

ISSUE 5 - MAY 2025

TRACKER

MICHIGAN CHAPTER SCI

2025
CONVENTION
52 ISSUE

TOM
FOOLERY

LIBERTY
HUNT

KEEPING MICHIGAN
SAFARI MEMBERS
ON THE RIGHT TRACK

THE
ULTIMATE
TROPHY

**BIG
BUCK
NIGHT**

Working with SCI members since 1984
to create custom, creative and lifelike
taxidermy that preserves the
memory of your adventures.



Naber's
Taxidermy Inc.

616.455.2880

www.nabertaxidermy.com

34-76th St. SW • Grand Rapids, MI 49548

SCI'S PURPOSE AND INTENT

- A. To promote good fellowship among all who love the outdoors and hunting.
- B. To promote conservation of the world's renewable wildlife resources, recognizing hunting as one of the many management tools.
- C. To educate youth, sportsmen and the public in conservation of our wildlife and our forests, which are our natural heritage.
- D. To share our hunting experiences and information among our membership.
- E. To operate the association as a non-profit organization, consistent with its charitable purposes, while providing enjoyment for our members, always with the goal of helping to conserve the animals that we love to hunt today for those who will come to love the sport tomorrow.

SCI'S CODES OF ETHICS

Recognizing my responsibilities to wildlife, habitat and future generations, I pledge:

- A. To conduct myself in the field so as to make a positive contribution to wildlife and ecosystems.
- B. To improve my skills as a woodsman and marksman to ensure humane harvesting of wildlife.
- C. To comply with all game laws in the spirit of fair chase, and to influence my companions accordingly.
- D. To accept my responsibility to provide all possible assistance to game law enforcement officers.
- E. To waste no opportunity to teach young people the full meaning of this code of ethics.
- F. To reflect in word and behavior only credit upon the fraternity of sportsmen, and to demonstrate abiding respect for game, habitat and property where I am privileged to hunt.

SCI MASTER MEASURERS

Brent Arnson 1731 Holton Road, North Muskegon, MI 49445	(C) 231-744-8374
Jim Benton jim@jimbentontv.com	(C) 616-262-6190
Gary Bogner 1301 Central Avenue, North Muskegon, MI 49445	(H) 231-744-2665 Fax 231-744-6428
Jamie Flewelling 5089 North US 31, Scottville, MI 49454	(H) 231-845-2605 (W) 231-757-9589
Larry Higgins 1894 Kosiara Road, Gaylord, MI 49735	(H) 989-732-0728
David G. Kidder 5848 North Green Ave., Hesperia, MI 49421-9120	(H) 231-854-1390
Clark Lincoln 4335 W. Harrison, Alma, MI 48801	(H) 989-463-8794
Joe Pedersen 4133 Stone Valley Lane, Twin Lake, MI 49457	(C) 616-262-1468

SCI OFFICIAL SCORERS

Ron Johnson 1520 Como Lake Drive, Greenville, MI 48838	(H) 616-754-9732 Fax 616-754-9732
Jim Naber 34-76th Street SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49548	(W) 616-455-2880
Randy Wolfe 1360 N. Cedar Lane Rd., Scottville, MI 49454-9615	(W) 231-757-9589

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2023 - 2024

Dr. Michael Kwast - President drmike@ichiroclinics.com	616-822-4127
Stacey Platz - Vice President skoning0826@gmail.com	616-340-1714
Ron Grenadier - Treasurer grenadr@hotmail.com	574-612-8878
Bob Mills III - Secretary robert.e.mills@gmail.com	616-340-5735
Scott Bylsma grizz@bylsmanet.com	616-460-0019
Todd Cook toddjcook@outlook.com	616-318-0515
Don Dixon dixonofada@comcast.net	616-450-4644
Brandon Heyboer bheyboer@gmail.com	616-583-6353
Quincy Kwast quincy@ichiroclinics.com	616-262-3975
Todd Moelker trmoelker@gmail.com	616-889-1003
Jim Naber jnaber@naberstaxidermy.com	616-889-4202
Ron Northman captainron1216@gmail.com	616-402-9004
Jay Platz jayplatz22@gmail.com	616-485-3129
Scott Sieracki scott.sieracki@charter.net	616-443-3500
Larry Smith Lwsmith738@gmail.com	616-279-2926
Denny Sprick dlsprick@gmail.com	616-443-4403

Non-Michigan Board Members:

Michelle Ghareeb - Chapter Liaison mvghareeb@gmail.com	616-446-4743
--	--------------

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

JUNE 2023 - MAY 2024

Admin: Chair - Mike Kwast	Membership: Chair - Jim Naber
Awards and Recognition: Chair - Mike Kwast	Monthly Meetings: Co- Chair - Todd Moelker and Ron Northman
Bylaws: Chair - Dan Olson	Nominating: Chair - Jay Platz
Fundraising Events: Chair - Jay and Stacey Platz	Publications: Chair - Todd Moelker
Education-AWLS/MUCC/MIC: Chair - Larry Smith	Sensory Safari: Chair - Northmans
Guides & Outfitters: Chair - Todd Cook	Marketing/PR: Chair - Mike Kwast
Guns & Equipment: Co-Chairs - Larry Smith & Jay Platz	Sables: Chair - Quincy Kwast
Humanitarian Services: Chair - Denny Sprick	Youth: Chair - Bobby Mills

CONTENTS

PREZ SEZ	06
SCI CLOTHING	08
MAKING A DIFFERENCE	11
ANOTHER DAY AT THE RANGE	12
LIBERTY HUNT	16
CHRISTMAS PARTY	20
TOM FOOLERY	22
YOUTH NIGHT	26
MEMBER HUNTS	28
YOUTH PHEASANT HUNT	30
SCI CONVENTION RECAP	32
CAUGHT ON CAM	42



16 LIBERTY HUNT

This hunt, as most do, began it actually started much earlier it started about 7 years ago! It was a chance to go on a youth hunt at Hats Ranch in MI.



32 SCI CONVENTION RECAP





n well before sunrise. But
er than most! In fact, it
was at that time, I had the
t with Denny Sprick at Two



22

TOM FOOLERY

I aligned the crosshairs of the scope on the .308 just to the right of a branch that was obstructing the front of the lion's shoulder only sixty feet away.



11
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

EDITOR'S NOTES



Welcome to the Spring issue of the Tracker. By the time you're reading this, April showers will have transitioned to May flowers. Turkey season will be about half over and many of us will be working on food plots and habitat improvements on our hunting properties.

In this issue we celebrate another great fundraiser convention. A great time was had by all, but most importantly we raised more money for conservation, hunter's rights advocacy, and for the promotion of hunting! These funds make a difference right here in West Michigan, but also throughout our state, our nation, and across the world. THANK YOU to each one who made the fundraiser a great success.

In this issue you'll find a great story, by Greg Kurdys, about a mountain lion hunt and a Liberty hunt recollection by Jim Novitsky. Thanks Greg and Jim for your contributions to this issue! Check out the member trophy photos and some perfectly timed trail cam photos. We'd love to see your trophy photos and unique trail cam photos. We are also always interested in your hunting stories. Did you go on a trip of a lifetime or have an exceptional hunt here at home? Write a story about it, or if writing isn't your thing, give me a call and we can get it done together.

In this issue we also have updates on the many activities and events of the Michigan Chapter. Stay up to date and enjoy.

Please note that we do reserve the right, in our sole discretion, to edit or refuse any submission. If you would like to submit an article or pictures, please send them to me at: trmoelker@gmail.com or 5132 20th Ave Hudsonville, MI 49426 or call me at 616-889-1003.

Thank you,
Todd Moelker, Editor

Thank you to everyone who made our fundraiser a success! Below is a list of projects we supported last year:

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES!

\$41,067 SCI Wildlife Conservation & Hunter Right Support
\$20,000 Ivan Carter Wildlife Conservation Alliance
\$7,500 Guiding Influence
\$7,000 Quest Ministries
\$6,500 Powderhorn Charters - youth fishing charters
\$6,368 Colorado Wildlife Deserve Better – WE WON against the anti's!!!
\$5,800 MOOD TV
\$5,000 MSU Conservation Class - SCI MIC
\$5,000 Hunt 2 Heal
\$3,500 Outdoor Discovery Center
\$3,845 Youth Pheasant Hunt
\$3,000 Best Outdoors – in conjunction with Hunt 2 Heal
\$2,000 JD Vance Video with Ruthless TV
\$1,500 First Time Hunter Pledge
\$1,500 Michigan Ad - SCI MIC
\$1,500 2024 Support Donation - SCI MIC
\$500 Grad Grant - SCI MIC
\$500 Kent County Orange Crushers
\$150 Sportsmen for Youth Placemat Program
GRAND TOTAL
\$122,230

With our core mission to Preserve, Protect, and Promote hunting, there are many more projects we would like to support. The more funds we can raise, the bigger the difference we can make for hunting in our local and global destinations. SCI representatives and I will be heading to Washington, D.C. in May to meet with lawmakers. Our goal is to represent hunters and show how big our voice can be! In order to do this effectively, we need more members. The bigger we are, the more influence we have.

Here is how you can help:

1. Ensure your membership is up to date
2. Become a member or renew your membership
3. Recruit your hunting friends to become members
4. Volunteer to help at our events
5. Sponsor events
6. Find sponsors for our events
7. Bid and buy at our fundraiser

Thank you for helping us make a difference!

Dr. Michael Kwast

SCI Michigan President



ATTENTION SCI Michigan Members

Important information for our members such as chapter events, meetings and membership renewals will be emailed to every member that we have an email address for. If you didn't get an email reminder of our last meeting we do not have your email address. Please send your email to mvghareeb@gmail.com so we can get all of our emails on the list.

MICHIGAN CHAPTER UPCOMING EVENTS

Tuesday, April 29th Wild Game Dinner

The Red Bird Bistro & Grill

Thursday, May 8th

Member Dinner & Program

Wednesday, July 2nd

Member Night at the Whitecaps

Friday, August 8th

Member Challenge Shoot at Two Hats Ranch

Thursday, September 11th

Member Dinner & Program



ALERT INSPECTION SERVICES
Residential & Commercial

Put Our Experience to Work for Your Peace of Mind!

Todd Moelker
Inspector

616.662.6990 office
todd@alertinspections.com

616.889.1003 mobile
alertinspections.com

ASHI CERTIFIED INSPECTOR
COMMERCIAL BUILDING
STATE ENGINEERING
INSPECTION TRAINING



MACLEOD INSURANCE AGENCY

Specializing in Medicare Insurance
We have been helping seniors for over 35 years

Ronald & Kristy MacLeod Northman
Office (616) 847-9100 Cell 616-402-9004

324 Washington Avenue Suite 101 Grand Haven, MI 49417
Conveniently located INSIDE the Grand Haven Post Office

SPONSORSHIP FEE SCHEDULE THE TRACKER MAGAZINE

1 / 8 P age

3 5/8" x 2 3/16"

\$150.00 per year - same design full year

1 / 4 P age

3 5/8 x 4 3/4

\$300.00 per year - same design full year

1 / 2 P age

7 11/16" x 4 3/4" horizontal or

3 5/8" x 9 7/8" vertical

\$600.00 per year - same design full year

Full Page, Inside Front or Back Cover

7 11/16" x 10 3/16"

\$1100.00 per year - same design full year

*Billing cycle is January to January
with sponsorship cost pro-rated for
sponsorships starting during the year.*

To submit material to The Tracker:

Write: Todd Moelker,
5132 20th Ave.,
Hudsonville, MI 49426
E-Mail: trmoelker@gmail.com
Phone: 616-889-1003

*The Tracker magazine is published by
The Michigan Chapter of Safari Club
International.*

*The Tracker magazine can be viewed on
our official Michigan Chapter website by
friends and nonmembers. website: www.scimichigan.org*

CHECK IT OUT WE HAVE A NEW AND
GREATLY IMPROVED WEBSITE!

WWW.SCIMICHIGAN.ORG



RE/MAX
OF GRAND RAPIDS

Mike Moelker
616.690.7286
mike@gloverhomegroup.com
www.gloverhomegroup.com
3800 Lake Michigan Dr NW
Suite 102 Grand Rapids, MI

GLOVER HOME GROUP
RE/MAX of Grand Rapids | 616.791.0110
Each office independently owned and operated

SCI MI CLOTHING

Gear Up for the Wild

Bold, Functional, and Proudly Michigan

SCI MI Apparel for Every Hunter

AVAILABLE AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS AND CONVENTION

Pricing:

Hats: \$20

Sitka Fanatic Hoodies: \$110

Sitka Jetstream Vests: \$125
Men's and Women's sizes

Sitka Light Weight Long Sleeve: \$45
Men's and Women's sizes

T- Shirts: \$15

Black Button Up Shirts: \$35
Men's / Women's sizes

Under Armour Long Sleeve Shirts: \$10
Men's / Women's sizes





Bob Schautz
Associate Broker

Cell: 616-550-6968
Office: 616-949-6980
Email: bobschautz@grar.com
RE/MAX Hall of Fame

RE/MAX
SUNQUEST

6740 Cascade Road SE STE 4
Grand Rapids, MI 49546
Each Office is Independently Owned and Operated




PROVIDING SOLID PLANNING ADVICE AND DEDICATED SERVICE

AARON HOLLISTER, AAMS®
Financial Advisor

Active SCI Michigan Chapter Member



352 12th Street, Suite 12 | Plainwell, MI 49080
O 269.685.5000 | M 517.462.9086
firesidefinancialpartners.com

Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a
Registered Investment Advisor, member FINRA/SIPC.



SILVER CREEK
FIREARMS

PHONE: (231) 726-8100
EMAIL: SCFASales@gmail.com
WWW.SILVERCREEKFIREARMS.COM

**MANUFACTURER OF HIGH QUALITY
STAINLESS STEEL FIREARMS**

MADE IN USA

THE BUCK STOPS HERE



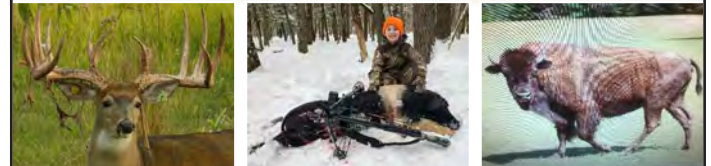
West Michigan
SHREDDING



616.662.8000



616-799-0689



SPECIALIZING IN: TROPHY HUNTING ADVENTURES

Whitetail Deer, Rocky Mountain Elk, Arctic Boar, Buffalo,
Fallow Deer, Sika Deer, Sheep and Rams

Ranch location:

22440 Cutler Rd., Howard City, MI

Send Mail To Office Location:

11318 21 Mile Rd., Sand Lake, MI 49343

Email: HiddenHornsGameRanch@hotmail.com

Call Brent Fisk: Cell (616) 799-0689

PRIME
ARCHERY



ACCURACY IS EVERYTHING

WWW.G5PRIME.COM



BERGARA
OUR BARRELS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE



We blew away
the 2024
numbers and
again set
another record.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

STORY BY PETE MIEDEMA

Well, all we can say is thank you, thank you, thank you to the fantastic vendors, outfitters and especially you, our members and supporters, of the West Michigan Bowhunters “WMBH,” who made this special event meaningful.

After the 2024 WMBH Convention Fundraiser, we as a board, were ecstatic with the final numbers. We had set a record again.

Now for the fun part of our job. We get to figure out how best to spend the money raised-- money that you so generously entrusted to us.

We have already committed support to a local National Archery in the Schools “NASP” archery team of young people. They are an incredible example to others for their faith and commitment to witness and excellence. We will also be involved in hunter education training, middle and high school bass fishing teams, wounded warriors, and disabled youth programs.

Please always remember, Safari Club International’s primary mantra is “FIRST FOR HUNTERS.”

The West Michigan Bowhunters have been working hard to bring the great outdoors to more people and conserve wildlife habitats.



ANOTHER DAY



“IN CASE YOU BOOKED ANY CONVENTION HUNTS.”

If you booked any hunts at recent conventions, you might wonder where to start and what to do next. Most African and New Zealand or Australian hunts will be taken during our summer, and the North American hunts next fall. If you are booking any hunt to take place yet this year, you are sure to go in the next 6 or 7 months, but if you booked for the next year, then you have much more time to think all these things through. If you bought a North American or New Zealand hunt, are you hunting deer or antelope-size species? Or will you be hunting elk, moose and red stag, which are much bigger? Now if you are going to Australia, they have some mighty big buffalo too! If you booked an African trip, what are you going to hunt? Perhaps a Cape Buffalo or any of the big five, then let's get the big stuff out of the way first. If you are fortunate enough to get to hunt Elephant, Rhino, Cape Buffalo, or Lion, you certainly need a large rifle. The legal minimum in most African countries is a .375 H&H magnum, but a .416 Remington or Rigby would be great, but the .458 Winchester or Lott is certainly applicable. If hunting plains game, which often includes kudu, gemsbok, warthogs, wildebeest, impala, and blesbok, etc., then any popular cartridge like a .270 Winchester on up is fine. Most folks just don't have a .458 Winchester or .416 Remington in their closet for a just-in-case hunt, so you really may need to go and buy one. Which one? Ah, I'm not touching

that one! There are plenty of out-of-the-box rifles that will do just fine, as well as custom guns costing many thousands of dollars. It's up to you and your budget. You do not need a large rifle for a leopard. What you do need is a rifle that you can shoot very well and hit a patch of leopard the size of a tennis ball every time. A great many leopards have been taken with the .270 Winchester and .30-06 Springfield class rifles, so there is no need for a big belted magnum cartridge for them. The most important fact for every animal you will hunt in the world is NOTHING BEATS FIRST-SHOT BULLET PLACEMENT. So now on to that new rifle you think you need. Unless you are going to need to acquire a .458 Winchester or Lott or .416 Remington or Rigby, odds are that you have a .30-06 Springfield, 7mm Remington magnum, .300 Winchester magnum or .300 WSM, maybe even a .338 Winchester magnum in the gun cabinet somewhere. Just pick the one you like and take it. It doesn't matter if you are hunting African plains game, or any one of the North American elk, moose or caribou; these calibers will work just fine. There is no reason that they will not work well for New Zealand stags too. It does not matter if you buy factory ammo or reload your own, choose the heavier weights of bullets available for any given caliber. An example would be in the .30-06 Springfield or .300 magnums, to use at least 165-grain bullets rather than the 150-grain loads you have

been using on deer. In the 7mm magnums, use only 160-grain or 175-grain bullets and relegate those 140-grain loads to deer and antelope. As you can see, I am really trying to give this the K. I. S. S., (Keep It Simple Stupid), treatment. Now go out and practice, practice, and practice some more and this does not mean shoot off the bench either. Use your .22 cal. for a while and get used to shooting offhand, leaning against a tree, sitting and kneeling or off two- or three-legged sticks. When you decide what gun and ammo you are taking, take the time to

RUN EVERY ROUND THROUGH YOUR GUN

Don't take it for granted that even your nice new factory ammo will function in your gun. What if you have that one odd shell? Just recently, I had a .375 H&H magnum cartridge that had a bugged rim and would not go under the extractor. Had I not taken time to run it through my gun, guess when it would have shown up? Oh well, I'm worth more dead than alive anyway. Also get yourself a copy of "The Perfect Shot" by Kevin Robertson, or even better, his DVD. These really show you where the vitals are on African game. All this may not be particularly related to reloading, but I assure you, that regardless of whether you use your own reloaded ammo or factory ammo, the precautions are the same. So enjoy the process of getting ready to go. It's at least half the fun and most of the work.

Feel free to write Terry at BlauwkampT@Gmail.com anytime if I can help you.



WEST MICHIGAN'S PREMIER FIREARMS DEALER!

Silver Bullet Firearms & Training Center offers:

- Custom gunsmithing
- 12 indoor shooting lanes
- Training and self-defense classes by our own certified NRA instructors
- Large assortment of safes, shooting accessories and apparel
- We are now a Class 3 Dealer



5121 South Division . Wyoming, MI 49548
616-249-1911 • www.silverbulletfirearms.com



Packer MAXX clp

**PASSIONATE ABOUT THE GREAT
OUTDOORS FOR OVER 30 YEARS**



MADE IN USA

- Low cost, extremely durable construction
- 1/4" thick Roto-Molded Polyethylene Drums
- Superior compaction when filled with water or sand
- Profiled scrapers prevent soil buildup in damp conditions

**SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR
FOOD PLOTTERS AND HOBBY FARMERS**

At Best Outdoors, we have been providing outdoor equipment to a nationwide audience since 2003. Additionally, our team is backed by more than 30 years of experience in the food plot planting and ground preparation business. A high quality cultipacker is one of the most underutilized pieces of equipment in the food plot industry today. The Packer MAXX cultipacker helps maintain soil moisture retention, improves seed to soil contact and ensures superior seed germination for all seed types.

☎ (616)-263-9453 ✉ lincoln@bestoutdoors.com

*Supporting your chapter
since 2001*



**Matwetwe
SAFARIS**

www.matwetwesafaris.com
info@matwetwesafaris.com



"If quality is your aim..."

...excellence is our game"

big BUCK night

STORY BY PETE VANDERARK

We had our most successful Big Buck Night event ever! Roughly 110 people were in attendance, and all had a great time! Thank you to Naber's Taxidermy for sponsoring this event! Jim, John, and Austin Naber were very busy scoring the "pile of racks" brought in by successful Michigan Chapter members.

Our Vice President, Stacey Platz, opened the evening with a reminder that our chapter Annual Fundraiser is February 7-8, 2025. Signing up early will save you some money.

Lee Murray led us in the Pledge of Allegiance followed by Jan Murray with prayer. After the pledge and prayer, we all enjoyed another great Stonewater dinner.

Allen Messing, a real estate agent with United Company Hunting Properties (UC Hunting Properties), presented an interesting program on property management. His program combines the love of hunting and land management as a potential income generating tool. He has unique insights and experiences understanding what a property can offer from an environmental and financial standpoint. Look him up if you are in the market for a hunting property and/or investment.

After Allen's presentation, the moment of truth arrived to learn who won the four categories of the Big Buck contest. First off, Allen Messing won the guessing game. He was closest to the actual score—within 1/8 inch of the buck Naber's brought with them. The youth winner for the biggest Michigan buck was Liam Koster, grandson of long-time chapter members Dave and Deb Koster. Katie Becker, daughter of loyal member and donor Tim Becker (Powderhorn Sportfishing Charters), had the biggest out of state youth buck. Vern Kuiper won the biggest Michigan buck with a beautiful buck from the Northern Lower Peninsula.





There were many great bucks entered, but one stood out from the crowd! Troy Baarman won biggest out of state buck with an absolute monster 203-inch typical, shot on day 8 of his hunt! Persistence paid off for Troy! The last big buck winner was Dale Grimes whose name was drawn for a prize from everyone who entered a buck.

But, we were not done with the winners just yet! Brian Becker won the youth rifle. Kendall Naber won the jewelry, which she thoughtfully said she would share with her mom. Mallory Mroz was the lucky winner of the Weatherby Vanguard in 300 Winchester Magnum.

It was great seeing so many members in attendance and to see all the successful hunters with their bucks!

NUMZAAN SAFARIS
Your gateway to Africa!

**5 Days
2 or 4 Hunters
for \$1000**

South African

\$500 credit (per hunter) towards trophy fees.
An additional **\$1000 credit (per hunter)** will be added to the previous \$500 credit, if the hunt is upgraded by an extra 5 days.
The focus of this donation is hunting with many photo opportunities available daily!

Daily Rates Include:
All Food, Drinks, Accommodations, Housekeeping Services, Animal Tracker & Skinner,
Daily transportation while hunting, etc.
Services of fully licensed professional hunters.
All field dressing of animals and top care of trophy capes.
Unlimited amounts of viewing African terrain & animals in their natural habitat.
Everlasting memories!

Not included:
Airfare to/from Johannesburg, South Africa.
Day of Arrival and Departure. (\$180 each day, per person)
Any dip/pack, taxidermy fees or shipping.

STEF SWANEPOEL - OUTFITTER AND PROFESSIONAL HUNTER
E-mail: numzaan@iafrica.com - www.numzaan.com



Dale Ringerwole

Personal Fiduciary Services

616.301.3428

dringerwole@dcgradrapids.com

HUNT

Liberty

STORY BY JIM NOVITSKY

This hunt, as most do, began well before sunrise. But it actually started much earlier than most! In fact, it started about 7 years ago! It was at that time, I had the chance to go on a youth hunt with Denny Sprick at Two Hats Ranch in MI. I spent the day watching these young, first-time hunters having a great time enjoying the outdoors, while hoping for the thrill of getting their first deer. The day reminded me how special this pastime is to me, as well as many others, here in Michigan, and points beyond. I realized how lucky I am to have a place to spend fall days doing what I love. It spurred me on to get involved and sponsor a hunt.

Fast forward to 2021. I purchased land in the Big Rapids area. I had mentioned to Denny that I would like to sponsor a Liberty Hunt for deserving veterans now that I had a spot to host them. We worked on locating veterans to come out for a hunt. It took a bit longer than we thought, but persistence paid off.

A key element in our quest was meeting Russ Nehmer at our annual Michigan Safari Club convention in Muskegon, Michigan. Russ is a Special Forces Sergeant, a select member of an elite fighting force of the US Army.

He was severely injured in the line of duty, serving our country. Russ received a Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and a Meritorious Service Award. While adjusting to life post service, he unselfishly put together an organization called Warriors and Caregivers United, to help other wounded veterans reconnect and re-enter society. We enlisted his help in putting together a Liberty hunt.

Russ came out the following week to view my property and cabin, discussing details. We put together a plan. Russ started to recruit two hunters we would host in Big Rapids, MI. A drawing was held in July, and Michigan wounded warriors were chosen. Ryan Fabre of Grand Rapids and Eric Ritchie of Eaton Rapids were selected. Our chosen hunt weekend arrived. Guests arrived on Friday evening, September 13, 2024. We welcomed

our veterans and made introductions. My good friend, Tim Hansel, had agreed to guide one of the veterans. I would guide the other veteran. Denny Sprick joined us for the evening as well as Derek Zwiers, a neighbour and fellow veteran. Russ had put together backpacks with deer calls, snacks, hats, gloves, vests, knives, and a Safari Club pullover. After a great dinner and friendly conversation, we went to sleep and awoke on Saturday to begin our hunt.

We were greeted by a beautiful sunrise on the horizon with a misty fog covering the ground. As the sun made its way into the sky, the fog burned off, and we had the chance to see some deer. During the course of the morning, a few deer were sighted, but no shots were taken.

We headed back to the cabin for lunch and relaxation. Russ, Eric, and Ryan were such interesting men. Tim and I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know them.

We headed back out Saturday evening for our second hunt of the day. As the sun set, we had the opportunity to see some more deer, but no shots availed themselves. Once again, no deer were taken. Sunday morning was our last chance to get a deer, but alas, none were taken.

We met back at the cabin to pack up and say goodbye to our new friends. Russ brought along challenge coins that he presented to both hunters. Even though we did not have a deer hanging on the buck pole, as all Michigan hunters are aware, the thrill is in the hunt, not just the kill. Our veterans enjoyed the time spent outdoors, taking in the beauty and peacefulness of nature. A great time was had by all. As for me, I was honored to meet these two veterans, Ryan and Eric, for the first time, and getting to know Russ better. I was proud to host these fine gentlemen. It was a good reminder that we are free because of brave men like Eric, Ryan, and Russ. As the challenge coins say, "The Greatest Casualty Is Being Forgotten". Make it a priority to thank a veteran for their service and remember their sacrifices and accomplishments forever!



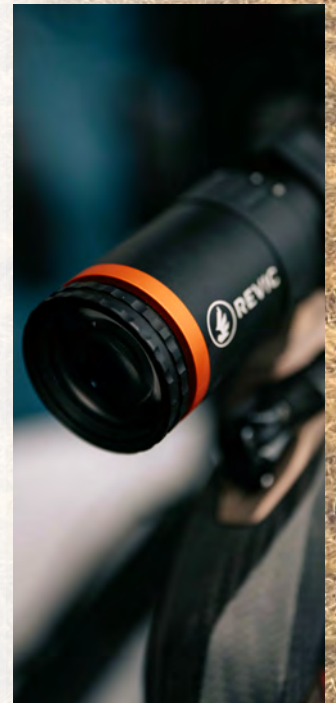




FROM THE RIFLE BUILD TO THE PERFECT SHOT

GUNWERKS IS YOUR
PARTNER IN THE PURSUIT OF
LONG RANGE PERFECTION.

Our company is simple. We hunt hard. We
shoot and train all year. We spend months,
not days, with one shot between success and
failure.





SCI MICHIGAN CHAPTER

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Held on December 11, 2024

About 125 festive folks braved the blizzard like conditions and slippery roads to enjoy a Christmas celebration and we truly had a joyous time together.

Doors opened at 5PM with appetizers and the bar opening at 5:30PM. Santa and Mrs. Claus, the stars of the show, made their entry at 5:45. Santa and Mrs. Claus were busy with about 40 kids enjoying our Christmas celebration! After getting their pictures taken with Santa, the kids each got to choose a gift from a table overflowing with presents.

Our chapter president, Mike Kwast, made a few announcements and introduced Emmett, our new Tracker magazine design editor, from Grandville Printing. Emmett said a few words about his passion for design and the enjoyment he gets from helping us have an exceptional magazine. He also spoke about what he has learned about conservation and wildlife management since he began working on the Tracker. Mike picked back up with announcements including the great news of our hunter's rights/conservation victory in the blue state of Colorado! The cougar and bobcat hunting ban was soundly defeated! Victories like this are incredibly important and are only possible when we all work together to fight the anti-hunting crowd. We were reminded that our Fund Raiser Convention is right around the corner, (February 7 and 8). The fundraiser is designed to provide two days of entertainment and fun all with the goal of raising the funds needed to fight for hunters' rights and conservation. Once again there will be evening entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights. Reserving a room under our promo code eliminates the concern about driving in winter weather and also helps us get the lowest rate possible for the use of the convention center. The kids led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and Jim Naber offered prayer before we enjoyed another delicious dinner of roast beef, carved turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, ginger glazed carrots and donuts for dessert. If you haven't joined us for a monthly member dinner at Stonewater, you really owe it to yourself to attend.

Besides the great company and cause the food is amazing! Sgt. Dave McKellar from Toys for Tots, standing in front of a table piled high with

donated toys, told us about the impact our toy donations have in thousands of children's lives. Dave is a disabled veteran and also thanked us for our humanitarian work in taking disabled veterans hunting.

The festivities concluded with our typical raffles, although there were two guns for the adults instead of just one, and three silent auction SCI Michigan clothing packages. Our lucky winners were:

Harrison Cook was the lucky winner of the youth gun.

Jack Weller made his mom happy by winning the jewellery raffle.

Ryan Poortenga was the first lucky winner for the adult guns and chose the Ruger 9mm pistol. Nash Mascorro was the second lucky winner for the adult guns and won a Savage rifle in 6.5 PRC. Our January Dinner will be held on January 9. This will be big buck night! Bring your 2024 buck. There will be prizes for the following categories: Youth (each entry gets a prize), biggest Youth, Michigan, out of state, estate, and a drawing for a prize from all who entered their buck.





TOM FOOLERY

STORY BY GREG KURDYS

I aligned the crosshairs of the scope on the .308 just to the right of a branch that was obstructing the front of the lion's shoulder only sixty feet away. I checked with my guide to make sure the dogs were leashed. We were ready. When I squeezed the trigger,

I OBSERVED THE LION
CARTWHEEL OUT OF THE TREE
ALMOST IN SLOW MOTION.

The big tail rolled through the air like the tail of a kite. I felt the thud when its body hit the ground. Almost unbelievably the lion leapt to its feet and started running down the steep slope. Now what?

In December 2023, with my 69th birthday in the not-too-distant future, my spouse looked at me and asked if I had satisfied my hunting bucket list? Only a fool would pass up that opportunity! I scanned the room and observed there was nothing on the large Douglas fir beam across the room from the leopard. "A mountain lion would look great on that beam," I responded. She said that sounded like a great idea. I love my wife! After a bit of online research, I chose Linehan Outfitting in NW Montana. I contacted Tim Linehan. We had a good discussion regarding my physical abilities and his hunting area. His quota was full until the next season, so I booked a hunt for December 2024. Over the summer I put together a packing list and applied for the mountain lion tag.

I had originally planned to drive out and back, which adds a week to the trip. Then my daughter advised us their family would be joining us in mid-December. I did not want to miss any time with our grand kids, so I opted to travel by commercial airlines to Spokane, WA.





BILL'S TAXIDERM^Y



(616) 647-3321

BILL BETTYS

4546 6 MILE ROAD • MARNE, MI 49435
BILLSTAXIDERM@COMCAST.NET

PRESERVING HUNTING AND FISHING MEMORIES

would then rent a car to make the three-hour drive to Libby, MT. Tim's hunting area in very NW Montana lies on the western side of the Continental Divide. The conditions can vary from rain to subzero during lion season. Air travel meant limited room for baggage and the packing list needed to be refined. As the hunt neared, I monitored the weather forecast to determine which gear was most appropriate. One of the more difficult decisions was determining which firearm to take along. The problem was I had too many options! I made a call to Tim, and he made a few suggestions which narrowed the choices a bit. When all was said and done, I opted for my Kimber Montana in .325 WSM. It was simply the lightest centre fire rifle in my collection at just 7 lbs. with the scope.

A few days before my scheduled departure Tim called and asked if I could reschedule. With the wet weather forecast for the hunt week it would make tracking with the dogs very difficult. He wanted to make sure I had the best possible experience. I checked on the flights and determined the cost of rescheduling would not be unreasonable. I rescheduled for early January, which worked out well as my daughter's family returned home just before the hunt. The day before my departure Tim emailed me and noted that I did not need to bring a gun as I could use the guides. Given the difficulties in traveling with firearms, it was an easy call to take him up on that offer. The next day I flew to Spokane, WA. As often happens on my hunts, the checked bag did not make the connection through Atlanta to Spokane. Fortunately, I had planned an overnight stay on arrival and the bag arrived the next morning. I grabbed it at the airport and made the drive to Libby. Tim had me stay at their lodge on the Kootenai River. He contacted me and told me to make myself at home when I arrived as he would be at his home in Yaak, MT. He was getting ready to attend the Dallas Safari Club convention. He also indicated my guide, Nate, would be picking me up at 4:30 a.m. the next day. The lodge has room for a dozen people and is very well equipped. I set my alarm for 3:30 a.m. and hit the bed early.

When I awoke, I observed fresh snow on the ground. The conditions seemed pretty good. Nate arrived on time with a truck full of dogs. We drove out to a local service station for fuel and met his hunting partner, Jay. Since it was Sunday, their two sons Corey and David were joining us. Having more eyes looking for tracks seemed like a good idea. We spent several hours driving along logging roads that criss-crossed the ridges. Several smaller sets of tracks were spotted, but we opted to keep looking for something bigger. The decision was made easier by the presence of numerous wolf tracks. Wolves pose significant



risk to the dogs. At about 11 a.m. Jay contacted us on the radio and indicated he had found a fresh track that looked promising. We made our way to his location and agreed to try to track that lion. Nate and Jay pulled half a dozen dogs from the trucks, and they were on the scent up the ridge in a flash. The dogs were equipped with GPS collars so we could monitor their progress. Within ten minutes the GPS signals had stopped moving indicating the lion had likely treed. Based on the map, it was apparently only a few yards off the next switchback up the ridge. We scrambled into the trucks and made our way along the slick trail. When we arrived at the location the dogs were baying constantly, and we could see the big cat about forty feet up in a large Douglas fir (which was perfect because the beams in the house are also Douglas fir)! As we made our way down the steep slope toward the base of the tree, I lost footing and slid about ten feet down into a sapling which halted my progress. Nate's son Corey was going to try to stop my slide. I waved him off since I outweighed him by over a hundred pounds! Regaining my footing and some of my pride, I looked up at the mountain lion. I took some time to observe its beauty and snapped some photos and video with my phone as the dogs kept the lion in the tree. Nate indicated he thought the lion was a big female. That hunt area had more females than males on the state quota. Nate asked if I wanted to go ahead and shoot it. We discussed it noting the weather forecast for deteriorating tracking conditions. Nate did not mention it, but I also factored in the difficulty I was having on the steep and slippery slopes with the current pain in my left hip. I agreed I should take the opportunity. After the shot the lion disappeared down the slope. The dogs were released, and the GPS tracking collars indicated the lion had gone back the way it had ascended. It was beyond where we had originally observed the track. When the GPS indicated the cat had likely treed again, it was almost a mile away. I was disappointed in my shot knowing it had potentially put the dogs at risk. I could not understand what had gone wrong. Fortunately, the lion treed close to another



switchback. That part of the road was closed, but we could drive to within a few hundred yards and the road would be easy walking.

We made our way to the chaos of bawling dogs and again observed the lion in a large fir. I carefully picked my way down the slope trying to find a good shooting location. Mountain lions seem to have a knack for wrapping themselves in the tree making shooting angles difficult. I finally found a spot slightly above the base of the tree where I could get a clean shot. Jay leashed up the dogs and I placed a shot through the center of its chest. The lion again hit the ground, but this time it was for good. I slowly made my way down to the lion with only a couple minor slips. When I arrived it was easy to see what had happened with the first shot. Apparently, the lion had been more twisted than I had observed. The bullet had entered exactly where I had aimed, but it had angled up and forward, exiting high and just in front of the opposite shoulder. It had likely only caught one lung. After some fist bumps, the boys and I agreed to drag the lion down to the next switchback, then along the closed road a few hundred yards where Nate and Jay could meet us with the dogs and trucks. We took a few more photos then made our way back to town. On the drive, we agreed we had been extremely fortunate. We also discussed my plans for taxidermy. Nate dropped me off at the lodge so I could get into some dry clothes. He went home to do the same. He called me a bit later and told me that when he skinned the cat, he noted it was actually a male lion not a female! It is not readily obvious to determine that without close inspection. We had all just assumed it was a large female based on its facial features. That was a pleasant surprise. It reaffirmed I'd rather be lucky than good any day! I adjusted my travel to return home a bit earlier than planned after spending a few days observing the natural beauty of the area.

The lion will go nicely on that beam across from the leopard. Now I guess I need to start another hunting bucketlist

If mountain lion is on your bucketlist:

Linehan Ourfitting Company
Troy, MT

linehan@fishmontana.com
406-295-4872
www.fishmontana.com



CELEBRATE MORE, SPEND LESS

Versatile venues across West Michigan for
corporate events, golf outings, holiday parties & more!



*Clients who spend \$5,000+ across 5 or more events
will receive a credit toward the following year's events.*



Visit **RedWaterEvents.com** for more information!



Scott Timmer

Dan Olson

Your SCI Connection!



Gielow Groom
Terpstra & McEvoy
Attorneys at Law

Specializing in Litigation, Real Estate,
Business, Estate Planning,
Family and Environmental Law.

(231) 747-7160 | ggtmlaw.com

YOUTH NIGHT

Bob Mills welcomed all the kids, members, and guests to our special “Youth Night” membership meeting on March 13, 2025.

STORY BY *TODD MOELKER*

The meeting was opened with a few updates and reminders. First off, our 2025 Fundraiser Convention was a HUGE success! THANK YOU to all who attended and contributed in so many ways. Bob gave the reminder that we are always looking for sponsors for various events, including monthly meetings, youth hunts, fundraiser, and other chapter events. Contact Chapter President, Mike Kwast, at drmike@ichiroclinics.com for more information.

Scott Sieracki invited anyone interested in being considered for the Board of Directors to contact him at scott.sieracki@charter.net. Denny Sprik, our Humanitarian Chairman, thanked everyone contributing to the Humanitarian Drive this year. After a taco dinner, Denny, introduced Lisa Voss McKellips, Naturalist, with the Outdoor Discovery Center in Holland. Our chapter has a long history of supporting the Outdoor Discovery Center and the great educational work they do. Lisa was presented with a check for \$3,500. She thanked the chapter for the generous donation and our ongoing support!

Then it was time for the main event! Lisa had all the youth and young at heart gather around as she began her presentation. This year there was the opportunity to see and learn about a bullfrog, falcon, barn owl, and a snake! The kids had a chance to get up close with the snake and hold it if they wanted to!

The evening would not be complete without some winners! Sister and brother, Mary and Luke Tait, were the lucky winners of the youth guns! Kendall Naber won the jewellery and John Pitsch the Weatherby 20 gauge shotgun.





is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide accessible, safe and comfortable outdoor experiences to people with physical disabilities to improve mental health.

A barrier free lodge and 640 acres of accessible land provide an outdoor haven for hunting and other outdoor activities that removes many of the barriers to reconnect with nature.

Our program consists of a full weekend (Friday - Sunday) of hunting, meals, bonfires and other fun activities in the great outdoors. There is an application and selection process we have implemented since our hunting weekends are limited. The opportunity is available to all, with no cost.

Experience new adventures and the healing power of nature with Hunt2Heal.

3714 28th Street SW, Grandville, MI 49418

kim@hunt2heal.org

Call or Text (616) 610-0252

www.hunt2heal.org



Carson Nyenhuis - Founder and President

Dear Safari Club International Michigan Chapter,

Thank you for your generous gift of \$5,000.00 that you made on 2/13/2024. Every act of your generosity helps us further our mission. Your gift will help us get more people back into the outdoors to experience nature, camaraderie, and emotional and spiritual well-being. Your gift is allowing us to realize a dream. It's great to get back out into the woods. All that have wanted to do is to share the hunting experience that gave me my life back so that I can help as many others who might also be experiencing a life-changing disability. It was the thing that helped me more than anything else. Thank you again for your most generous support and your willingness to make a difference.

Sincerely,

Carson Nyenhuis

Founder



**Farm Equipment, Land, Antique
Estate & Benefit Auction Specialists**
Certified & Bonded

Personalized Service with Art or Noah

Art Smith @ 616-696-2598

Noah Smith @ 616-633-4254

www.artsmithauctioneers.com

over 40years in business ~ SCI & NRA Member



CHAPTER

JANNIE OTTO

HUNT DONOR



John



John



John & Scott



John

CHAPTER

JANNIE OTTO

HUNT DONOR



Kari

CHAPTER

JANNIE OTTO

HUNT DONOR



Scott

CHAPTER

JANNIE OTTO

HUNT DONOR



Scott

-23.38333° and 27.91667°

CHAPTER
BARANOF EXPEDITION
HUNT DONOR



Mark

want to
**JOIN
THE
HUNT**

CHAPTER
BARANOF EXPEDITION
HUNT DONOR



Rob

57.089444° N,
134.833056° W

CHAPTER
JANNIE OTTO
HUNT DONOR



Koetje's and Overwegs

Youth Pheasant Hunt

STORY BY BOB MILLS

We had another safe and successful youth pheasant hunt this year! Saturday, March 22, we welcomed 30 kids to Haymarsh Hunt Club for a morning of shooting clays and hunting pheasants.

After a safety briefing, the kids headed out to the range to shoot clays and get warmed up for their hunt. Each guide headed out to the field with their dog and three kids. Most of the kids were accompanied by their parents and/or grandparents, so it was an event for the whole family to enjoy. After their hunt they headed to the cleaning station to learn how to clean the birds and package them up to take home.

We were able to keep this hunt free for the kids because of funds raised at our annual fundraiser and a donation by Christianity Outdoors. Thank you to everyone who sponsored and supported our fundraiser. It really made a difference in the lives of these future hunters and members. A special thank you to Jay and Stacey Platz, Drew Koning, and Terry Blauwkamp for helping at the hunt today. I would also like to thank Dale Ringerwold for donating shotgun shells for shooting clays. A big shoutout as well to the guides for donating their time and everyone at the Haymarsh Hunt Club for supporting our chapter's fundraiser. We look forward to a great hunt again next year!



CARBON TV

STREAM THE OUTDOORS

THE BEST OUTDOOR VIDEO CONTENT

FREE
24/7



NUMZAAN SAFARIS
Your gateway to Africa!

**5 Days
2 or 4 Hunters
for \$1000**

South African

Daily Rates Include:

- All Food, Drinks, Accommodations, Housekeeping Services, Animal Tracker & Skinner, Daily transportation while hunting, etc.
- Services of fully licensed professional hunters.
- All field dressing of animals and top care of trophy capes.
- Unlimited amounts of viewing African terrain & animals in their natural habitat.
- Everlasting memories!

Not included:

- Airfare to/from Johannesburg, South Africa.
- Day of Arrival and Departure. (\$180 each day, per person)
- Any dip/pack, taxidermy fees or shipping.

STEF SWANEPOEL - OUTFITTER AND PROFESSIONAL HUNTER
E-mail: numzaan@iafrica.com - www.numzaan.com



WILD SPIRIT

GUIDE SERVICE

DAN KIRSCHNER
906-250-0089
WWW.WILDSPRITGUIDE.COM
POWERS, MI

OVER 30 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE
TROPHY BEAR HUNTS OVER BAIT OR WITH HOUNDS
WHITETAIL DEER AND WINTER PREDATORS
GAME RANCH HUNTS FOR TUNDRA SHEEP AND HOGS

20



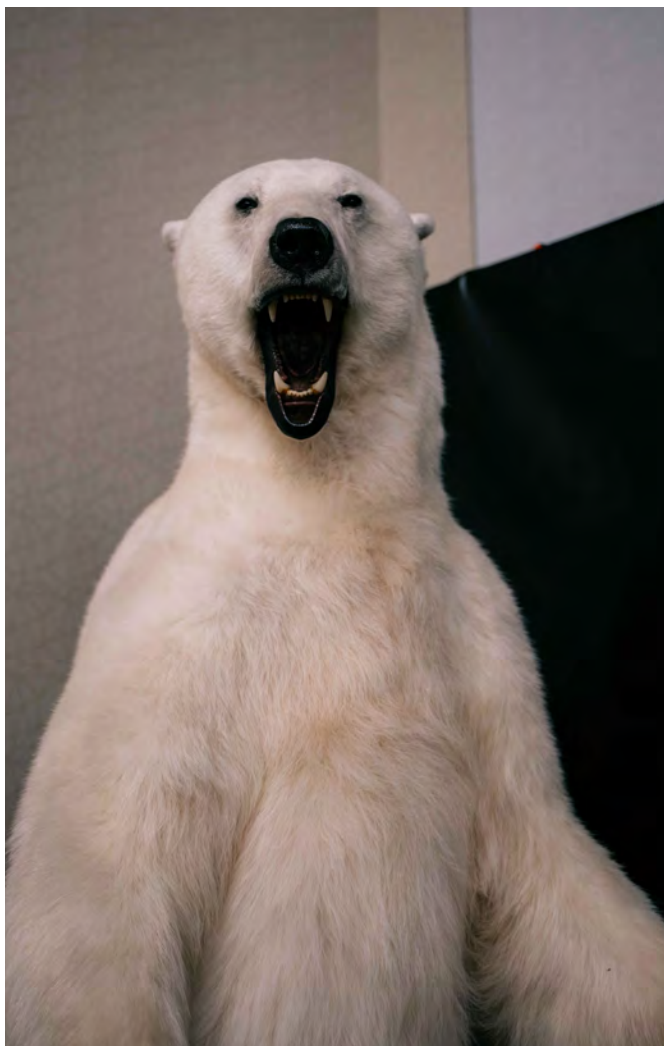
SCI ANNUAL CONVENTION





25







FAMILY, FRIENDS AND FUN

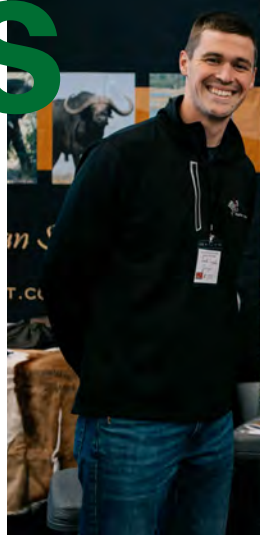




OUTFITTERS



VENDORS



LIFETIME MEMBERS

Mike Bailey	Tim Jones	David Owel
Merle Barnaby	Dan Jordan	David Owen
Alma Bing	Bryan Judge	Steve Peasley
Stony Bing	Clint Karsemeyer	Debbie Pedersen
Gary Bogner	David Kidder	Joe Pedersen
Jerry Brenner	Larry Keift	Steve Perrins
Ron Browning	Aaron Kik	Tim Piccard
Stan Buell	John Koetje	Stacey Platz
Jon Bumstead	Tom Kooistra	Dale Ringerwole
Tim Burkhart	Vern Kuipers	Doug Schippers
Scott Bylsma	Mike Kwast	David Slikkers
Ivan Carter	Quincy Kwast	Tom Soberg
James Cooke	Renee Leonard	Dennis Sprick
Louis Cusack	Mike Leonard	Lewis Squires
Scott DeGraff	M.Rieger Lesiow	Larry Staab
Keith DeWitt	Suzanna Lesiow	Sandy Stegeman
Ed DeYoung	Clark Lincoln	Tim Stegeman
Edwin Dean	Karen Lincoln	Bill Stockwell
Don Dixon	Joe Maggini	John Stone
Linda Dixon	C.T. Martin	Brian Teunis
Vern Edewaard	Gary Miller	Brian Thompson
C. Andrew Edwards	Nancy Mills	J.Scott Timmer
Michael Fettig	Robert Mills, Jr.	Dan VanderMuelen
Jamie Flewelling	Tom Miranda	Brandon VanHouten
Ron Grenadier	Jeff Mohney	Rich VanDyke
Ben Grooters	Joe Mulders	James Weick
Tim Hansel	Carolyn Murray	Harry Weller
Don Harter	Ryan Murray	Jack Weller
Mary Harter	Jim Naber	Jake Weller
Cindy Higgins	Jim Novitsky	Skip Weller
Larry Higgins	Dan Olson	Dave Wilkins
Mary Higgins	Cari Overweg	Jon Zieman
Kendall Jones	Scott Overweg	



If you are experiencing back or neck pain, headaches, any joint pain, balance or mobility problems, we may be able to help!

OUR SERVICES

Regenerative Medicine - Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP)
Human Cellular Tissue Products - Pain Injections
Chiropractic Therapy - Massage Therapy - Exercise Therapy
Stretching Therapy - Soft Tissue Therapy

Visit Our Website

www.ichiroclinics.com

www.peakperformanceintegratedmedicine.org

North Office

4150 E. Beltline #3
Grand Rapids, MI 49525
616-447-9888

South Office

6750 Kalamazoo Ave, Se Suite K
Grand Rapids, MI 49508
616-656-1830

The event: unprecedented.
The technology: unbeatable.

Your special event is one of a kind — maybe even once in a lifetime. That's why we want to make it spectacular. So, in addition to our award winning food and exceptional service, we've taken our technology up a notch. We are now a full HD facility with 16x9 wide format screens, LED lighting, digital media playback and much more. Now your wedding, fundraiser, party, or meeting can be streamed live online for free. Let's get the party started. www.thepinnaclecenter.com

THE PINNACLE CENTER
No place tops the Pinnacle.

Raptor Rescue

falconshireraptors.com

**Help support Falconshire
Raptors in providing
Live Eagle Nest Cameras and
Raptor Rescues.**

**A Michigan-Based Nonprofit
Serving West Michigan**

Falconshire Raptors
Est. 2007

**Conservation
Education
Rehabilitation
Research**

Dr. Brian Parkhurst
Founder & President

**To Learn More
and view Live
HD Eagle Nest
Cameras**



CAUGHT ON THE CAM





Safari Club International

Michigan Chapter



SCI & Michigan Chapter Membership Form

New & Renewal

SCI Membership

- ☐ \$65 One-Year Annual Membership (New & Renewal)
- ☐ **\$150 Three-Year Membership Special (New & Renewal -\$45 savings)**

SCI Michigan Chapter

You must be an International SCI Member (see above) to join a Chapter (both memberships need to be in sync)

- ☐ \$25 One-Year Annual Membership
- ☐ **\$50 Three-Year Membership Special (\$25 savings)**

Join the SCI Michigan Chapter as a Life Member

You must first be a Lifetime Member of SCI before becoming a Lifetime Chapter Member (*Regular-\$1,500.00, Seniors 60+ \$1,250.00*)

- ☐ \$300 one time due; if age 59 and below
- ☐ \$200 one time due; if age 60 and above

Youth Membership Renewal (21 and under)

- ☐ \$25 One-Year Annual Membership (SCI and MI Chapter)

Please Print:

Member's Name: _____ Street Address _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____

E-mail: _____ SCI Member # (renewals) _____

☐ Cash ☐ Check Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ Master Card ☐ Amex ☐ Discover

Credit Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Name on Card: _____ CCV#: _____

Please make checks payable to "SCI Michigan Chapter" and mail to:

Michelle Ghareeb
11155 Bennett St. SE
Lowell, MI 49331

THANK YOU SCI MICHIGAN CHAPTER!

for sponsoring our 1st Time Hunter program



EZEKIEL GUIKEMA-11 HART, MI

On behalf of The Wildlife Center at Legends Ranch, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your generous sponsorship of our 1st Time Hunter program. Your support has made it possible for us to offer life-changing opportunities to 59 new hunters this year and a total of 343 since 2020.

Your sponsorship plays a crucial role in recruiting and introducing new individuals to the wonderful world of hunting. Through this program, we aim to ignite a passion for the sport and foster a deep appreciation for wildlife conservation. By providing these aspiring hunters with the chance to experience the thrill of the hunt in a safe and controlled environment, we are confident they will carry this love for hunting and conservation throughout their lives.

Ezekiel Guikema is an eleven year old boy who attends Oceana Christian School. Ezekiel came to The Wildlife Center at Legends Ranch through our FREE School Tours program. We reached out to each of our 54 schools that visited us during 2024 and requested they each send us one student chosen to be a 1st Time Hunter at Legends Ranch. Ezekiel won a contest at his school and won the opportunity to become a 1st Time Hunter. He attended his hunt this December with his father and successfully harvested his first whitetail deer. He is so excited to use his hunting skills at home next year!



wildlifecentermi.org

WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES!



SCI Wildlife Conservation & Hunter Right Support	\$41,067
Ivan Carter Wildlife Conservation Alliance	\$20,000
Guiding Influence	\$7,500
Quest Ministries	\$7,000
Powderhorn Charters	\$6,500
Colorado Wildlife Deserve Better	\$6,368
MOOD TV	\$5,800
MSU Conservation Class - SCI MIC	\$5,000
Hunt 2 Heal	\$5,000
Outdoor Discovery Center	\$3,500
Youth Pheasant Hunt	\$3,845
Best Outdoors	\$3,000
JD Vance Video with Ruthless TV	\$2,000
First Time Hunter Pledge	\$1,500
Michigan Ad - SCI MIC	\$1,500
2024 Support Donation - SCI MIC	\$1,500
Grad Grant - SCI MIC	\$500
Kent County Orange Crushers	\$500
Sportsmen for Youth - Placemat Program	\$150
GRAND TOTAL	\$122,230

HUMANITARIAN DONATIONS 2025

We would like to thank all of you who donated to our Humanitarian Fund this year. All monies donated go directly to causes that support events for challenged youth & adults, veterans, others with special needs, and organizations that support our mission and goals. Your continued support enables us to help so many, in so many ways!

- \$3500.00 -

Skip & Sheri Weller

- \$3000.00 -

David & Mary Slikker

- \$1000.00 -

Tim Burhart

Mike & Quincy Kwast

Jim & Sandy Naber

Tim & Lisa Piccard

Jay & Stacey Platz

Bruce & Nancy Tyree

- \$750.00 -

David & Alvera Kidder

John & Helen Mellema

- \$500.00 -

James Cooke

Don & Linda Dixon

Vern & Carol Edewaard

Tim & Jocelyn Jones

Mike & Renee Leonard

Bill MacDermaid &

Allie Emery

Mark & Kim McCoy

Lee & Jan Murray

Joe & Debbie Pedersen

Dale & Denise Ringerwole

Jerry & Sandy Swett

Tim & Charity Torpey

- \$250.00 -

Scott & Patty Bylsma

Todd Cook

Sam & Danielle Fahl

Bob & Deb Garza

Rob Doro &

Scott Doro

Rob & Joy Harms

Brandon Heyboer

Robert Hicks

Bob & Nancy Mills

Geoff Newmyer

Ron & Kristy Northman

Dan & Julie Olson

Scott & Melissa Sieracki

Larry Smith &

Diane Thompson

Tim VanZyll

Joel Zuidema

- \$200.00 -

Mark & Kathy Haisma

- \$100.00 -

Bill & Cheryl Bettys

Stony & Alma Bing

Johann Combrink

Elijah Cook

Ed & Lisa DeYoung

Will & Kasey Fawcett

Bob & Meredith Gano

Chase Grant &

Leo Grant

Dale Grimes

Joe Guinn

Gary & Brenda Haisma

- \$100.00 -

Dustin Hemmes

Brandon & Jill Hill

Tony LaShay

Tim & Angie May

Brandon Mechling

Todd & Lynda Moelker

Kyle & Mallory Mroz

Jeremy Perez

Rich & Emily Pyle

Dan Ruster

Bob Schautz

Randy & Lori Schultz

Nick Sprankles

Fred & Bonnie Swart

Dan & Debra TerHorst

Brian Thompson+Carole Stowell

Rich & Sara VanDyke

David Wynalda

- \$50.00 -

Troy Baareman

John Pitsch

Ryan Willie

- \$25.00 -

Art Smith



Mon – Closed
Tue – 10am-6pm
Wed – 10am-6pm
Thur – 10am-8pm
Fri – 10am-5pm
Sat – 8am-4pm
Sun – Closed

ARCHERY SERVICES

- Full-service compound and long bow repair and tuning
- Full crossbow repair and tune up
- Custom arrow builds

FIREARMS SERVICES

- Pistol and AR repair and upgrades
- Sight replacement and upgrades

2530 Van Ommen Drive, Holland, MI 49424 • 616-399-3011 • www.Longrangearchery.com

SCI MICHIGAN CHAPTER 2025 CONVENTION SUPPORTERS

The SCI Michigan Chapter Board of Directors wish to thank the following people and companies who have generously donated cash or merchandise for our 2023 fundraiser.

Aaron Gellar Photography
Lee & Jan Murray
Afrihunt Safaris
Legends Taxidermy
Alan Reinemann
Long Range Archery & Firearms LLC
Anchor Point Wealth Management
MacLeod Insurance Agency
Anurity Ranch
Marupa Safaris
Argentina Bird Hunts & HP
Wingshooting Adventures
Matwetwe Safaris
Arluk Outfitters
Michelle Ghareeb & Denny Sprick
Baranof Expeditions
Michigan Whitetail Food Plots
Bergara
Naber's Taxidermy
Best Outdoors LLC & Packer MAXX
New Zealand Hunting Adventures
Byron Hart African Safaris
Numzaan Safaris
Cascade Furs
Orion Construction
Cedar Cove Ranch
Peak Performance Integrated
Medicine/iChiro
Columbus McKinnon Corp
Pine Ridge Taxidermy
Cooks Outfitting
Pope Brothers Guide Service

Coppersmith Global Logistics
Powderhorn Sportfishing Charters
Corju Hunting
Prime Archery & G5 Outdoors
Craig Boddington
Rainy Pass Lodge
Dan & Julie Olson
Roche Safaris
Don & Linda Dixon
Roger Froling
Erwins Outdoors
Safari Art
Everland Outdoors
Safari Unlimited LLC
Final Rest Shooting Systems
Sam & Danielle Fahl
Fourth Arrow
Silver Bullet Firearms
Game Trackers Africa
Skip Weller
Giuseppe Carrizosa
Slayer Blinds
Great North Real Estate
South Pacific Safaris
Gunwerks
Sunrize Safaris
Haymarsh Hunt Club
Terra Pampa Lodge
Hepburn Lake Lodge
The Gator Quest
Hidden Horns Game Ranch
Thomas & Company II

High West Outfitters
Three Sixty Safaris
Hunt Trip Spain by Francisco Rosich
Todd & Tania Cook
Jan Oelofse Hunting Safaris
Tom Dreyer Safaris
Jannie Otto Safaris
Trijicon
Jerry Brenner
Two Hats Ranch
Joe & Debbie Pedersen
West Central Outfitters
John Weidner
Wild Namibia Hunting Safaris
Kenetrek
Wild Spirit Guide Service
La Espadella Hunting Adventures
Wyndscent
Larry Smith & Diane Thompson
Zambeze Delta Safaris

SCI MICHIGAN 2025 DONATION LIST

The SCI Michigan Chapter Board of Directors wish to thank the following people who have generously donated cash to this year's Annual Donor Drive as well as to the other fund drives held during the convention.

We are very thankful for each donor. Your donations make the important work of SCI and SCI Michigan possible.

David & Mary Slikkers
Brenner Excavating
Jeff Mohoney
Don & Mary Harder
Vern & Carol Edewaard

Ron & Mary Johnson
David & Alvera Kidder
John & Helen Mellema
Rodney & Jennette Winkel
Don & Linda Dixon

Bob Schautz
Dennis Sprick
Michelle Ghareeb

***If we missed recognizing or thanking anyone, we apologize.
Please let us know so it can be corrected in our next Tracker magazine.***

**Safari Club International
Michigan Chapter
P.O. Box 1807
Grand Rapids, MI 49501**



**We specialize
in the importation of Hunting Trophies
from around the world. Tell us where your trophies are, and
we will get them home to you or your
U.S. taxidermist.**

Michael Coppersmith
National Hunting Trophy Coordinator
(404) 366-1650 ext. 13
michael@coppersmith.com • www.huntingtrophy.com

ATLANTA, GA (ATL)

114 Southfield Parkway #170
Forest Park, GA 30297
Phn: 404-366-1650 Fax: 404-366-1649
atltro@coppersmith.com

DALLAS, TX (DFW)

1200 Minters Chapel Rd. STE 100
Grapevine, TX 76051
Phn: 817-421-8989 Fax: 817-421-6464
dfwtro@coppersmith.com

HOUSTON, TX (IAH)

15904 International Plaza Dr.
Houston, TX 77032
Phone: 281 442-4800 Fax: 281-442-8892
iahtro@coppersmith.com

NEW YORK, NY (JFK)

One Cross Island Plaza Ste 117
Rosedale, NY 11422
Phn: 718-723-5000 Fax: 718-723-5005
jfktr@copersmith.com

LOS ANGELES, CA (LAX)

525 S. Douglas St. #100
El Segundo, CA 90245
Phn: 310 607-8000 Fax: 310-607-8001
laxtro@coppersmith.com

SEATTLE, WA (SEA)

3100 S. 176th St. Ste 120
Seattle, WA 98188
Phn: 206 242-6181 Fax: 206-242-0089
seatro@coppersmith.com

PORTLAND, OR (PDX)

6135 N.E. 80th Ave. Ste A4
Portland, OR 97218
Phn: 503 249-1400 Fax: 503-249-3950
pdxtr@coppersmith.com

CHICAGO, IL (ORD)

760 Bonnie Lane
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007
Phn: 847 437-1500 Fax: 847-437-1501
ordtro@coppersmith.com

SAN FRANCISCO, CA (SFO)

434 Rozzi Place
South San Francisco, CA 94080
Phn: 650 872-1225 Fax: 650-872-1070
sfotro@coppersmith.com