

Safari Club International - Detroit Chapter

Awarded SCI Best Chapter Magazine (Group 2) for 2015 and 2016

# Trajectory

2500 lbs. of W

*By Steve Breuning*

**Kansas  
Whitetail  
Hunt**

*By Joe Konwinski*

**Little Wind River,  
Yukon Territory,  
Canada Grizzly Bear Hunt**

*By Donald E. Black*

*A Quest For*  
**DIAMONDS**

*By E. Keller*

**Spring/Summer 2017**



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Steve Breuning

Our Chapter as had a great year. Our banquet/fundraiser was very successful, membership rose, and at the National/International level SCI has given our Chapter lots of good attention and positive feedback. Regarding *Trajectory*, we are very proud to say the International SCI has honored *Trajectory* as “SCI Best Chapter Magazine (Group 2) for 2015” and now for “2016” as well. This was only possible with your articles, stories, feedback, and general participation. On behalf of Bob Berndt and myself it continues to be an honor to work with you all.

To continue this level quality magazine we will always need your help. We want your hunting stories, we want the stories of your first hunt, and we want your pictures. It is you, our members, who will allow this to happen. We had good support for this issue – please keep it up.

Also remember, if you have a fear that they don't write well enough we will gladly help. Don't be shy, this will not be a problem. I guarantee you will have a story you are proud of and a written memory of your hunt.

We are continuing to use ads in *Trajectory*. We want our members to know what each other does and who provides good services. This helps us all. Our pricing on ads remains minimal. Prices are:

\$250 for a Full Page Ad	\$ 50 for a ¼ Page Ad
\$150 for a ½ Page Ad	\$ 25 for a Business Card size Ad

For your money, your Ad will run in both hard copies of *Trajectory* as well as be on our website for a year.

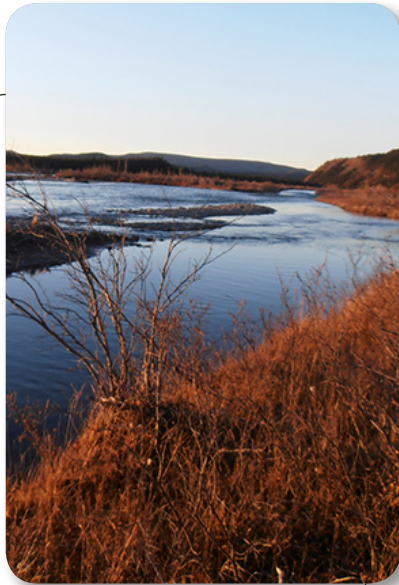
The following is a list of Advertisers in this issue of *Trajectory*. I want to personally thank all for their support of our Chapter and please check them all out.

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Cover photo courtesy of Eric White, Star S Ranch, Mason TX.

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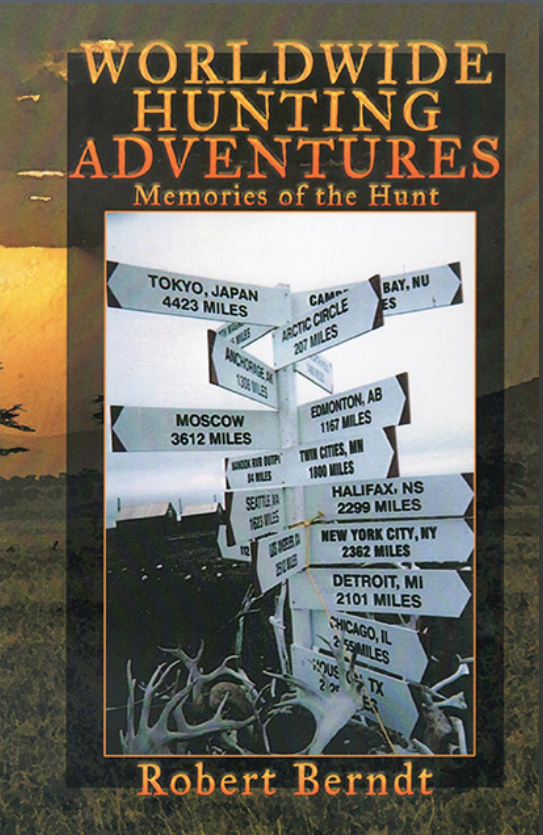
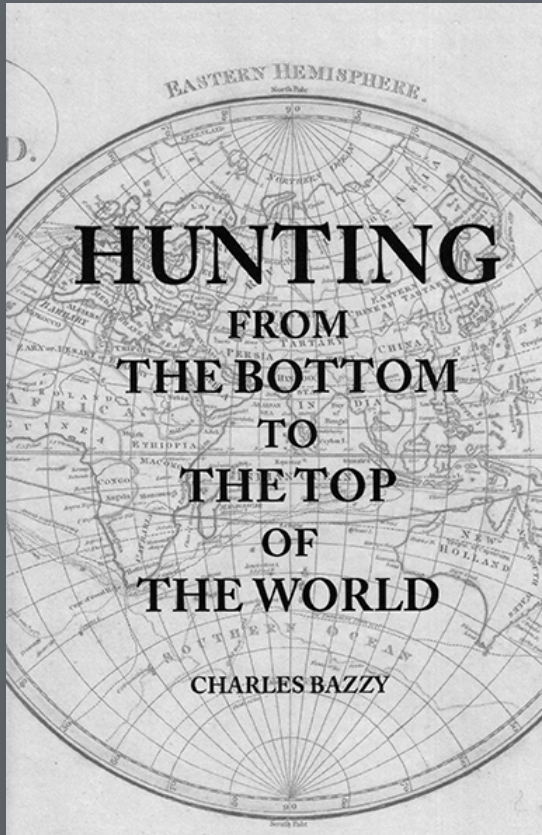
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# Looking for something new to read?

Here are two excellent books from your fellow SCI Detroit chapter members.



For more information contact:  
Chuck at cbazzy7188@aol.com  
and Bob at bob@scidetroit.com

# *E* ANNUAL BANQUET FUNDRAISER



Spring/Summer 2017



Spring/Summer 2017



## ANNUAL BANQUET & FUNDRAISER

Our 2017 Banquet & Fundraiser was the first weekend of March at the Fern Hill Golf Club. This was a new date and a new location. These changes along with one of our best selections of auction trips and high quality raffle items made for one of the most successful two night events we have ever had. Special thanks goes to the Board of Directors, volunteers, those who donated, and especially you, our members, for making this event such a success. Below are pictures of most of the donors who were able to attend the banquet. At the end of this issue of Trajectory you will also find a complete listing of all the donors. Please patronize as many of them as you can as a show of support for all they have done for us. We hope you and they will be back for the 2018 Banquet & Fundraiser which will be March 2nd and 3rd, 2018 at the Fern Hill Golf Club.



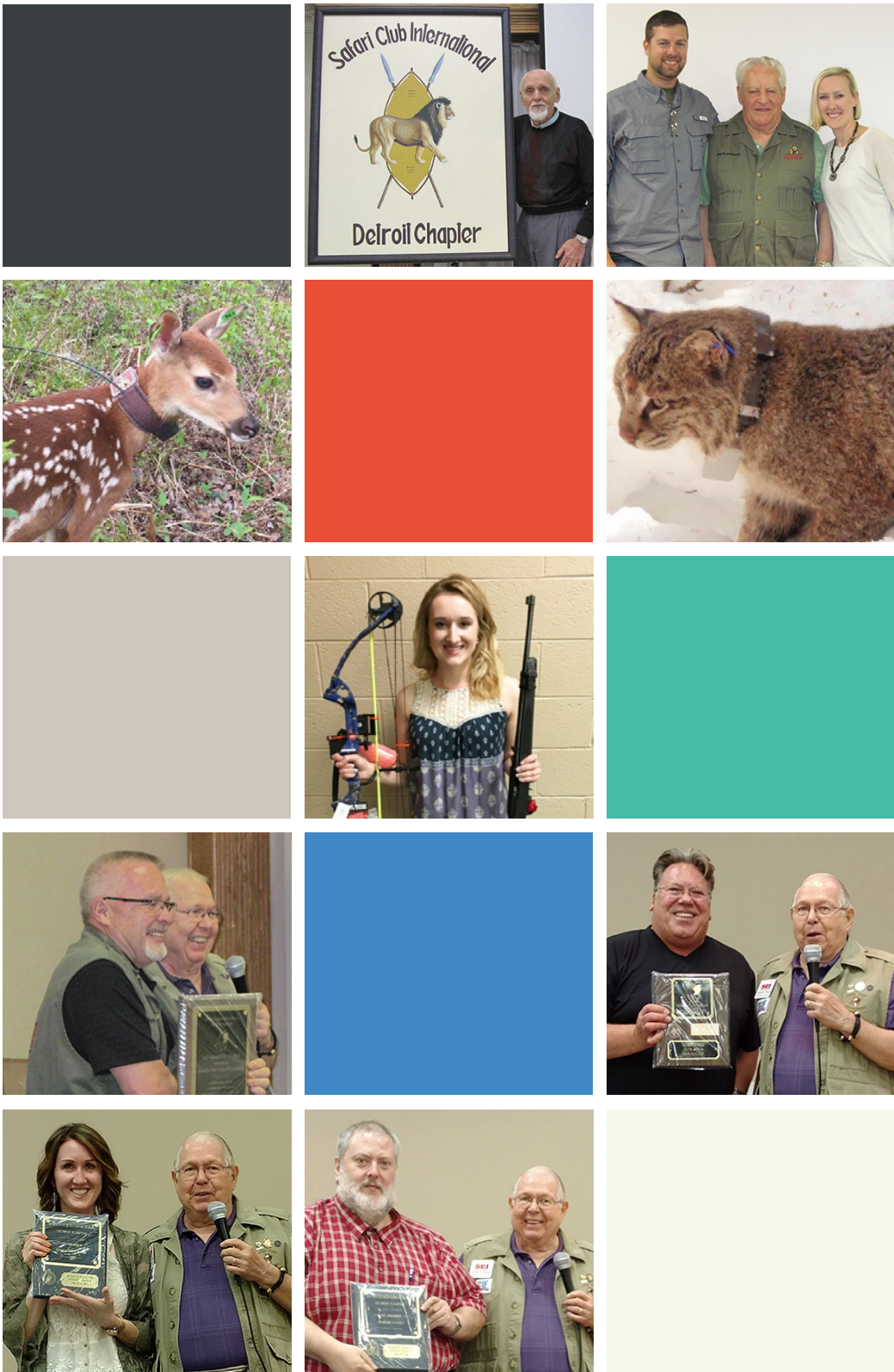
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A N N U A L   A W A R D S

B A N Q U E T   A N D   M E M B E R S H I P   M E E T I N G



On May 18, 2017 SCI Detroit had its annual awards banquet and membership meeting. It was a great get together of 100 conservationists and hunters complete with wild game dinner, bow & gun raffles, awards, and fascinating presentation on the Michigan Predator-Prey Project.

The banquet began with Ray Hollingsworth receiving an award for Member of the Year. This was followed by Life-Time Member Award plaques being given to Karen Meldrum, Robert Ewert, and Aaron Bulkley (not pictured). Duke McIntosh entered 26 animals into the SCI Detroit Record Book, Taylor Meldrum was a multi-affle winner, Chuck Bazzy was on hand for a book signing of his new book “Hunting from the Bottom to the Top of the World”, and a special Life-Time Achievement Award went to Bob Easterbrook. He received this restored original poster from the first days of SCI Detroit 40+ years ago.

Michigan Predator-Prey Project

After dinner we were all enlightened to the Michigan Predator-Prey Project. The presentation was by Tyler R. Petroelje, Graduate Research Assistant at Mississippi State University along with his wife Caitlin. Tyler is a Ph.D. candidate and has spent the last eight years working on Phases 1 and 2 of the predator-prey project.

The Michigan Predator-Prey Project has been SCI Foundation’s flagship North American conservation project for the last ten years. The Michigan DNR, Northern Michigan University, and Mississippi State University Carnivore Ecology Laboratory research team set out to discover why the Upper Peninsula’s white-tailed deer population was in decline, and initiated a collaborative landscape level effort to improve deer wintering habitat. Today, the project is a model predator-prey study and the team is still busy conducting research.

The Project is running from 2009 through 2019, has three phases, 13 Staff/Graduate Students, and over 100 technicians. The Project involves Winter Deer Capture, Carnivore Capture, and Fawn Capture. Animal populations under all weather conditions and winter snowfalls is obtained for:

- Wolf (track surveys)
- Bobcat (hair snares)
- Ruffed grouse (drumming survey)
- Snowshoe hare (pellet counts)
- Black bear (hair snares)
- Coyote (howl surveys)
- Deer (camera survey)
- Beaver (cache survey)

Over the past decade, this project has discovered that a collaborative multi-stakeholder effort was needed to prevent ecosystem collapse in the UP due to decades of land management that degraded deer habitat. Considerable research has been conducted on nearly every aspect of white-tailed deer ecology. This journey from a once singular focus on deer survival has evolved into a movement in the U.P. to conserve an entire ecosystem.

This past winter, an additional 123 deer were captured. The teams also performed kill site investigations, black bear den checks and prepared hair snares and camera traps for bobcats.

In total, 408 animals of 5 species including 239 whited-tailed deer have been captured to date. The project’s final phase will build on the objectives of earlier phases, such as capturing and collaring deer and predators.

The SCI Michigan Involvement Committee, whose members were invited to observe the winter fieldwork, continues to be closely engaged with this project.

Capturing predators remains a challenge, but trapping and collaring bears, wolves, bobcats, and coyotes will continue. As fawns are born, researchers will capture fawns and investigate mortality sites throughout the spring. Work that is to be completed in 2017 includes: a snowshoe hare pellet survey, ruffed grouse drumming survey, carnivore trapping and collaring, fawn capture and radio-collaring.

Those who rely on the U.P.’s natural resources and shape their culture around white-tailed deer have been receptive to this project. Local stakeholders such as natural resource professionals, wildlife experts, sportsmen, private landowners, and the logging industry have been eager to help. In fact, the logging industry has voluntarily adopted selective logging practices that leave vital tree species in place in deer wintering yards.

Currently the state of Michigan is relying on the results of this project to formulate its management plans for white-tailed deer. Armed with more than a dozen studies, papers, and publications, Michigan now has the best science available to inform management. SCI Foundation is committed to supporting the Michigan Predator-Prey Project in one of the most unique white-tail habitats in the North America. Stay tuned as this project continues into the future and the results spread to other northern states!

Read the full Michigan Predator-Prey story here or visit the First for Wildlife blog for more project updates. For more information, like us on Facebook, follow us on Twitter and Instagram, like and subscribe on YouTube, or visit our website for more SCI Foundation news!

Portions of theText Courtesy of SCI Foundation Website  
<https://firstforwildlife.wordpress.com/2017/06/02/michigans-upper-peninsula-comes-together-around-white-tailed-deer/>

# HUNTING HIGHLIGHTS



On May 23, 2017 President Trump proposed a \$1.3 Billion FY 2018 Budget for U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service along with a commitments to Public Lands energy and public access.

While it is unlikely Congress will pass this as proposed, it is clear we have a President and a Secretary of the Interior that will treat us conservationists and hunters much better than we were treated during the last administration and both deserve all the support we can give them.

WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump today proposed a \$1.3 billion Fiscal Year 2018 (FY18) budget for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Service’s budget also includes \$1.5 billion in permanent funding, which is mostly administered to states through various grants and other initiatives for their wildlife and sportfish conservation programs. The bureau budget helps put the federal government on track to a balanced budget by 2027.

“President Trump promised the American people he would cut wasteful spending and make the government work for the taxpayer again, and that’s exactly what this budget does,” said U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke. “Working carefully with the President, we identified areas where we could reduce spending and also areas for investment, such as addressing the maintenance backlog in our National Parks and increasing domestic energy production on federal lands. The budget also allows the Department to return to the traditional principles of multiple-use management to include both responsible natural resource development and conservation of special places. Being from the West, I’ve seen how years of bloated bureaucracy and D.C.-centric policies hurt our rural communities. The President’s budget saves taxpayers by focusing program spending, shrinking bureaucracy, and empowering the front lines.”

The President’s budget focuses funding on the nation’s highest priority conservation needs, access to public lands for all Americans, and the agency’s role in streamlining energy development, while containing costs through management efficiencies and other savings to address federal fiscal realities.

“Improving access to national wildlife refuges supports the great American traditions of hunting and fishing that together generate billions of dollars for conservation and billions more for our nation’s economy,” said Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks Virginia Johnson. “Accordingly, this budget request prioritizes deferred maintenance funding for national wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries, active habitat management across

millions of acres of public lands, and core wildlife-dependent recreational opportunities.”

“Timely environmental review of energy development and other infrastructure needs will create jobs and help the U.S. achieve energy independence,” said Johnson. “This budget also supports our law enforcement officers who support cooperative efforts to secure our borders.”

The FY18 budget includes the President’s continued focus on the following priorities:

## AMERICA’S PUBLIC LANDS

Through the National Wildlife Refuge System, the Service continues the American tradition, started by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1903, of protecting fish and wildlife and their habitats and providing opportunities for hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation to all Americans. The proposed FY18 funding level for the Refuge System is \$470.1 million. The proposed budget maintains a commitment to providing outdoor recreational opportunities in rural, urban or suburban landscapes, including through the Service’s Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnerships program, as well as supporting the vital role of volunteers on our refuges.

## AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE

Included in the request for National Wildlife Refuges is \$136.2 million for improving the Service’s maintenance backlog and to take care of the American public’s investments in facilities and infrastructure managed by the Service. Of this, \$41.0 million is to address the backlog in deferred maintenance. This would sustain the Service’s current commitment to eliminate its maintenance backlog in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

In addition, \$19.4 million is requested for maintenance of national fish hatcheries, which stock sport and subsistence fish for states and tribes and also propagate and release endangered aquatic species to aid in their

recovery. A further \$51.9 million in funding is proposed for national fish hatchery operations.

Invasive species cost our economy billions of dollars each year. To continue its commitment to address this important issue, the Administration proposes level funding for programs that focus on preventing the spread of Asian carp, quagga and zebra mussels, and sea lamprey.

A total of \$225.2 million is proposed to implement the Endangered Species Act and related programs, of which \$79.6 million is dedicated for species recovery efforts. Recovery funding includes an increase of \$1.8 million for working on five-year species reviews and de-listings and down-listings.

Birds are important to Americans in many ways. birdwatching generates \$43 billion in economic activity yearly; hunting of migratory waterfowl is a traditional recreational pastime that generates billions more. A total of \$44.0 million is requested for the Service's Migratory Bird program, which provides waterfowl hunting opportunities and encourages conservation of birds and their habitats.

The budget eliminates funding for Landscape Conservation Cooperatives and the Service's science program, as well as funding for youth programs and the Cooperative Recovery Initiative.

#### AMERICAN SAFETY AND SECURITY

Refuge law enforcement efforts are funded at \$37.9 million to enhance visitor and employee safety on our public lands and honor the President's commitment to improving border security.

Additionally, the Office of Law Enforcement is funded at \$73.0 million. The recent escalation in poaching of protected species and the illegal trade in wildlife poses an urgent threat to conservation and global security. Wildlife trafficking generates billions of dollars in illicit revenues each year, contributing to the illegal economy, fueling instability in

range nations, and undermining regional security in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Poaching operations themselves have expanded beyond small-scale, opportunistic actions to become a coordinated, large-scale activity often commissioned by armed and organized criminal syndicates that also traffic drugs, arms and people, and that see wildlife trafficking as a low-risk, high-reward alternative. Our continued investment in combatting wildlife trafficking is important to addressing organized crime and saving hundreds of iconic species such as the African elephant and rhino from extinction. The Service's International Affairs program is funded at \$14.2 million, nearly level with FY17 Continuing Resolution Baseline. The program provides grants and technical assistance for the international conservation of endangered and threatened species.

#### AMERICA FIRST ENERGY

The budget includes \$98.8 million to facilitate planning and consultation that will support energy development, economic recovery and job creation in the United States. Timely evaluations of proposed infrastructure, energy and other development projects contribute to job creation and economic growth. Funding will allow the Service to expedite project reviews and work with developers on appropriate mitigation and avoidance measures.

The President's budget also contains proposals to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling; to enable the National Wildlife Refuge System to recover damages from persons who injure or destroy federal resources; and to permanently authorize the Recreation Fee Program.

The President's FY18 budget proposal for the Department of the Interior supports his commitment to create jobs, provide outdoor recreation through hunting and fishing, facilitate energy development, and support law enforcement needs. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Congressional Justification can be found online:

[www.fws.gov/budget/2018/FY2018-FWS-Greenbook.pdf](http://www.fws.gov/budget/2018/FY2018-FWS-Greenbook.pdf)

The Department of the Interior oversees one-fifth of the nation's land and the entire Outer-Continental Shelf. The Department is charged with overseeing energy development on federal lands and waters, grazing allotments and timber sales, water conservation and delivery, upholding tribal trust responsibilities, conservation of wildlife and habitat, and maintaining access for recreation throughout public lands, among other priorities.

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov). You can also contact Gavin Shire, [gavin\\_shire@fws.gov](mailto:gavin_shire@fws.gov), 703-346-9123. ■*



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## HUNTER'S CODE OF ETHICS



Perhaps the most distinguishing characteristics of SCI members is acceptance of the following hunter's code of ethics - a shared standard of values to which all members are accountable.

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

- To conduct myself in the field so as to make a positive contribution to wildlife and ecosystems.
- To improve my skills as a woodsman and marksman to ensure humane harvesting of wildlife.
- To comply with all game laws, in the spirit of fair chase, and to influence my companions accordingly.
- To accept my responsibility to provide all possible assistance to game law enforcement officers.
- To waste no opportunity to teach young people the full meaning of this code of ethics.
- 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'm privileged to hunt.

  
**SCI**  
FIRST FOR HUNTERS



April 04, 2017

SCI has just learned that Delta Airlines recently adopted some new procedures for passengers who carry firearms in their checked luggage. Checked bags containing firearms will receive special tags. These tags are intended to alert baggage handlers not to put the bags carrying firearms on carousels with other types of luggage. Instead the checked bags containing the firearms will go directly to a baggage service agent. According to news articles on the changes, (1) owners will be required to show proof of identification to pick up their luggage; (2) the baggage service agent will use zip ties to secure the bag before releasing the bag to its owner; and (3) at least at some airports, a police officer will be at the location when the passenger picks up the baggage.

The full text of Delta’s procedure for traveling with firearms in checked luggage is below:  
Shooting Equipment

Shooting equipment is allowed as checked baggage only. It must fit within the very specific criteria that we outline below.

- Declare to the Delta representative that you are checking a firearm.
- Declare the existence of a firearm to security personnel if there’s a security checkpoint before the Delta counter.
- All firearms must be declared by the passenger to a Delta representative at the main ticket counter.
- Present firearm(s) unloaded and sign a “Firearms Unloaded” declaration.
- Firearms must be packed in a locked manufacturer’s hard-sided container specifically designed for the firearm, a locked hard-sided gun case or a locked hard-sided piece of luggage. Handguns may be packed in a locked hard-sided gun case, and then packed inside an unlocked soft-sided piece of luggage. However, a Conditional Acceptance Tag must be used in this case.
- Maintain entry permits in your possession for the country or countries of destination or transit.
- Ensure small arms ammunition is packed in the manufacturer’s original package or securely packed in fiber, wood, plastic or metal boxes and provide separation for cartridges.
- You are responsible for knowledge of and compliance with all Federal, State or local laws regarding the possession and transportation of firearms. For more information about this regulation you can visit the TSA website.
- If you are transporting a firearm to the United Kingdom, a permit from the United Kingdom is specifically required. You must contact the United Kingdom for more information about securing this permit.
- Until further advised, passengers departing Brussels, Belgium are not allowed to check weapons including, antique, sporting, hunting or toy rifles in their checked baggage.

• **All firearms checked as baggage must be picked up at the Baggage Service Office upon arrival.**

The following types of ammunition are not accepted:

- Gun powder; such as Pyrodex or Black Powder
- Ammunition with explosive or incendiary projectiles
- Ammunition, including case, exceeding 11 pounds (5 kg) gross weight per passenger

Pistols and accessories must be included in one case and contain:

- Pistol telescopes
- Noise suppressors
- A small pistol tool case
- No more than 11 lbs. (5 kg) of ammunition, including case

Rifles and shotguns must be packaged as follows:

- One hard sided case containing up to four rifles, shotguns, shooting materials, tools
- The case must completely secure the firearm from being accessed. All areas designed to be locked must be locked.
- Locked cases that can be easily opened are not permitted. Be aware that the container the firearm was in when purchased may not adequately secure the firearm when it is transported in checked baggage.
- One hard sided case containing up to five handguns, one scope, tools
- One bow and quiver of arrows and maintenance kit enclosed in a case or container strong enough to protect the bow and quiver from accidental damage
- No more than 11 lbs. (5 kg) of ammunition, including case

An excess baggage fee will apply if checking more than one gun case.

These instructions can be found on Delta’s website, found under “Sports Equipment,” then “Shooting Equipment,” here: [http://www.delta.com/content/www/en\\_US/traveling-with-us/baggage/before-your-trip/special-items.html](http://www.delta.com/content/www/en_US/traveling-with-us/baggage/before-your-trip/special-items.html).

To SCI’s knowledge, the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) has not issued any requirement for any airline to adopt all of these same procedures, although TSA does impose some similar requirements, <https://www.tsa.gov/travel/transporting-firearms-and-ammunition>. While all airlines regulate the carriage of firearms in checked bags, SCI is not aware of any other airline requiring customers to pick up luggage containing firearms at a special location, using zip ties to secure such luggage, or having law enforcement at the special baggage office.

Courtesy of Safari Times, May 2017. ■

# LEGISLATIVE

AND OTHER WILDLIFE NEWS *By Joe Konwinski*

**11-22-16** The Michigan DNR announced that a suspect deer from Eagle Township, Clinton County was identified for chronic wasting disease. The deer was a 1.5-year-old buck harvested by a hunter on 11-16-16 in DMU 333 where deer check is mandatory. The MDNR had tested nearly 9000 deer from the area for CWD at that time.

**12-21-15** the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) announced a final rule to list African lions under the endangered species act (ESA). The rule which was published in the federal register on 12-23-15 lists African lions as two separate subspecies and goes into effect 01-22-16: Panthera Leo Leo, found in western and central Africa is listed as endangered and cannot be legally hunted and exported. Panthera Leo Melanochaita found in southern and eastern Africa is listed as threatened but can be hunted and exported with special ESA and USFWS permits.

**01-20-17** the Michigan department of agriculture and rural development (MDARD) announced that two female deer from a Mecosta County deer farm have tested positive for CWD.

**02-11-16** The Michigan Natural Resources Commission (NRC) voted to repeal the long-standing state prohibition on hunting with legally possessed firearm sound suppressors.

**02-19-16** the Ontario ministry of natural resources and forestry announced the expansion of the spring bear hunt for five years for all provincial wildlife management units that have a fall bear hunt.

**03-19-16** MDNR and MDARD officials announced that three more free-ranging deer in southern Michigan have tested positive for CWD bringing the total of CWD positive deer to seven from amongst 4900 deer tested to date since May 2015. The latest positive cases all came from the previous

eight township core area in Ingham and Clinton Counties yet MDNR and MDARD have expanded the CWD core area to seventeen townships including eight townships in Clinton County, six townships in Ingham County, two townships in Eaton County, and one township in Shiawassee County.

**04-17-17** the Michigan department of agriculture and rural development designated parts of five Michigan counties in lower Michigan as a “potential high risk area for bovine tuberculosis after four free-ranging whitetail deer tested positive for the disease. The deer were located in Iosco, Oscoda, Presque Isle and Roscommon counties.

**04-25-17** Michigan NRC and DNR to create a scientific panel on chronic wasting disease (CWD):

Recognizing the challenge posed by the prevalence of CWD in Michigan's white-tailed deer population, the NRC adopted a resolution at its April meeting to engage the scientific community to identify practices that will address the threat of CWD. The purpose of the resolution is to have scientists and experts “advise the NRC, the DNR or other applicable agencies on further steps and actions which could be implemented to substantially mitigate or eliminate CWD in Michigan”.

**05-15-17** Michigan deer hunters want antler point restrictions statewide, but the DNR is not yet ready for that:

More than 50 hunters from a variety of organizations spoke in favor of APRs during the May NRC meeting after the DNR presented its recommendations on the issue. Unfortunately for the hunters, their ideas don't match up well with the DNR's plans. The DNR is proposing to expand APRs only to their TB management area, DMU 487, which consists of six counties in NE Lower Michigan: Alcona, Alpena, Iosco, Oscoda, Montmorency and Presque Isle.

## ▶▶▶ HUNT STORIES ▶▶▶

Again we have a great selection of hunt stories. As always, as you read these hunt stories from your fellow members, please give some serious thought to writing your own story to share with us. We really do want to read it. I continue to be told. “I am not a very good writer and don't know what to do? Please don't let that stop you. The editors of *Trajectory* will be more than happy to work with you every step of the way.

We do not have a “first hunt” story in this issue. But, stories about our “first hunts” is still one of our priorities. So please consider sharing yours.

Remind yourself of your first hunt. Enjoy recalling the excitement, frustration, humor, learning, and whatever other emotions were involved. I am sure there is an ear-to-ear grin somewhere in there.

So why are stories about hunts that may not describe the extraordinary chase or the world class animal important? *They are important because it allows all of us to relive the most important hunt of our life - the hunt that started it all.*

We all want to share this with you.



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# Little Wind River, Yukon Territory, Canada Grizzly Bear Hunt

*By Donald E. Black*

He stood bleeding profusely in the deep, fast running water of the Little Wind River three hours by air and four hours on horseback north and east of Dawson City, Yukon Territory, Canada. Saskatchewan born wildlife biologist and hunting guide Joél Potie begged aloud that he not die there and force us to deal with the cold water when we skinned him. I begged that he die quickly and not resume his efforts to reach us on the opposite river bank from where he was first spotted a half hour or so earlier.

Early that morning we had ridden our horses up a small mountain not far from our spike camp in order to glass the pine forest along the river for an exceptional Alaska/Yukon Moose that had been seen there rutting with three cows a few days prior. The moose we sought was believed to have an antler spread exceeding seventy inches. Although we carefully and thoroughly glassed all morning and most

of the afternoon, neither the moose we sought, nor for that matter any moose, was spotted that day. But as all hunters know Diana, goddess of the hunt, can bless us when we least expect it. With less than two hours until sunset there, walking the riverbank a mile or so from our mountain side perch, was a large Grizzly Bear. Having left Dawson City three days earlier with both Black Bear and Grizzly Bear tags in hand, the decision was easy. "Let's see if we can put a stalk on that bear," said Joel.

So up on the horses we did climb and down the mountain we did ride. It wasn't long before we were dismounting and tying

our horses to the willows downstream of where we expected we might find the bear. I removed the Weatherby Mark V rifle from its scabbard and quickly, but as carefully and as quietly as possible, followed the river bank upstream. Within minutes we relocated the bear, still on the opposite side of the river from us, but less than thirty yards away. Thanks in part, if suspect, to the noise of the river flowing over the rocks of the rapids and the fact that we were down wind, it was completely unaware of our presence as I chambered a round and assumed

a solid rest. It was then that I discovered the setting sun was directly in my scope. Again, because we remained undetected, I fortunately had the time to be certain that my crosshairs were centered on his shoulder before squeezing the trigger. One hundred fifty grains of a Nosler Partition bullet from a .300 Weatherby Magnum delivers quite a wallop. The bear dropped like a rock and stayed down for a minute or so. Many

years of experience hunting dangerous big game has taught me to chamber another round and be ready "just in case."

Experience paid off because moments later the bear was back on his feet and headed down the river bank in our direction. That's when I put a second round into his chest. Nonetheless, with blood flowing freely he reached the center of the twenty-foot-wide river and again came to a halt for another minute or so.

Perhaps it was there that he overheard Joél's plea along with his admonition to me to not shoot the bear while he was standing



"... moments later the bear was back on his feet and headed down the river bank in our direction."

“I give thanks  
again to goddess  
Diana who smiled  
on us that day...”



in the middle of the river because once again he started toward us only to receive the third and final round when he reached a convenient gravel bank just ten feet or so from us on which he could die and be skinned in what little light remained that day.

Fall bears, before beginning their hibernation, are generally fat and have long, lush fur coats. This bear was no exception. Skinning a large bear is never an easy task. Doing so in the middle of a deep, cold, fast running river would have made the job even more difficult. I give thanks again to goddess Diana who smiled on us that day by presenting me with an outstanding trophy and who also saved us from having to take a cold, late September bath in the Little Wind River. ■



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## 2500 lbs. of W *By Steve Breuning*

**I**t was the perfect day for hunting. Sunny with a bright blue sky, 45 degrees, and a mild wind blowing all of nature's delightful fragrances directly in my face. With perfect precision I stalked a record setting buck, a sure #1 in the books. He was so huge and massive; standing there in a pose that displayed a combination of nobility, arrogance, and invincibility. This was beauty almost beyond description. With every step I was closer and still unnoticed. I was invisible. Today it was no contest, I was too good.

I positioned for a clear 35 yard broadside shot. As I released the safety I was abruptly catapulted from my dream as the 40 mile per hour winds howled across the fresh eight inches of snow delivered over night. This was not good – we had plans. The forecast for the rest of the day didn't help, "Blizzard conditions, 25-30 mph winds, another 6-8 inches of snow expected."

I bundled up and went to plow the snow. As I finished I hoped the continuing snow fall would not be endless. Optimistically, I cleaned and lubricated my crossbow, inventoried my gear, and packed my bags as I prayed for an on-time Delta departure for our hunting trip in Texas.

At 4 p.m. I had finished plowing for the second time but the snow was still coming down. I pulled the tractor into the barn fully expecting to have to plow for a third time. As I reached the barn it was strange, the winds suddenly roared to 60 mph and five minutes later disappeared altogether – the sky began to turn blue and the storm was over. I couldn't believe it, the storm was really over. All I had to do now was wonder if the roads and runways would be cleared by 6 a.m. tomorrow morning. For some reason I knew they would be.

This is a good example of why Vicky, dad, and I always look forward to our winter hunt in Texas. This year was no different except that the date of the trip was earlier. Last summer when we were at the RecordBuck Ranch we were invited back for a New Years Eve party and hunt.

Coincidentally our very good friends Lou and Pattee Ghilardi were thinking of a winter hunt in Texas and they were able to match their schedule with ours. So the five of us along with one of their sons, Nick, and nephew Eric went to Texas.

We left Detroit for San Antonio, on time, on 12-29-2011. This was 13 years to the day that we first met Lou and Pattee at the Y.O. Ranch in Texas. So by chance this also became a celebration of 13 years of a very good friendship. Since neither Nick nor Eric had been hunting with us in Texas we agreed that they need to take in all of our traditions. So, first stop, Rudy's BBQ.

We had rented separate cars and Vicky, dad, and I proceeded directly to the ranch while the others had a few stops to make. After we entered the gate of the RecordBuck Ranch I recalled how I had been greeted by the Gemsbok on my last two trips to the ranch. This year no Gemsbok, but we did quickly see Elk, Red Deer, Blackbuck Antelope, Axis Deer, and a group of five Watasi. There were five Bull and one cow. They were as massive as any animal I have ever seen. Vicky found them fascinating and beautiful. She thought that they could be a fun and challenging hunt.

We proceeded to the Lodge and were greeted by Ricky Kay and Eric White, two of my favorite friends. Ricky was the head guide and Eric was now the ranch manager.

Despite it being a gorgeous afternoon, sunny, low winds, and 75 degrees; we decided not to hunt today. However, Ricky, dad, and I did go out scouting for a few hours. As we were leaving Vicky yelled out to Ricky “hunt the Watusi”. Ricky gave her a puzzled look and than a big grin covered his face. He looked at me and in his inquisitive South African drawl said, “*Sport, you wanna hunt a Watusi with a Crossbow?*” He chuckled and off we went.

We began by going back to where we had seen the Watusi just two hours earlier. Starting there, we looked for three hours. They were not to be seen. This instantly triggered a hellish flashback to wanting to hunt Gemsbok, seeing them upon entering the ranch, and than not seeing them again. I mentioned this to Ricky and asked him “*who built this ranch in the twilight zone.*” As we headed in for the evening we agreed that if we saw the Watusi again we would make a decision but for now we would go back to the original plan to hunt a Whitetail deer and/or Wildebeest.

The next morning, Friday, just Ricky and I went out. We seemed to be the only two on the ranch excited to be up at 5:00 a.m. Ricky felt that the best chance for a Wildebeest with a Crossbow would likely be from a ground blind. The past week he had been observing them come in to feed on Alfalfa so he set up a blind. The blind was nestled into some brush on the east end of a large 40 acre open meadow. We were in the blind at 6:45 a.m. and by 7:15 a.m. there were Fallow bucks and turkey. This was the show until 8:00 a.m. As the sun was now rising above the trees, we noticed some movement 300 yards in front of us. Two Scimitar Horned Oryx came through the mesquite and meandered straight toward us. When they got to within 100 yards they stopped and one let out a loud “*moo*”. Soon after that 25 more Oryx came through the same opening. In a matter of minutes we had all of these Oryx as close as 5-10 yards of our blind. They seemed so big, 300-500 lbs each, and so close, it was exhilarating and almost scary. This is one of the pictures I took looking out of the blind at the Oryx. Or should I saw, the Oryx looking in at us. Sorry it’s a little blurry – I was so excited it was hard to hold the camera perfectly still.

At 8:45 a.m. four Eland joined the breakfast club along with three Zebra. Until 10:00 a.m. we had three Fallow bucks, four

Eland, three Zebra, 20 turkey, and 27 Oryx within 40 yards of us. But yes, you guessed it, no Wildebeest.

Shortly after 10:00 a.m. most of the animals had moved off into the center of the meadow so we crept out of the blind and went to the lodge for a break. We were only there a few minutes when Vicky came up and asked about the morning. After I described the morning show Vicky said “*Wow, sounds exciting. What about the Watusi?*” Vicky wanted to go back out with us and look for the Watusi (I think she really just wanted us to keep to the task). As we started to leave dad yelled that he wanted to go too. So the four of us went out – it was nice to have them with us.

After about an hour of our Safari style hunting, we went up a hill and around a tight bend and there they were. Five Watusi, 4 bull and one cow.

We stopped and observed from about 120 yards. As we watched Ricky thought that we should all rank order the Watusi. This was based on horn length, horn mass, and quality of hide. There was a unanimous top two. Suddenly they seemed to notice us and disappeared into the dense brush. Nearly 5 ton of animals vanished before our eyes – the spirit of Houdini must have had a huge smile at the sight of this. Bewildered, we went in for lunch.

Ricky and I were planning to go back to our ground blind at 3:30 p.m. so there was time to see if we could find the Watusi. Ricky thought that we would likely be hunting them on foot. Since they are so large and can be very aggressive we all agreed that just Ricky and I would go.

At 1:00 p.m. we returned to the last spot we saw the Watusi and planned to devote only about two hours to this. No problem, at 1:45 p.m. we spotted them in the brush moving toward a small clearing that had alfalfa.

I began stalking on foot and was to settle into the brush where I had a clear view into the clearing. Ricky wanted to move the vehicle and than join me. I heard him move the vehicle and stop but than nothing. I was able to cut a small opening in the brush and I could see that the Watusi had moved between us. They were 40 yards from him and sixty yards from me. He was in plain sight so he had to stay put.

We also had another problem. The Watusi were stopped, mostly looking at Ricky, and I was too far for a shot. With a rifle no problem, with a crossbow I had to be closer. As they



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ORYX

seemed preoccupied with Ricky I decided to see if I could creep closer. I wanted to move in at least another 25 yards.

I was almost there when one bull glanced in my direction. I froze kneeling in the brush. After a few seconds he charged straight at me. He rushed 10 yards and stopped. He continued to look in my direction snorting and pounding his right front hoof. I don't think he knew for sure that I was there but was trying to be intimidating as a defense mechanism. Trust me, it was working.

Both the Bull and I stayed in our positions as did Ricky and the other Watusi. After 10 minutes the Watusi near Ricky relaxed and began to move around and eat. The sentry watching my area took another 10 minutes before he began to move toward the others.

As they moved around I got lucky as they inched in my direction. Soon three of them, including choices #1 and #2, were only about 40 yards from me. But while they were now within range, I realized that because of the heavy brush, the only way I could shoot would be if I was standing. I had to get up. I nervously began to go from kneeling to standing a few inches at a time. I was praying that my legs would not begin to cramp up. Finally I was in a standing position but now exposed from the waist up. I was wearing complete camouflage and partially behind a tree but still felt awfully naked.

I was just about to catch my breath when that same bull again looked straight at me. He snorted, charged five yards, and stopped. It was a frightening glare he was sending in my direction. Standing, I could see Ricky still trapped where he was as two Watusi were watching him. Neither Ricky, me, nor the Watusi moved for several minutes and than everything calmed down again. They all began to eat and I now had a good broadside shot at our #1 choice.

I slowly moved my crossbow into position and was unnoticed. I stayed still for a few more seconds and than aimed and fired. I hit him through the shoulder and caught both lungs and the heart. He walked 10 yards, stood still for a solid three minutes than dropped down. The other Watusi wandered off and Ricky ran to me. Turns out he had his rifle aimed at the Watusi watching me just in case. We waited 30 minutes and could see that the downed Watusi was dead. He scored out as #1 for the year and #2 overall with a crossbow with Trophy Game Records of the World.

It took us about two hours to get the Watusi onto a trailer and back to the cooler for processing. I would have been very

content to relax and call it a day but Ricky insisted that we process the Watusi after dark so we could get back into the ground blind and wait for the Wildebeest.

Ricky and I got to the blind much later than we wanted and animals were already coming into the field. We were able to sneak into the blind and only caused a mild disruption. We settled in and to be honest, it just felt pretty good to sit and relax after the Watusi encounter. I would have been content with minimal activity outside of the blind and just taking a nap. But that wasn't gonna happen.

By 5:20 p.m. we had 50 Oryx, five young Eland, and two Zebra within 10-50 yards of the blind. This is how it was until dark. No Wildebeest, but awesome, awesome viewing. I was again able to get a couple of pictures from the blind. One shows some of the Oryx in the meadow and the other shows two of the young Eland bull.

We went in for dinner and an evening of fun conversation about everybody's events of the day.

Ricky and I spent almost all day Saturday in our ground blind. We came in for a break at 9:30 a.m. and to pick up dad so he could scout around with us for awhile. For the next two hours we unsuccessfully looked for Wildebeest. Ricky was getting frustrated, I was not very bothered, and dad was not disappointed at all as he saw lots of other animals. He just wasn't sure why we were not shooting any of them.

After lunch we dropped off dad and we went back to the blind for the entire afternoon. The number and variety of animals we saw was amazing. We continued to have our Fallow, Eland, Zebra, and Oryx. Late afternoon we lost count of the Oryx at 80. Ricky's frustration continued to grow because he said that the Wildebeest are always with the Zebra and Oryx. Oh well, I guess not when you are looking for them. I was still enjoying every second.

At dinner Lou and his guide were discussing their frustration at not seeing ANY Oryx where they were hunting. I pulled Ricky aside and said that I wanted to let them use our blind on Sunday. Ricky was not happy but he agreed.

We spent the morning of our last day searching for Wildebeest. We did come across a few Wildebeest cow and two young bull but nothing old enough to shoot. Other than that it was a quiet morning.

After lunch we were going to take one more try from our ground blind but changed plans because dad wanted to go.

# WATUSI

We were Safari style with one eye looking for Wildebeest and the other eye for anything else that was interesting. After 75 minutes of riding, Ricky spotted two large wild Russian Boar. They were bedded in the shade covered with heavy brush. Dad waited in the vehicle while Ricky and I approached the Boar on foot.

We were able to get within 25 yards and than we were spotted. Still, they didn't move. They lay motionless but clearly looking right at us. Ricky and I agreed that I would take a shot. Unfortunately, he had a better vantage point than me and my shot too far back.

The boar jumped up and looked straight at Ricky. The boar was wet around the mouth and snorting loudly. His beady eyes, still focused solely on Ricky, were clearly indicating "I'm really really pissed you son of a b...." I didn't feel very anxious as I quickly reloaded. I am sure I felt so calm because Ricky was definitely getting the blame.

My second shot was perfect. The boar went 15 yards and dropped. He lay motionless for 20 minutes. As we waited, Ricky and I talked about whether or not to resume our quest for a Wildebeest. I said that I used the last arrow I had with me and would have to get more when we dropped off dad and the boar. Ricky was sure we would see a Wildebeest on the way back so he decided to remove the rear arrow from the boar and see if we could reuse it if need be.

Ricky approached the boar and grabbed the rear arrow. Well, we found out that the boar had a little life left in him. He squealed as he jumped up and went right at Ricky (the boar still didn't seem to think I had a role in this). Fortunately Ricky was able to jump behind a tree and the boar just dropped dead in mid-lunge. And guess what, we didn't need that arrow as we returned to the lodge. After we dropped dad off we took the boar to the cooler. There we weighed him – 342 lbs. He scored out like the Watusi, #1 for the year, #2 overall.

I thought we would process the boar and than relax because this was scheduled to be the last afternoon of hunting and I was very content with the Watusi and Wild boar. Ricky was not content – he was obsessed with getting a Wildebeest. Just after we dropped off the boar Ricky said "Sport, go get some arrows we gotta go. There's two hours of sunlight left."



As we heeded out Ricky said "lets get back to the blind, I know they will be there tonight." Ricky was not happy when I reminded him that Lou and Ryan were in the blind. So we hunted Safari style and did not see a Wildebeest. But Lou did shoot a beautiful Gold Medal Oryx with his compound bow. I was very happy for Lou. For Ricky's sake I'm glad Lou and Ryan did not see a Wildebeest while they were in the blind.

After dinner everyone was sitting by the fire talking about the hunt and setting our plans to leave in the morning (Monday). We were not coming straight home, we were all spending the day/night in San Antonio on the Riverwalk. Ricky heard this and jumped in with "Great, you're flexible; we can go after the Wildebeest in the morning."

Ricky and I went out early Monday morning and thought we would spend 1-2 hours in our blind and if no Wildebeest we would resume a safari style hunt. But regardless, we agreed we would stop at 10:00 a.m. Also, we brought Ricky's young tracking dog Worthless II as a good omen.

As we approached our blind it was still dark but we could make out the silhouettes of four Wildebeest. They had already been eating alfalfa and were leaving the area. We sat and tried to watch. After 20 minutes it was light enough where we could see that they had stopped at a tree line 250 yards away. It was time to stalk on foot.

We began to move along the tree line and had the wind and shadows on our side. We moved slowly and were now 75 yards

## WILD BOAR



## WILDEBEEST



away and could see them clearly through small holes in the brush. They acted like they had no clue we were there. We crept another 40 yards crouching all the way. Now at 35 yards I was in range and all I had to do was get to a standing position and move about 10 feet to an opening at the edge of the brush.

Ricky motioned for me to get ready. He was now going to peek around the corner of the brush to make sure which was the biggest bull. I indicated that I was ready to stand and fire upon his go ahead. Ricky took two crouching steps and suddenly stood straight up. He looked at me and with an amazed tone loudly said “What the bloody hell?” The Wildebeest were gone. The spirit of Houdini was again laughing at us.

Again bewildered, we returned to the vehicle and to take one more hour and try to find them. It was a futile hour.

It was now 10:00 am and time to call it a hunt. Ricky was frustrated, I was happy with the Watusi and Wild Boar. As they say, that’s why they call it hunting.

As we were heading back to the lodge we received a call from Leonard who was guiding Nick and Eric. They wanted some help loading several feral hogs they had shot. We changed course and went in that direction. After about a mile we turned a bend and once again I heard Ricky say “What the bloody hell! This time it was not a question. As I turned to look I saw 20 Wildebeest cow and small bull slowly walking single file through an open meadow 120 yards to our left. At the back was a huge bull. Ricky stopped and asked me “well

sport, what do you wanna do?” I told him “Hand me your rifle.” I moved into position, aimed, and fired. The huge bull went 12 yards and dropped to the ground creating a large puff of dust. Huge indeed, he scored out as a Diamond Medal animal. Is there a moral to the story? Yes; according to late 1800s German hunters: Geduld, Ausdauer und Glück sind alle guten Dinge für den Jäger - patience, persistence, and much luck are all good things for the hunter.

We all packed up and went to San Antonio. At lunch we discussed the trip. Everyone had a great time. I had my three animals, Lou had his Oryx, Eric shot his first buck (Axis Deer), and he and Nick shot several feral hogs. In addition to the animals, good friendships were strengthened and new ones were formed. Good, good stuff. This is what hunting is all about.

As we were leaving the restaurant Lou said “I think you shot about 2,500 lbs of animal.” I thought for a moment and then said “yep – 2,500 lbs of W.” Lou said “W?” I responded “Well, it’s simple. I went on the trip to hunt a Whitetail deer or a Wildebeest. I ended up with a Watusi, Wildebeest, and Wild Boar. The good luck charm for the Wildebeest was Ricky’s dog Worthless II. That is a lot of W! ■

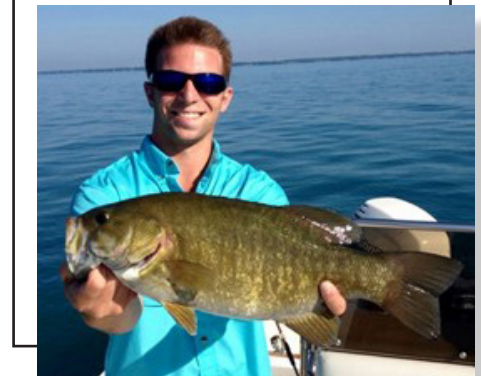
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# Kansas Whitetail Hunt

with Craig Boddington

*By Joe Konwinski*

Each year starting in 1998 since I retired from General Motors, I have rifle hunted for whitetail bucks in northwest Oklahoma north of Woodward, Oklahoma where my brother-in-law Jim Slattery (brother of my wife Sheila) lives. Jim and I and two other hunters lease the hunting rights to a 7000 acre cattle grazing ranch about 50 miles north of Woodward. Most of the years since 1998, we have also hunted together for whitetail deer in Kansas. The Oklahoma rifle deer season opens on the Saturday before Thanksgiving, while the Kansas rifle deer season starts on the Wednesday after Thanksgiving, eleven days later, so rifle deer hunting these two contiguous states back-to-back works very well.

At the February 2016 SCI Detroit Chapter annual fundraiser, I purchased for listed value a 5-day fully outfitted rifle whitetail deer hunt with Craig Boddington on his hunting property in southeast Kansas. Subsequently, I was able to arrange with Craig Boddington for Jim Slattery to also hunt the Boddington property with me, and Craig also agreed that we could hunt the first five days of the 2016 Kansas rifle deer season. Craig promised he would be there and would take good care of us with all bedding, towels, libations and meals provided. He told me to target arrival for mid-afternoon Tuesday 11-29-16 the day before the opener and to plan to depart Monday 12-05-16 at our convenience after breakfast. Craig provided very precise written directions how to get to his hunting property, the Timber Trails Ranch. Craig further instructed that we would be hosted by Chuck Herbel and his wife Ruth, we would room in their nearby 6-bed, 2-full bathroom bunkhouse, and we would eat dinner in the Herbel house.

We arrived At Timber Trails Ranch as planned at mid-afternoon on Tuesday 11-29-16 after a four-hour drive from Woodward, Oklahoma. Upon arrival, we were greeted on the porch of the bunkhouse by Craig who introduced us to Chuck and Ruth Herbel, and one of the hunters already there, a young man from Houston, Texas named Brian Cole. Jim and I were assigned upstairs beds in the bunkhouse, so we carried our stuff into the bunkhouse. Craig asked Jim and me if we needed to shoot our guns, and we said we did not, because we had just hunted with them, and because they were securely stored in rigid cases for the road trip here. Brian, however said he wanted to shoot his gun, so Craig took him to the nearby ranch's shooting range and completed that task. While Brian was shooting his gun, Jim and I unpacked and organized our stuff. Then we came back down to the front porch to join the others for some beer sipping while getting acquainted. Shortly later, the last two hunters arrived, Steve Folkman (father)

**“I was able to find a clear opening to the deer’s vitals and fired a 180 grain Barnes “Triple-Shock” X-bullet from my .300 Weatherby.”**

and Austin Folkman (20-year-old son) from Minnesota who were assigned the two downstairs beds. After their stuff was put into their bedroom, they said they did not need to shoot their guns, so we resumed our getting acquainted party on the bunkhouse porch. As we partied, Craig and Chuck decided where they would take each of the hunters for the opening morning hunt. About dark, we were instructed by Ruth Herbel to come into the Herbel house for dinner. But before we could have dinner, we were treated to an extensive happy hour with all drinks and snacks provided.

Ruth Herbel is a lawyer, and when we were there, she was also the Prosecuting Attorney for Chautauqua County based in Sedan, Kansas, so she was very busy. Chuck Herbel keeps occupied maintaining his property and equipment and feeding his livestock of a couple of horses and some beef cattle. During deer hunting season, both of them are further occupied catering to the needs of their hunters. They are helped out by Ruth’s lawyer friend and her husband from Texas that live with the Herbels during the deer season to help out with all the cooking, cleaning, and related chores involved with hosting two groups of five to six hunters during the twelve-day deer hunting season.

The driveway to the Timber Trails Ranch Headquarters (Herbel house, bunkhouse, machine shed and support equipment) is most impressive. Timber Trails Ranch is traversed by a south-to-north flowing stream that has been dammed up to form a several-acre lake teeming with fish, birds and other wildlife. The top of the dam forms the road bed for the driveway to the Herbel house and bunkhouse. The Herbel house sits overlooking the man-made lake surrounded by forested hills. This area of Kansas consists of hilly and rocky land more suitable for grazing and hunting land than for intensive agriculture. Timber Trails Ranch is about 3000 acres mostly forested by relatively young oaks with about 2000 of the acres owned by Chuck and Ruth Herbel with the balance of the contiguous acreage owned by Boddington. Craig has his own house and a barn for his toys on his portion of this land. They run their hunting operation together maintaining about 30 hunting blinds throughout their property.

Opening morning came quickly with temperatures near freezing but forecast to rise to near 60 by late afternoon. Coffee was made for us and a hot egg casserole was brought to the bunkhouse. We served ourselves for breakfast with the hot casserole, toast, sweet rolls, juice and coffee provided. Those



hunters that planned to stay in their blinds all day made a lunch from the sandwich goodies in the refrigerator. Then Craig and Chuck transported the hunters to their blinds using 4wd UTVs. Jim was taken to a spot northwest of the pond with an enclosed elevated Redneck hunting blind. I was taken by Chuck to a spot in the woods southeast of the bunkhouse.

It was still dark when I arrived at my blind, a metal-framed, cloth-wrapped structure with a partial roof, framed shooting openings in each side wall, and a metal-grate-floor elevated about six feet above the ground. Entry into the blind was via a ladder through a hinged-door in the floor. The floor and entry door were covered by a half inch thick rubber pad which did a good job of silencing hunter activity in the blind. The blind contained a comfortable folding-back swivel chair which allowed the hunter to quietly look in all directions. Chuck told me to concentrate my viewing to the north, because there was a corn feeder about 80 yards away in that direction.

As daylight approached, I realized that a big hardwood tree had toppled over just to the north of the blind, so that the view of the corn feeder 80 yards north was significantly obscured by the branches of the fallen tree. Nevertheless, I started seeing

deer at first light. I passed on a 2.5-year-old 8pt buck at about 7:00 am. A shooter 12pt buck came to the feeder from the east about 7:30 am and stayed in the area for at least a half hour, but I could not get a clear shot into him because of the obstructing tree branches. Each time a new doe showed up in the area, the buck would go check her out, but there was never a clear-shot opportunity. That buck left the area about 8:00 am headed west. Meanwhile, I could see deer moving in the area on all sides of the blind. About 9:00 am, a shooter buck came in to the feeder from the west (the same direction the previous similar-looking buck exited). I spent the next 30 minutes trying to get a clear shot into that buck between the obstructing tree branches. Finally, about 9:30 am, as the buck was leaving the feeder area, I was able to find a clear opening to the deer’s vitals and fired a 180 grain Barnes “Triple-Shock” X-bullet from my .300 Weatherby. The buck was quartering away with his right side exposed to me. I aimed the shot for the bullet to enter the deer near the last rib on the right side and to exit the deer through the left shoulder. Upon the shot, the buck bolted to the east for the nearest woods about 20 yards away. As the buck ran away, I noticed that he was vigorously cranking his tail, a sure sign that he was significantly injured.

The buck hobbled into the woods and quickly disappeared. While Joe waited for the buck to expire, more does, fawns and young bucks continued to be visible traversing the area in all directions from the blind.

About 10:00 am I left the blind to see if I could find my buck. By then I had seen more than 30 different deer that morning. I had difficulty finding the first sign of blood, because the buck was further north of the feeder than I had estimated. After finding the first blood, (just a small amount on some green foliage), I was not able to find any more sign. So, I walked northeast toward where I last saw the buck as it entered the woods. While I was standing at the edge of the woods looking for blood, he noticed a brown hump in the woods understory about 30 yards away. I decided to walk toward the brown hump to determine what it was. After advancing about 15 yards into the woods, I came across a very vivid blood trail which led right to the brown hump - my buck in a heap. I made sure the buck was dead, and then inspected him. It turned out to have 13 scorable antler points on a 10pt mainframe plus 3 non-typical points with good antler mass and an outside spread outside of the ears. I estimated the buck to be 3.5 to 4.5 years old by body structure and by the considerable knobby trash on his antler burrs, a feature not present on young bucks. I also noted that the shot turned out exactly as intended with bullet entry just forward of the rear rib on the right side and exit out the left shoulder.

I then tried to contact Craig Boddington via his cell phone, as per instructions, to tell Craig that I had shot a buck. Voice contact by cell phone was not possible, because of a very weak cell signal, so I texted Craig. Craig responded about 10:30 am that he was currently busy with Brian's buck, but would come to get me and my buck as soon as he could. Just before 11:00 am two UTVs arrived with Craig and Brian in one and Chuck Herbel in the other.

That is when I learned that I was the third hunter to harvest a buck that morning. Craig was the first to score, shooting a wide 8pt buck on his property shortly after daybreak. Next successful hunter was Brian Cole, who shot a wide 7pt from a tree stand overlooking the big field east of the bunkhouse. First, we took some pictures of my buck in the woods (not very good pictures) and then set up for more photos of my buck out of the woods in the open with me, Craig and Chuck (better pictures). Then we loaded my buck into Chuck's UTV, and took it north of Craig's barn where Craig dressed it. The entrails were strategically left where they were visible from a nearby blind so that a hunter could sit in that blind and shoot coyotes if they came to the gut pile during daylight. Then we took and hung my buck by the hind legs from the rafters of the overhang of Craig's barn along with Craig's buck and Brian's buck. Finally, it was time for a celebratory beer and lunch.

That afternoon Chuck and I went back to my hunting spot and cut up the fallen tree to remove the shooting obstacles looking north from the blind. We also noticed that the corn feeder had been damaged by a buck goring the spin cast distributor so that several gallons of corn had been dumped out on the ground. We repaired the corn feeder and refilled it with corn. Now this spot was ready for another hunter. Although all three of the opening day unsuccessful hunters saw bucks, they did not see bucks big enough to decide to harvest them.

Thursday morning Austin Folkman went to the blind where Joe got his buck Wednesday. There Austin shot a 2.5-year-old 8pt. That afternoon, Steve Folkman wounded a buck from his blind on Craig's property overlooking a food plot. Craig, Steve and Austin searched long and hard for the buck. They found some blood but were not successful in finding and recovering that buck.

Friday morning, while Jim and Steve continued hunting; me, Brian, Austin and Craig skinned and quartered each of the four harvested bucks and packed the meat in the hunters' coolers. Craig also skinned each buck skull cap, and Joe and Austin cut the antlered skull cap off each buck and scraped the skull caps clean ready for travel.

Craig suggested that each hunter also harvest a doe as allowed by the Kansas deer license, but the only hunter to do that was Austin on Saturday. Steve harvested an 8pt buck Sunday evening. Jim hunted every morning and every evening, even one day hunting at Joe's spot, but the bigger bucks stayed out of his sight. Jim also hunted Monday morning, the sixth day, at the insistence of Craig, because Craig wanted to have his hunters be 100% harvest successful, but it was not to be. So, the group of six hunters ended up with five nice bucks. Jim and Joe departed Timber Trails Ranch about noon to deliver Joe to the Oklahoma City airport to catch his 5:00 pm flight back to Detroit.

The hunt with Craig Boddington and Ruth and Chuck Herbel at their Timber Trails Ranch in southeast Kansas was very enjoyable. They are very generous, accommodating and friendly hosts doing everything they can to please their hunter guests. They provided us all the drinks we wanted during the extended happy hours each evening and all the food we could eat during the daily breakfasts, lunches and dinners. The last evening, we took a group picture of the five hunters with Craig and Chuck in the Herbel House, and it is part of this article. Should you have a future opportunity to hunt at Timber Trails Ranch, I encourage you to do so. You will be glad you did! ■



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A photograph of a rider on a green Kawasaki motorcycle, wearing a helmet and sunglasses, riding on a road.

# A Quest For DIAMONDS

By Edward L. Keller

Once I became serious about collecting diamonds, I found that more than a lay knowledge would be required in finding and evaluating them. Immediately I realized that the service of a gemologist would be required. Since my diamonds were SCI diamonds, I engaged the services of Chuck Bazzzy of Safari Adventures LTD.

My first diamond of interest was Animals of South America. Needing six additional species to qualify for the Animals of South America, I called Chuck. I asked if he could arrange to collect six species on a single hunt. His reply was: "I will try". I was booked with Marcelo Sodiro of South America Adventure Safaris. To my surprise, I collected six species, including five species indigenous of South America. The Indigenous species also qualified me for the South America Slam of Indigenous Animals. In addition to a successful hunt with first class accommodations, Marcelo personally took my wife, Carol, and I on a tour of the family museum in Santa Fe, Argentina. I next called Chuck and advised that I needed three species to qualify for the Animals of South Pacific Diamond, one species being the banteng. An importable banteng is difficult to obtain due to limited hunting areas.

Again accompanied by my wife, Carol, a successful hunt was enjoyed with Kevin and Carol Gleeson of Mary River Australia Safaris. After collecting my desired species, Kevin allowed me to cull defective or deformed horned scimitar-horned Oryx. In doing so, I collected scimitar-horned Oryx both with a rifle and a handgun.

I now needed two more diamonds to qualify for the SCI Ring. Inspired to hunt racka sheep by an article written by Craig Boddington, I decided to first try for the Wild Sheep of the World Diamond. Planning to hunt in the fall of 2015, I called Chuck to see if there was any other wild sheep that could be hunted in conjunction with a racka sheep. This inquiry was made in November of 2014. After exploring the possibilities, Chuck contacted me and advised that I could hunt both a racka sheep and a central European Mouflon in Serbia. However, the prime time to hunt both was between November and January. Not wanting to wait a year, I commenced looking for a traveling companion. My wife and children, in spite of bribes and threats to advertise for a traveling companion, expressed no interest in Serbia. Not only did my wife reject all offers, she made light of them and told everyone that I wanted her to go to Siberia. Finally, a non-hunting friend offered to accompany me.

My friend, Hafidh Shawqi, and I arrived in Serbia on January 15, 2015, the day after the orthodox Christmas. The timing could not have been better, everyone was either celebrating Christmas or preparing for the New Year. A very happy time!



Buffalo



Racka sheep



Black Hawaiian



Banteng



Chapel



Central European Mouflon



Scimitar-horned Oryx



Baltian sheep

After collecting both a racka sheep and a central European Mouflon, both my friend and I were extended the option to hunt pheasant or cull female roe deer. We elected to cull roe deer and had a great time.

For the third sheep needed for the Wild Sheep of the World Diamond, Chuck arranged for a Dalmatian sheep hunt! After learning what a great time my friend and I had in Serbia, my son, George, volunteered to accompany me on the Dalmatian sheep hunt.

Instead of hunting in the beautiful country of Croatia as initially expected, George and I were dropped off on the small uninhabited island of Plavhik, Plavhik, about five miles long and one and half miles wide, is located off the coast of Croatia in the Adriatic Sea. It was last inhabited around the middle of the 18th century. When vacated, the inhabitants left behind their sheep which over the years have gone wild. Except for being wild, the sheep differ little, if any, from our domestic sheep.

We stayed in a lodge constructed on the ruins of a 300 to 400 year old stone house. The lodge plus the ruins of a small chapel built in 1577 were the only two structures on the island.

Sheep were plentiful but somewhat difficult to hunt due to the extremely rocky landscape and the bushy cover. In spite of unfavorable weather, both George and I were successful.

George in addition to collecting a sheep, shot a very nice fallow deer.

Again, a better time could not have been had.

My choice for the seventh diamond was the Introduced Animals of North America. I needed four. One I had arranged to collect locally. Chuck suggested I collect the remaining three in Texas at the Recordbuck Ranch owned by Tom Hammond of Michigan. If agreeable, he and his wife Karen would accompany Carol and me on the hunt. A hunt was arranged and, in addition to collecting the three needed species, we had a great time.

Once home, I learned that my arrangement for the one remaining species needed failed to materialize. Upon learning of my disappointment, Chuck arranged for me to collect a Hawaiian black buck at the Double D. Ranch located at McArthur, Ohio.

Surprisingly, Dannie Carte, the proprietor of Double D. Ranch knew several people from the county and state of my youth – Preston County, West Virginia.

With the blessings of Diana and the planning of my gemologist I achieved my diamond collecting goal in just a little over one year.

Thanks Diana and Chuck!! ■

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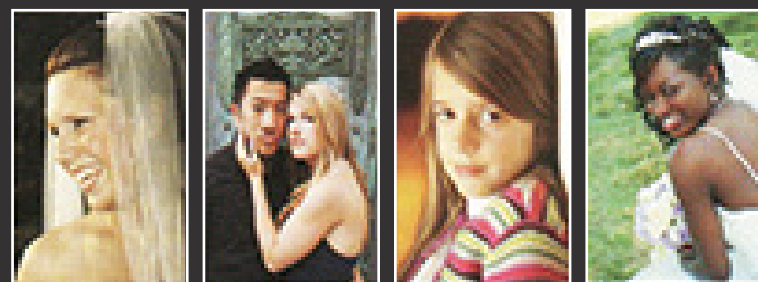
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