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Awarded SCI Best Chapter Magazine (Group 2) for 2015

Trajectory



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**“GOOSE HUNT
FOR OUR VETERANS”**



Fall/Winter 2016

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EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Steve Breuning

Our next Banquet/Fundraiser is March 3-4, 2017. It will be the kickoff to another great year. As you may recall, we are very proud that the International SCI has honored Trajectory as "SCI Best Chapter Magazine (Group 2) for 2016". This was only possible with your articles, stories, feedback, and general participation. On behalf of Bob Berndt and myself it is an honor to work with you all.

To continue this level of excitement and quality we still 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.

In this issue of Trajectory we have many excellent hunting stories and a very exciting story of a first hunt. These are surrounded by important hunting related information on the state, national, and international levels. Also, don't miss a great recipe for cooking backstrap.

In past editorial endeavors I have had, the number one reason people have told me for their not contributing is a fear that they don't write well enough. I will gladly help and I will call on others to 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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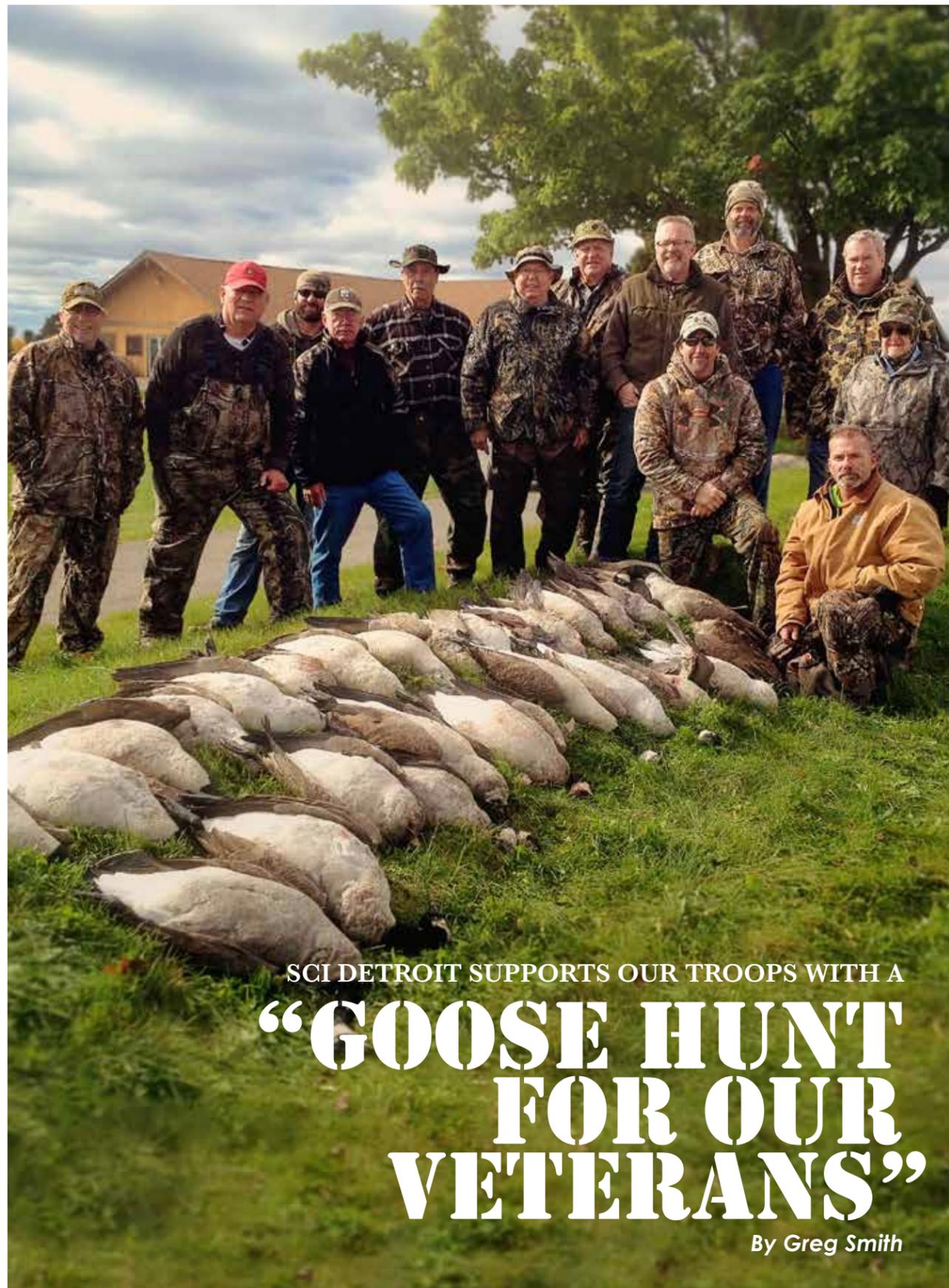
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SCI DETROIT SUPPORTS OUR TROOPS WITH A
**“GOOSE HUNT
FOR OUR
VETERANS”**
By Greg Smith

The morning of Saturday, October 23rd came very early— 5:00 a.m. to be precise. This morning was going to be the Safari Club International (SCI) - Detroit Chapter goose hunt. The weather started out perfect. It was 41-degrees at 5:15 a.m. when I left my house for the morning hunt. As I arrived at our hunting spot at 6:00 a.m., we found the conditions to be near ideal with a cool 37-degrees and a light to moderate wind out of the north. It was going to be a perfect day for goose hunting.

There were 14 hunters that were supposed to participate in the hunt. We had several veterans from the various wars, as well as several SCI members. All hunt costs for our veterans were provided by our Chapter. Everyone was excited about the goose hunt. The ages of the hunters varied from middle age, through 93 years old. The weapons were as varied as the ages of the hunters, ranging from Browning shotguns to a single shot shotgun, as well as a far-reaching 10 gauge.

The most unusual aspect of today’s goose hunt was that we were taking refuge in another sport’s venue. We are going to be hunting on a golf course north of metropolitan Detroit. It almost seemed too perfect to us! It was too obvious to us as hunters. We were interested geese, and the golfers are interested in dispelling these messy birds from their fairways and greens. It was a perfect match. Besides – golfers are usually not interested in golfing in 30-degree weather.

We broke into two groups of seven hunters in the predawn hours, each group on a different golf hole. One of the golf holes had a pond on it, a natural attractant for the geese. The other hole was pure green manicured lawn - a magnet for geese.

Prior to our arrival in the predawn hours, Dan and his partners from the guide service had strategically placed the decoys, as well as the layout blinds. It was 7:40 a.m. in the morning when all of the hunters were arranged in their blinds. Our guide, Joe, reviewed all of the safety rules as well as the expectations when geese would begin taking flight. We were all very excited to hear the first flight of incoming geese. While all of the hunters in the group were seasoned hunters, goose hunting was new to several of us.

As we got comfortable in our layout blinds that were well camouflaged by Joe and his partner, we anxiously awaited hearing the first calls of incoming geese. It seemed like a long time until we heard the first calls of distant geese; I think it was just nervous anticipation. As the first flock of geese calls got closer and started to descend upon us – our guide skillfully worked his various goose calls - trying to attract them into our field of decoys.

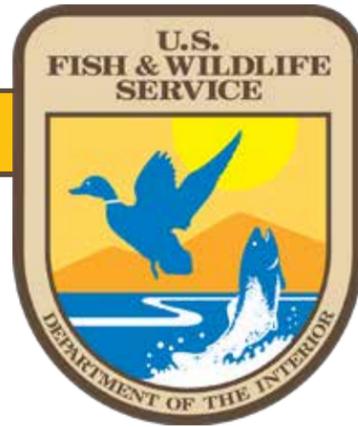
I believe the first flock was four geese. This was the moment we were all waiting for – as Joe shouted out, “TAKE THEM.” Instantaneously following Joe’s command, the layout blind doors busted open and the shooting began. If I recall correctly, we took only one of the four. However, this was just the beginning. After the first flock of geese came in, we seemed to get the cobwebs out and started to settle in as hunters.

The geese kept sporadically coming in - anywhere from four geese to maybe around a dozen at a time. Some of the flocks would come over and circle, or head off to the other group of seven hunters set up on the pond. Some of the flocks would circle, and then keep flying in search of “greener fields”, or at least more food. Other geese would fly towards the other hunters, where we subsequently heard the volley of shots, and watched the geese fall from the sky. I was shocked by the toughness of these waterfowl - as many of them escaped our shots, or failed to fall.

In the end, all of the hunters enjoyed a very satisfying morning. I believe the score for us was: twenty-one geese for the hunters on the pond, and eight geese for our group. Any way you slice it, I believe everyone enjoyed the hunt, as well as the camaraderie of gathering with fellow hunters that share the passion of hunting and the outdoors.

Following the hunt, all of the hunters gathered for the customary pictures and proceeded into the clubhouse for a steak lunch. The stories continued inside the clubhouse as well. The similarities between golf in summer, and goose hunting in the fall were strikingly similar. Following both sports, everyone had a great story, a cold beverage, and “all of the shots seemed remarkable.” Thank you to Dan Taylor and his group from Hilde Hunting Services, our veterans, and all of those that made that morning so memorable. ■





On October 4, 2016 The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the Expansion of Hunting and Fishing Opportunities on National Wildlife Refuges

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe today announced the agency will expand fishing and hunting opportunities on 13 refuges throughout the Service's National Wildlife Refuge System. The final rule also modifies existing refuge-specific regulations on more than 70 other refuges and wetland management districts. This includes migratory bird, upland game and big game hunting, and sport fishing.

In Colorado, hunting for elk will occur for the first time in designated areas of Baca National Wildlife Refuge, as well as in expanded areas of Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge and Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge.

"Sportsmen and sportswomen were among the first to champion wildlife protection. Their efforts are the backbone of the North American Wildlife Conservation Model — fish and wildlife belong to all Americans, and they need to be managed in a way that will sustain their populations forever," said Ashe. "We are pleased to offer new opportunities for the continuance of a hunting and fishing tradition that is in accordance with sustainable recreational use in the National Wildlife Refuge System."

The final rule also includes opening sport fishing of state-regulated species for the first time at Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge in South Dakota, and expanding areas available for sport fishing at Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge in Indiana.

The Service is responsible for managing more than 850 million acres in the Refuge System, including five marine national

monuments, 565 national wildlife refuges and 38 wetland management districts. The agency manages hunting and fishing programs to ensure sustainable wildlife populations, and other forms of wildlife-dependent recreation on refuges, such as wildlife watching and photography. In addition, the Service's Urban Wildlife Conservation Program, launched in 2013, offers opportunities for residents of America's cities to learn about and take part in wildlife conservation. There is a national wildlife refuge within an hour's drive from most major metropolitan areas.

Hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities contributed more than \$144.7 billion in economic activity across the United States according to the Service's National Survey of Fishing, Hunting and Wildlife-Associated Recreation, published every five years. More than 90 million Americans, or 41 percent of the United States' population age 16 and older, pursue wildlife-related recreation. The Service's report Banking on Nature shows that refuges pump \$2.4 billion into the economy and support more than 35,000 jobs. More than 48 million visits are made to refuges every year.

"Hunting and fishing give families a chance to carry on traditions that they have celebrated for generations," Ashe added. "These types of recreation also benefit local economies and generate much needed additional funding for wildlife conservation by bringing people into national wildlife refuges, as well as provide an important connection between people and the outdoors."

The Service's final rule opens the following refuge to hunting for the first time:

COLORADO

- Baca National Wildlife Refuge: Open migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting. The refuge is currently closed to other public use activities.

The Service's final rule opens the following refuge to sport fishing for the first time:

SOUTH DAKOTA

- Lake Andes National Wildlife Refuge: Open sport fishing. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting.

In addition, the Service expands hunting and sport fishing on the following refuges:

COLORADO

- Alamosa National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting and open big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting and upland game hunting.
- Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting and open big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting and upland game hunting.

INDIANA

- Patoka River National Wildlife Refuge and Management Area: Expand migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting, big game hunting and sport fishing. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting, big game hunting and sport fishing.

LOUISIANA

- Atchafalaya National Wildlife Refuge: Expand big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting, big game hunting and sport fishing.
- Black Bayou Lake National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting, big game hunting and sport fishing.

MICHIGAN

- Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting.

NEW YORK

- Montezuma National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, big game hunting and sport fishing.

OKLAHOMA

- Washita National Wildlife Refuge: Expand big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting, big game hunting and sport fishing.

SOUTH CAROLINA

- Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting and big game hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting, upland game hunting, big game hunting and sport fishing.

TEXAS

- Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge: Expand migratory game bird hunting. The refuge is already open to migratory game bird hunting and sport fishing.
- Buffalo Lake National Wildlife Refuge: Open big game hunting. The refuge is already open to upland game hunting.

The final rule became effective upon publication in the Federal Register on October 4, 2016.

Under the National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997, the Service permits hunting and fishing along with four other types of wildlife-dependent recreation, including wildlife photography, environmental education, wildlife observation and interpretation, when they are compatible with an individual refuge's purpose and mission. Hunting, within specified limits, is now permitted on 337 wildlife refuges. Fishing is now permitted on 276 wildlife refuges.

For more information visit <http://www.fws.gov/>, or contact: Vanessa Kauffman at 703-358-2138 or vanessa_kauffman@fws.gov. ■

SCI DETROIT CHAPTER

BY-LAWS

BY-LAW AMENDMENTS ADOPTED

Pursuant to the requirements of the SCI-Detroit Chapter By-Laws, the By-Laws Committee hereby publishes the By-Law Amendments adopted by the SCI-Detroit Chapter Board of Directors at its meetings on August 23, 2016.

The complete SCI-Detroit Chapter By-Laws, as last amended, are posted to the SCI-Detroit Chapter website (www.scidetroit.com).

Amend Article VI, Section 2 entitled Executive Committee and Other Committees by changing paragraph D to read as follows:

D. Education Sables Committee. There may be an Education Sables Committee. The Chair of any Education Sables Committee, which shall be appointed by the President, must be a member in good standing of Safari Club International–Detroit Chapter and both SCI and SCIF–Sables. Additional members of the Education Sables Committee, who may or may not be members of Safari Club International–Detroit Chapter, may be appointed by the Committee chair. Monies and other assets received or generated by any Education Sables Committee or otherwise obtained by the corporation for the mission and purposes of SCIF Education Sables shall be deposited and held with other monies and assets of the corporation and disbursed or distributed only at the direction of the Board of Directors.

by adding a new paragraph G to read as follows:

G. Veterans Committee. There may be a Veterans Committee the chair of which shall be appointed by the President. Additional members of the Veterans Committee may be appointed by the Committee chair. The duty of such Committee shall be to arrange or co-ordinate with functions which include, honor and respect individuals (who may or may not be Safari Club International–Detroit Chapter members) that are serving or have served in the Armed Forces of the United States including the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard plus the National Guard and Air National Guard of any state thereof.

and by re-lettering paragraphs G and H to read as follows:

H. Other Committees. The President shall establish such other committees as he or she shall deem advisable and shall appoint the chair thereof. A committee chair shall approve members of his or her committee. Such committees shall be advisory to the Executive Committee and shall be advisory to the Board of Directors.

I. Immediate Family. No committee shall be constituted by more than one member of an immediate family. Immediate family shall be defined as to include spouse, father or mother, son or daughter, and brother and sister.



Michigan Department of Natural Resources

The Michigan DNR Reports that the 2016 Bear Hunting Season is Now Complete.

With more than half of Michigan's counties open to bear hunting, bear harvest is an important management tool to maintain a healthy bear population that is in balance with its habitat.

Nearly 6,900 successful bear applicants received bear hunting licenses for staggered hunting seasons that started as early as Sept. 9 and ended as late as Oct. 26.

"Michigan's black bear season is designed to provide a quality hunt," said Department of Natural Resources bear specialist Kevin Swanson. "With many different hunting seasons kicking off in September, we spread out the effort of bear hunters and the end result is an impressive success rate."

Bear seasons are set by bear management unit, with a quota of licenses available by area. Michigan has 10 bear management units, with the majority of bear licenses available in the Upper Peninsula, where the majority of the black bear population is found.

"We estimate the adult bear population in the U.P. to be approximately 9,700 individuals and the Lower Peninsula to be about 2,000 bear," said Swanson. "Because of the population differences, a majority of the harvested bear come from the Upper Peninsula."

Official bear harvest information will be available in early 2017, when all bear harvest surveys and mandatory bear check information is compiled. Preliminary harvest information suggests that bear hunters have had good success, and many have shared stories of their hunts at the mandatory bear check or by phone calls and email. Within 72 hours of harvest, every successful bear hunter must visit a bear check station, give information about their hunt, and a small non-functional tooth is collected to determine the bear's age and to provide a DNA sample.

Don't forget to apply for your 2017 bear preference points from May 1 to June 1 and sign up to receive DNR email to stay informed and never miss an application period again.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural and cultural resources for current and future generations. For more information, go to www.michigan.gov/dnr or contact: Kevin Swanson at 906-458-1889. ■

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LEGISLATIVE

AND OTHER WILDLIFE NEWS

By Joe Konwinski

04-26-16, the Michigan natural resources commission approved year-round coyote hunting season in Michigan. To hunt coyotes, Michigan residents must have a valid base license, while non-residents must have a valid base license and a fur harvester license. Coyotes and raccoons may be taken all year on private land by the property owner or designee when the coyotes and raccoons are doing or about to do damage to the private property. A license or written permit is not required.

04-28-16, Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) wildlife division officials announced that the size of the state's wolf population has not changed significantly since the previous population survey was conducted in 2014. MDNR wildlife researchers estimate there was a minimum of 618 wolves in the Upper Peninsula this winter. The 2014 minimum population estimate was 636 wolves.

06-03-16, The D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals issued a significant ruling that Congress did not violate the U.S. Constitution when it passed a law directing the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reinstate a rule that allows individuals to hold and participate in hunts of members of U.S. captive herds of the three antelope species, without the need to obtain individual Endangered Species permits. The court's ruling upholds the legality of the highly successful sustainable-use program that has resulted in the three antelope species thriving on private ranches in Texas and other U.S. states.

07-05-16, the Michigan DNR announced the expansion of the chronic wasting disease core area and management zone in southern Michigan to include 17 townships. This area, which will continue to be referred to as Deer Management Unit (DMU) 333, now will consist of Lansing, Meridian, Williamstown, Delhi, Alaiedon and Wheatfield Townships in Ingham County; Dewitt, Bath, Watertown, Eagle, Westphalia, Riley, Olive and Victor townships in Clinton County; Woodhull Township in Shiawassee County; and Onieda and Delta Townships in Eaton County.

09-29-16 the Michigan Department of Natural Resources wildlife disease lab and the Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for population and animal health announced that they have confirmed that a deer in Berrien County has died from epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD). This is the first report of a deer death from EHD in Michigan in 2016.

10-20-16, Director of U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Dan Ashe announced that the United States will not allow the import of lion trophies taken from captive lion populations in South Africa but will allow the import of lion trophies from wild populations in South Africa.

▶▶▶ 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 have an inspirational "first hunt" story in this issue. We love stories about our "first hunts" so please consider sharing yours.

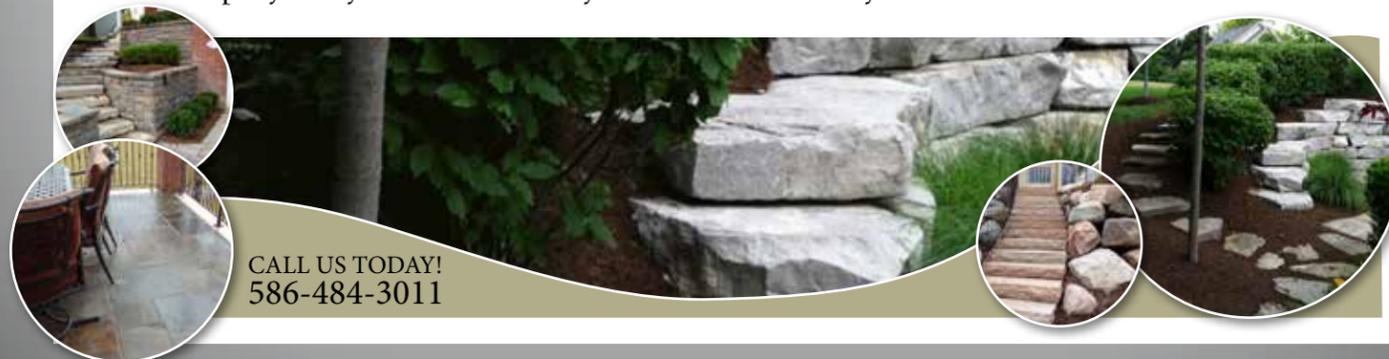
As a reminder, we realize that for most of us, our first hunt does not tell the story of a world record class trophy animal. It might, and if yours does, great for you. But for most of us it most likely deals with humor, learning, and emotion.

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.*** Look at the smile on Ava's face - she is now a huntress forever.



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Dangerous Game Hunting in MOZAMBIQUE

By Don E. Black

As we pushed off from the shore of Lake Cabora Bassa in a makora, the traditional dug-out log canoe of the southern African native, and headed toward a pod of hippopotamus which poked only their nostrils and eyes from time to time above the surface of this vast man made lake on the Zambezi River, I asked my Professional Hunter Richard Tabor "Have you ever taken a hippo in this way?" His answer "No" was not very comforting.

We had been watching this small group of animals from the bank for over an hour and had determined that there was, in fact, a big, mature male in the pod. The problem was that he knew we were there and he was not giving me a chance to place a shot into his brain to insure a quick, humane kill. "Let's see if we can make something happen with this fellow." said Richard as he instructed our native tracker Livingston to round up a local villager with a canoe.

October in Mozambique is a hot, dry, dusty time of year. Daytime temperatures at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit

may not seem extreme for a west Texan or southern New Mexican but night-time temperatures which remain in the high 80s and low 90s combined with slack winds and high humidity make getting a good nights rest difficult. Because mosquitoes abound near the lake you need to sleep under a fine mesh mosquito netting which traps all of your body heat inside and means that your bedding will be damp, if not down right wet, most of the night. It is impossible to imagine how many gazillion mosquitoes are waiting for you to emerge from the tent and join you for breakfast but their humming sound makes you think that a non-existing air conditioner is working over-time.

The bad news is that the bites of the numerous tsetse flies will take your mind off the mosquitoes. The good news is that after having been on five flights over a two and a half day period to get from home to Mozambique to hunt hippopotamus and Nile crocodile on Lake Cabora Bassa down river from Zimbabwe's Lake Kariba, I was seeing hippopotamus and crocodile every day during my seven day hunt.



It is said that hippopotamus kill more people each year in Africa than any other animal. I don't know if this is true or not but they certainly have both the opportunity and the ability to do a lot of damage to a lot of people. First, they are relatively common around water which is where so many of the natives live and earn their meager livelihood by fishing from dawn to dusk. Secondly, they are very territorial and defend themselves and their young aggressively. Thirdly, these animals, which can weigh up to eight thousand pounds, are very quick both on land and in the water. Lastly, they have the dentures to inflict mortal injury in a hurry. Long, thick and sharp tusks and ivories fill their massive jaws which can easily cut a makora and/or a human body in half in an instant.

Which gets me back to my adventure in the tippy, leaky, dug-out tree. As our native fisherman paddled the canoe toward the pod they took notice and began to demonstrate their annoyance with our intrusion by roaring and splashing in the deeper water. After several minutes of this action we decided that I was not going to have a better opportunity than I would if I waited on shore for a chance at this animal or a different one in another location. Accordingly, we returned to our hunting vehicle and traveled to another bay in the 3,000,000 acre hunting concession on the southern shore of Lake Cabora Bassa operated by Sandy McDonald, owner of McDonald Pro-Hunting from his base in South Africa. And find a better opportunity we did. In fact, we located another pod which was not as careful as the other and



I was able to carefully place a 300 grain Federal Premium Nosler Partition bullet from my Sako .375 H&H rifle into the ear hole to reach the animal's brain and finish my hunt for hippopotamus.

After spending half a day recovering my trophy and every scrap of the many hundreds of pounds of meat for the camp staff and local villagers I turned my attention exclusively to patiently hunting crocodile for the next four days. Patience is the operative word because these wary animals have unbelievable senses. Their eyesight is phenomenal and they can detect sound and vibration on the ground from long distances.

Because the water temperature was so warm the crocodile could seemingly warm their cold blooded bodies by merely laying in shallow water. Nonetheless, some would emerge from the water from time to time to guard their nest of eggs laid in the soft, sandy banks from

monitor lizards' intent on raiding the nest. After watching such a nesting site for several days I finally had the chance to put another 300 grain round into the spine of a nearly eleven foot long crocodile to anchor it in place and prevent it from returning to the water where it would be forever lost.

If you decide that you just have to hunt hippopotamus and Nile crocodile in Mozambique I recommend that you seriously consider making the trip earlier in the year to avoid the heat and insects I experienced in October. ■



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My First Buck

By Ava Torres

I have gone hunting since I was little with my Nonno and my dad. In past years, we have gone every year for rifle hunting. In one of the previous years, I and my Nonno got a doe, but I didn't shoot. This was the first year that I could shoot myself and I was ready. I had gone through the hours of class and learned, what I thought, was everything to know about guns and animals. Those hours of learning were treacherous, but I made it through them so I could hunt and shoot all on my own. I love to hunt in the winter, I love seeing the tracks in the snow and knowing that they may be around at any time. Also in the winter, it seems like complete silence, especially at night.

I learned to shoot when I was around nine I'd say. Me, my Nonno, and my cousins would shoot targets with a 22 rifle up north in the summer. I really enjoyed it, especially since me and my Nonno are the only two lefties in the family. Walking through the woods up north when I was younger was really enjoyable. The trees and the birds and the occasional animals. I loved to sit in a blind in silence for hours and just watch everything. Even though I am not an insect person, watching little animals and birds seemed to make me happy in the blind.

We went up to our cabin for a weekend for rifle season. This was the first year I was going to be able to shot by myself and I was prepared and excited for the days ahead of me. I went hunting with my Nonno the night we got up, didn't see much, but it was still enjoyable. The next morning, it was me and my dad's turn to go out. We woke up sometime around 5:00 am for this. That's the only part that's not so enjoyable, waking up early. The morning was crisp and a little chilly, but nothing too extreme. It was a nice November morning and a pretty comfortable temperature.

I ate breakfast and slipped on a couple pairs of comfortable pants and my camo jacket with my hunter's orange hat. I felt like that morning might've been my chance to get something myself. We drove about halfway to the blind, then walked the rest. Wouldn't want to scare away any deer that were already out. We get up to the tree blind and sit with our eyes peeled and scanning the field. Although it is early and I most likely wouldn't be able to see much, I waited for the sun to come up a little bit so I could see better.

Hours go by and unfortunately, my staring had kind of slipped into falling asleep for a few seconds and waking myself up when I started to lean my head to one side. Eventually I told my dad that I was tired and I was going to close my eyes for a few minutes and he said we will be going back to the cabin soon. I said okay as I fell right asleep onto my own shoulder.

I woke up to a nudge on my right arm from my dad after a few minutes of sleeping. I lifted up my head and looked straight out into the field. I blinked a few times to clear my eyes, I realized there were two 8 point bucks walking around and reaching toward the ground. I started to panic slightly and I lifted up the gun to aim. I looked through the scope and one was standing right there. I took the gun off of safety and right after I did that I looked through the scope again. I was moving the gun back into place when I accidentally fired, not even close to the deer! It was a loud bang and I got scared that the deer would run off and not come back. The accidental fire scared me so much I almost couldn't look through the scope.

Fortunately, the deer were still standing right there! Although they were staring at me, I got the gun back to the spot where I could see one of the deer. I slid my left hand pointer finger to the trigger very slowly, trying not to scare away the deer. I aimed for one last second and bang! I took the gun out of my face and looked to see if the deer was down. But instead of falling right there, both of the deer started bolting into the trees. I was bummed, thinking that I didn't even hit the deer and that it was my only shot. My dad told me we would wait for about 30 minutes to see if it had fallen if I had hit it.

Those 30 minutes were the longest 30 minutes of my life. Sitting there waiting as the sun came up higher. I couldn't stand it, I kept bugging my dad if it was time yet, "Not yet" he kept saying to me as I would roll my eyes and rest my head back in my hand. As soon as it was time I crawled down the stairs with the gun strapped onto my back. And me and my dad walked out into the field, and followed where we saw the deer last. We walk up to a large, but short, tree and looked under. There I see my buck that I shot myself, I was so proud but also pretty grossed out. I called my mom who was at the cabin waiting to hear news after she heard the big bang.

We loaded the deer into the back of my dad's truck and headed back to the cabin with a big smile on my face. He was proud, I was proud, and all the rest of my family when we got back to the cabin was proud, too. Next stop, Shagena!

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MY HUNT FOR MISTY MUSKWA



By Robert Berndt

Every avid deer hunter often dreams of hunting the largest of the antlered game members, the majestic moose. My hunting buddies, Gary and Paul, were no different so after many fireside discussions we began our search for a trip that we could do together and after some research were steered to an outfitter that ran a camp in Northern Canada so we sent our deposit and booked the dates. The Canadian Moose, or 'Misty Muskwa' in the local native Indian language, though not as big as their Alaskan/Yukon cousins are still a magnificent trophy standing six feet at the shoulders and weighing up to 1,200 pounds. The camp was located at the top of Manitoba bordering the Northwest Territories, far from civilization, truly wild and beautiful country.

Like any remote hunting destination travel consisted of several flights with the size of the plane getting smaller as we went. After a good flight to Winnipeg and then up to Thompson we boarded an old DC 9 prop plane, like one would see in the 1950's. It was more of a cargo plane than a passenger plane with its rough interior filled with boxes and crates bringing supplies for the remote Indian villages and a few seats for passengers. The prop noise was deafening.

After a couple of stops we arrived at the end of the line, our destination at a small Indian settlement named Lac Brochet. We were met by one of the local tribal leaders and loaded our gear into his old pickup truck for the short drive through the small village to the boat docks on the lake bordering the village. It wasn't long before we heard the drone of the old Beaver float plane as it made its way down and across the lake to the dock. Bill the pilot, who would also be one of our guides, told us these planes are the workhorses of the North capable of carrying heavy loads. He told us it was built in 1958 and as we loaded up and boarded I quietly hoped that she still had a few goods weeks in her. With the engine roaring and the plane creaking we slowly lifted off the water and banked north for the hour and a half flight to camp. The ground below was miles and miles of totally remote and pristine wilderness dotted with many small lakes and it was obvious we would definitely be far from any civilization.

Bill set the floats down on the glass like surface of the lake and we taxied toward the shore where I could see the tents on the beach that would be our home for the week. We were met by our second guide, Donni Choke, a member of the local Indian Tribe who grew up in the area and knew it well. We unloaded our gear, checked out the camp, and sat down to a meal of freshly caught fish. The camp though Spartan was comfortable and with the view of the lake was a perfect set up. Hunting would be scouting and traveling by boat and then we would tie up at the shore when we got to a likely spot to hunt and then set off on foot. For the first two days we found abundant moose sign as we searched likely inlets and thick swampy areas where moose were normally seen, called with a birch bark megaphone and followed tracks but had no luck. Despite the sign that moose were there, other than one female, we never laid eyes on a bull. Never the less, we were upbeat.



Day three was my turn to hunt with Donni. We hiked and searched all morning without any luck so we returned to camp for lunch where we found the others already back. As we ate, Donni jumped in the boat to go scout a spot across the lake that we hadn't searched yet and it wasn't long before we heard the boat returning and thinking it was odd he was back so quickly. We all stepped out of the dining tent and could see Donni waving his arms as he roared up to shore. He told us he had spotted a good bull bedded down on a thick brushy bank at the end of a small inlet with only his antlers showing above the brush. He

told me to grab my gear and come quickly so making a mad dash back to my tent to grab my gun, coat, and pack I raced back to the boat, jumped in, and we raced off across the open water as I excitedly prepared myself for what was likely to be the best opportunity I would have this week. Not wanting to miss the action, Bill fired up the other boat and along with Gary and Paul made their way behind us. As we approached the inlet Donni killed the engine and motioned to me to be very quiet as he slowly paddled the boat into the inlet as the guys in the other boat did likewise staying well behind us so as not to interfere but to still allow them to have a good view of what was happening.



We were now in the middle of the inlet and not knowing if I could see the moose (I couldn't) he pointed to where the bull was laying and soon I could finally see the antlers that to my eyes would have been dismissed as just another brush pile. It was exciting to see he was still there and hadn't moved off. Painstakingly and agonizingly slowly we closed the distance until we were about sixty yards from the bank when Donni whispered for me to get set so I readied myself with rifle up and eye to the scope as I waited to see what was going to happen next. Seeing I was ready he took one of the oars and tapped on the rail of the aluminum boat and at the tap the bull reacted instantly standing up and looked in our direction giving me a good broadside shot and as the 7mm's report broke the silence the bull lurched forward a couple of steps so I quickly bolted in another round and hit him again. With the second shot he now had identified us and immediately spun around and started down the bank in our direction but a quick third shot fortunately dropped him before he hit the water's edge. I asked Donni if the bull was coming for us and he said for sure he was. I'm really glad he didn't make it to us because I had only loaded three shells in the gun and it was now empty. And besides, having a wounded, angry, 1200 pound moose join us in the boat wasn't really a comforting thought, besides, there wasn't really enough room for the three of us anyway.

After the usual handshakes and pictures we began the huge task of dressing and quartering it. Loading both boats with hundreds of pounds of moose we cautiously made our way back across the lake with the boats riding so low in the water made for a very nervous trip and it was with much relief to everyone that we made it to shore without incident. It all happened very fast and I knew I had just experienced one of those memorable moments that I will carry with me forever.

We all scored on moose, caught and ate a lot of fish, and learned a lot about the local Indian way of life. A great wilderness experience. ■

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Not Much of a Hunting Story...

...But it is How Life Sometimes Goes

By Chas Arnold

A few years ago I was afforded the opportunity to go up north to our cabin alone - by myself. While on the surface that sounded like a dream come true, the reality was that of a very lonely 10 day hunting trip. I asked Donna, my wife, if she'd like to accompany me while I bow and rifle hunt. Reluctantly she said yes. I was elated. Now one thing you need to know about my wife, she is deadly accurate with her compound bow.

As November 5th came around we had planned to leave that day and spend until the 20th of November to hunt. One more clarification. Donna does not hunt with a bow only a camera. Her dead on accuracy is a target at 30 yards.

Getting back to my story, we packed and left on the morning of November 5th, and arrived at our cabin around 3:00pm. Donna sensed how antsy I was to hunt so she told me to just put our "stuff" in the cabin and go out and hunt. Now I don't know about you but that was like giving a kid the keys to a candy store!

I unpacked our van with hurried anticipation of the hunt and once the van was empty I donned my face camouflage and my hunting apparel and with bow in hand I was off to my favorite tree stand in the woods.

Not much transpired during the time I occupied my tree stand. A doe with a yearling sauntered by along with a dozen or so squirrels. As the sun started to set I decided it was time to head in for the evening and dig into an exquisitely prepared meal. As I got to the cabin I noticed that the meal had not been prepared. Humm I thought well with the events of the day and the travel perhaps Donna wanted me to take her out to dine in town. But that wasn't the case.

Donna asked me where her suit case was. I assured her that it was in the front bedroom where I put our other clothes. She looked at me with a quizzical look and said "Funny, I couldn't find it." Panic rushed through me but only for an instant. I gathered myself and replied, I must have put it in the back bedroom." With that I started my search. Nothing. I went back into the front bedroom and no suit case.

I then reasoned that since I was given the go ahead to go hunt as soon as we arrived a presumed that I had failed to take my brides suit case from the van. A causal search revealed nothing. Knowing full well that there could have been a possibility, remotely as it may seem, that I could have left her suit case home. Sweat beads started to push through my camo face paint. Again I searched all the bedrooms and the van but came up empty.

A quick call home verified my error when I asked my daughter if there was anything on our bed. She said "yes dad and it looks like you're really stepped in it this time." I acknowledged her findings and hung up. I was modified to say the least! I was do week-end up to go hunting that I forgot my wife's suitcase.

I turned to my wife who had this funny grin on her face, (you see she had come the same conclusion I had almost 4 hours earlier) I told Donna we had 2 choices. One, I would drive all night and retrieve her suit case and return in the morning. Or two, we could go to Gaylord (about 40 minutes away) and buy some clothes. She said that if we went home she's not coming back up. So that immediately ruled out the first option. On to Option number two. With face in camo and hunting clothes still on we hopped into the van and headed to Gaylord. We shopped and had dinner to the tune of over \$300.00. Thank God for plastic!! On our way back to the cabin my wife informed me that she needs to go back to Gaylord in the morning because some of the stores were closed and she needed more clothes. I just smiled and said "No Problem!"

The next day we were off to Gaylord buying more clothes. Sufficed to say this was a very expensive hunting trip. However, two days later I was able to tag this nice 6 point!

All was well at the cabin once again. We enjoyed the rest of our time between hunting

and doing a few garage sales with and occasional fire in the fireplace while watching an old time movie.

Lesson learned - her suit case is the first thing packed before any hunting stuff!!
And I always double check before I pack my own suit case.

Bottom Line - It was a great hunting experience, one that I will never forget!!

Not much of a hunting story but I thought you'd enjoy life's humor! ■



Shamrock Luck

By Edward L. Keller



CURIOSITY, not hunting, more than anything else, prompted me to accept an invitation from my close friend, John Meldrum, and his Texas friends, Pat and Diane Mayfield to join them on a couples hunt in Ireland. Except for a couple animals already in my trophy collection, I thought Ireland had no species to offer. I have, however, always been extremely curious as to what type of culture could produce such jubilant, festive, and heritage proud people as the Irish. I have never failed to be intrigued by their music, dance, and patron saint celebrations.

It wasn't until I made personal contact with Dave Moore of Celtic Field Sports, our booking agent, that my interest in hunting surfaced. Through Dave, I learned that in addition to the game I had already collected, I could hunt the so-called Irish ibex, the Soay sheep, and feral goat. The latter two species were of particular interest as they would, if collected, enable me to qualify for the 3rd Echelon of The Ullmann Award for European Big Game Trophy Animals.

Upon our arrival in Dublin on September 18, 2013, we were informed that we would not be hunting at Dave Moore's Broomfield Lodge near Dublin as planned. Instead we would travel to a lodge near the town of Kenmare on the western side of Ireland. Immediately, in view of our short time to hunt, the thought of a four hour plus road trip was rather upsetting. The trip, however, proved to be a real plus to our vacation. Our itinerary took us through or near the cities and/or towns of Kildare, Port Laoise, Thurles, Cashel, Fermoy, Cork, Macroom and Killarney which allowed us to view the greater part of Southern Ireland. The beautiful green landscape, the well-kept farms with manicured hedge rows, and the ruins of historic castles were most impressive.

In spite of losing hunting time, we arrived at the Kenmare Lodge in time for an evening hunt. I decided to try for an Irish ibex in the Macgillycuddy Rock Mountain range, the highest mountain being Mt. Carr of only around 3414 feet elevation. Ibex were soon spotted on top of an extremely steep face of rocks. There was no way I would negotiate this climb, so I thought, as I followed my guides Andrew Donehoe and Mike O'Connor to the mountain face.

As I attempted to ascend, it was not long before my breath gave out. I thought each upward step would be my last. Over and over again Andrew kept telling me "you will be fine when you catch your second breath". I never was fine, but with assistance of Mike and Andrew's pulling and pushing, the summit was reached. So, for me, at the age of 82, I once more enjoyed that special feeling that comes over one when a mountain top, at whatever elevation, is reached.

After catching several breaths, we proceeded to locate and collect an ibex. My thoughts then turned to descending the





Irish Luck



rocky mountain face before dark. This mind set was abruptly interrupted when a feral goat was spotted at a distance of upwards of 300 yards. Electing to shoot, the goat, although hit, disappeared. It was decided that Mike would investigate the results of my shot and Andrew would accompany me to the hunting vehicle.

Mike returned with good news. He had found the goat some distance from where it was shot. However, due to the approach of darkness and the rough terrain, he elected to await morning before retrieving the goat.

Upon return to the lodge it was learned that all had been successful on day one. Perhaps, "Irish luck"!

Day two commenced with good news. I was assured that once my goat was retrieved, I would hunt Soay sheep and multi-horned sheep, if desired, on flat land. The goat retrieval was uneventful and my quest for the top animal on my shopping list commenced. To my surprise, this took us to a dense pine wooded area near the town of Tralee. The pine branches were so thick and low that without extreme stooping, and sometimes, crawling, penetration was nearly impossible. Not long after our entry into the forest, Mike suddenly stopped and motioned for Andrew and me to drop to the ground. He then pointed to a small brown unidentifiable creature facing away from us. At first we thought it to be a fox. Then, after crawling forward on the deep and damp pine needles, we were able to determine the object to be a sheep. I quickly positioned myself for a shot which was perfect. I was again blessed with Irish luck as I had been told Soay sheep, at least in this area, were very alert and difficult to stalk or approach.

Having now collected the species of my preference, I half-heartedly agreed to shoot a multi-horned sheep. It was understood that an exceptional sheep was a "sine qua non" before shooting would be considered. After scouting several areas, Mike suggested that he take a walk to where he had on an earlier occasion seen sheep. In the meantime, Andrew and I would sight see at a costal park where the river Tralee emptied into Tralee Bay of the Atlantic Ocean.

Upon Mike's return, we learned, in his words "that he had seen a monster multi horned sheep." The sheep was leaving a group of sheep in a direction we could not approach from our location. So, we immediately endeavored to find a route of travel towards the location where Mike believed the sheep was headed. After several attempts we were able to find a road in the right direction. We had not traveled far before a pair of thick dark horns, appearing high above a few sheep, got our attention. Mike, immediately and excitingly, stated "that's him". The horns were so impressive that the thought of not shooting never entered my mind. The sheep, later scored,

would rank number one for European multi-horned sheep according to the SCI scoring system.

An evening hunt for red stag or deer was made with Dave Moore our host and outfitter. The hunt required a lot of walking, mostly climbing, but the climbing was gradual and over smooth terrain. Only a young male red deer was spotted. We did see a so called Irish stone sheep which Dave insisted I shoot. I was really not interested in the sheep, but being trigger happy, I succumbed to Dave's offer that if I shot the stone sheep, the fourth sheep needed for the Irish Slam of Sheep would be on the house. Whether or not there was such a thing as an Irish Slam, I shot the sheep and we returned to the lodge.

Following a nice salmon dinner at the lodge, to satisfy the girls, tired of shopping and wanting to hear Irish music, we proceeded to a local pub. As we entered the pub, we were shocked to hear the band playing "Country Road" by John Denver. West Virginia being my home state, I immediately thought it was a set up. It was not. By coincidence, it was country music night. Irish music would have to await another time.

On day three, John and I elected to hunt while Pat and the girls elected to visit the Blarney Castle, home of the Blarney Stone. The visit to the castle and it surrounding gardens was very much enjoyed. All claimed to have kissed the Blarney Stone for Luck. Luck did not befall either John or I for the species desired on day three. I was hunting red deer and John's quest was for Sika. I saw no red deer, but was unable to restrain from shooting a sika deer and the free mountain sheep promised me. The mountain sheep would complete the Irish Sheep Slam if such an award existed. John was unable to find a sika deer to his liking.

Following another fine meal, a second attempt was made to find Irish music. This time we were successful. In addition, Dave introduced John and I to a hot Irish drink. I later learned the drink went by the name "Hot Drink" and consisted of the following:

- ½ cup of boiling water
- 1 shot of Jameson Irish Whiskey
- 3 cloves and 1 spoon of brown sugar
- A squeeze of sliced lemon

I have to say, the drink, or a couple of them, went a long way towards satisfying my curiosity as to why Irish people are so jubilant and festive. ■



Venison

with Blueberry Sauce and Colcannon

By Hank Shaw

I love this recipe with tenderloins, but backstrap or even a well-cut leg steak would work. And of course this will work with duck, goose, beef or lamb, too. You'll notice I use both clarified and regular unsalted butter here. I like the clarified because it has a high smoke point and is better for searing than regular butter; the milk solids burn easily. You can buy it in many markets labeled as Indian ghee, or you can make your own. Or use another fat or oil. No biggie.

As for the mushrooms, I used some dried morels. Any good dried mushroom will do. You want that mushroom soaking water, so I don't use fresh mushrooms here. Port wine can be a nicer kick in the sauce than red wine, but it's strong — if you use Port instead of red wine, use only 1/4 cup. Finally, remember that this is a savory sauce, despite the blueberries (or huckleberries). If this is weird to you, add some sugar.

I served this with a really good Spanish red wine, but any full-bodied red will work, or if you are a beer drinker, a malty Scottish ale or porter is the ticket.



Serves 2, and can be doubled.

Prep Time: 30 minutes,
mostly for reconstituting the dried mushrooms

Cook Time: 25 minutes

- Tenderloins from a deer, or 1/2 pound venison backstrap
- Salt
- 2 tablespoons clarified butter, regular unsalted butter, lard, duck fat or vegetable oil
- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 small onion, peeled and sliced root to tip
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 3/4 ounce dried mushrooms (wild if possible), reconstituted in 1 cup hot water
- 1/2 cup venison stock or beef stock
- 1/2 cup red wine
- 1/2 cup blueberries or huckleberries, fresh or thawed
- 1 teaspoon fresh rosemary, minced
- Black pepper to taste
- Malt or red wine vinegar, to taste
- Sugar (optional)

COLCANNON

- 2 large russet potatoes, peeled and diced
- Salt
- 2 or 3 three tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 or 2 heaping tablespoons sour cream or heavy cream
- 1 cup chopped, cooked green vegetable (spinach, kale, nettles, etc.)

Take the venison out of the fridge and salt it well. Let it set on the cutting board while you rehydrate the mushrooms and boil the potatoes for the colcannon.

Put the diced potatoes into a pot of salted water and bring to a boil. Simmer until tender. Drain the potatoes and put them back in the pot. Turn the heat to low under the pot and let the potatoes steam for a few seconds.

Beat in the butter, sour cream and chopped vegetables. You want nice mashed potatoes with green streaks. Add salt to taste, cover the pot, turn off the heat and set aside.

Get a large sauté pan and put 2 tablespoons of unsalted butter into it. Turn the heat to high and when the butter is hot, add the sliced onion. Sauté over medium-high heat until browned along the edges, about 4 to 5 minutes. Turn off the heat, remove the onions and set aside.

Wipe the pan with a paper towel. Pat the venison dry and put the clarified butter into the pan. Set it over high heat until the butter is very hot, but not smoking. Add the venison and sear until medium-rare. If you don't know to tell when the meat is done, use the finger test for doneness. When the venison is done, move it to rest on a cutting board.

Return the onions to the pan, add the mushrooms and garlic and sauté over medium-high heat for 2 to 3 minutes, stirring often. Sprinkle some salt over everything and add the wine.

Boil this down until it's almost gone, using a wooden spoon to stir up any browned bits on the bottom of the pan. Add the

stock and mushroom soaking water (strain the water if there is any debris in it) and boil this down by two-thirds.

Add the huckleberries or blueberries and cook another minute or two, add black pepper, salt and vinegar to taste. If you want it sweet, add some sugar now; start with a teaspoon or two. Garnish with the rosemary.

Hank Snow is hunter, fisherman, forager, author, and chef. He has been awarded Best Food Blog by the James Beard Foundation in 2013, the Bert Greene Award from the International Association of Culinary Professionals, was nominated for an American Society of Magazine Editors award in 2010, and has also been featured twice in the book Best Food Writing by Da Capo Press. His essay entitled, "On Killing," was included in Best Food Writing 2012, and another piece from Hunter Angler Gardener Cook, "An Awful Mercy," was included in Best Food Writing 2013.

He has authored several cook books which includes: Buck, Buck, Moose: Recipes and Techniques for Cooking Deer, Elk, Moose, Antelope and Other Antlered Things (2016). Duck, Duck, Goose: Recipes and Techniques for Ducks and Geese, both Wild and Domesticated (2013). And, Hunt, Gather, Cook: Finding the Forgotten Feast (2011).

This recipe and many others can be found in his cook books as well as at <http://honest-food.net/>

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- 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.
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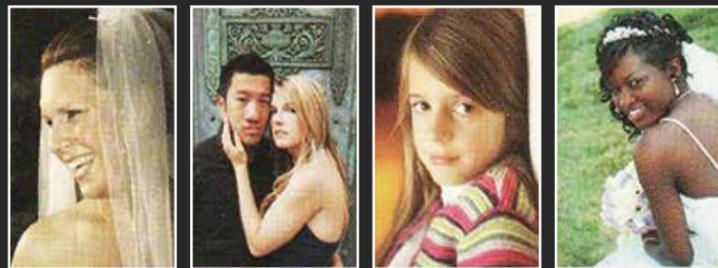


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