

Safari Club International - Detroit Chapter

# Trajectory briefs

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Trajectory briefs, Winter 2022

# What is Trajectory briefs?

You are looking at our Members newsletter "*Trajectory briefs*." This is a scaled down version of SCI Detroit's award winning magazine *Trajectory*. Our plan is to publish *Trajectory briefs* online, at least two times a year. Each issue will provide you with updates and information pertinent to the SCI Detroit Chapter, Legislative News, happenings at SCI, relevant items from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Michigan DNR (MDNR), and member hunt stories.

We would greatly appreciate your thoughts, feedback, and other contributions.

Steve Breuning

SCI Detroit  
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## Upcoming Chapter Events

Below is a listing of currently scheduled SCI Detroit Chapter events. Please check the events on the SCI Detroit website for more information and any schedule changes. Also, check the website regularly as newly added events will appear there as they become scheduled.

[www.scidetroit.org](http://www.scidetroit.org)

March 4 & 5, 2022 - SCI Detroit Banquet and Fundraiser.

SCI Detroit has just started a Facebook page.  
[Check it out!](#)

**SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL**  
DETROIT CHAPTER

# 45th ANNUAL BANQUET & FUNDRAISER

Friday, March 4 &  
Saturday, March 5, 2022

**Over 80 items will be auctioned off during this two-day event, plus huge gun raffles, silent auction, knife draw and more. Meet outfitters from around the world and North America.**

#### WILD GAME DINNER

*(Salmon, Rabbit, Pheasant, Buffalo)*

Saturday night ticket purchase includes open bar.

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**\$75.00 per person | \$675 per table of ten**

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All full table purchases starting on January 1st, will receive one free ticket at that table also all table guest at that table will receive a ticket for multiple prize drawings for only full table purchases.

#### FERN HILL GOLF CLUB

17600 Clinton River Rd. | Charter Twp. of Clinton, MI

BOOK ONLINE AT

**[www.scidetroit.org](http://www.scidetroit.org)**

Ticket purchases received by February 25, 2022 will be mailed. Purchases after February 25, 2022 will be at Will-Call for pick up the night of the event.

For more information and an auction list, please visit our website at [www.scidetroit.org](http://www.scidetroit.org) or call 810-543-1125.

# SCI Detroit Continues to Support our Veterans

## SCI Detroit Again Contributed to the Veterans Purple Heart Hunt at the Legends Ranch

The Board of Directors of SCI Detroit were vgain very excited to participate with the Legends Ranch in giving one of our Purple Heart Veterens the chance to hunt a Michigan Whitetail Buck at one of America’s premier Game Ranchs. Legends Ranch has a history of supporting our veterens as they express in their own words.

Don Hughes was this years Purple Heart recipient who participated with us on this hunt. Thank you Don for your service to our Country!



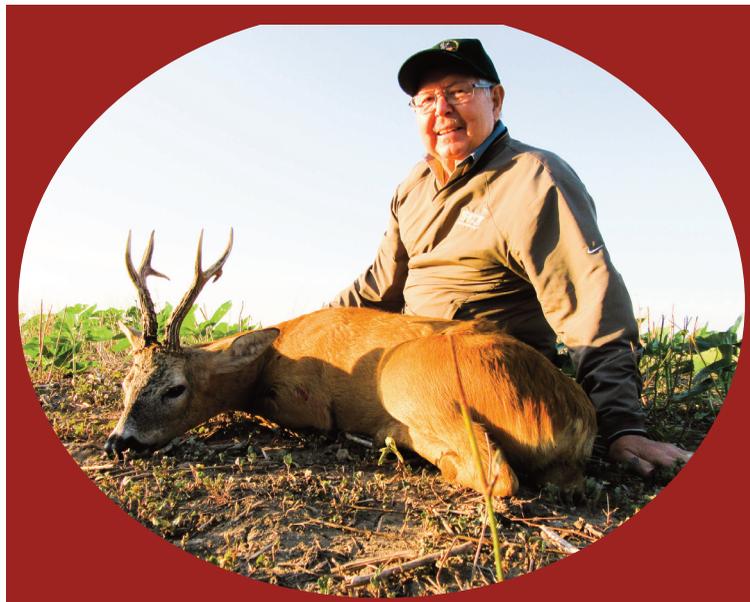
This years participants in the Purple Heart hunt at Legends Ranch

# Serbian Roe Deer Hunt

By Donald E. Black

Many of you who have read my previous hunt reports know that I really like to hunt European Roe Deer which are found throughout virtually all countries of Europe. These rather small-bodied deer which

Roe Deer where I hunted with a well-known outfitter named European Hunting Adventures in late 2020 which donates hunts to several SCI chapters.



have reddish or grey/brown coloration depending on the time of year are especially active during the July and August rut. They are in all likelihood the most common game species hunted by Europeans much like the white-tailed deer of North America is the favorite of most hunters in the United States.

I have enjoyed pursuing these deer in multiple countries including in the Julian Alps of Slovenia, in England where I have taken some very nice trophies, throughout the Czech Republic on numerous occasions where I have taken several trophies during each visit in addition to Germany where I was stationed for nearly two years and hunted them weekly during the long seasons which begin in mid-May and last until September. Too, I have hunted them on the vast plains of Hungary where I took my previous best trophy and lastly in Serbia which has a huge population of European

As luck would have it, SCI Detroit Chapter is one of the chapters European Hunting Adventures donated hunts to the past two years. When I saw that no one was bidding on the European Roe Deer hunt they had donated in 2021 I jumped on it. As with many of the donated hunts I have purchased in the past I upgraded to include

a Central European Mouflon which I have also enjoy previously hunting and arranged a tour of Bosnia/Herzegovina and Croatia following my hunt with the outfitter. As can be seen from the photos which accompany this report I had outstanding success with both species and ended up taking my best European Roe Deer ever using the excellent rifle and scope provided by the outfitter for a very modest rental fee.

I understand that European Hunting Adventures plans to again donate one or more hunts to SCI Detroit Chapter for its March 4 & 5, 2022 Banquet and Fund-Raiser.

**I strongly recommend those donations receive careful consideration by each chapter member and hope that the bidding will realize a meaningful return for the chapter to help it accomplish its mission to protect the right to hunt.**





## SCI MIC AWARDS \$9,300 IN GRAD GRANTS TO FIVE GRAD STUDENTS AT MICHIGAN UNIVERSITIES

**By Joe Konwinski**  
SCI MIC Treasurer

On September 16, 2021 Safari Club Internal Michigan Involvement Committee (aka SCI MIC) a 501-C3 tax exempt non-profit organization composed of a representative from each of the ten Michigan-based SCI Chapters awarded a total of \$9,300 in grad grants to five grad students attending universities located in Michigan. One of the missions of SCI MIC is to enhance wildlife education in Michigan by awarding grants to graduate students pursuing advanced degrees in wildlife-related curricula at Michigan-based universities. The rest of this article provides information on each the five grad students that received an award.

**Samantha Courtney** is a master of science student in Fisheries and Wildlife Management at Michigan State University scheduled to complete her degree in December 2023. Samantha's thesis research project is: "*Group size, Bioaccumulation and Baiting: Quantifying Factors Affecting Chronic Wasting Disease Transmission Among Deer in the five counties around Lansing, Michigan.*" Samantha was awarded a \$2,000 grad grant.

**Steven Gurney** is a master of science student in Wildlife Ecology and Management at Michigan State University scheduled to complete his degree in May 2023. Steven's thesis research project is: "*Evaluation of white-tailed deer population parameter estimates and implications for chronic wasting disease management.*" Steven was awarded a \$2,000 grad grant.

**Ben Luukkonen** is a PhD student in Wildlife Ecology at Michigan State University scheduled to complete his degree in June 2024. Ben's thesis research project is to "*Assess Great Lakes Mallard Duck movements, habitat selection, survival and productivity.*" Ben was awarded a \$2,300 grad grant.

**Jonathan Trudeau** is a PhD student in Wildlife Ecology at Michigan State University scheduled to complete his degree in June 2022. Jonathan's thesis research project is: "*Factors influencing the movement and space use of white-tailed deer in Michigan and implications for the management of emergent chronic wasting disease.*" Jonathan was awarded a \$2,000 grad grant.

**Megan Bos** is a master of science student in conservation biology at Central Michigan University scheduled to complete her degree in August 2022. Megan's thesis research project is: "*Effects of muskrats on Great Lakes coastal wetlands.*" Megan was awarded a \$1,000 grad grant.

SCI MIC congratulates these grad grant recipients and wishes them the best in their wildlife career endeavors.

# *Legislative and other Wildlife News*

By Joe Konwinski

## **11-18-21 CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) CONFIRMED IN TWO FARMED ELK IN KENT COUNTY:**

Today the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) confirmed two cases of CWD in elk from a farmed cervid facility in Kent County. The two infected elk, a two-and-a-half-year-old and a three-and-a-half-year-old, were discovered through disease tracing efforts that resulted from finding CWD in a different Michigan farmed cervid herd. These are the first known cases of CWD in Michigan elk.

## **11-22-21 CWD CONFIRMED IN IDAHO FOR THE FIRST TIME:**

Two mule deer bucks harvested during October in Eastern Idaho have tested positive for CWD. Although CWD has been known to exist in the Western United States for over 40 years, this is the first time animals in Idaho have tested positive for the fatal disease.

## **12-15-21 THE PLANNED MERGER OF BASS PRO SHOPS AND SPORTSMAN'S WAREHOUSE, FIRST ANNOUNCED A YEAR AGO, HAS COLLAPSED:**

Sportsman's Warehouse and the Great Outdoors Group, the parent company of Bass Pro Shops, have terminated the drawn-out deal after the US Federal Trade Commission refused to give it clearance.

## **08-23-21 NEW TEST CAN DETERMINE IF CWD IS PRESENT IN DEER MEAT:**

A new test developed by researchers in Minnesota now will allow hunters to further determine if their venison is free of chronic wasting disease prions. The news on the breakthrough was reported by researchers at the University of Minnesota.

The test is an in vitro amplification technology called real-time quaking-induced conversion (RT-QuIC), which researchers have previously used to find CWD in various tissues and biological samples. However, this is believed to be the first time the test has been used to analyze skeletal muscle tissues that are commonly consumed to look for evidence of CWD.

Now for the first time, researchers have proof of a highly sensitive CWD test that could be used as a venison-safety screening tool. Currently, there are no federal guidelines for testing for CWD in venison during processing, nor are there validated CWD tests for food safety in the United States or anywhere else in the world.

**08-31-21 SCI JOINS LETTER OPPOSING PETITION TO BAN LEGAL TRADE IN WILDLIFE:**

Safari Club International (SCI) joined 35 other organizations representing millions of sportsmen and women across the country in a letter to both the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in strong opposition to the recent petition by the Center for Biological Diversity and the Natural Resources Defense Council attempting to ban legal, regulated trade in wildlife.

These groups seek to exploit the tragedy of the Covid-19 pandemic to achieve their personal goal of shutting down the trade of nearly all mammals and birds – without scientific support, and at the expense of the countries and communities who rely on this trade. This is a veiled attempt to shut down hunting here and abroad.

**09-13-21 PRESIDENT BIDEN WITHDRAWS NOMINATION OF DAVID CHIPMAN FOR ATF DIRECTOR:**

Chipman's nomination did not make it out of the Senate committee hearing. Opposition was led by The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF), and the firearm industry trade association.

**09-13-21 SCI ANNOUNCES SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF TEXAS TROPHY HUNTERS ASSOCIATION ACQUISITION:**

Safari Club International (SCI), the leader in defending the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide, and Texas Trophy Hunters Association (TTHA), Texas' leading organization for promoting, protecting, and preserving the state's hunting heritage for future generations, are excited to announce they have concluded their transaction whereby SCI has acquired TTHA. Founded in 1975, TTHA has long been viewed as a key organization in protecting Texas' hunting heritage and SCI has no plans to change that. TTHA will continue to operate independently as Texas Trophy Hunters Association with its members and corporate partners maintaining their full benefits.

**06-11-21 ARIZONA BANS USE OF TRAIL CAMERAS:**

On June 11, 2021 the Arizona Game and Fish Department Commission voted unanimously to ban trail cameras "for the purpose of taking or aiding in the take of wildlife, or locating wildlife for the purpose of taking or aiding in the take of wildlife" The ban goes into effect on January 1, 2022.

The Game and Fish Commission chair, Kurt Davis, said that "The use of trail cams has become increasingly problematic. We are a state with a large and growing hunter population, and we are in the midst of a historic drought that focuses game movement on water resources. There are 3,100 water catchments in the state, the vast majority of which are on public land, and all are mapped. When people place and check cameras on those limited resources, that leads to conflicts. It is not uncommon to find waterholes with multiple trail cameras set up - sometimes more than 30 cameras. You can imagine the conflicts that arise, both from competing hunters at these sites, as well as the social media circus revolving around such use."

Other concerns that led to the vote were advancements in trail cam technology that potentially gives hunters an unfair advantage, conflict among competing hunters on public land, excessive disturbance of wildlife resulting from frequent visits to check cameras, and disturbance of livestock grazing on public lands.

Other states with limits on trail cams for scouting big game are: Montana, Utah, Wyoming, and Nevada.



## **Michigan DNR announces \$100,000 available for UP Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership grants**

On January 21, 2022 the Michigan DNR announced the application period for the Upper Peninsula's Deer Habitat Improvement Partnership Initiative competitive grant program is now open.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources initiative is a cooperative grant program designed to enhance deer habitat on private lands in the U.P.

"There are three primary goals applicants should strive to meet," said Bill Scullon, DNR field operations manager and administrator for the grant initiative. "The projects should produce tangible deer habitat improvements, build long-term partnerships between the DNR and outside organizations and showcase the benefits to the public."

Now in its 14th year, the initiative is supported by the state's Deer Range Improvement Program, which is funded by a portion of deer hunting license revenue.

So far, the program has invested over \$850,000 in hunter license dollars on UP deer habitat enhancements. More than 100 projects in nearly all UP counties have improved thousands of acres of deer habitat.

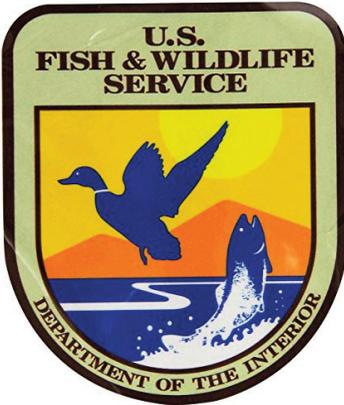
New for 2022: Private, individual landowners with a certified Forest Management Plan that is qualified for eligibility for enrollment in State Forest Stewardship programs or U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service Farm Bill programs, and with a minimum ownership acreage of 400 acres, have been added the list of those eligible to apply for grant funding.

The DNR has announced a March 11 deadline to apply for a total of \$100,000 in UP deer habitat improvement grant funding for 2022. Scullon said the maximum amount of individual grants is \$15,000 and the minimum is \$2,000.

"These projects are prime examples of how conservation minded partners and landowners can come together to enhance deer habitat all across the UP," Scullon said.

Project applications must be postmarked by Friday, March 11 and successful applicants will be notified by Friday, March 25. The complete grant application package is available on the DNR website at [Michigan.gov/DNRGrants](https://Michigan.gov/DNRGrants).

For more information or questions regarding eligibility, please contact Bill Scullon at 906-250-6781 or [ScullonH@Michigan.gov](mailto:ScullonH@Michigan.gov).



## Final Bighorn Sheep Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement

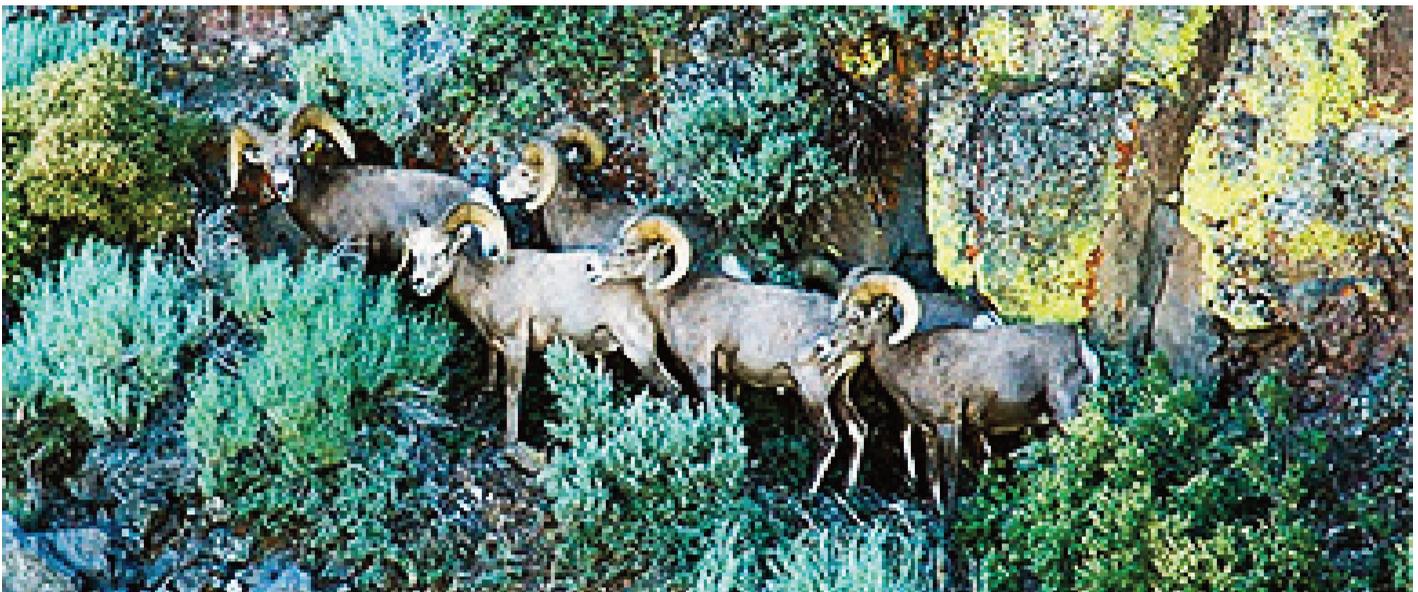
The bighorn sheep population on the refuge has declined by 67% in four years, dropping from 149 sheep in 2017 to 48 in 2020. This trend puts the population at severe risk of extirpation without management intervention. The population decline is a result of high cougar predation and declining habitat quality due to juniper encroachment and invasive plants. Of the 19 sheep radio-collared on the refuge in January 2019, 10 have died. Seven of those deaths are attributed to cougar predation.

The final management plan will include a combination of management strategies to reduce bighorn sheep predation mortality caused by cougars in the short-term while providing time to identify and correct habitat issues that may take decades to resolve. The Service will temporarily and strategically lethally remove cougars in bighorn sheep habitat to allow the herd size to recover to a sustainable level. Habitat management would focus on the herd range and address life history needs to expand and enhance habitat conditions.

Bighorn sheep were extirpated from Oregon by the 1940s due to disease and unregulated hunting. The first successful reintroduction of this native species occurred at Hart Mountain in 1954, when 20 California bighorn sheep from British Columbia were successfully released. Hart Mountain's population served as an important source population for bighorn sheep transplants to other parts of Oregon and surrounding states.

[Hart Mountain Bighorn Sheep Final Plan & Environmental Impact Statement](#)

[Hart Mountain Bighorn Sheep Final Plan & Environmental Impact Statement Appendices](#)





## The Critical Role of Hunters in Protecting Biodiversity

Nov 22, 2021

***“Hunting helps reduce the impact of climate change and biodiversity loss by preserving forest and ground cover, and preventing burning and conversion to agricultural or grazing.”***

Increasing the world's biodiversity is critical to sustaining healthy ecosystems, protecting global wildlife, and maintaining the benefits of natural resources. The world's current decrease of biodiversity is a major threat to the health of both humans and wildlife. The issue is much more complicated than just planting trees to reduce carbon emissions; biodiversity entails the full conservation of an ecosystem from plants and insects up to megafauna. Through participation and management, hunters play a key role in ensuring increased and sustainable global biodiversity levels, particularly in Africa.

International goals have been set at conserving 30% of the world's land and waters by 2030, with many turning first to conservation in Africa. An effective biodiversity strategy must be based in scientific data and include all stakeholders. Most importantly, as human populations continue to expand, the solution to biodiversity must involve coexistence between humans and wildlife.

In order to effectively conserve large land areas, an incredible amount of funding and local support is needed. Hunting, particularly like that of southern Africa, is a low-impact, high revenue generator; hundreds of thousands of dollars are generated from a relatively small number of hunters. This funding goes towards conservation of the land area, employment through conservation jobs in local communities, anti-poaching initiatives, and a sustainable way for communities to mitigate human wildlife conflict.

These efforts by hunters and communities make a significant impact, with the total land area conserved by hunting equaling 344 million acres in sub-Saharan Africa, areas that exceed the total size of the region's national parks by 22%.

These areas are *successfully* conserved, not just land area set aside; see the photo above by Mike Angelides showing a game reserve protected through hunting compared to the immediate area outside the boundaries. Similarly, hunting areas frequently border national parks and act as wildlife buffers for communities, both increasing the total area's biodiversity and mitigating human-wildlife conflict outside of the park.

A [recent study](#) led by Paul Scholte in central Africa has shown that it is not enough to simply protect large swaths of land to conserve animals, and by extension, biodiversity in Africa. In fact, massive land areas without strong financial support structures actually led to a decrease in megafauna populations. According to the [article from Ohio State University](#), large protected areas are extremely difficult for central African governments to manage, and that “tourism in those regions has collapsed due to insecurity, reduced trophy hunting, and more recently, COVID-19, and the international community has not stepped in to fill that funding gap.” Countries in Africa with the most successful international hunting programs in place are also home to the largest successfully protected areas and have the highest populations of megafauna.

Africa currently faces intense pressure from the United States and European governments and organizations to protect huge land areas, conserve all wildlife, and develop sustainably. Unfortunately, these same groups attempt to dictate the management of African wildlife without providing the necessary resources and often are vehemently anti-hunting. This takes away the best and most sustainable conservation structure. SCI is fighting to put science and the rights of Africans at the forefront of this debate to create effective, lasting conservation of biodiversity in Africa.

# Detroit Chapter Members Tower Pheasant Shoot

By Chas Arnold

October 23, 2021, Walkiewicz Pheasant Farm in Deford, Michigan. It was a cool damp day. Rain was forecast for the afternoon however some of that precipitation found its way down to us as we were walking to our shooting stands.

This year the SCI Detroit Chapter held a members only Pheasant with an added incentive to active members who were able to sign up a (or more than one) new SCI members. Of course, those “new” members were welcome to join the pheasant hunt. All in all, we had 40 participants including 12 new members.

As teams of two found their way to a shooting stand, anticipation mounted as to who would shoot their first bird! The horn sounded and birds began to fly from the tower. Shooting commenced as soon as those pheasants came close. For the next two hours we shot moved and shot some more.

I was paired with a new member who just happened to be a U.S. Army reservist. Robert Biedenham.

As an Army veteran myself, Robert was a welcome guest. We discussed what each of us did while being on active duty. As I talked about all the activities the c with he became very interested and told me that perhaps this summer he would like to become a board member.

While we were talking birds were flying and we were able to down a few. After the morning hunt we were treated to a beautiful lunch provided by the Walkiewicz Pheasant Farm staff. After lunch was completed, raffles were held with many nice door prizes that would aid any hunter, no matter what season in which he/she was involved. **The two grand prizes** (an ammo box with hundreds of dollars worth of varies caliber ammo and a beautiful 12 gauge shotgun) were awarded to Anthony Iowski (the ammo box and Joe Konwinski (the shotgun).



Two of the very happy shooters!

In the afternoon several of us stayed to compete in the “walk behind,” as dogs were used to flush those birds that survived the tower shoot. By 3:00 pm the rain was becoming pretty steady. Besides we were

all pretty exhausted for the afternoon hunt. A great time was had by all who supported the hunt, and new members were added to our roles.



# Looking for something new? Try the Card/Riley Conservation and Wildlife Center

The Card/Riley Conservation and Wildlife Education Center is a 5,000 square foot facility located on the ground floor of the Arts, Sciences and Education Commons building (Room 011) on the Ferris State University campus in Big Rapids, Michigan. The primary function of the Card/Riley Conservation and Wildlife Education Center is to serve as an educational resource for Ferris State University students, K-12 school children, and members of the greater Michigan community.

<https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/card/card-information.htm>

