student athletes a safe, fair, and competitive environment to participate in the League.

Big League, and Good for the Community

The Wisconsin State High School Clay Target League is an affiliate of the USA High School Clay Target League, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The League is an independent provider of shooting sports as an extracurricular co-ed and adaptive activity for high schools and students in grades 6 through 12. The organization’s priorities are safety, fun, and sportsmanship – in that order. Each student is required to pass a comprehensive firearm safety education course prior to participation. Nationwide, nearly 22,000 students representing over 800 school-approved teams participate in the League.

Helping youth become good citizens, the League believes that:

• Safe and responsible handling and storage of firearms and ammunition is the first priority;
• Everyone should have fun;
• Participation is a privilege and not a right;
• Sportsmanship needs to have a constant presence;
• Students should have an equal opportunity to participate;
• Ethical behavior, dignity and respect are expected;
• Participants will be chemically free;
• Collaborative relationships with schools and students create a posi- tive experience;
• Academic priorities must come before participation;
• Adults must serve as a positive role model to students;
• The success of the team is more important than individual honors;
• Gun clubs are critical to the success of the League and are positive business leaders in their community;
• Compliance with school, community, gun club and League rules are essential for all participants;
• Shooting sports strengthens connections within families and communities for life; and
• Everything the League does will always be in the best interest of the students.

GET SAFE

Hunt Report:

Snow Goose Chase

In spring 2019, SCI members hunted Missouri, where 1.3 million geese said goodbye

by Steve Taylor

I have always been a waterfowl hunter at heart. So, I talked three friends into a spring conservation hunt for snow geese in Missouri. We went with Last Pass Guide Service (www.lastpassgui- deservice.com), an outfitter from Rochester, MN. The hunt was sched- uled for the first week of March. This ended up being delayed to the third week as the migration started late due to the abnormal cold weather. The Loess Bluff National Wildlife Refuge held 20 snow geese in early March but went to 1.3 million by March 11. The number then went down to 4,000 a week later!

The hunt was good, but the shooting did not materialize as well as expected. This was not due to any fault of the outfitter. Bryce and Chad have good equipment, lots and lots of decoys, electronic callers, numerous land owner connections and a vast knowledge of snow goose hunting. The first day ended with a few flocks decaying and nine birds on the ground. There should have been a few more, but hey, nobody hits them all. The second morning we moved to higher ground to avoid the record setting Missouri River flooding. The guides had worked until 2:30am pulling decoys. Again a few flocks decaying resulting in five birds. The afternoon was dead. The third day gave up a couple birds in the morning with another dead afternoon.

As with many hunts Mother Nature threw us a curve ball. The fast thaw coupled with rain prevented us from hunting the usual fields. Flooded, inacces- sible corn fields provided the geese with all they needed. The migration ended up being extremely fast. We saw thousands and thousands of birds the first day but fewer and fewer each succeeding day.

I highly recommend Last Pass as an outfitter for this hunt. Just pray for a more normal spring.
SCI Northeast Wisconsin Chapter Had a FUNdraiser
SCI Badgerland 2019

Thanking exhibitors, donors and members for a great successful event and looking forward to February 14-15, 2020 at Chula Vista Resort, Wisconsin Dells.
Monica Spaeni of AccessAbility Wisconsin, an organization Badgerland SCI supports.

One-year-old Briar Burnard with Mom and Dad Jill and Brock Burnard was the lucky winner Saturday of one of the .410 shotguns given each night in a FREE raffle for youth under 16.
by John Kubichek

"Wanna get up at 3:00 tomorrow and sit in a duck blind?" my dad asked in late October when I was six years old. Even though it was going to be cold, wet and windy, I leaped at the chance. As I waddled behind dad to the blind for my first "hunt" that morning, I didn't know if I would like it and I surely didn't know that I would develop a passion for hunting and the outdoors that would lead me to six continents and pursue game that I didn't even know existed at the time.

Although all of our maker's creatures are special in their own right, three were etched in my mind as extraordinary because of their beauty and where they lived: the Marco Polo sheep from central Asia; the leopard from Africa; and the Bezoar ibex from Turkey. I vowed to myself that I would travel to their home range and hunt them if at all possible.

The first of these quests was accomplished in 1999 when I tackled the Tian Shan mountains of Kyrgyzstan and a regal Marco Polo ram accompanied me home on the plane. The second was accomplished in September of 2007 in the North Luangua region of Zambia when a stunning leopard came to bait. The book was closed in December of 2018 with a venture to Hell's Valley in south central Turkey.

At 65 years of age, I wanted to hunt the Bezoar ibex while I could still climb well and wanted the best chance possible to bring back a 50" billy, a very lofty goal. I spoke to several Turkish outfitters over a five-year period. I weighed many factors as to where and with whom to trust this experience. Most Turkish outfitters get short-term leases or bid on new areas year to year. Temir and Kursat Ekenler of Wild Hunting Turkey, have stable hunting areas, consistently excellent results and pay personal attention to their clients. Their family has hunted the same areas I would be hunting for generations. They as well as their guides and spotters know the most minute details of the land forms and game movement within these areas and scout there all year long. As target billy’s are spotted, their movements are followed weeks in
advance of the hunter’s arrival. In most cases, their guests will be hunting specific trophies. This is what I wanted. I knew they would put in the effort and training for this once in my lifetime attempt.

On December 7, 2018, I boarded a Turkish Airlines 777 at O’Hare, transferred in Istanbul and ended up in Adana. I was met by Ali, one of my guides. We overnighted in Adana and left for the hunting area the next morning. There was urgency in Ali’s pace as heavy weather was forecast for future days. Two monster billies were being shadowed in the basin I was to hunt and he wanted me and the hunt team to score as quickly as possible. My team consisted of Ali, Head Guide Mehmet-Ali, Gozneli Mustafa and Bakanak Mustafa, plus two spotting guides. We actually camped out in a cave across the four-mile-wide by 40-mile-long drainage we hunted, Mewlut, another spotter and Dervis, a government warden. The temperatures during the hunt were going to be at or near freezing in the mornings and rose to the high 40’s during the afternoon. Camp was actually a nice mountain cabin that could sleep eight comfortably with solar power, running water and even dish TV, although listening to it in Turkish didn’t do much for me. The billies had left the high peaks which towered to 9,000 feet and were covered in snow. Elevations were no more than 5,000 feet and no lower than 3,300 feet. Although there were no major climbs done on this part, the weather presented a challenge. We probably averaged seeing six to eight billies and 15 to 20 nannies per day.

The first afternoon resulted in the Mustafa’s spotting one of our possible targets up the valley on our side but changing winds and darkness doomed our stalk. The second day as feared, was socked in with fog 75% of the day. We did spot the billy we were to encounter on our fourth afternoon at last light almost two miles out through a break in the fog but made no stalk.

After our big descent on the third morning, we were encouraged to see numerous nannies within reasonable shooting distances and seemingly increased interaction between them and amorous billies. I passed a nine-year-old that was probably in the 46-inch range about 150 yards out, but about 400 feet below us. Toward dusk, we made our way to the other side of the promontory we were on. There, walking nonchalantly across a rocky face was one of our targets. At 211 yards he appeared to be a hunter’s dream. His heavy horns flared dramatically. His left horn was visible and had to curl 52, maybe even 53 inches. Then he turned and we all gasped. His right horn was broken, not just a few inches, but nearly a foot. The trophy of a lifetime was right in front of me, I was in the prone position, round chambered, safety off and saw he was terribly broken. Sure, I knew he could be repaired, but I opened the bolt, came out of position and the boys knew I was going to pass. Was this a mistake? Even with the bolt in the chamber, a shot was that right. I felt bad for the two spotters that had to endure another night in the unheated cave, but I had to connect with the other big billy we had spotted at dusk on day 2.

The fourth morning dawned sunny and calm. A hefty 46-inch billy tended a nanny 800 yards across the bluffs from us. Around noon, the radio crackled. The Mustafa’s thought they had spotted our target. We scrambled back to the truck and drove along switchback trails to the face the billy was crossing.

We bailed out of the truck for a fast 450-foot descent to a rocky point, but the pines below were just too thick for a shot. A hasty ascent back to the top ensued. Quickly and quietly, we jogged along it for another 800 yards before jumping aboard again. Half walking and half sliding, we dropped down at least 500 feet and crawled out on a more pronounced ledge. Game trails snaked through a heavily forested, gentler slope between the vertical walls on our side of the valley. Anything passing through had to come into range. The Leupold Rx 1600 showed the wall at 185 yards. 4 nannies came through into a small opening 10 minutes after we arrived.

We waited. Fifteen minutes passed and two more nannies appeared in a small foot opening on a lower trail, over 500 feet below us. I had the Zeiss on the 7 Mag set at 12-power and squirmed into position to cover the opening.

Then he came. With an off-white body, striking black ring, brown accents and long hooves, sweeping horns, the King of the Valley emerged from the trees. He quartered towards us, I locked on and fired. The shot was perfect. After pictures, the tape was repaired, but I opened the bolt, came out of position and the boys knew I was going to pass. Was this a mistake? Even with the bolt in the chamber, a shot was that right. I felt bad for the two spotters that had to endure another night in the unheated cave, but I had to connect with the other big billy we had spotted at dusk on day 2. The fourth morning dawned sunny and calm. A hefty 46-inch billy tended a nanny 800 yards across the bluffs from us. Around noon, the radio crackled. The Mustafa’s thought they had spotted our target. We scrambled back to the truck and drove along switchback trails to the face the billy was crossing.

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Photo Essay:

SCI Wisconsin Chapter Hosted a Grand Event
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