

HUNTERS

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF SCI CHAPTERS IN WISCONSIN AND ILLINOIS
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2022

MIKE'S SAFARI SUCCESS

- Big Al's Legacy Grows
- A Son's Tribute
- Chapter Events & Updates
- Legislative & Conservation News

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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 com-

munity 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.

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Editor/Publishers: Mark & Coni LaBarbera

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 wiscimag@peoplepc.com.

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

New Advertisers

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 wiscimag@peoplepc.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.

Ad Size	1x Size	6x Total Rate	(Prepaid)
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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@sciwi.org**

HUNTERS

Official Magazine of SCI Chapters in Wisconsin and Illinois
January/February 2022

On the cover: Michael Kroenke shares his South African adventure and the story behind this sable and other species that are already calling him back for another safari. See pages 26-29.

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SCI Region 16 Report

by Charmaine Wargolet,
Regional Representative

W SCI Mag 2022 JF Reg Rep 337 It is an exciting time to be a member of SCI and an SCI chapter! Our 50th Anniversary SCI national convention is happening in January and I hope you are going! Personally, I can't wait! It is going to be a site to behold and so many special things going on. Check it out on the SCI national website and I hope to see you there!

And the national convention actually kicks off fundraiser season for Region 16! See the ads in this issue and keep watching the HUNTERS magazine for all of the dates and registration forms for all of the chapter banquets. And if you are not already involved, call someone in your chapter and volunteer

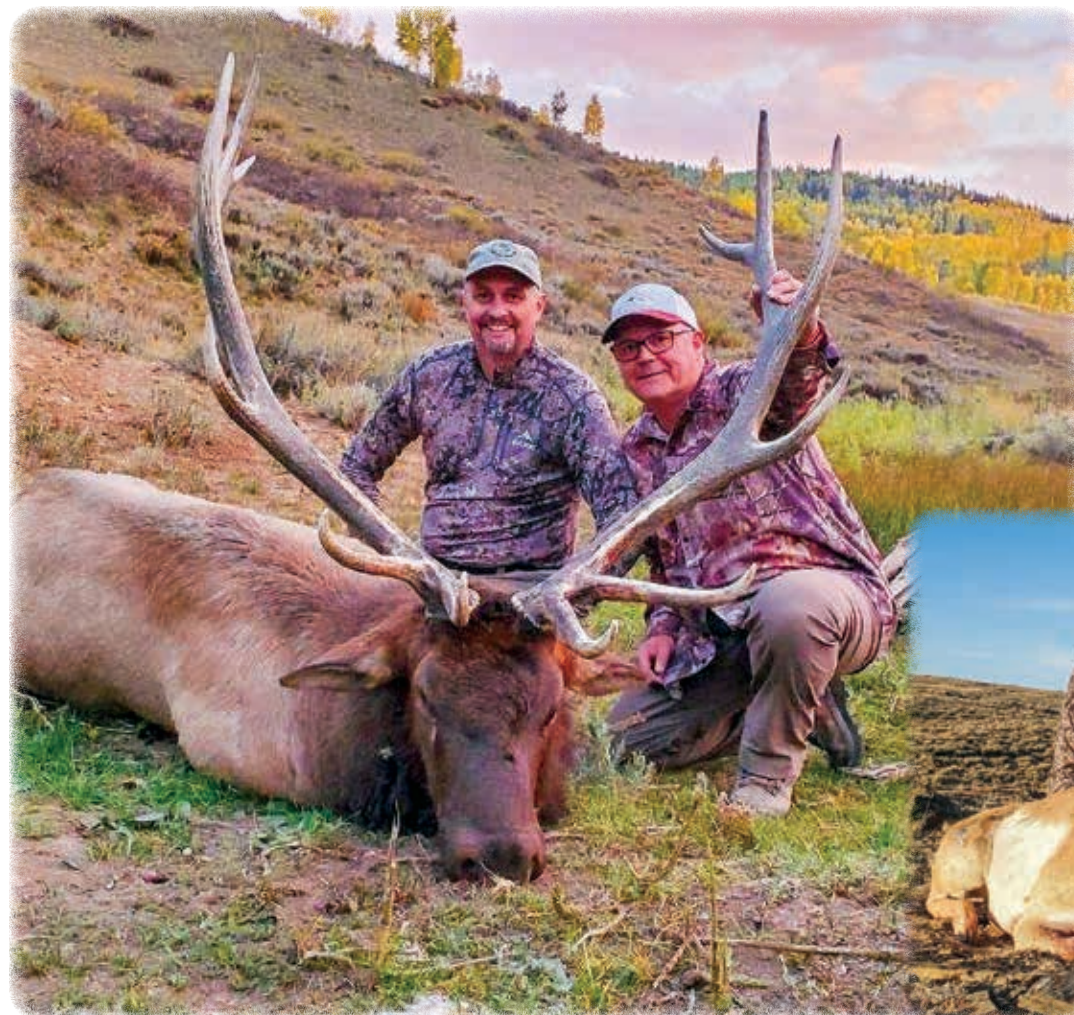
to help out! The best part of SCI is the people and you can get to know everyone far better when you work alongside of them at your event. It is actually more fun than work! But if you can't help out, then consider making a donation and of course attending. Buy raffle tickets and maybe a silent or vocal auction item. Remember, 70% of all the funds your chapter raises from its biggest fundraiser of the year stays within your chapter to contribute to the projects and programs of their choice. You have the distinction of being a member of the most active region in the whole world of SCI. Region 16 chapters are active, they work together and are very successful in their own rite. Thanks to you and other members over the years, our region is highly respected at the national level.



The last thing I want to call your attention to, is the new SCI national membership points program. You can earn points in so many different ways, membership renewal, sponsoring a new member, going to the convention, etc. These points can be used to buy all sorts of different gear! So, check out this program on safariclub.org to see all the ways you can earn these points and what you can buy.

Be well, be safe, and all the best to each and every one of you in the New Year!

2021 Hunting Success



SCI's Gordon Nelson reported that hunting was amazing in Utah this fall. He enjoyed being there when his buddy Mark Hancey filled a muzzleloader elk tag.

"It was an incredible experience in beautiful fall leaves with a lot of elk and outstanding bugling activity," Nelson said.

And in Wyoming, he reported, "This antelope was my best antelope hunt yet. A lot of antelope. Probably looked over 50 bucks."



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**Here's a sample of the great raffle prizes, silent auction and
live auction items offered from past fundraisers:**

- African Safaris
- Ladies Diamond Jewelry
- North American Hunts
- Fishing Trips
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- Upland Game Hunts
- Outdoor Gear
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Northeast Wisconsin Chapter Report

by Marty Witczak, President

First, let me wish each and every one of you a blessed new year. As we look at 2021 through the rear-view mirror, we can definitely say many of us may have created and or experienced new memories and adventures. Speaking of adventures, last November I celebrated my 60th consecutive opening of the gun deer hunting season. My adventures and love of hunting began when I was just 6 years old with my father taking me along to the hunting cabin in Eagle River Wisconsin. The memories that stand out most vividly were the freezing cold 20 below zero temps that we hunted in and the dozens of pairs of tiny beady mice eyes that kept watch over me all night long as I tried to sleep on the mice infested mattress! Come morning I could hardly keep my eyes open, but nothing could dampen my enthusiasm for that very first hunting experience I shared with my dad! And so, last November I planned and prepped to complete my 60th year of hunting. For many years I raised my sons to appreciate and respect the fine art of hunting and to enjoy the thrill of the hunt. It doesn't hurt to be able to show off that new trophy on your wall either! Congratulations to all of you who will be sporting a new trophy on your wall from the past fall deer hunting season.

If you remember correctly in an earlier issue of the Hunter Magazine, I mentioned that my wife and I were going to Scotland for a Red Stag hunt. We departed on Friday September 10th from Oshkosh, Wisconsin and arrived in Edinburgh Scotland on Saturday morning September 11th. A driver from Outdoor International Adventures picked us up at the hotel after breakfast and we began a 3-hour drive. Our destination for the hunt was the Comrie Estate, was west of Aberdeen Scotland. Our accommodations, The Loch Kinord was in the village of Dinnet in Royal Deeside Scotland. Dinnet is said to be the gateway to both the Highlands and the Cairngorms National Park. The village is ringed with picturesque hills and dotted with lakes, the largest of which are Loch Kinord and Loch Davan. Our hosts were Michael and Danielle Grosse, owners of Outdoor International Adventures and their son Justin, was an excellent guide.

My 3-day hunt began in earnest on Monday morning with a drive to the huge Comrie Estate. By midafternoon I had shot my Red Stag, what a beauty he was! The spread between his impressive 24 points was 48 inches from outside point to outside point! It was a great day; I had accomplished the sole purpose for my hunt! Now I could enjoy the rest of my hunting days. I was still hoping for a Fallow Deer and I was assured my wish would come true. Sure enough, my Fallow Deer was in the books on Tuesday afternoon and on Wednesday, our last day of hunting, I shot a Roe Deer. All three trophies will be welcomed into our home and will fit in nicely with all my African Trophies! While I was out pursuing my dreams, my wife was out and about with Danielle seeing and experiencing the sights of Scotland. They visited 3 castles including Balmoral Highland Estate. The highland retreat of the Royal Family since 1852. The Balmoral Estate covers more than 50,000 acres. Queen Elizabeth and the Prince of Wales take a close personal interest in its management and improvements. It just so happens that while we were in Scotland on the hunt, the Queen was in residence at the castle. Sad to say neither of us got a glimpse of her! They went on to see Glamis Castle (picture with Terri in front of the Castle), Scone Palace, the crowning place of Scottish Kings and of course the HeatherGems factory in Scotland where she was able to complete some of her "required" shopping! We wrapped up the hunting trip on Thursday September 16th, said good-bye to our wonderful hosts, and continued our vacation and sight-seeing, by visiting Inverness and Glasgow before arriving back in Edinburgh to fly to Dublin Ireland on Monday September 20th. Upon landing in Dublin, we picked up our second rental vehicle and drove to Cork where we toured the Jameson Distillery (in the little town of Midleton just outside of Cork). Sampled and ultimately purchased a few bottles of mighty fine Whiskeys to bring home with us. We drove to Galway, a harbor city on Ireland's west coast. We stayed right down in the city's hub the 18th century Eyre Square. We also visited the spectacular Cliffs of Moher! Unfortunately, we



didn't get a chance to take the boat tour of the cliffs because 10-to-12-foot waves were pounding the shore! From Galway we headed back to Dublin, the capital of the Republic of Ireland, on Ireland's east coast. I must say each city and little village we drove through and visited were filled with beautiful historic buildings, bright flower gardens and impressive statues depicting important people and events of both Scotland's and Ireland's rich history! I was rather proud of myself for driving 1400 miles between the two countries with the steering wheel on the right side of the vehicle and driving on the left side of the road! This trip the only vacation I can remember when my wife didn't take naps while I drove. She was my co-pilot and my second set of eyes. It was a fabulous trip and a very successful hunt! A vacation we will never forget! Lots to be thankful for as we landed back in the USA on Saturday September 25th.

Thinking about what is on the calendar for the first part of 2022 is of course the Northeast Wisconsin Hunters Expo on the last weekend in February. Remember, our banquet date has changed to the evening of Friday February 25th at the Stadium View Bar & Grill in Green Bay, WI. This year's event will take place at the new Resch Expo Center right across from Lambeau Field and will not only feature the hunting aspect but the fishing aspect as well. The weekend event will now be titled, "Wisconsin State Hunting and Fishing Expo" which means more foot traffic through the door and larger crowds to please both outfitters and attendees! Tickets are available at www.scihunter-expo.com for \$65 per person and includes free admission to the sport show. Until we meet, stay safe!

Wisconsin Chapter Report

by Charmaine Wargolet, President

Happy New Year! And let's hope 2022 brings about a little more normalcy every day! A new year, and a new chance to make wonderful memories with your family, with friends, and out in the field! I hope you are able to make the most of it.

If you attended the Christmas party at the Ingleside, I hope you had as much fun as I did! It is so great to see your sporting friends, have a few cocktails and dinner and simply celebrate the season together. There were a number of raffles and a number of happy winners. It was a lovely night!

Coming up, as I have said before, is our January 13th regular membership meeting at Westmoor Country Club.

The cost is \$30 and we have three of our members going to talk about their recent hunt in Mozambique. Plan to attend as this program should be really interesting and the food is always good at Westmoor!

Watch for your Wisconsin chapter newsletter, Safari Journal, as this has the trophy contest flyer and a flyer on the new national membership points program! Also, at this year's banquet, during the day on Saturday, three or four master measurers from the WI Buck & Bear Club will be available to score any animal you would like to bring in. They can score for both Boone & Crockett and Pope & Young and it is free and open to everyone.

Looking forward to seeing you at the January meeting (be sure and call



or email your reservation) and the 2022 Grand Banquet!

Be well and be safe!

Badgerland Chapter Report

by Randy Mayes, President

This is the time of year we plan our hunts. I know many of us plan years in advance. I do as well. One thing we have to think about now is applications. Although Wisconsin applications are pretty much past us, most of the western states start the process in January and go for several months.

If you want to hunt out west, you have to "play their games". The preference point and lottery games that is. I know many people who have had to build up over 20 points, over 20 years of their life, just to hunt in a given area. I am north of that number now for moose points in Wyoming and if I want to hunt my "area of choice", I literally may never live to see that tag! But our strong desire to hunt these critters makes us jump through the hoops to make it happen!

One way to take applications, preference points and lotteries out of the mix is to hunt internationally. I know in today's world travelling can have its own "hoops to jump through". However, they seem less costly and take much less

time to achieve than trying to get that special Wyoming moose tag. If I want to go hunting for just about any animal in Africa or Europe, I just plan the trip, find an outfitter and go! It can conceivably be done in a matter of months or even weeks.

Planning an international hunt is much easier, and less costly, than you may think.

One great way to do that is attend an SCI chapter (or national) banquet. Our Badgerland Chapter's "Hunter's Expo" is no exception. We will have several great outfitters from around the world, including Africa, exhibiting at our event. It is a two day event so if there are hunts on our auction block that you might be



interested in, there is a fairly good chance you can sit down and have a face to face chat with them. What better way to build your confidence about going on a "major hunt".

Set the date on your calendar... February 18th & 19th, 2022. See our ad in this issue for more information. Not only will there be many hunts to offer in North America and elsewhere in the world, you will also find LOTS of QUALITY GUNS to win! Support our cause by attending as many chapter events this year as you can!

Best Christmas Ever

by Greg Johnson

Christmas of 1967 was the best ever. Back in the good old days you could expect to get one good Christmas Present and that was about it (Yes, I know when a kid stops believing in Santa Claus all you get is socks and underwear).

I had been reading Jack London and dreaming of hunting the “giant” Alaska-Yukon moose and I knew what I wanted for Christmas.

It was Thanksgiving Day November 23, 1967 and the Detroit Lions had gotten trashed again, this time by the Los Angeles Rams (31-7). They did it again this Thanksgiving with Chicago (16-14).

I can remember when turkey dinner was over and there was pumpkin pie. Mom had this newfangled product called Cool Whip, a whip cream that came frozen and it was



all ready to go and it could be served when it was time for dessert, unheard of before. (a little insiders secret, I still enjoy Cool Whip at deer camp during the whitetail rut).

After being “dismissed” from the dining table, it was my turn to have the Sears Christmas catalog. The “Wish Book,” as we kids called it, each child would take his or her turn with the Catalog and flip through the pages circling their desired Christmas presents and putting their initials adjacent to the circle. That way my parents could budget and figure out who got what for Christmas.

I remember circling all kinds of cool kid stuff the year before hoping to get a present that I actually wanted. (I did)

Black Felt Pens were all the rage. Now, being



the kid that I was, I had gotten my hands on a “Big Red” El Marko, never seen nothing like it before in my life, you had all the brightness of “Red Hot” but after writing on the soft catalog paper you could still read through Red Ink, it was truly amazing and it was permanent.

My strategy was simple: make it easy for my parents to buy me the one and only present that I really, really wanted. My folks wore glasses and they couldn't see all that well and beside the whole catalog was full of black ink and circles from all my siblings and I must admit those kids had done a pretty good job covering all the presents that they desired.

With the coveted catalog I headed to my bedroom that I shared with one of my brothers. Turning the knob on my pocket-sized transistor radio, my present from last Christmas, my favorite song “Snoopy vs the Red Baron” was playing on the local AM station.

I took my turn with the wish book.

Oh, let me tell you, after flipping through a hundred pages, I was so tempted to circle a half-a-dozen different items. I was afraid that I would not get my first gun and by not circling anything else all I would just get was socks and underwear. that is a Big Risk for an 11-Year-Old.

For a kid, it was one of those tough choices. Imagine a catalog with 1,000-plus pages full of everything you could possibly imagine and tons of black circles with initials in them...this was way back before sticky notes and Sears actually displayed guns in their catalog.

You never knew for sure what you would actually find under the Christmas tree, there just wasn't a lot of money going around. So I made my choice and I let fly with that red El Marko on just one Christmas gift and that was it.

Now here is the problem.

I was told, not only by my big brothers, but also my parents that I was not old enough for a gun and that it required a responsible young adult, since I was not quite a teenager I would have to wait like everyone else in the family to get my first gun and it was way beyond the \$10.00 limit on a gift.

Well, back then all you could do was hope and pray for that one special



present, “going for broke, I risked it all with just one circle.

Thirty-two days later i became a responsible young adult.

A Crosman 760 PumpMaster, the “Giant Killer” was under the Christmas tree.

My first gun had the maple hardwood stock, and you could pump it up 25 times, and shoot both steel BB's and .177 caliber lead pellets.

This gun came with a fixed 4 power scope, that was unheard of and this started me and Taffy, the family dog, on a lifetime of adventures where we faced the challenges of the great white north, as we battled to see who ruled the northern forest, man or beast.

I am not sure what made it all come together, to get such a great gift from my parents. Was I really growing up? Was it the dream of hunting? Was it the Red el Marko?

Best investment my parents ever made. it was all about my future hunting adventures! Sometimes it pays big to spend a little extra.

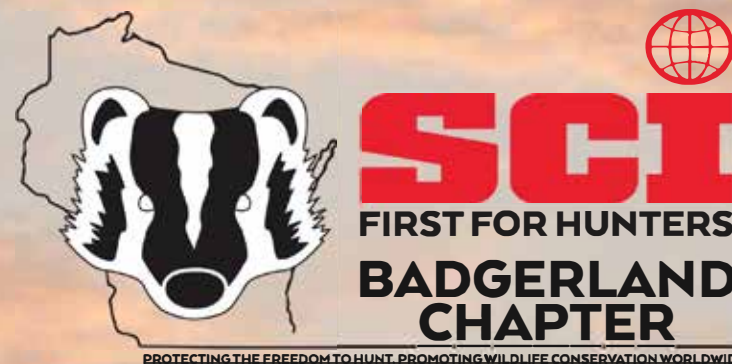
The gun and the pup are long gone but the boy still remains. reliving the memories of those adventures from my boyhood reach deep inside me.

There have been a lot of things that have come and gone in my life. But my hunting adventures are still mine and i will treasure them forever.

Many trials and tribulations have come into my life over those past 54 Seasons. But my bucket list hunts are never far from my thoughts.

As the days of my life shorten and the cold nights get darker i hold these memories closer and tighter now more than ever, and i am forever thankful.

About the author: Read more from Greg “Moose Man” Johnson, long-time SCI supporter, at www.bearmountainquest.com.



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Warren A. Sackman, III
SCI Foundation Past President



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"As I contemplate the importance of SCI's 50TH anniversary, I have made a decision to support the conservation of wildlife and the beautiful places where they live. As I mentor and watch my grandchildren mature as hunters and huntresses, I realize that I need to

do more to preserve our heritage for future generations. As a result, I have made a decision to support Safari Club Foundation through monthly contributions, and I ask that other SCI members join me in the SCIF monthly contribution program."

Don Detwiler



"Through its educational and outreach programs, SCIF makes a difference in defining what conservation is all about. I am proud to support SCIF as the premiere conservation-based organization."

Susan Hayes



"Supporting wildlife conservation ensures that I will be able to share hunting and fishing with family and friends. Participating in the SCIF giving program enables me to make that contribution monthly."

Gary A. Gearhart

Giving Levels and Appreciation Gifts

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Everyone signed up for SCIF's monthly giving program, Forever for Wildlife, receives **automatic entries** (one entry for each \$25 of monthly giving) into SCIF hunt sweepstakes.



The Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of Safari Club International Cordially invites you to our 23rd Annual SCI Hunter's Banquet and Hunter Expo 2022

Our "23rd Annual SCI Hunter's Banquet" will be held February 25th at Stadium Bar & Grill in Green Bay, WI. Enjoy an evening of fine dining with friends and family, followed by our Famous Live and Silent Auctions, along with Firearms and Merchandise Raffles.

Our "Friday Night Live Auction" will feature Hunts, Trips and Adventures from Wisconsin to Africa, South America to Europe, Art Work and Sports Memorabilia.

"Bucket Raffles" to include firearms from, Ruger, Smith & Wesson, Remington, Tikka, Winchester, Browning, Savage, Kimber, and Kel-Tec and Optic from Vortex just to mention a few.



"Hunter Expo 2022" and "The Wisconsin State Hunting and Fishing Expo" will be held at the new Resch Expo Center in Green Bay, WI. Visit with over 135 Outfitters, Professional Hunters, Retailers, Lodge Owners and Taxidermist from around the world.

We will be seminars all weekend long, including topic ranging from planting food plots for Whitetails to Big Game Hunting in Africa.

Bring in your Trophies and have them measure by "Official SCI Scorers", then enter them into our Trophy Competition.

Meet with Huntress/Adventurer **Melissa Bachman** Host of Winchester Deadly Passion and **Kurt Walbeck** host of Outdoor Bound TV.

Remember that over 70% of all the money raised at this banquet stays right here in Wisconsin to help protect your hunting rights, educate our teachers and youth, and conduct conservation and humanitarian projects.

**Friday Night Banquet
Tickets are only \$65 per
person and include free
admission to the Wisconsin
State Hunting Expo.**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.SCIHUNTEREXPO.COM
OR CALL GARY AT 920-735-9718 or MARTY AT 920-410-5968**



Safari Club International Northeast Wisconsin Chapter 23rd Annual SCI Hunter's Banquet Friday February 25, 2022 Ticket Reservation Form

SEATING IS LIMITED – MAKE YOUR RESERVATION EARLY!

FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER WILL BE ASSIGNED SEATING.

Item	Quantity	Cost	Total Amount
Friday Night Dinner Ticket plus 1 pass to the Wisconsin State Hunting Expo (\$75 Total Value)		\$65.00	
Friday Night Dinner Table - 8 Dinner Tickets plus 8 passes to the Wisconsin State Hunting Expo (\$600 Total Value)		\$520.00	
I am unable to attend this event but would like to donate to assist you in protecting our hunting rights.			
GRAND TOTAL			

Banquet Guest Names if Available:

1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____
5. _____ 6. _____ 7. _____ 8. _____

**Must register at Stadium View on Friday to receive your Wisconsin State Hunting Expo Pass.
Friday Night Dinner Tables must be paid with 1 check.**

***Dinner Tickets and Expo Passes will be available for pickup @ the Registration Booth.
Raffle Ticket Packages and Chapter Rifle Raffle Tickets will be available at the event!!!***

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! Contact Mark Jablonic at 262-844-8884 or safilo152@yahoo.com

Name: (Please Print) _____

Street Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Payment by: ☐ Check ☐ MasterCard ☐ Visa ☐ Discover ☐ Am Express

Credit Card Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Signature: _____

Make checks payable to "NEWISCI Chapter"

Return Registration Form to:

Safari Club International – Northeast Wisconsin Chapter

Attn: Gary Knaack - 4005 Towne Lakes Circle #10209 - Appleton, WI 54913

Call 920-735-9718 or Visit www.scihunterexpo.com for more information.

SCI is FIRST FOR HUNTERS!

Big Al's Event Benefits Many

With help from SCI Life Member Mark LaBarbera, the Big Al's event has been generating more publicity than ever for the cause. More and more people among the general public are learning about the good work for veterans, youth and other physically challenged hunters and anglers that results from the generosity of Big Al's donors and supporters.

Two examples included radio and television. Rick Rollo, event organizer and son of Eldridge "Big Al" Rollo, was interviewed by Outdoors Radio with Dan Small, who also hosts the popular "Deer Hunt Wisconsin" TV specials. The award-winning radio show is on more than 17 stations, including the big WISN station in Milwaukee, and the TV show, with support from the event through

in Wisconsin where any veteran, terminally ill youth, or others with temporary or permanent mobility issues will be able to use the track chairs at no cost! Rick makes sure that proceeds from the event are used wisely in collaboration with the Wisconsin SCI chapter. And he is quick to credit the generous participants, volunteers and partners who make it all possible.

For future "Deer Hunt Wisconsin" shows, Dan, Mark, Rick and Charmaine invite you to let them know if you, your friends or other Big Al's donors or sponsors know of a veteran, sick child or

physically challenged individual who might want to go on a Wisconsin whitetail hunt. Email Mark at wiscimag@peoplepc.com.



SCI, aired in five states on Bally Sports North (formerly Fox) and Bally Sports Wisconsin, plus PBS Milwaukee and Wisconsin PBS, plus community public television stations. "Deer Hunt Wisconsin" in 2021 again featured a wheelchair deer hunt. In a unique reversal of roles, it grabbed a lot of attention and made viewers question stereotypes because the person in the wheelchair was a mentor and a female. The student hunter she mentored is an able-bodied girl. The 2020 deer show featured a wheelchair hunt along with information about efforts to place free loaner outdoor wheelchairs in every county

"SCI Wisconsin has been a great partner along with the hard-working supporters of the hunt," Rick said. "I am a huge supporter of SCI Wisconsin, and they help us do the most good with proceeds from the Big Al's event. It is the donations from each individual contributor and participant that makes all of this happen." Rick does not seek the limelight, but he does make the special effort to help Mark and Dan showcase the event, veterans, youth, accessibility to the outdoors for everyone, and the healing power of time spent in nature. "As I told SCI Wisconsin Chapter President Charmaine, it is always great to be involved in something that is just good for everyone involved and I really mean that," said Rick, adding, "My son-in-law Craig Brown has set up a website for the Big Al with photos and more for anyone who wants to see more. The site is: bigalcharityhunt.com." In a third example, Dan Small thanked Rick and the event's supporters during a November appearance on the popular Larry Meiller show on Wisconsin Public Radio.

Big Al's Update & Thank You

by Rick Rollo

Well we have another successful hunt behind us. Kind of bittersweet, happy we got it done but sad that it is over. I will start by saying that I am SO very proud to know each and every one of you. In relative terms a mere 49 shooters came together for a day of hunting, comradery and donating and it truly was a success beyond my wildest dreams. I cannot give you a final number just yet because a number of people have told me they will be sending me a donation, but I can tell you that as of today, October 27th we are a few hundred dollars north of \$22,000! You all need to think about that for a minute (I know I have). In today's world, a group of hard-

working, dedicated sportsmen and women came together to help many less fortunate than us in the spirit of total selflessness. I know I want to say "Thank you!" but I think "Congratulations!" is just as appropriate. I will not (I really can't) get into a list of everyone deserving a thank

So, I will say, until the 25th Big Al Charity Hunt, thank you and God bless each of you. Stay safe and healthy. And for all those that said we need to talk more than once a year, I am here and waiting to hear from you anytime. Forever in your debt, Rick and many, many others



you. This note would be pages and pages long and the remarkable thing is that no one is looking to be praised. They were called, they came, it was done!

Editor's Note: Wern Valley Sportsmen's Club is home to Big Al's Pheasant Charity Hunt. SCI Member Steve Williams, his family and staff welcome SCI Wisconsin Chapter members and generous donors and participants who have raised nearly a quarter-million dollars in the event's 24-year history. See photos and discover how you can be part of the fun and success at bigalcharityhunt.com.

Kindle Explains Benefits of Non-Lead Deer Ammo

by Mark LaBarbera

As the firearms deer season approached and hunters started to stock up on supplies, Aaron Kindle was generating publicity across Wisconsin and recommending that hunters voluntarily switch to non-lead rifle ammo. Now that the season is over, there's plenty of time to test new ammo before your next adventure.

Kindle, the Director of Sporting Advocacy for the National Wildlife Federation, hosted SCI members, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources leaders, hunter education instructors, firearms safety trainers, conservation leaders and the media for a very visual demonstration of lead ammo compared to copper bullets.

He also brought in Chris Parish of the North American Non-Lead Partnership. Kindle includes Parish in these demonstrations at shooting ranges across the United States.

Together, they explain and then show how many lead fragments split off and spread out in various targets and game animals compared to how the non-lead

bullets, like copper, remain intact.

At the event here, Kindle used water jugs and a plastic drum to contain the spent ammo, and then used ballistic gel. In both jugs and gel, the bullets and fragment are captured so they can be examined and weighed.

What's the point?

Their goal is to educate hunters and encourage them to voluntarily switch to non-lead ammo to reduce the risk of lead being in the venison they consume with their family, but also reduce the risk of lead being consumed by birds of prey, like eagles, and other critters that feed on deer innards, or gut piles, left in the woods.

According to Kindle, he understands that non-lead ammo costs more, but



Media, DNR, hunter education instructors, and conservation leaders attended Kindle's NWF Outdoors recent range event.

many hunters take only a few shots, so a box of rifle ammunition can last for multiple seasons, so the cost per season is affordable. Sure, he says, traditional ammo is less expensive, but the incremental cost is worth knowing our families and wildlife species are free of lead.

Parish said, "Or you could just bring the gut pile out of the woods and dispose of it safely where eagles and other animals won't eat any lead in it."

Kindle suggested using traditional ammunition at the shooting range if you want to hold down costs. Then use the non-lead ammo when you're actually hunting deer.

He said the ballistics are comparable between both types of ammo, and the

non-lead alternatives are just as effective.

Deer Hunt Wisconsin TV host Dan Small said he switched to copper rifle bullets but has had trouble finding them on retailer's shelves.

To learn more, go to nwf.org/leadfree-landscapes or check out Aaron Kindle's

NWF Outdoors podcast wherever you find your podcasts. And for more information about the North American Non-Lead partnership, visit www.nonlead-partnership.org

Lead-Free Landscapes

Hunters and anglers have been the primary funders of wildlife conservation since the beginning of the conservation movement, through license fees and excise taxes on equipment like ammunition.

What we've learned in the past few decades, though, is

Donate



Aaron Kindle was interviewed by Dan Small for "Deer Hunt Wisconsin" TV in five states and, above, talked to "Wisconservation" Editor Jim Swanson

Legislative Update

by Dan Trawicki, Lobbyist

On 12/1/21 the bear advisory committee met to discuss and make recommendations for the 2022 Wisconsin black bear season. Contrary to my involvement on the wolf committee which was very frustrating, the bear committee was very productive. Much historical data was presented about past seasons and a discussion took place about the new bear zones which were created last year. Interesting data for anyone who has been applying or in the process of doing so. Currently, zone B is the hardest to draw, needing 11 points. Zone A needs 8 points, C and D currently two points, and zones E and F 1 point each. Please refer to the DNR website for zone maps. Last year there were approx. 130,000 applicants with 99,000 asking for the preference point only. Of the tags given out, 95% go to residents, as there currently is no difference in the application, it's based-on preference points only. Last year there were 3,800 bears harvested with an overall success rate of 32% which is

about average over the last five years. Some zones are quite a bit higher success with others much lower.

The main objective of the committee was to listen to the biologists and DNR management about current population estimates in each zone. We then got recommendations on harvest goals in each zone and how many tags should be issued based on a success rate formula for each zone. In some cases, there was spirited discussions among the committee members, with a general consensus reached. What I was most impressed with was the DNR's willingness to adjust some numbers based on committee recommendations. Of course, we were not the final decision-making authority. Our recommendations will go to DNR administration and then ultimately to the Natural Resources board. I'm cautiously optimistic our recommendations will move forward.

I continue to make contact and have conversations with "Hunter Nation" staff about an interesting project they are

working on regarding sportsmen in our state and others, who do not vote. If you recall, Hunter Nation is the group that sued the DNR over the wolf hunt and have recently helped bring forward legislation called the "Freedom package" that would make some substantial changes to our hunting and fishing opportunities in the state. There are a lot of pros and cons in that legislation, not all of which I agree with. It is however a good starting point to begin the discussion on some much-needed changes. Its possible that SCI may become engaged in the voter project to get out the vote and support those legislators that support our mission and core goals.

Lastly, I have to admit I'm very disappointed with the lack of support for our railroad crossing bill. It continues to stall and seems to be losing steam. After over five years of working on this, its very hard to see our legislators just not seeing what our issue and problem is. I will continue to move our agenda forward and let you know where this bill and others are in the process.



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DONATIONS - If you are able to donate any items or services which will help add to the quality of our fundraising efforts, please contact Eric Corbeg at (262) 424-7667 or email at erccorbeg@gmail.com

SCI Wisconsin Chapter is a 501(c)(3) corporation. Your donation is tax deductible.

Deer Hunt Wisconsin TV Thanks 3 SCI Chapters, Welcomes Others

MADISON, WI—Dan Small, one of the most recognized and trusted outdoor celebrities in the Midwest, repeatedly recognized and thanked Big Al's Charity Pheasant Hunt, three chapters of SCI and other sponsors for their support of his annual TV and online production, Deer Hunt Wisconsin.

This year's special debuted November 11 at 7pm on Bally Sports North in five states and Bally Sports Wisconsin, 8:30pm on PBS Wisconsin, and 9pm on Milwaukee PBS.

"Dan's award-winning Deer Hunt Wisconsin annual TV special showcases hunters as conservationists, mentors and humanitarians," said Charmaine Wargolet, Regional Representative for Safari Club International, whose Badgerland, Lake Superior and Wisconsin Chapters help underwrite the production each year. She specifically thanked member Rick Rollo and everyone who helped make his Big Al's event a success because those funds flow through the Wisconsin Chapter to support important efforts, like those described on pages 16-17 of this issue.

Dan does a great job of over-delivering and making his fellow SCI members proud. He thanked his partner, SCI Life Member Mark LaBarbera for being one of the keys to the shows success each year. Dan and Mark make sure the broader public learns about the hunter's positive and historic role in conservation. They generate goodwill and publicity for the cause and for SCI, along with other key partners like Wisconsin-based Vortex Optics, LeRoy Meats, Access Ability Wisconsin, Mayville Engineering Corp. (MEC), Outdoor Heritage Education Center, and Whitetail Sanctuary Solutions, plus Wisconsin Outdoor News, Hunting Works for Wisconsin, National Wildlife Federation Outdoors, Huntworth Gear, Floe Trailers, Ferry Bluff Eagle Council, Wild Eagle Lodge, American Honda Motorsports, and Wildlife Research Center.

Dan noted, "The 2021 show has some great segments, including a disabled female hunter who breaks stereotypes and reverses roles. Watch as she, from her all-terrain wheelchair, mentors a young able-bodied girl on her first

Wisconsin deer hunt. And learn about efforts to make the outdoors accessible for everyone. With support from the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation, SCI and others, she plans to make outdoor wheelchairs available in every county in Wisconsin for anyone to use free to experience places outdoors that they could not otherwise visit."

Wargolet said the deer show's segments like that help communicate some of SCI's contributions to society. She again praised chapter member Rick Rollo and supporters of Big Al's Charity Pheasant Hunt, an annual fundraiser in memory of his late father who fought cancer for 10 years. Proceeds from the event support humanitarian efforts through the SCI Wisconsin Chapter. Rollo, in turn, praised the event's supporters.

"As a bonus, we expect it might also improve the lives of some people who see the disabled hunter segment and learn for the first time about the special outdoor wheelchairs and then take advantage of their free use," said SCI Foundation's American Wilderness Leadership School graduate Kari Strang of the Outdoor Heritage Education Center, which hosts an Access Ability Wisconsin free chair for Grant and Lafayette Counties.

Deer Hunt Wisconsin viewers in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and the Dakotas, this year also will see segments that include Mark LaBarbera's CWD deer, shed antler hunting tips, a successful mentored crossbow hunt, Michael Murphy's treestand tips from Whitetail Sanctuary Solutions, new rules, season dates and hunting opportunities, plus a region-by-region forecast for this year's firearms deer season. As always, the program will deliver a strong safety message for all hunters. This year's program also covers the tradition of deer hunting, the joys of mentoring new hunters and an important update on chronic wasting disease (CWD).

Segments and entire show will be posted in early November <https://www.youtube.com/deerhuntwisconsin>.

Dan and Mark said they welcome other chapters and business owners who may want to share in all of the publicity and help support this important effort. They also are again inviting SCI members to submit quality Wisconsin deer hunting video footage ranging from camp life, mentoring, unique deer stands, and wild deer footage to complete hunting and shooting sequences. If you have such footage and would like to see it in next year's show, give Mark a heads up at wiscimag@peoplepc.com

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Wild Eagle Lodge
Official Host Location of DHW TV 2021

Hunt Report:

Austin Does It Again

by Mark LaBarbera

It pays to have friends. Take for example Mike Austin and his friend Kevin Casey.

Mike has worked for Vortex Optics, a long-time sponsor of "Deer Hunt Wisconsin" TV, for a long time. He was instrumental in Vortex's move from Middleton to Barneveld, Wisconsin, guiding the successful expansion of its state-of-the-art facilities. Everyone at Vortex knows that Mike gets things done.

In the last two years, Kevin Casey also discovered that Mike gets things done in the deer woods, too.

Casey, the retired funeral director from Southwest Wisconsin, has dedicated a lot of time and resources to building whitetail heaven-on-earth near his home, as well as on his other acreage in Iowa. He has created food plots, waterholes, trails and forest habitat that holds deer. He has placed treestands and blinds in locations that cover the gamut of wind and weather conditions, as well as changes in deer patterns. He can tell you which stand would be most likely to be productive tomorrow based on the weather forecast.

And he loves sharing his knowledge and his property with family and friends.

Mike Austin is one of those friends. In 2020, Mike took a nice buck on Casey's Iowa property. A couple months ago, in November 2021, Mike did it again.

"With Kevin's help," Mike says gratefully, "I've taken two nice bucks in two years and in less than six hours total. Now, trophy does are another subject. I've sat five days in two years and have yet to see one!"

Here's a photo of Vortex's Mike Austin with his 2021 Iowa buck. Yes, it pays to have friends, and to be a good hunter. Congratulations, Mike and Kevin!



Kevin Casey also had success.

A Son's Tribute

by Justin Loehrke

Writing and delivering a tribute to Dad was one of the toughest tasks I have completed in a while, but it was an honor and privilege to talk about a man that meant so much to so many.

My name is Justin Loehrke, Mike's oldest son for those that don't know me. I would like to start by thanking all the friends and family that have taken time to join us in his celebration today. I will admit Christmas hymns in November at a funeral might be unique combination, but my father was a unique man that wasn't afraid to do things his own way.

Dad wore many different hats during his time here—son, brother, husband,



father, nephew, uncle, grandpa, friend and numerous others along the way. He enjoyed the simple things in life and no matter the hat he was wearing, he lived life to the fullest. He understood tomorrow wasn't promised so he raced through life at full speed. He always kept a smile on his face. He loved life, served others, and made a lifetime of memories with those around him.

Growing up on a dairy farm, he quickly learned the value of a hard day's work. A place where his half days consisted of 12 hrs. Many times, his late-night socializing would bring him

home just in time to head to the barn to milk cows in the morning.

He was grounded by his faith and surrounded by a strong community of friends and family. This perfect environment allowed himself to become addicted to helping others. Later in life, he would have the opportunity to instill some of those same lessons in his four kids on the Loehrke Family Farm Market.

Dad also developed a competitive side early in life. So later in life when his aunt Gertie would joke she was racing Dad to heaven, we all knew who would win that race. After all, childhood friend Mike Koplien was no match in their tree climbing competition. But it was until the race down the tree, that those in attendance found out just how competitive Dad was and how far he was willing to go to win. After Mike Koplien started his descent, Dad proceeded to let go of the tree and came crashing down in a pile of pine boughs and tattered pants to claim victory.

In high school, the # 1 ranked wrestler, Randy Osborne, would learn just how competitive Dad had become. No odds would be too great for a man willing to empty the tank while holding the pedal to the floor. A gymnasium full of wrestling fans would rise to their feet, as the clock ticked down, and the upset was complete.

Somewhere along the line, the competitiveness and addiction to help others started to blend perfectly together. It was like he was in a deep competition with himself to see just how many folks he could help and just how many lives he could touch. And folks didn't need to ask, for him to show up. Top of that list were his kids and family, but very few around him were spared from his generosity. If it had anything to do with family, food, farming, trees, cards or hunting, he was going to be there.

One year, I was at a friend's house and I had a large oak tree fall on my truck during a storm. In my conversation with my Dad that evening, I had mentioned that I wouldn't be home until the next day. We needed to milk cows and get the tree cut up so the

milkman could get in the yard. At 5AM as we were getting ready to head out to the barn, we were startled by the sound of a chainsaw. There was Dad getting a head-start on cutting up the tree.

Even long after the farm market was gone, Dad would always keep track on when the strawberries were ripening around town and see if the kids were coming around to pick some. One



year, Mel mentioned she was busy with life and unsure if she would have time to pick. The next day Dad showed up at 7:30 with 6 flats of strawberries at her house, never mind the 3-hour commute to get there. His cousin Sherry sarcastically asked Mel on her Facebook post if Dad needed her address, and two days later he showed up at her house with a flat of strawberries too. You had to be careful with what you said around him or he would take it as a request for help.

But I will say the strawberries were no match for his potato runs, he filled his trunk, back seat, and front seat. I am not sure he could fit another 50lb box of spuds in his little car, unless he put them on the rooftop. Thankfully no one else needed potatoes or he would have tried. It is not like he ever went down the road overloaded. He truly found joy in delivering them all. Food and in this case potatoes, was his way

for him to stay connected with those he cared about.

Last, new friends and in-laws were not spared from his generosity. The year Mel was going to get married, Dad had heard through the grapevine that her future FIL Dennis was planning on planting 15,000 trees in 3 days. Without being asked and after working a twelve-hour shift, he jumped in his vehicle and drove the 2.5 hours to show up unexpectedly in Fennimore. He walked across the field, kicked Steve off the planter and planted until he had just enough time to drive back

and work another 12-hour shift in the mill. Dad always joked he would have enough time to rest when he died.

Speaking of death, the only time I saw Dad fearful of the idea, was when it looked like he would beat Mom to heaven. Sitting in the hospital after receiving bad news, he joked he was going to beat her there after all. But you could tell in his voice, his mind was made up, this was a battle he would lose if given the choice.

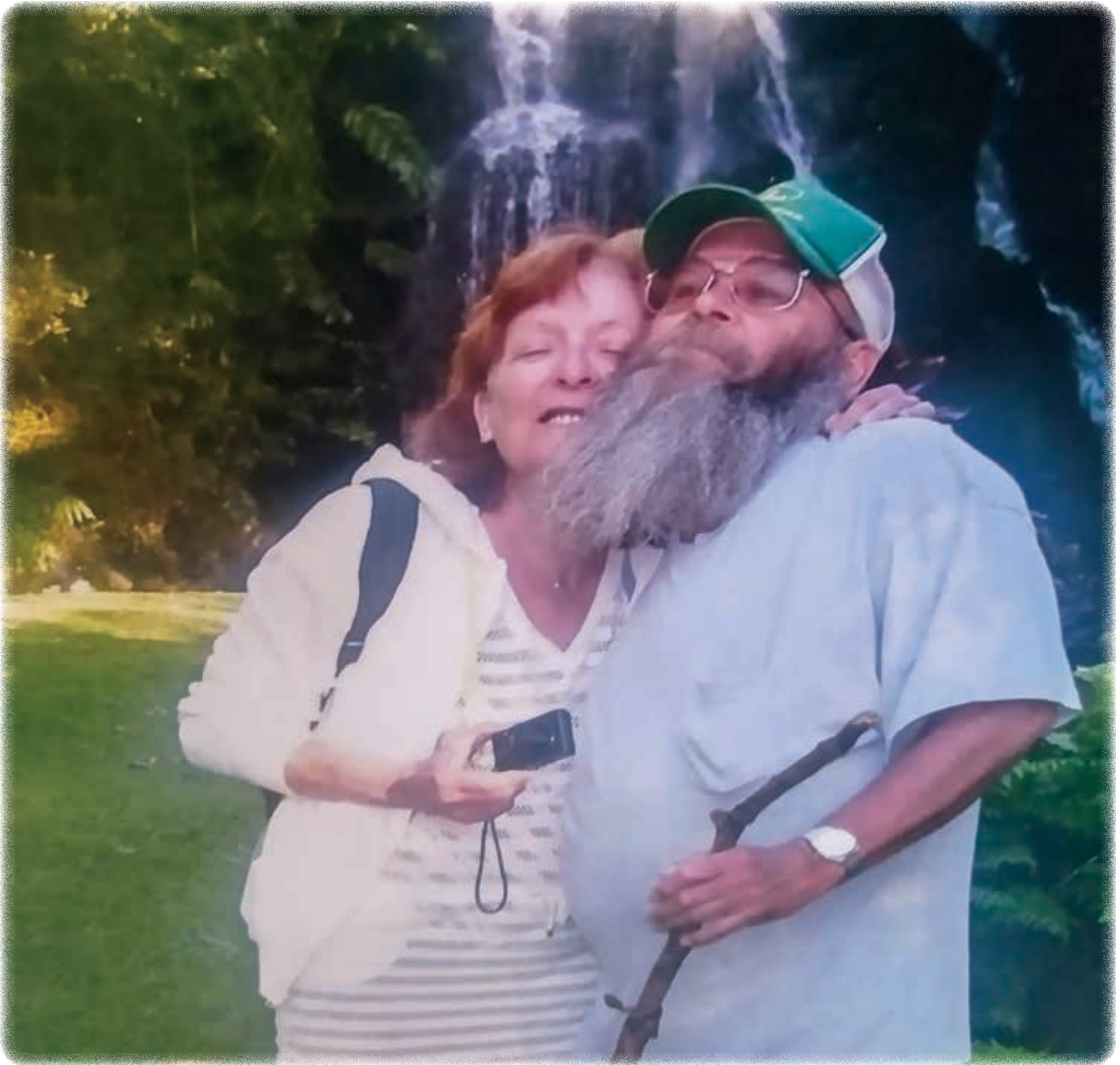
But he was willing to risk it all if it gave him any chance to be there to

take care of mom the at the end. Not only was he able to survive against the low odds of risky surgery, he healed fast enough to be there to take care of Mom in her final year.

Dad's actions in life remind me of Galatians Chapter 6 verse 9

"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

Thanks for never, ever giving up Dad. Give Mom, Grandpa, and Grandma a hug from all of us. Now you can rest in Peace, your work here is done. I love you Dad!





Hunt Report: South African Safari

by Michael Kroenke

Four years in the making, our safari with Dawie Kemp Safaris in Limpopo Province, South Africa in August 2021 could not have been more rewarding.

With friend Ross Langhurst of Shawano, Wisconsin, we were successful in harvesting a record nyala and two record bush bucks, as well as a trophy eland, sable and impala. We also toured Kruger National Wildlife Park, viewing magnificent big game, and ending the safari by traveling to Victoria Falls National Park in Zimbabwe, one of the seven natural wonders of the world.

Navigating the COVID testing and protocols proved to be a challenge. We were tested 6 times before and during our travels and had to show evidence of COVID vaccinations at each stop along our journey. But most challenging was being directed to alternate flights on our 33-hour travel times both to Johannesburg, South Africa and back to Green Bay, Wisconsin. Our initial flight to Chicago from Green Bay was delayed due to a storm in Chicago and we were subsequently rebooked

through Amsterdam which caused a delay to Johannesburg which caused changes to our safari itinerary. But Awie Kemp, Dawie's father and founder of Kemp Safaris, picked us up from a late flight in Johannesburg as promised, settled us in his home in Pretoria and provided a safe and inviting experience throughout our stay.

On our flight back from Zimbabwe at the conclusion of our safari we experienced the effects of Hurricane Ida and were re-directed to Pennsylvania, but eventually made it back to Green Bay.

Despite flight disruptions we had outstanding experiences during our hunting and sightseeing excursions. Dawie Kemp guided us throughout our time in South Africa and made all of the necessary arrangements for our plains game hunting in Limpopo Province, South Africa and our sightseeing adventures in Kruger and Victoria National Parks. While hunting in South Africa, we stayed at the Horizon Lodge with hosts Marco and Fran du Plessis who provided exceptional accommodations and guest experiences. The traditional ranch-style home was in the family for multiple generations. It was

located in a quiet and scenic location overlooking mountains and a grassy field. The bedrooms and eating areas were accessible to the outside and provided the privacy we enjoyed. The meals were superbly prepared and presented by Fran. In the evenings we ate the wild game we harvested the day before. We sat around a campfire where we shared our days hunting experiences with our guides, hosts and fellow hunters, a father and son from Pennsylvania.

We hunted more than 10,000 acres, including three different locations. We traveled in open four-wheeled drive trucks with seats behind the cab and elevated to accommodate the spotting of wildlife.

The habitat was hilly terrain with small streams, brush and intermittent trees. We hunted in August, which is the South African spring-time season. Leaves were just emerging so game spotting was made easier than other times of the year. We would spot the game from the vehicles and then stalk on foot for a good shot once the animal was spotted. Binoculars were in constant use.



Dawie, Awie and Matt

Dawie provided me with the gun I preferred, his father's older model 30-06 with a modern day, high-powered scope. We would be up at daybreak. And after a hardy breakfast at our lodge, we would travel to our hunting locations and work the back trails traveling for miles until game was spotted. Temperatures were in the 50's during the early hours and rose to the 70's during the day.

Hunting was at times challenging. To capture the trophy nyala, we descended 500' on foot off a steep and rocky mountainside where I stumbled and nearly sprained my ankle. When seeing a group of nyala and stalking for a good shot at a beautiful bull, I could feel my heart beat accelerate and my legs tremble. Finally, Dawie set up the shooting sticks and I was able to deliver killing shots. This was a dream come true, and Dawie, Ross and myself each marveled at such a beautiful animal that lay before us and that I was blessed to have harvested.

The second day of our hunt I wounded a trophy sable which we spotted and stalked. I pulled slightly right due to two small trees in my cross-hairs, missing the kill area by inches. But we were able to harvest the beautiful trophy animal only after pursuit by Marco's terrier dog who helped trail the animal and Marco providing the finishing shot. I was disappointed in myself for not completing a killing shot, but also very thankful for the diligence of Marco in his pursuit of the animal and finishing shot.

The remainder of the hunting safari was the fulfillment of a life-long dream to complete a South African spiral horned grand slam which I accomplished by also harvesting a trophy bushbuck and eland on this safari. And the fourth animal to complete the grand slam was a trophy kudu, which was taken in 2017, also with Dawie Kemp Safaris and my wife Sally.



My hunting companion this year, Ross Langhurst, was also successful with harvesting a trophy bushbuck and trophy impala, to finish off a very successful hunting safari.

Both Ross and I were very satisfied with our hunting and sightseeing safari with Dawie Kemp. We would highly recommend him as a guide and outfitter. Sally and I first met Dawie at the Green Bay, Northeast Wisconsin Chapter of Safari Club expo or convention in 2015 and listened to his seminar regarding his South African safari

offerings. Sally and I had a wonderful safari experience with Dawie in 2017. It was only a dream at the time, but now, six years and two safaris with Dawie later, I can only say some of my lifelong dreams have been fulfilled. And now, I only dream of another time ahead.

As my good friend and hunting companion Bob Langjahr told me on our first hunting safari in South Africa, "Once you've been hunting in South Africa, you always want to go back for more."



Trophy Eland with Ross Langhurst, Dawie Kemp and Tracker & Skinner Marco du Plessis

CWD

New legislation could provide the funding and research needed to fight deer disease

by Drew YoungeDyke

It seems to never fail in recent years that as Halloween approaches, someone writes about “zombie deer” in regards to Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), which affects cervids like deer, elk, and moose. As a deer hunter who cares deeply about the conservation of the species I hunt, I cringe every time I read this, as deer do not turn into zombies and trivializing the disease does little to stop it. The new bipartisan CWD Management and Research Act, though, could help with what is really needed to combat CWD: research and funding.

Chronic wasting disease (CWD) is a serious issue affecting wildlife and it

has no easy solutions. CWD is a prion disease, related to “mad cow disease,” that leaves cervids like deer, elk, and moose emaciated, wasting away. It is always deadly, either directly or through the effects of its symptoms, though wildlife can be infected and spread the disease long before they show symptoms.

While it has not jumped the species barrier to humans yet, people are advised not to eat the meat of a deer or elk infected by CWD. Hunters in areas positive for CWD should test their game before cooking it. As the disease spreads, these concerns could also depress the hunting participation that pays for the bulk of wildlife

conservation efforts. It will take scientific research into how its spread and funding for strapped state wildlife agencies trying to manage it. And that’s exactly what the recently-introduced bipartisan CWD Research and Management Act would provide.

CWD Research and Management Act

The Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act (HR 5608) authorizes \$70 million annually in CWD funding, split evenly between management funding to be granted out to state wildlife and agriculture agencies and tribal nations, and funding for CWD applied research grants administered by the USDA. It was introduced

by Reps. Ron Kind (D-Wis.) and Glenn Thompson (R-Pa.) and has already passed the House Agriculture Committee.

“Southwest Wisconsin has been ground zero for CWD in whitetail deer country for 20 years,” said Doug Duren, a southwest Wisconsin farmer and deer hunter who organized a carcass disposal program to reduce the spread of CWD. “For a variety of reasons, the disease continues to spread and grow in prevalence. In parts of the area prevalence has grown to 50% or more in bucks. Several counties are seeing 20-25% positive rates in all deer tested. Deer numbers are still high in many areas, but as disease prevalence grows, the deer herd is and will trend younger. We need to work on Healthy Deer Management and ensure this resource for the future.”

The management section of the act will prioritize funding where incidence of CWD is the highest, where jurisdictions have the highest financial commitment to managing, monitoring, surveying, and researching CWD, for efforts to develop comprehensive CWD management plans, to areas showing the greatest risk for initial occurrences of CWD, and to areas responding to new outbreaks of CWD.

“Although many hunters and concerned citizens have worked creatively and cooperatively with Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to fight the disease by providing carcass disposal dumpsters, convenient testing drop-off kiosks and education on CWD, efforts have been limited by funding,” said Duren. “To fight CWD we need to ‘Buy time and Pay for science’ and the new funding included in the CWD Research and Management Act will help scientists, game managers, hunters and the public do just that.”

The research section will be administered by the USDA through cooperative agreements and prioritize methods to test CWD in live deer and the environment, testing methods on non-live cervids, genetic resistance to CWD, sustainable cervid harvest management practices to reduce CWD occurrence, and factors contributing to local occurrence of CWD.

The National Wildlife Federation adopted a resolution in 2017 calling for



the creation of a federal Fish and Wildlife Disease Trust Fund to respond to wildlife diseases like CWD to provide rapid response funding to states for fish and wildlife disease outbreaks..

“Chronic wasting disease is one of the greatest threats facing deer, elk, and moose populations across the country, jeopardizing hunting opportunities, ecosystems, and our nation’s outdoor economy,” said Mike Leahy, director for wildlife, hunting, and fishing policy for the National Wildlife Federation. “We are grateful for Representatives Kind and Thompson’s steadfast leadership on this critical issue. The bipartisan Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act will help ensure state and Tribal agencies on the front lines of controlling this disease have the resources they need to better understand and stop its spread.”

As a deer hunter living in a state with CWD, I’m encouraged that real solutions and funding are advancing. I’m looking forward to deer camp each November, hopefully harvesting some venison, and having the deer tested for CWD to ensure that it’s safe to eat.

Research and management funding is what our deer and elk need, not sensational headlines about “zombie deer.” The real effects of CWD are scary enough.



Drew YoungeDyke is the Director of Conservation Partnerships for the National Wildlife Federation Great Lakes Regional Center



Prep Now

SCI members use these preseason land preparation tips from Whitetail Sanctuary Solutions to score on that trophy buck in 2022

by Michael Murphy

Use this off-season to improve your hunting property so you have everything you need in 2022 to land that trophy buck! Here are some things you can do in winter, spring, and summer to prepare and improve your chances for the fall hunt in 2022.

Predator Control

Depending on the location of the property you may have more predators than other parts of the state. Wolves, black bears, bobcats, and coyotes can all have a large effect on local deer populations. Black bears, bobcats, and coyotes will also have a very large impact on fawns.

Coyotes can be hunted year-round in Wisconsin with a small game license (and for the most part day or night). Check regulations if you are hunting public land.

Bobcats require a special permitting system. Harvest permits are through a lottery system. To obtain a permit you must submit an application by the annual deadline and be a drawing winner.

Black bears are thriving in Wisconsin and expanding their range throughout the state. Last year, there were 11,535 Black Bear harvest permits available. Check the Wisconsin DNR website for details on applying for a Black bear permit.

Controlling the predator population is critical to maintaining a thriving deer population on your property.

Site Clearing for Internal Food Plots

Winter is a great time to clear those spots on your property for internal food plots. These should be located near bedding areas and new stand locations. Internal food plots are small (6,500 sq. ft.) and located where the deer and big bucks are living (bedding areas).

Cut down trees to open the canopy and use these trees to create new bedding areas by stacking the logs in a triangular shape. Depending on the size of the tree, you can stack three logs on the bottom, then two logs, and one log on the top (no more than the height of a laying down deer). This allows bedding deer to have a 360-degree view. Next, take the tree-tops and cantilever them over the stacked logs to create the perfect cover for your bedding deer. Now, not only will have more attractions (food and bedding), but also more new stand locations.

Switch Grass Frost Seeding

The best time of the year to plant Switch Grass (use *Cave in the Rock Switch Grass Seed*) is when it can be frost seeded. The ground must be clear of weeds, bare soil, and preferably with one to two inches of snow. Switch Grass has a thick husk around the seed. By planting in late February or early March this will allow the moisture of the melting snow to soften the husk and get an early germination in spring, so you have a thick stand of Switch Grass your first fall after planting.

Soil Preparation for Fall Food Plots

If you are creating new food plot locations, plan on doing clearing work in spring before early May. New food plots will require clearing the area of trees to open the canopy (needed for sunlight). Next, take soil samples in order to receive correct PH levels of the soil. Correcting PH levels of the soil will maximize the production of your new food plots. In addition, weed control should be done with two separate applications to kill all weeds prior to planting the food plots in early fall. Do not plant your food plots until a minimum of two weeks after applying weed control. I prefer three weeks wait

time to plant especially if the ground is dry. This will ensure that the residual chemicals will not negatively affect germination of the food plot seed.

Food Plot Planting

Food plots should not be planted until mid-August to early September (unless planting corn or beans).

Why?

Deer have plenty to eat at that time, and instead you will be creating a needed food source for fall and winter. Another reason to not plant in summer is there is a possible risk of drought (lack of rain), which would result in poor production.

Use seed with high protein levels to create a stronger deer herd and improved genetics.

Water Sources

If you do not have a water source, create one! You don't want deer leaving your property to find water. If you have an intermittent stream or a ravine—dig some pools and/or bury some cattle tanks to hold the water.

If you don't have any potential water on your property you can buy a 700 gallon, 8' diameter, 2' deep, weight = 176 lbs. galvanized cattle water tank at Tractor Supply for about \$425. In most summers you can fill this just one or two times and it will keep a water supply for the deer. This will keep deer on your property.

Make these changes and you will be improving your chances in 2022 to land that trophy buck!

I would be happy to provide an individualized plan of your property to attract and retain trophy bucks on your property! Happy and safe hunting from your SCI fellow member at whitetail-sanctuarysolutions.com.

 **Whitetail
Sanctuary Solutions, LLC**





Be a Mentor

It's easier than ever to introduce someone new to hunting in Wisconsin. Anyone can now obtain a mentored-only hunting license and hunt without first completing a hunter education course.

They must be accompanied by a licensed hunter (mentor), hunt within arm's reach of the mentor and follow other rules. Such mentored hunts remove barriers to hunting yet still allow people to safely experience hunting in a highly controlled manner. There are other ways people can Learn to Hunt in Wisconsin, too.

This one-on-one mentoring opportunity gives first-time hunters a chance to try hunting and enables veteran hunters to share their passion for the outdoors and help keep Wisconsin's hunting heritage strong.

A mentee may be either:

1. Any person under age 12, regardless of whether they have completed a required hunter education course.
2. Any other person who has not completed a required hunter education course, and is not exempt* from the hunter education requirement.

A mentor is an individual who meets all of the following requirements.

1. Age 18 or older.
2. Is the mentee's parent or guardian, or has the permission of the mentee's parent or guardian. This does not apply if the mentee is age 18 or older.
3. Has completed a required hunter education course, or is otherwise exempt* from

the hunter education requirement.

The following are exempt from the hunter education requirement:

- any individual born before Jan. 1, 1973;
- any individual who has successfully completed U.S. armed forces basic training and submitted evidence to DNR; or
- any individual who has successfully completed a recognized hunter education course in another state, province or country and submitted evidence to DNR.

RULES FOR MENTEE

1. Must have all required hunting approvals for the applicable season (license, permit, tag, etc).
2. Must remain within arm's reach of the mentor.
3. Must comply with all other hunting laws, including season, bag limit and weapon regulations. Youth under age 18 are not permitted to possess or use handguns for hunting.

RULES FOR MENTOR

1. Must have any valid, non-expired Wisconsin hunting approval, regardless of the type of game pursued by the mentee.
2. Must remain within arm's reach of the mentee.
3. Must ensure compliance with all other hunting laws, including season, bag limit and weapon regulations. If also hunting and/or attempting to harvest game while mentoring, has all required hunting approvals for the applicable season (license, permit, tag, etc).
4. A mentor may not use any deer harvest authorizations issued to the mentee.
5. Must only serve as a mentor for one mentee at a time.

A hunter with any valid hunting approval who is assisting in a mentored hunting situation or assisting a person who is 17 or younger may kill an animal

that has been shot and wounded by a youth or mentored hunter if:

- the youth or mentee wounded the animal while hunting with the accompanying hunter;
- the youth or mentee asks the accompanying hunter to kill the wounded animal; and
- the accompanying hunter uses a type of weapon authorized for use by the youth or mentee during the hunting season in which the youth/mentee is hunting.

A harvested animal counts toward the bag limit of the youth or mentee who wounded the animal.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Discounted youth licenses are available for those under age 12.
- Any individual purchasing a hunting approval must have completed the required hunter education course, or otherwise, be exempt from the hunter education requirement. Completion of a hunter education course authorizes the purchase and use of all eligible hunting approvals. Completion of a bowhunter education course only authorizes the purchase and use of archer or crossbow hunting approvals. Individuals that do not meet these requirements may only purchase a hunting approval valid for use under the Mentored Hunting Program rules. These restricted licenses will indicate "mentored."
- Certain youth hunts establish additional accompaniment restrictions; see the appropriate regulation pamphlet for more information.
- There is no limit on the number of times that any individual can hunt as a mentee.
- The Wisconsin DNR hunter education curriculum is written at a sixth-grade level (11-12-year-old); parents ultimately decide whether their child is capable of successfully meeting the requirements of a Wisconsin hunter education course.

Photo Left: Young Michael Terpstra got an A+ last month for tracking and dragging.

Open Letter to SCI Members & Others Who Hunt in Wisconsin: Demand No Shortcuts to Safe Hunting in Wisconsin

This is a Call to Action! As dedicated hunters, firearm owners and conservationists your help is needed to stop Senate Bill 611 and Assembly Bill 670! We can no longer be the "Silent Majority!" If allowed to pass

SB-611 will dramatically transform and significantly undermine the integrity of the Wisconsin Hunter Safety programs as we know it.

SB-611 bill provides that an individual may satisfy the in-person field testing requirement of the Wisconsin Hunter Safety program by participating in a mentored hunt. This will allow adults, without any Hunter Education Instructor certi-

fications, to mentor a new hunter as a replacement for the hands-on training that has made our Hunter Education Program an amazing success. If SB-611 passes, anybody over the age of 18 who may have never taken Hunters Education, or only completed the online

portion of the course, will now be "qualified" to mentor a youth hunter in the field. SB-611 substitutes a one-time mentored hunt for the hours of educational and safety benefit a person receives from face to face, hands on training and evaluation administered and supervised by today's certified Hunter Education Instructors. SB-611 proposes that after the mentored hunt, a person of any age is authorized and certified to start hunting, unsupervised, for the rest of their hunting career. Unlike Wisconsin's current online and traditional (face-to-face) Hunter Education courses that take a standardized approach to education and safety through prepared curriculum, coursework, set periods of instruction, and an established instructor certification and re-certification process, SB-611 offers no continuity or consistency in teaching methods, no requirements for standardized hands-on training, and no means by which to report successful completion to the Department of Natural Resources. SB-611 will reset the clock to the 1950s and 1960s – a giant step



backwards – to a time before Wisconsin's very successful Hunter Education program was created to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities caused by unsafe hunting practices.

SB-611 was introduced and did not follow traditional bill creation practices. They did not solicit input from the Wisconsin Conservation Congress, conservation groups, clubs, or other concerned citizens who could have provided valuable input to point legislators in the right direction and build support among Wisconsin hunters and voters.

This attempt at short-changing the safety and education gained from Wisconsin's traditional and online Hunter Education courses appears to be in direct response to the disruption of classes created when response to COVID-19, the DNR canceled in person opportunities for proper training.

As the pandemic subsides, we have the chance to retain and restore Wisconsin's successful Hunter Education program and to continue providing effective safety training.

Now, more than ever, we must help our legislators understand our desires and Wisconsin's desire for safe outdoor recreation opportunities by informing them of our concerns and our opposition to SB-611. From 1956 to 1966 the DNR investigated on average 174 hunting incidents, including 17 deaths, per year. Hunter education began in 1967 and due to the work of over 17,000 volunteer hunter education instructors, Wisconsinites witnessed hunting-related injuries and deaths plummet to 21 hunting incidents, with an average of 1.8 deaths, per year. We need to demand that our legislators create a better Bill that maintains the effectiveness and builds upon the proven success of the Hunters Education Program.

Parents and guardians, we know you realize the importance of recruiting new hunters and conservationists to continue Wisconsin's hunting heritage, and



that you want to ensure they receive the proper training, tools, and evaluations they will need to be successful. We also know that, beyond all else, you want your new hunters, and those surrounding them to be safe.

It is our responsibility and duty to ensure that hunters on state and private lands have the knowledge and skill- sets, to be safe and to be responsible for their safety and for that of others. Wisconsin's residents expect this.

In an effort to counteract the proposals to eliminate hands on training there has been action taken by Senator Duey Stroebel and Representative Mark Born. Both are sponsoring bills in the Senate and Assembly. Senate Bill 683 and Assembly Bill 690 both include the following to create statutes relating to hunter education requirements for persons under the age of 18:

The DNR shall offer an in-person and online course of instruction under the hunter education program to persons under the age of 18. The DNR shall require persons under the age of 18 to attend an in-person field training session and complete a certification exam following completion of the in-person or online course of instruction. The DNR shall promulgate rules establishing the curriculum, length, and fee for the courses of instruction offered under this paragraph.

We urge you to contact your State Representatives and Senators and let them know you oppose SB 611 because it weakens Wisconsin's Hunters Education program, especially for the youngest hunters. We ask you to request they support SB-683 and AB-690.

To contact your representatives, log onto <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/> and enter your address and information. Let them know that you oppose SB-611 and that you support SB683 and AB690 to maintain a strong and effective Hunters Education Program in OUR State, and that as your elected representative, you expect them to do the same.

Respectfully,
Wisconsin Hunter Education Coalition
John J. Plenke, Chair
jplenke@wi.rr.com



The author met with Rep. Mark Born, hunter education leader Ray Anderson, and SCI Life Member Mark LaBarbera to discuss the importance and effectiveness of in-person training.

All Mentored Hunts Are Not Equal

Advocates for allowing anyone to "mentor" a new hunter and certify them as safe have been telling legislators and the media that 150,000 people have gone on mentored hunts without incident. They imply that those "mentors" are the same as the mentors that will be covered by this proposed legislation. But that is misleading because they are not the same.

Most of those 150,000 students from Learn to Hunt events were mentored by trained instructors, outdoor skills teachers, conservation group volunteers who have been taking students hunting for years, and others who themselves were certified as safe hunters after hours, weeks or years of in-person training and in the field experience.

The bad law being proposed would allow someone who only

took the on-line course to in turn be a "mentor" and not even be required to show that either of them knows how to safely handle a gun, work the action, or prove that they'd not be a risk to SCI members and other experienced hunters in the woods.

The difference between those two types of mentors would be like the difference between having the safety on or the safety off!

In Memoriam:
Jean Dohnal

When I was growing up in West Allis, all of us neighborhood kids would hike or bike to Larry's Rexall Drugs on Greenfield Avenue to spend the few coins in our pocket on candy, pop or baseball cards with gum. That's where I first met SCI member Bob Dohnal, our local pharmacist.

"One of the things that always impressed me about him," my 94-year-old mother Betty recently recalled, "was that he remembered everyone's names and greeted you with a friendly smile."

Years later, I was at a sport show and felt a tap on my shoulder.

"You probably don't recognize me," said the tall, grey-haired gentleman.

I paused and pondered as I looked at his familiar face. The brain works in mysterious ways. Even though it had been decades since we last saw each other, something connected in the far reaches of my memory, and I said, "Bob Dohnal."

We shared a common interest in hunting and in media. The conversation came easily, and before long he invited me to join him on his annual waterfowl hunt on the Mississippi River near Stoddard.

Jean E. Dohnal (nee Buckley): Jean passed to Eternal Life, Monday, November 22, 2021, age 78 years. Beloved wife of Robert. Loving mother of David (Kim) Dohnal, Darcie (Anton) Dohnal-Sharapova, Cari (Ryan) Mackey, Brett (Kim) Dohnal, and Kevin (Sheena) Dohnal. Cherished grandmother of Tori Vanhooser, Alek Sharapov, Nadia Sharapova, Evelyn Sharapova, Harley Dohnal, and Robert Dohnal. Sister of Tom (Vicky) Buckley and Mike (Vicki) Buckley. Sister-in-law of the late Joan (Frank) Kneeland. Also survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives with many friends. She was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother. Jean enjoyed an active life in politics and sports while supporting her children competing in speedskating and cycling. She and her husband were tireless community organizers for the Republican Party as well as publishers of the Wisconsin Conservative Digest, the largest conservative organization in the state of Wisconsin, since 1995. They were state leaders in the conservative movement since 1964 and organized the Conservative Political Education Conference over the last 20 years. They were also founders of the world famous 'Chicken Burn' which has just celebrated its 52 year anniversary. Her vibrant light and loving personality will be missed in the political and athletic circles of Wisconsin.



That fall, when I checked in at the Safe Landing Motel, Bob was there with his lovely wife, Jean, and we began an annual tradition that including dining the night before the hunt.

I looked forward to the get-togethers where I learned more about Jean's passion for teaching and education.

Like so many wonderful couples, her quiet strength and charm complemented her husband's personality and love of both hunting and conservative

politics. Jean was a third-grade teacher and proponent of childhood literacy. She was co-founder with Bob of the Wisconsin Conservative Digest and co-host to hundreds of guests for the annual "Chicken Burn" at their home in Wauwatosa. She did not hunt with us, but we spent time together before and after each hunt. She was smart, caring and articulate.

So, it was with deep sorrow that I learned that she died November 22, days before Thanksgiving.

As we mourn her passing, our thoughts are with Bob, our fellow member.

We will be thinking and praying for both of them during this holiday season and throughout the year, especially each waterfowl season and while in our deer stands during the firearms deer season that comes each Thanksgiving week.

In Jean's memory, the family asks that donations go to St. Marcus Lutheran School in Milwaukee (<https://www.stmarcus.org/giving/school/how-to-give>).

In her honor, Bob is establishing the Jean Dohnal Award for Educational Excellence. It will be awarded on an annual basis for a person(s) or group that works on programs, provides ideas and/or achievements that lead to excellence in our educational systems in Wisconsin.

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HOW WILDLIFE IS THRIVING BECAUSE OF GUNS & HUNTING

Since the late 1930s, hunters, target shooters and the firearms industry have been the nation's **LARGEST** contributors to **conservation**, paying for programs that benefit America's wildlife and all who love the outdoors.

HOW IT WORKS



This System Has Provided
NEARLY \$9 Billion
For Conservation So Far

Where the Money Goes

Buy, develop, maintain and operate wildlife management areas



Research projects focused on wildlife conservation

Hunter safety and education programs



Construction and maintenance of public target shooting ranges

Quick History

- Early 1900s
As many wildlife species are dwindling in numbers or disappearing, firearms industry steps forward and asks Congress to redirect excise tax on sale of guns and ammo to help fund wildlife conservation.
- 1937
Congress passes and President Franklin D. Roosevelt signs the Pittman-Robertson Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act into law.
- 1938 to today:
Revenue from this act has purchased millions of acres of prime habitat that is maintained by state wildlife agencies. These lands, where game and non-game species flourish, are purchased with sportsmen's dollars but used by all Americans.

THEN & NOW

White Tailed Deer Population		
1900	500,000	32,000,000 TODAY
Ducks / Waterfowl Population		
1901	FEW	44,000,000 TODAY
Rocky Mountain Elk		
1907	41,000	1,000,000 TODAY
Wild Turkeys		
1900	100,000	7,000,000 TODAY
Pronghorn Antelope		
50 YEARS AGO	12,000	1,100,000 TODAY

OTHER WAYS SPORTSMEN CONTRIBUTE

Excise taxes combined with revenue from hunting and fishing license sales fund the majority of state wildlife agency budgets.



\$81 Million
CONTRIBUTED ANNUALLY

Duck stamp proceeds are used by the government to buy or lease wetland habitat for ducks, geese and hundreds of non-game birds and animals.

SOME HEROES OF THE MOST SUCCESSFUL CONSERVATION MODEL IN THE WORLD ARE:



Theodore Roosevelt



Aldo Leopold



Key Pittman



Willis Robertson