

SPRING 2026

TRACKER

MICHIGAN CHAPTER SCI

LIBERTY
HUNT PART TWO

ANOTHER DAY
AT THE RANGE

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IMPACT

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- 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.

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DAKOTA TODD

EDITOR'S NOTES

Welcome to the Spring issue of The Tracker, the magazine of the SCI Michigan Chapter. In this issue we celebrate our annual fundraiser/convention. It takes many people working together to organize such a large endeavor. Thank you to everyone who contributed. A big shout-out goes to Stacey Platz for her excellent work in chairing the entire event! Thank you also to each member who attended and helped make it memorable.

This issue contains the second part of the Liberty Hunt story by Dusty Carlson. **Adali Ladd brings** us his story about a challenging and successful elk hunt in the mountains of Colorado. Chapter members, this is your magazine. Without your contributions it would not exist. We need your stories so all the members can enjoy them. Celebrate your adventures and successes with us by sharing your trophy pictures. We are always looking for more interesting trail cam photos as well.

It has been an honor and privilege serving as editor of The Tracker for the last four years. This issue marks my final one in that role. Thank you for all the contributions and encouragement along the way. It has truly been a joy to serve. Readers of The Tracker will already be familiar with our new editor, Dakoyta Greenman. Dakoyta has written several stories about adventures both home and abroad. He brings an enthusiasm for writing and will be a strong addition to the magazine.



Thank You,
Todd Moelker

I was born in Fremont, Michigan, a place where hunting season wasn't something you planned around, it was just part of the year, like winter or spring. I didn't grow up thinking much about it at the time. Getting outside was simply what you did. If there was daylight left, there was work to be done or ground to cover. That could mean still-hunting a piece of timber, fishing whatever water was close, or tagging along with neighbors who knew the land better than anyone. As I grew up and moved around Michigan, from Ironwood in the west to the hay marshes near Big Rapids, I saw how different landscapes shaped different traditions, but the mindset stayed the same. The land mattered, and you treated it accordingly.

Those hunting communities weren't built on flash or ego. They ran on shared knowledge, quiet competence, and an understanding that the resource came first. You learned by listening, by watching, and by doing things the right way, even when nobody was looking. Looking back, those experiences didn't just teach me how to hunt. They taught me how to be part of something bigger than myself.

That foundation followed me into a career in the United States Air Force, where discipline, accountability, and mission focus became daily realities. After my service, those same principles led me to found Westwood AI. The idea was straightforward. Take modern, cutting-edge technology and apply it responsibly to real problems without losing sight of the values that matter. Today, we're working to bring practical artificial intelligence into the outdoor and conservation space, not as a replacement for tradition, but as a tool to support better stewardship and long-term thinking.



I've been fortunate to hunt and explore far beyond Michigan, from Africa and South America to Spain and Alaska. No matter where you go, the lesson is consistent. The land doesn't care who you are, but it rewards respect and thoughtful use.

That belief guides me as I take on the responsibility of stewarding The Tracker for the Michigan Chapter of SCI. I do so with deep respect for what Todd Moelker and his team built, and with a clear purpose. This is about giving back to the Michigan outdoor community that gave me my start and helping ensure these traditions endure for the next generation.

Dakoyta Greenman

Thank you to everyone who attended our fundraiser February 6-7, 2026, at the Delta Marriott Muskegon Convention Center.

This year's event was a tremendous success — we achieved our highest fundraising ever in the following categories: Humanitarian, Sponsorships, Games, and Raffles. These funds directly support the many conservation and advocacy projects our chapter is proud to lead.

As we continue to grow and improve, we are launching a simple but powerful initiative: "Just Bring One."

The goal is straightforward — each member brings one guest to our events. By growing our membership and increasing attendance, we expand our impact. More members mean greater financial strength and stronger political influence when it comes to protecting hunting rights in Michigan. The most effective and cost-efficient way to educate others about what SCI Michigan does is through you — our members. So, start inviting now and be part of growing something bigger.

*We are also excited to announce the formation of a new Political Action Committee (PAC): **First for Hunters**. This PAC has been organized in collaboration with the other nine SCI chapters across Michigan under the Michigan Involvement Committee (MIC).*

Please note: Donations, to this PAC, are not tax deductible and must be made through a personal account, not a business account. These funds will directly support efforts to elect pro-hunting candidates throughout Michigan.

*You can contribute here:
<https://secure.anedot.com/first-for-hunters/d83b4ffa-2dbf-431d-b7c2-b15de698318a?exitIntent=true>
(You can also find this link on our website.)*

Even a small donation — such as \$20 — helps us build stronger representation and influence for hunters across the state.

*We are also proud to introduce a meaningful new initiative: **The Hunters Legacy Fund**. This program honors the memory of hunters — past or present — who have made an impact on your life. With a donation of \$500 or more, you can have the name and photo of a hunter you wish to recognize featured in *The Tracker*, at events, and on our website. Each year, our board will select a project for the fund to support. It's a powerful way to celebrate the legacy of those who shaped our hunting traditions. If you would like to participate, please contact me at drmike@ichiroclinics.com.*

*We also want to celebrate your successes. If you've had a recent hunt, we would love to feature your photos in the next issue of *The Tracker*. If you're open to sharing your story — whether written or presented at a member meeting — we would be honored to highlight it.*

Please send photos or articles to Dakoyta at dakoytag@westwoodai.com.

*In a time when hunting continues to face increasing challenges, I want to personally thank our board members, members, and volunteers who work tirelessly to **Promote, Protect, and Preserve our hunting heritage**.*

Let's keep building momentum — and remember for our next event:

Just Bring One.

Dr. Michael Kwast

President, SCI Michigan Chapter



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

August 7

Long Range Challenge Shoot at Two Hats Ranch

September 10

Member Dinner Meeting



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Big Buck Night 2026

January Member Dinner

STORY BY TODD MOELKER

Naber's Taxidermy once again generously sponsored this year's Big Buck Night.

To accommodate the scoring process, we opened the doors half an hour earlier, giving Jim, John, and Austin Naber extra time to measure and score all the successful hunters' bucks.

Our members harvested some truly impressive bucks this season! After all scores were tallied, the category winners were:

- Youth Category: Brian Becker
- Michigan Bow Category: Roger Wangerin
- Michigan Gun Category: Lance Wilson
- Out-of-State Category: Randy Schultz

Congratulations to each of the winners! They all received a \$50 gift certificate to Long Ranger Archery and Firearms. (Parents, take note: Brian Becker was the only youth hunter to enter a buck this year.)

Approximately 90 members and guests attended, enjoying an evening of swapping hunting stories and a delicious dinner. The event concluded with a short program featuring a presentation by Jay Fetteg, owner of Everland Outdoors. His talk focused on property management strategies to help those who did not find hunting success this year, while improving their focus and plans for future seasons.

We also had three lucky raffle winners:

- Jewelry: Ty Ricord (attended with his great-aunt Sue Ellen McCreary)
- Ruger American 308: Kevin Heyboer
- Youth Rossi 22 LR: Brady Mills

A big thank you to Naber's Taxidermy for their continued support and to all the members who attended, making the night a success!





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The LIBERTY HUNT

PART TWO

STORY BY DUSTY J. CARLSON, RETIRED AIR FORCE



When I was first contacted by Warriors and Caregivers United (WACU), I was in disbelief. I had never won a raffle or drawing in my life (and I have entered many.) For those that might not be aware, the Liberty Hunt in Michigan is for youth and 100% Service-Disabled Veterans.

Upon arrival, I was pleasantly surprised. No high fence, no people in uniforms, just a gate, a land fence, and a welcoming smile on the face of Mr. Jim Novitsky. A banner behind him read "Welcome Veterans". The other veteran on this hunt, Steve Morrell (retired USMC). We got out gear unloaded, while Jim pulled up some chairs. We enjoyed some beverages while we awaited the arrival of Russ Nehmer (retired Army Special Forces).

We did some plinking and exchanged stories until dinner was upon us. The spread was divine, with the sheepshead fish grilled to perfection. After dinner, Jim and Russ presented Steve and me with some of the coolest gifts. We received service-related stationery and clothing customized with our respective branch of service. A Buck 110

knife (always wanted one), and a hunting pack that I now take on every occasion. In the morning, we headed to our blinds. Russ and I shared one with Jim and Steve in the other. The first day provided us with some turkey sightings, a couple does, and many suppressed belly laughs. I was holding out, determined to bag a buck.

The next morning, we rose early. After having stuffed ourselves with eggs, coffee, and breakfast sausage, we headed for the field. Just a short while after daybreak, Russ and I saw several young deer, followed by the nicest 8-point I had ever seen while hunting. It was on Steve's side of the field. I followed it for some time through my scope. I seen it drop. Then I heard the shot ring. Steve's rifle (a family heirloom), dropped the 8-point in its tracks, with a well-placed shot. I got such a rush from watching that. Congratulations again, Steve.

Russ and I continued to sit. I passed up a few more does until it was finally time to part ways. Although I departed with my tags unfilled, I left with new friends, enjoyed the camaraderie, and made some good memories.

Thanks again to Jim Novitsky, Russ Nehmer, and WACU for such a wonderful opportunity.

Godspeed and good hunting!

P.S. I got my buck opening day of rifle season (8-point).

ANOTHER DAY



NEW AND IMPROVED CARTRIDGES? MAYBE...

STORY BY TERRY BLAUWKAMP



This article examines several new cartridge families, past and present, to illustrate their performance, application, and success. The intent is to educate the shooter/hunter around these cartridges as well as help them assess the validity of future offerings.

Winchester Short Magnum (WSM) cartridges. These were promoted on achieving magnum velocity with cartridges designed for a short action. Their basis is the relatively fat, short propellant column, is more efficient compared to a longer, smaller-diameter propellant column. This is essentially true; the 270 WSM is a minor improvement over the 270 Winchester. The 7mm WSM is a spitting image of the 7mm Rem. Mag., and the 338 WSM duplicates the original 338 Winchester Magnum. Only the 300 WSM has seemed to survive, and it does duplicate the 300 Winchester Magnum and 300 H&H mag.

It must be noted that in and of itself, the short action is immaterial and does not have any practical magazine capacity advantage. Moreover, the WSM cartridges are going to have at least one fewer round magazine. The WSM cartridges do achieve the ballistic claims but do not offer any practical advantage. Thus, it is seemingly clear why these heavier-for-caliber cartridges have not really prospered.

Recently I was asked, “How many 6.5 Creedmoor rifles do you have?” My answer was “none.” That was followed by “or the 28 Nosler?” My simple reply was “none”. That was followed by “What do you think of the various new calibers?”

A dear friend of my once said, “Never ask Terry what he thinks of something, as he is likely to tell you and you may not like what he says.” As with so many other industries, the shooting and hunting world is filled with companies trying to get money from your pocket to theirs. By doing so, we have been subjected to a seemingly endless series of new cartridges.

6.5 Creedmoor cartridges. This was the forerunner of heavier-for-caliber projectiles and associated faster rifling twist. The higher ballistic coefficient (BC) projectiles have less drop and wind drift. The benefit is realized when shooting beyond approximately 400 yards, which is arguably beyond practical/ethical hunting distances. This concept can be applied to any caliber, and the 6.5 Creedmoor had great support at its introduction and subsequently has become popular. As a hunting cartridge, it is perfectly suited to deer-sized game.

PRC and Nosler cartridges. These offerings extend the 6.5 Creedmoor concept of heavy-for-caliber projectiles to other calibers (7mm, .338, etc.) and add significant case capacity for higher velocity. Thus, these are families of cartridges with higher recoil, cost, and barrel erosion. They are marketed for long range shooting and hunting--the latter raises ethical questions.



7mm Backcountry cartridges. This unique cartridge is designed around a higher chamber pressure and thus higher velocity. It is marketed as providing the same velocity with a 20" barrel as a typical cartridge with a 24" barrel. The sales pitch includes that a suppressor can thus be incorporated while maintaining the overall rifle length. It should be noted that the suppressor will increase the weight of the rifle and thus this is nonsensical for mountain hunting where weight is critical. Moreover, why use a suppressor (\$1000) with a supersonic cartridge while shooting in the open? The 7mm Backcountry appears to be an answer looking for a problem.

Ackley Improved (AI) cartridges. These move the shoulder forward. The velocity gains are modest--approximately 100fps for the .280 AI compared to the standard .280 Remington. If handloading, one may not realize any meaningful velocity advantage as group size is more important than velocity. Typically, these cartridges have very limited factory ammunition offerings.

Others are often developed and introduced in collaboration with an ammunition company or rifle manufacturer. Examples include the .300 RUM (Remington Ultra Mag), the .375 Ruger, and the .416 Ruger.

If choosing such a caliber, you can always expect limited factory ammunition choices or difficulty finding reloading components. In summary, anytime a new cartridge or caliber is introduced, let the relative recent lessons of history described above help guide your decision. It is also worth noting that all new offerings are always reviewed positively in the various gun magazines, yet the test of time may show a different story.

Over my travels to Africa and within North America, I have used 15 different calibers and over 40 different bullets. All these calibers were common chamberings such as .270 Win., .30-06, and .300 Win Mag. With proper bullet placement, the results were the same: dead is dead, and the use of any specialty cartridge would not have changed the outcome. A final consideration is to note that if you take a rifle with a "new" caliber on a long trip and the airlines lose your luggage and ammo box, you are now in deep trouble. The chance of finding ammo for it in the local store is several decimal places after "unlikely." There is, however, a 99% chance of finding established calibers like the 270 Win., .30-06, .300 Win, or .375 H&H to save the day.

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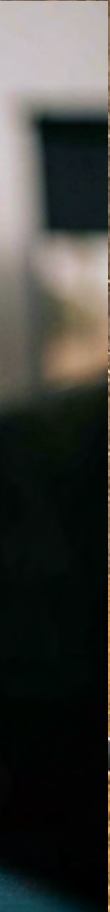


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IMPACT

Following in the footsteps of Teddy Roosevelt, SCI Michigan Chapter is making an impact in the fight for science-based conservation, hunter's rights and our humanitarian efforts.

"The man who really counts in the world is the doer, not the mere critic to the man who actually does the work, even if done roughly and imperfectly."

Teddy Roosevelt

We received a thank you letters from;

Our convention speaker, Professor Belant, whose important work at MSU, we support.

Good morning, Mike!

Just a note to thank you for the opportunity to present on the Hunting and Conservation class and expanded educational opportunities at the banquet Saturday. I hope the presentation described what you were looking for. We truly would not have been able to do this without the very generous support provided by all of you – my sincere thanks! As we look toward further expanding this programming, we will be seeking continued sponsors from our community for these efforts. If you think your chapter might be interested in working with us to continue this effort, please let me know. But irrespective, many thanks for all you have done to make this happen and for the opportunity to describe these efforts.

Take care,

Jerry



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Michigan Sportsman Against Hunger



Benny's House Food Pantry, in Whitecloud, for our sportsmen against hunger donation from our January Monthly dinner.

Greetings from White Cloud,

We would like to thank you for the incredibly generous donation of food from your SCI MI Chapter. We appreciate your help in feeding our neighbors. Please pass this on to your amazing members.

Thanks again,
Shaunna Baker and the Benny's House Food Pantry crew

December food pantry donation for Sportsman Against Hunger

In September, chapter members Todd and Lynda Moelker brought a blue bag filled with school supplies for the local school near the Save Valley hunting concession of Mokore Safaris. They also brought several rechargeable flashlights for the game rangers to use on their antipoaching patrols.



In October, Todd and Lynda hosted two groups of junior high and high school students at their home. One group was from a home school co-op and the other was from Zion Christian High School. The students learned how science-based conservation, including sport hunting, is vital to the survival of both wildlife and the ecosystems on which they depend. Examples of the negative effects of anti-hunting lobbyists were given along with the positive impacts of sport hunting. The students and their parents left with a greater understanding of the importance of hunting for conservation around the world.



LEGACY JOURNEY HUNT

STORY BY
ADALI LADD



Decades ago, my great uncle, Don Ladd, took his wife on an elk hunt for their anniversary and harvested a bull elk. He made matching jackets and gloves out of the hide. Decades later, I drew a Colorado elk tag. This led to the most incredible journey of my life. I endured a physically and mentally demanding experience in the mountains of Colorado.

Over the course of three days, 16 hours a day, we climbed thousands of feet in elevation. We traversed countless miles on horseback and foot, up and down, in the San Juan Mountains. I pushed myself to the absolute limit every minute of each day, all while battling extremely thin air and muscle fatigue. By the end of the second day, I was utterly exhausted, both physically and mentally. I watched other hunters at the lodge successfully harvest and fill their bull elk tags while mine remained--unused. Bull elk are notoriously one of the top five most challenging animals to hunt in this country.

However, I began to reflect on my journey and the breathtaking scenery I had witnessed. I started to realize this experience was all part of a larger plan. I recalled praying for steady hands and guidance during dinner, and I chose to trust the process and shift my mindset. I began focusing on positive thoughts manifesting perseverance and determination. After a last-minute change in location, we embarked on an hour-long truck ride with our horses, Toad and Badger, in tow. The drive was followed by an hour-long ride up the San Juan Mountains on our horses in pursuit of the elusive bull elk. The terrain was treacherous, with frozen ground and steep inclines. But the breathtaking scenery and stunning vistas made it an unforgettable experience.

When we reached our destination, we dismounted and tied up the horses. We then continued on by foot up the Mountain. The air was incredibly thin as we climbed to an elevation of 12,000 feet. All this travel, riding and hiking, brought us to daybreak when the sun began to rise. My guide, Carter, signaled for me to get down and bear crawl towards him. I swiftly followed his instructions. Within seconds, we spotted a herd of 20 cows and a legal bull elk in the distance. I quickly grabbed my range finder and asked Carter for the distance. He estimated it to be 358 yards. I immediately adjusted my turret and fired my first shot. The shot was true and hit the bull directly behind the shoulder.

Despite my uncontrollable shaking and labored breathing, I managed to fire two more shots. The final one bringing down the bull. The overwhelming emotion that flooded my body in that moment is indescribable. I was overcome with tears of joy and relief. In that instant, all the weight and pressure I had been carrying on my shoulders disappeared. I left it all on the top of that ridge.

After months of preparation, and grueling hours of traversing extreme terrain, we had finally accomplished our mission. By the grace of God, we were rewarded with an incredible San Juan Mountain trophy bull, exceeding 300 inches in score.

The moral of this story is that when you push yourself to the limits of human endurance, maintain a positive attitude, and trust in a higher power, you will ultimately reap the rewards of your labor.

It is the journey, not the destination, that holds the greatest significance. It is the lessons we learn along the way that shape us into the people we are meant to be.

I took my wife, Nettie, for our 8th anniversary on this hunt to carry out my uncle's legacy. His spirit was with us. We were able to fill our tag and harvest our first bull elk.

I would like to extend my sincerest gratitude to Storm Peak Outfitters, Mike Davis, and his exceptional team. Thank you also to Alton Carter Fincher, who is the epitome of a guide and someone I am thankful to call my friend. May God bless you all. And to Storm Peak Outfitters...I'll be back!



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.

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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.

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Carson Nyenbuis - Founder and President

Youth Night Recap

STORY BY TODD MOELKER

Our chapter is very focused on recruiting young people into the outdoor lifestyle.



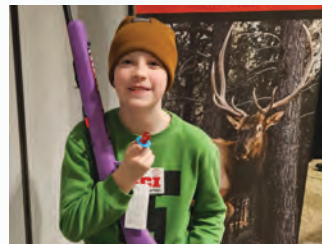
Each year we dedicate a membership meeting specifically supporting these efforts. Our Youth Night meeting in March did not disappoint, with over 80 members attending with many young people in the group! We enjoyed an interesting evening of entertainment and education, engaging and teaching our young people about the impact of hunting on conservation, a key objective of the chapter.

After a dinner of burgers and brats, the kids (young and old alike) were entertained and educated by Tom Funk, a Naturalist, that joined us from the Outdoor Discovery Center (ODC) located in Allegan County. Tom did a great job of mixing humor and learning. For this year's program he presented both native and invasive species. We learned about some of the damage done by the introduction of invasive species. A bullfrog and a red-eared slider turtle were the invasive species Tom presented. Both can outcompete native frogs and turtles with detrimental effects on the native species populations. We also had the opportunity to see and learn about the endangered black rat snake. Tom then moved on to a couple of cool birds of prey. First up was a peregrine falcon. These birds are the fastest creatures on earth, and everyone appreciated the chance to see one up close! Last but not least, we were introduced to a great horned owl.

Our SCI Michigan Chapter and the ODC have a long history of mutual support for the conservation education of our youth. Vern Edwards, a long-time member of SCI Michigan (past chapter President of SCI Michigan and International) (recently deceased) was instrumental in the founding of ODC. We continue our support for ODC and their important work. Tom was presented with a check for \$4,000 thanks to all our generous members!

Youth night would not be complete without a bunch of winners! Kasey Fawcett was the lucky winner of the jewelry. Jack Weller won the adult gun (with his dad). For youth night we had FOUR youth guns! The lucky winners were Katy Becker, Reese Fawcett, Rosie Boss, and Brady Mills. Even after all these winners the night was not done. Evan Ricord and Dax Slaydon were the two happy youth hunt winners for management buck or doe hunts at Two Hats Ranch!

The night was a great success! We certainly appreciated the time and talents of Tom Funk representing the Outdoor Discovery Center as well as the continued support of many dedicated sponsors such as Silver Bullet Firearms and Two Hats Ranch.





Meet

Skyler

STORY BY SKYLER'S MOM KATIE



Meet Skyler Karsemeyer.

Skyler, ten years old and experiencing a medically failing heart, shot a 9 point buck on the youth hunt, in September 2025. Skyler and her family attended the October monthly meeting before she went to the hospital the next day. She received a new heart on January 12, 2026. Skyler returned home from the hospital at the same time as the beautiful mount of her buck! We thank God for His goodness and can't wait to get back to the outdoors soon!

Editor's Note:

Skyler was disappointed that she couldn't go to the Michigan Chapter Youth Night, but receiving a card signed by all the kids made her day!



2026 FUNDRAISER CONVENTION





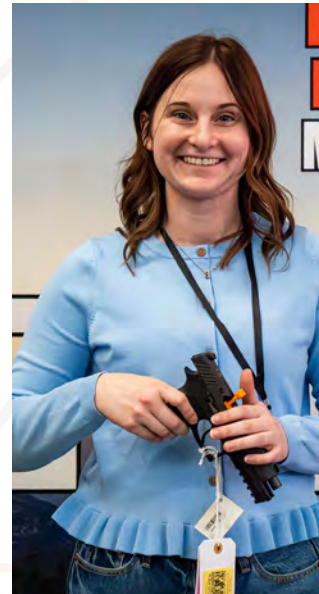
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Stony Bing	Mary Harter	Robert Mills, Jr.	John Stone
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Jerry Brenner	Larry Higgins	Jeff Mohney	Brian Thompson
Ron Browning	Mary Higgins	Joe Mulders	J.Scott Timmer
Stan Buell	Kendall Jones	Carolyn Murray	Tim Torpey
Jon Bumstead	Tim Jones	Ryan Murray	Dan VanderMuelen
Hollie Burkhart	Dan Jordan	Jim Naber	Brandon VanHouten
Tim Burkhart	Bryan Judge	Jim Novitsky	Rich VanDyke
Scott Bylsma	Clint Karsemeyer	Dan Olson	James Weick
Ivan Carter	David Kidder	Cari Overweg	Harry Weller
James Cooke	Larry Keift	Scott Overweg	Jack Weller
Louis Cusack	Aaron Kik	David Owel	Jake Weller
Scott DeGraff	David Koetje	David Owen	Skip Weller
Keith DeWitt	John Koetje	Steve Peasley	Dave Wilkins
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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 (Regular-\$1,500.00, Seniors 60+ \$1,250.00) before becoming a Lifetime MI Chapter Member

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$300 one time due; if age 59 and below | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,500 SCI Life one time due; if age 59 and below |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 one time due; if age 60+ | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1,250 SCI Life one time due; if age 60+ |

Youth Membership (21 and under)

- \$25 One-Year Annual Membership (SCI and MI Chapter)
- \$75 Three-Year Annual Membership (SCI and MI Chapter)

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BIOS 2025-2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Dr. Michael Kwast

President

My name is Dr. Michael Kwast. I am the CEO of Peak Performance Integrated Medicine and iChiro Clinics, which I founded in 1999. I am a husband, father of four, and proud grandfather of two. Since 2000, I have lived in the Rockford area and have been actively involved in the community. For the past four years, I have served as president of the SCI Michigan Chapter, following two previous years on the board. As a Life Member of SCI, I am deeply committed to protecting, preserving, and promoting hunting. Some of life's greatest moments are found in the field. I look forward to continuing to serve SCI ensuring future generations can enjoy hunting while stewarding God's creation.

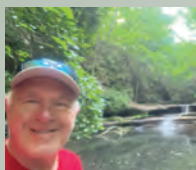


Stacey Platz

Vice President

My name is Stacey Platz. I am honored to be on the Board of Directors for the SCI Michigan Chapter in a Vice President role after serving for the previous six years in various board positions. I work as a Manager of Client Services in Employee Benefits with Alera Group. I also own "Thomas & Company II Salon" based in Greenville, MI. Outside of my professional life, I am most proud to be a devoted wife, mother of three, and grandmother of two. My husband, Jay, and I live in Sand Lake, MI. We enjoy the outdoors and traveling.

I am a Lifetime Member of both SCI International and the Michigan Chapter. From the beginning of my tenure, Jay and I have worked diligently together as Fundraising Chairs. My involvement is driven by a strong belief in protecting, preserving, and promoting our hunting traditions ensuring they remain intact for generations to come. I am further committed to introducing young people to the wonders of outdoor adventures.



Ron Grenadier

Treasurer

My name is Ron Grenadier. I am a retired CPA and business owner who loves travel and the outdoors. My preference was to bow hunt. But, as age has crept up and taken its toll, my hunting style has shifted to crossbow or rifle. I have been fortunate to hunt on five continents.

I reside either in Portage or Ludington, Michigan, depending on the time of year. Ludington is hard to beat in the summer and fall seasons.

Being involved with the SCI Michigan Chapter allows me to be a part of what I am passionate about: hunting, conservation, and the opportunity to be with people who share the same ideals. In addition to hunting, I enjoy fishing, rock hounding, hiking, and bike riding. I have been on the SCI Michigan Chapter board since around 2009. I have served as Treasurer for all but two of those years. Also, during this time, I was the Annual Fundraiser Chair for 6 years.



Bob Mills III

Secretary

My name is Bob Mills. I was born and raised in Rockford, Michigan. I now reside in Allendale with my wife, Sarah, and our twin 9-year-old boys. Growing up, I spent countless hours hunting deer, turkey, and small game across Michigan with my dad. Those early adventures sparked a lifelong passion for hunting, leading us to pursue larger trips to Canada and Africa.

My dad introduced me to the SCI Michigan Chapter at a young age, bringing me to the Annual Fundraiser every year. Those experiences left a lasting impression. I have been attending ever since. A few years ago, I joined the SCI Michigan Chapter board helping to inspire the next generation of hunters. I currently serve as Youth Chairman and Secretary, roles I take great pride in. One of my favorite activities as Youth Chairman is organizing the Youth Pheasant Hunt, bringing kids into the field for hands-on hunting experiences.

My goal as a board member is ensuring as many young people as possible will have the opportunity to discover the joys of hunting and learn the importance of conservation. By fostering these traditions, I hope to keep the spirit of hunting alive for future generations.



Scott Bylsma

My name is Scott Bylsma. I am a Financial Advisor with Wells Fargo Advisors. I have lived in West Michigan nearly my whole life. I am married (Patty) with two daughters and twin granddaughters. We, along with my sons-in-

laws, are outdoors enthusiasts--especially when it comes to hunting.

I joined the SCI Michigan Chapter in 2008 and became a Life Member soon after. My wife and I have been on many hunts with outfitters that support our chapter. Everyone had a great experience. Going to different places and countries, hearing and seeing what a difference SCI has made for the conservation and preservation of wildlife, and the environment is a blessing. I joined the board in 2024 and have enjoyed working to further SCI's mission.



Todd Cook

My name is Todd Cook. I live in Byron Center with my wife, Tania, our two children, and our pointing labs. My passion for the outdoors started at a young age. I began duck hunting at age 12. At 15, my dad introduced me to deer hunting. These experiences sparked a passion. Eventually taking me overseas to South Africa, and then Mozambique. Professionally, I grew up in the lumber industry and started working in that business at age 18. I was introduced to Safari Club International by Mark Rohde, who warmly invited me to a Michigan Chapter fundraiser. In 2015, I also met Joe Pedersen (current SCI Corporate Treasurer) at a subsequent shooting event. It was meeting such dedicated and inspiring individuals that led me to officially join SCI and serve on its board. I currently chair both the Guides & Outfitters Committee and the Sponsorship Committee. I am surrounded by a great team. Together, our goal is to build strong, lasting relationships within the hunting and outdoor industries. Through strategic outreach and collaboration, I am passionate about supporting SCI's mission ensuring the continued success of our fundraising efforts that are vital to the future of hunting and wildlife conservation.



Don Dixon

I am retired from a career as a manufacturing representative. My favorite hunts have been for elk, whitetails, and mule deer. I joined the SCI Michigan Chapter in 2005. My wife, Linda, and I became Life Members of SCI International and SCI Michigan Chapter 15 years ago. I have been on the BOD for those 15 years and enjoy being part of a great group of volunteers who share my love of hunting.



Brandon Heyboer

Brandon Heyboer: I am a full-time firefighter and EMT for Byron Township. I take pride in serving my community and helping others when they need it most. My passion for the outdoors began at a young age, spending many seasons up at “deer camp” in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula. There, I learned to appreciate nature, tradition, and time well spent with family and friends. I have been a member of the SCI Michigan Chapter since 2020 and began serving on the board in 2024. I am also a member of our Gun Committee, where I work to bring new calibers and equipment to events and share that experience with others. When I am not on duty or volunteering, I enjoy fishing for bluegills or jigging the Detroit River for walleyes, duck hunting and exploring the outdoors. This is when I recharge and find balance. I believe in living simply; appreciating the little things, and surrounding myself with good people. Adventure is important to me. So is slowing down to enjoy life’s everyday moments.



Quincy Kwast

My name is Quincy Kwast. I am a professional travel advisor, devoted wife, proud mom of four, and grandmother of two. Our family has made our home in Rockford, Michigan, where community and family values are at the heart of everything I do.

My love for travel began shortly after marrying my husband, when he took me on our very first hunting adventure. What started as a new experience quickly grew into lifelong passion. Over the years, exploring the world, especially with family and friends, has become one of my greatest joys. For me, travel is not just about seeing new places. It is also about creating unforgettable memories and cherishing the moments that last a lifetime.

For more than 15 years, I have been an active member of Safari Club International and our SCI Michigan Chapter, proudly serving on our board for the past four years. Through this involvement, I have combined my love of adventure with my dedication to protecting and promoting hunting traditions for future generations.



Todd Moelker

My name is Todd Moelker. I have been married to Lynda for 34 years, have three grown sons, two daughters-in-law, and one grandson. I grew up hunting and fishing. Some of my earliest memories are of bluegill fishing and rabbit hunting with my dad and brother. I have always

been passionate about hunting and am blessed to have done so in many places the world. Yet, at heart, I will always be a Michigan deer and duck hunter.

Lynda and I were introduced to SCI and our Michigan chapter in 2005. I have served on the board since 2021. My responsibilities included being Editor of the Tracker, Chapter merchandise development/inventory, and organizing monthly membership meetings. I believe every hunter should be a member of and support SCI. As our slogan says, “First for Hunters.” We are leaders in conservation both here in Michigan and throughout the world.



Ron Northman

My name is Ron Northman, I have been an SCI member since 2017 and was elected as a Board member shortly thereafter. I am a lifelong Michigan resident and started Deer and small game hunting with firearm as well as archery just after graduating high school in 1972. I was introduced to hunting by a close friend and very quickly became hooked.

My wife and I have been fortunate to hunt internationally in South Africa as well as in the Highlands of Scotland. We have also hunted in Wyoming, Florida and Texas and have enjoyed these hunts very much.

I am very passionate about hunting and am looking forward to serving on the board again and helping to promote hunting and conservation in any way I am able.

My wife Kristy and I reside in Spring Lake and have Four grown boys with two Grandsons and four Granddaughters.

We are self employed owners of a long-time family business ... The MacLeod Insurance Agency in downtown Grand Haven. We specialize in Medicare Insurance Products. Prior to this I was in the Engineering field for 30 years.

Preserving Our Hunting Heritage is very important to me!



Jay Platz

My name is Jay Platz. I am 48 years old and blessed to share my life with my loving wife, Stacey. I have worked at Speed-Tech for 23 years and currently serve as a Service Supervisor, building my career on hard work, dedication, and a commitment to serving others. Hunting has always been a central part of my life. I am an avid hunter and target shooter who enjoys spending time in the outdoors with family and friends. Some of my greatest joys come from sharing (remove the word the) hunting traditions with others. Introducing new hunters to the sport I love is very rewarding. For me, hunting is more than just the pursuit. It is about

fellowship, respect for wildlife, and carrying forward values that matter. I am truly honored to serve on the SCI Michigan Chapter of Board of Directors. This role provides me opportunities to stand up for hunter’s rights, protect the future of hunting, and give back to a community that has given so much to me. My goal is to help ensure the heritage of hunting is preserved and strengthened for generations to come, while making a positive impact on the hunting community today.



Larry Smith

My name is Larry Smith and I have been a board member of the Michigan Chapter for 18 years. I am a life member of both the SCI and NRA. I was born and raised in Grand Rapids, Michigan. I served in the U.S. Navy with a tour in Vietnam aboard the destroyer the “USS Basilone.” I learned to hunt from my father, grandfather, and uncle as a teenager. I have a bachelor’s degree from the University of Idaho. I truly believe “Hunting is Conservation.” SCI is “First for Hunters” and I am proud to serve on the Michigan Chapter Board of Directors. When I am to old to hunt, I will get more serious about fishing.



Denny Sprick

My name is Dennis (Denny) Sprick. I moved to the Grand Rapids area from Holland, MI in the early 1970’s after fulfilling my obligation with Uncle Sam. My wife, Michelle, and I have lived in Vergennes Township for the last 40 years. So, I guess that is home! We have been very fortunate traveling to so many exciting locations in different parts of the world. We have truly lived so many of our dreams! Of course, hunting, the conservation of wildlife, and protecting hunters’ rights are a big part of our lives.

I became a member of our great SCI Michigan Chapter in 2010 and was elected to the board in 2012. I also became a Life Member in 2013. Over the next few years, I chaired 2 of our annual fundraising conventions and served on many other committees. I had the opportunity to serve as your Chapter’s Vice President (under Dan Olson 2015-2019) for four years and was also our Chapter’s Treasurer for a year after that. For 10 years, I have been blessed in so many ways as your Chapter’s Humanitarian Chair. Together, we have accomplished much and truly made a positive change in so many lives. The outpouring of generosity from all our Chapter members is truly a huge blessing!! Whether it is getting kids outdoors hunting and fishing, working with Purple Heart Veterans, or meeting the challenges of those who are less fortunate. You have truly made the difference! I thank you for all you have done!!!



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West Michigan Bow Hunters is a community of passionate archers' dedicated to promoting the sport of bow hunting throughout the region.

STORY BY PETE MIEDEMA

SCI-WMBH BOARD



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Thank you! Once again, you have helped us set all-time records for attendance, money raised, and generous business partnerships at the 2026 Fundraiser. Now our important work begins as we vet and evaluate the best charities that align with SCI and West Michigan Bowhunters.

As a board and as volunteers, we are overwhelmed by the community support we have received. Because of that support, we will be able to share our fundraising with multiple charities. We help many youth and veteran charities, and host outdoor events and programs contributing to SCI International in its goal of being FIRST FOR HUNTERS. Some of the nonprofits we support are Sportspersons Ministries International with their youth hunter education certification as well as their middle and high school bass tournaments, Hunt to Heal, Wings of Mercy, Centerfire Youth Archery Club, and many more.

We are already looking forward to seeing you again in February 2027 as we look to move the needle onward and upward.



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

ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

2026 Sponsorships

\$15,000

ELITE SPONSOR

- Company name as title of event "The ABC Company SCI Michigan 53rd Annual Convention"
- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Tracker Magazine full page sponsorship in 4 issues (1 year)
- Logo on front page scimichigan.org website for 1 year
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Logo display on all member emails and written communications for 1 year
- Logo display on sponsor banner for 1 year
- \$2,000 raffle ticket package

\$10,000

GOLD SPONSOR

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Tracker Magazine full page sponsorship in 4 issues (1 year)
- Logo on front page scimichigan.org website for 1 year
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Logo display on all member emails and written communications for 1 year
- Logo display on sponsor banner for 1 year
- \$1,500 raffle ticket package

\$7,500

SILVER SPONSOR

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Tracker Magazine full page sponsorship in 4 issues (1 year)
- Logo on front page scimichigan.org website for 1 year
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Logo display on all member emails and written communications for 1 year
- Logo display on sponsor banner for 1 year
- \$750 raffle ticket package

\$6,000

SATURDAY DINNER SPONSOR

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Sponsorship acknowledgement in Tracker Magazine
- \$500 raffle ticket package

\$4,000

FRIDAY DINNER SPONSOR

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Sponsorship acknowledgement in Tracker Magazine
- \$500 raffle ticket package

\$6,000

BRONZE SPONSOR

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Tracker Magazine 1/2 page sponsorship in 4 issues (1 year)
- Logo on front page scimichigan.org website for 1 year
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Logo display on all member emails and written communications for 1 year
- Logo display on sponsor banner for 1 year
- \$500 raffle ticket package

\$5,000

GUN OF THE YEAR SPONSOR

FRR RIDGE RUNNER 7 PRC

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Sponsorship acknowledgement in Tracker Magazine

\$3,800

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- 10 Friday & Saturday Dinner Tickets, 5 Hotel Rooms Friday & Saturday
- Front Row Seating & Signage
- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Sponsorship acknowledgement in Tracker Magazine
- \$500 raffle ticket package

\$4,000

GALLERY OF GUNS SPONSOR

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Sponsorship acknowledgement in Tracker Magazine

\$2,000

SABLES SPONSOR

WINE TASTING SEMINAR

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year

\$500

OTHER SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| Centerpiece Sponsor | Single Gun Sponsor |
| Mens Table Sponsor | Wall of Wine Sponsor |
| Womens Table Sponsor | Liquor Toss Sponsor |
| Hunting Awards Sponsor | Veteran Game Sponsor |

All sponsorships include the following

- Logo display at 2026 Annual Convention
- Verbal sponsorship acknowledgment during event
- Logo display at all monthly member meetings for 1 year
- Sponsorship acknowledgement in Tracker Magazine



HUMANITARIAN DONATIONS 2026

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 different ways. If we missed anyone, our apologies. Please let us know so we can get it corrected. Again, thank you so much for your donation.

\$4,000

Skip & Sherri Weller

\$2,550

Tim & Hollie Burkhart

\$2,000

Jim Novitsky

\$1,000

Mike & Qunicy Kwast

Lee & Jan Murray

Jim & Sandy Naber

Jay & Stacey Platz

\$750

John & Helen Mellema

\$500

Scott & Patty Bylsma

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Joe & Abbe Mulders

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Tim & Lisa Piccard

Jerry & Sandy Swett

Tim & Charity Torpey

\$250

Stony & Alma Bing

Todd Cook

Bob & Deb Garza

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Rick Hansen

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Brandon Heyboer

Dan Jordan

Bob & SueEllen McCreary

Alan McDonald

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Ron & Kristy Northman

Dan & Julie Olson

Rich & Emily Pyle

Tim VanZyl

Chris & Ellie Wellman

Joel Zuidema

\$150

Todd & Lynda Moelkjer

\$100

Craig Bade

Bill & Cheryl Bettys

Will & Kasey Fawcett

Joe Guinn

Gary & Brenda Haisma

Mark & Kathy Haisma

Craig Hill

\$100

Kyle & Mallory Mroz

Russ Nehmer

Dan Ruster

Randy & Lori Schultz

Nick Sprankles &

Evelyn McKeddie

Dan & Debra TerHorst

Brian Thompson &

Carole Stowell

Rich & Sara VanDyke

\$50

John Pitsch


Neil & Karina Ringerwole

AWARD WINNER

2026 PRINT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

The 2025 Winter issue of The Tracker has recently been recognized with 2 Silver Awards from Graphic Media Alliance.





ISSUE 7 - WINTER 2025

THE TRACKER

MICHIGAN CHAPTER SCI

OUR HERO: SHIELD PROJECT

WHAT TO DO THIS SPRING

KEEPING MICHIGAN SAFARI MEMBERS ON THE RIGHT TRACK

THE OLD FOLEY AND A BLACK BEAR!

SCI MICHIGAN CHAPTER 2026 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 2026 fundraiser.

Afrihunt Safaris	Great North Real Estate	Powderhorn Sportfishing Charters
Alan Reinemann	Gunwerks	Prime Archery & GS Outdoors
Alert Inspection Services	Haymarsh Hunt Club	Rainy Pass Lodge
Amergy Disposal	Hidden Horns Game Ranch	Rapid River Knifeworx
Anurity Ranch	Hot Rod Motor Sports	Roger Froling
Arctic Wolf Lodge	Hunt Trip Spain by Francisco Rosich	Safari Art
Argentina Bird Hunts & HP	Hunters Network LLC	Safari Unlimited LLC
Wingshooting Adventures	Jannie Otto Safaris	Silver Bullet Firearms
Best Outdoors LLC & Packer MAXX	Kevin Brenner	Skip Weller
Brenner Excavating	L&L Adventures	Slayer Blinds
Burkhart Chiropractic	La Espadella Hunting Adventures	Smokin Gun Hunting Ranch
Byron Hart African Safaris	Larry Smith/ Diane Thompson	Sonora Desert Hunts
Cabelas	Legends Taxidermy	South Pacific Safaris
Cajun Queen Adventures	Long Range Archery & Firearms LLC	Sunrize Safaris
Cedar Cove Ranch	Marupa Safaris	Terra Pampa Lodge
Cooks Outfitting	Matwetwe Safaris	The Iberian Hunting Experience
Corju Hunting	Michigan Whitetail Food Plots	Three Sixty Safaris
David Denies Bird Hunting	Midwest Lifestyle Properties	Thomas & Company II Hair Salon
DC & Associates	Mokore Safaris	Trijicon
Deer Care UK	Muchinga Adventures LTD	Two Hats Ranch
Don Dixon	Naber's Taxidermy	Vortex
Elephant Trails Safaris	New Zealand Hunting Adventures	West Central Outfitters
Everland Outdoors	Numzaan Safaris	Wild Namibia Hunting Safaris
Final Rest Shooting Systems	Off Grid Outdoors	Wild Spirit Guide Service
Flint Ridge Rifles	Orion Construction	Wyndscent
Fourth Arrow	Paco Riestra Wingshooting & Hunting	Zambeze Delta Safaris
Game Trackers Africa	Peak Performance/ iChiro	
Giuseppe Carrizosa	Pope Brothers Guide Service	

HUNTERS' LEGACY

Remembering our Hunting Heritage



Vern Edewaard

9/9/25

Sponsored by:
Joe Pedersen



Joseph Maggini

10/9/25

Sponsored by:
Scott Bylsma



Wayne Thompson

11/17/20

Sponsored by:
Mike Kwast, Bobby Mills,
Bob Mills, Jerry Swett



Scott Rozeboom

"Captain Rosey"

11/11/25

Sponsored by:
Jack Koning III



Lee Murray

Sponsored by:
Denny Sprick

Hunters Legacy was created to carry forward the rich tradition of hunting while honoring those who have championed SCI's mission along the way. Through generous donations, this fund supports efforts to preserve, protect, and promote hunting and wildlife conservation—and recognizes the individuals whose passion and support make that work possible.

HUNTERS' LEGACY

Remembering our Hunting Heritage



Vern Kuipers

Sponsored by:
Lee Murray



David Kidder

Sponsored by:
Dr. Tim Burkhart



Skip Weller

Sponsored by:
Lee Murray

Hunters Legacy was created to carry forward the rich tradition of hunting while honoring those who have championed SCI's mission along the way. Through generous donations, this fund supports efforts to preserve, protect, and promote hunting and wildlife conservation—and recognizes the individuals whose passion and support make that work possible.

Hunters' Legacy Fund

Hunters' Legacy Fund

The Hunters' Legacy Fund was created to honor the individuals who have inspired our passion for the sport and helped preserve our hunting heritage. Anyone wishing to recognize someone who has influenced their love of hunting may submit that individual's photo, name, and memorial status (living or deceased).

With a donation of \$500 or more, the honoree will be included in the event program and recognized in Tracker Magazine, as well as on display screens at SCI Michigan Chapter meetings.

Each year, the Board of Directors will select a special project to receive support from the Hunters' Legacy Fund, ensuring these contributions continue to strengthen and protect the future of hunting.



To nominate someone for recognition, please click on the QR code and begin their legacy.



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



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