

SAFARI TIMES

Published Monthly for the Members of Safari Club International Worldwide



Stag Crowns Achievement

**John Ferguson
completes Red Deer/
Wapiti of the World Award.**
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Hunting Near US Border?

**Government released new
guidelines / Page 3.**



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Some Public Lands At Southern US Border Now Closed To Hunters

One-third Of US-Mexico Border Designated 'National Defense Areas'

By Barbara Crown
Hunter Information Service

Hunters heading to areas along the U.S. southern boundary should know that a long swath of public lands there have been designated as National Defense Areas and are generally off limits to nonmilitary personnel.

In New Mexico, that includes hunting areas in Hidalgo, Luna and Dona Ana counties now included in the U.S. Ar-

“Some National Defense Areas overlap game management units and wilderness areas.”

my's Fort Huachuca extension.

This past June, about one third of the U.S. border with Mexico, stretching from Arizona through Texas, was converted to NDAs as extensions of existing army forts. While some of these areas are not part of public hunting zones, there are others that overlap game management units and wilderness areas.



Some states, like New Mexico, will allow hunters onto some National Defense Areas if they pass a criminal background check.

National Defense Areas, or NDAs, require anyone without Department of Defense identification to apply for special access credentials.

In September, the New Mexico De-

partment of Game and Fish (DGF) announced a protocol developed with Fort Huachuca to allow hunters and other outdoor enthusiasts to obtain visitor access.

In advance of traveling to the area, users must submit personal information and pass a criminal background check. Once on the properties, hunters must follow New Mexico DGF and Fort Huachuca regulations.

Read all the requirements on the New Mexico DGF website (wildlife.dgf.nm.gov) under Press Releases. Look for the Sept. 5 announcement, Portions of Southern New Mexico border listed as National Defense Area. The announcement has links to BLM maps of the areas and to Fort Huachuca's website for a complete list of restrictions and requirements.

To complete a background check and receive an NDA access badge, hunters must complete an Access Request Form available on the Fort Huachuca website.

Hunters should expect to find similar requirements on other public hunting lands that are part of military installations or have been incorporated into NDAs along the southern border.

Check with the appropriate state wildlife department before planning to hunt any of these areas.

WASHINGTON REPORT

A Busy September Defending Hunting In Nation's Capital

By Chris Tymeson
Vice President of Government Affairs

Every September, there is a week marked by a migration of conservation leaders into the nation's capital. The week is filled with meetings and receptions, capped by the highlight event: The annual banquet and auction of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation. This was the 36th year of the dinner, and SCI was represented in force.

Just the week prior, SCI CEO W. Laird Hamberlin was invited to and attended the exclusive Outdoor & Recreation Conservation Roundtable at the White House, hosted by Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum and attended by CEOs from across the outdoor industry. Representing hunters nationwide, Laird was recognized among this small group of leaders to discuss SCI's top legislative priorities, including:

- Endangered Species Act reform to enable science-based management.
- Public land access for hunters, anglers and outdoor recreationists.
- Addressing frivolous lawsuits from anti-hunting groups that slow down common-sense conservation efforts.

This meeting came on the heels of an individual August meeting among Laird, other SCI leadership and Secretary Burgum, along with high-ranking staff from

the Interior Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

We also met with Brian Nesvik, the new Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. SCI supported Director Nesvik's confirmation because he brings experience as a seasoned conservationist, decorated military leader and proven wildlife manager to one of the most important conservation roles in the federal government (see page 19).

SCI remains committed to supporting leaders like Director Nesvik who understand that ethical hunting, sustainable-use policy and conservation go hand in hand. In addition, we look forward to working with Director Nesvik, who is an avid hunter and friend of SCI, having attended the Convention many times in the past.

His arrival coincides with a policy victory for hunters on the Endangered Species Act. Just as Nesvik took the reins, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced it will pause use of the controversial "blanket 4(d) rule" and initiate steps to rescind it over the next 14 months. The blanket 4(d) rule automatically applies endangered-level protections to threatened-listed species while ignoring the specific needs or conditions of each species.

This one-size-fits-all approach discourages conservation efforts and undermines species recovery. SCI has



SCI CEO W. Laird Hamberlin attended the exclusive Outdoor & Recreation Conservation Roundtable at the White House, hosted by Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum and attended by CEOs from across the outdoor industry.

previously submitted comments in opposition to the blanket 4(d) rule and applauds its withdrawal for the benefit of the conservation of threatened-listed species.

The work of your Advocacy Department continues against the backdrop of local events and meetings. Earlier this month, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published the final 2025-26 Station-Specific Hunting and

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CONVENTION EXHIBITORS HELP MAKE SCI STRONGER

Personally, I want to use this opportunity to thank exhibitors at the SCI Convention for their long-standing support of SCI's mission. Without you, SCI couldn't be all that it has come to be.

Exhibitors are vital partners in making the SCI Convention the premier event in the world for hunters and conservationists. There has been a mutual trust and respect built over decades between SCI and exhibitors. This is crucial as we go into the future.

Our exhibitors are more than partners — they are the backbone of our Convention experience, representing the best in hunting, conservation and outdoor adventure.

Exhibitors help fund advocacy, conservation and education programs through their participation. Auctions, booth sales and sponsorships directly support SCI's work defending hunting rights and conservation initiatives worldwide. Every exhibitor booth represents an opportunity for members to connect, learn and experience the best in the industry.

Exhibitors represent an array of quality and diversity not seen anywhere else in the world. Exhibitors include world-class outfitters and guides, premium firearms and gear manufacturers and makers, and international destinations offering once-in-a-lifetime adventures.

The standards of excellence among exhibitors are unparalleled in their ethics, sustainability and professionalism. Truly, SCI's exhibitors are the best of the best.

When you walk our exhibit floor, you're seeing the gold standard — businesses and organizations committed to excellence, conservation and the future of hunting.

Exhibitors help connect members with global hunting

opportunities, like arranging for that one unique hunt that will help a member realize a lifelong dream. Exhibitors bring innovation, access and expertise to SCI members year after year.

Unforgettable experiences await members on the Convention floor in Nashville. So, it's important to register for the 2026 Convention in Nashville, Feb. 18-21, and to make travel and hotel arrangements because you won't want to miss a single minute of this coming Convention.

Member participation supports exhibitors, who in turn support SCI's broader mission. While at Convention, visit exhibitor booths and support those who support SCI. Every auction bid, every sponsorship, every booth visited fuels conservation and advocacy efforts worldwide.

Let's celebrate and support the businesses and organizations that make our Convention the best in the world — because together, we are First for Hunters.

I invite all members to join me in my pride and gratitude for the partnership among SCI, its members and exhibitors. We can all be proud of ourselves, and SCI and we can invite those who are not yet members to become members of SCI, go to the Convention and take the first step in a better life for everyone.

As SCI members, we are active all year long, supporting the freedom to hunt and promoting sustainable use wildlife conservation worldwide.

The SCI Convention is where all of this is on display and where we all celebrate the hunt. But we can only experience this when we attend the Convention in person. As the Convention theme says: You Never Know 'Til You Go. I look forward to seeing everyone in Nashville at the Convention.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
BY JEFF MEYERL

CONVENTION AUCTIONS FUND CONSERVATION

You never know 'til you go. This coming February, Safari Club International members from around the globe will gather for the ultimate celebration of hunting, conservation and adventure.

The 2026 SCI Convention in Nashville will raise the bar yet again — and at the heart of it all are the legendary SCI auctions that deliver once-in-a-lifetime experiences while funding the future of wildlife conservation.

There is a lot more to Convention than auctions, and I'll discuss them between now and the Convention. But for this message, I want to focus on auctions and explain how they fit into the overall picture.

Auctions at the SCI Convention include incredible hunts, gear and travel packages members can win. These auctions have global reach: Africa, Alaska, South America, Europe — all in one place.

That's the secret of the incredible success of the SCI Convention over the decades — it's a one-stop shop where members can find everything needed to hunt any species anywhere in the world, and it's all there in one place at one time. There is nothing even remotely like it anywhere else, and it's all there for SCI members to enjoy while celebrating the hunt.

So, why should members want to participate in the auctions at Convention? The best hunts and gear are only available to those in the room. Auctions are where friendships are forged and memories are made. Members can support conservation and advocacy while living their passion for hunting and the outdoors.

Auction proceeds directly fund conservation programs, education and wildlife protection worldwide. This means that when members bid on auction items at the Convention,

they are participating personally and powerfully in protecting the freedom to hunt and in promoting sustainable use wildlife conservation worldwide.

Every winning bid is a win for conservation, for hunting access and for future generations of outdoorsmen and women. SCI members show their collective commitment to hunting by what they do all year long, and this is on full display at the Convention.

Think about the auction experience itself. There is an energy in the room at all Convention auctions. There is fast-paced bidding, there are record-setting moments when items set new and higher values, and there are members cheering each other on.

Auctions feature exclusive items that only SCI offers. These include luxury hunting safaris, firearms that are available nowhere else in the world, high-performance gear and one-of-a-kind artwork, as well as VIP experiences with celebrities and conservation leaders.

If you've never experienced the thrill of the SCI auctions, 2026 is your year. Register now, join the excitement and see for yourself why every bid matters.

Each day, the auctions lead into unforgettable evening events. There are the Beretta Gala and Weatherby Awards nights; Boots, Beer & Broadway Wednesday; Night of the Hunter at the Ryman Auditorium with WildLife Partners; and the Little Big Town Finale Gala Saturday night.

Together, we raise more than paddles at the various auctions and do more than attend and support the evening events — we raise the bar for what's possible in conservation, adventure and community. I can't wait to see you all in Nashville. You Never Know 'Til You Go.



CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S MESSAGE
BY W. LAIRD HAMBERLIN



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Inset images showing the ePredator 8's features:

- A Heads-Up-Display (HUD) overlay showing red text: "308", "UP 18", and "324 m".
- A circular inset showing a smartphone displaying the Steiner ePredator app interface.
- A circular inset showing a deer in a field, viewed through the scope's field of view.

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Family Traditions

Skeet Champ Amber English
Grew Up Hunting Pheasants In Colorado

Amber English earned a gold medal in Women's Skeet in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games. English said lessons learned hunting and in the outdoors translated directly into her career as an elite athlete. Photo by Brittany Nelson.

By Brittany Nelson

Long before she stood on a podium as an Olympic gold medalist in Women's Skeet, Amber English walked the fields of Colorado with her father, learning the patience and discipline that would later define her as one of the world's best.

"My dad was a big hunter," said English. "That was our thing to do. For him, opening day for dove hunting was like his national holiday. He even pulled us out of school to go hunting. Some of my best memories with him were being out in nature."



A young Amber English with her brother Josh English after a family pheasant hunt.

English, who won gold at the Tokyo 2020 Games, spent her childhood chasing mule deer, elk, antelope and pheasants. The hunts were more than just sport — they were family traditions that built character and created lifelong memories.

"When I was really young, my dad used to say nobody can say no to a little girl asking for

permission to hunt on their land," she said with a smile. "I would be three or four years old in a bright purple snowsuit, asking permission."

For English, mule deer season holds a special place in her heart, not only because of the challenge, but also because it often fell near her birthday.

"When I was younger, they would tell me the hunts were my birthday present. The older I got, I realized maybe it wasn't," she laughed.

That sense of challenge is one of the reasons English continues to enjoy hunting. "I enjoy it because it's work," she said.

"You have to put the time and energy into figuring out where they are and how they operate. You're studying something in a different light, and it's a challenge. When things are challenging, it's rewarding. It's hard to have a bad day out there."

Those lessons outdoors translated directly into her career as an elite athlete.

"Hunting has taught me patience," she said. "Sometimes things happen quickly, and sometimes it takes a lot of work. You have to be ready to perform under



From the fields of Colorado to the Olympic stage, English's story is one of patience, perseverance and a lifelong connection to the outdoors.



My dad used to say nobody can say no to a little girl asking for permission to hunt on their land. I would be three or four years old in a bright purple snowsuit, asking permission."—

AMBER ENGLISH

pressure and on demand. That's very similar to shooting competitions."

English believes the problem-solving skills gained in the field also help her handle the pressures of international competition.

"The more you prepare for different situations, the better equipped you are," she said. "When things don't go the way you thought they would, you fall back on preparation and confidence that you can still execute."

For English, sharing that love for the outdoors is just

as important as her own experiences. She challenges people to get outside of their comfort zones and learn what hunting has to offer.

Being outdoors also offers her peace and perspective.

"It's really peaceful just sitting in a deer stand. It gives you mental clarity to think about life with no distractions," she said. "That's important for people. Whether it's hunting or something else, everyone should find that thing that resets them."

From the fields of Colorado to the Olympic stage, English's story is one of patience, perseverance and a lifelong connection to the outdoors.

USA Shooting is a non-profit corporation chartered in 1995 by the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee as the National Governing Body for the Olympic & Paralympic Shooting Sports.

SCI is a gold-level partner of USA Shooting.

Brittany Nelson is Shooting USA's public relations and communications manager.

Argentina Starts Releasing Seized Trophies

3,000 Legal Antlers Held Since 2024

By Barbara Crown
Hunter Information Service

A federal judge in Argentina recently issued orders to release the trophies of three hunting companies seized in the August 2024 raid of exporter Logistic Solutions.

Algar Safaris, Catena Safaris Argentina and Tipiliuke Lodge were cleared to claim their clients' trophies and begin contacting them to make new shipping arrangements.

In mid-September, Catena Safaris reported they had already retrieved half of their trophies and were arranging to get the rest held at a different facility. Furthermore, the federal prosecutor overseeing this case has begun allowing other hunting companies to access the Logistic Solutions facility, locate their clients' trophies and set them aside until they are released.

Mapu Hunting Lodge reports already having done this. The latest company authorized to do so is North Patagonia Lodge. Others are sure to follow soon.

As SCI's Hunter Information Service



An excited Catena Safaris team handled the retrieval of client trophies personally. From left to right are ranch manager Santiago Davila, lawyer Carlos Legon Marienhoff, Argentina Trophy Export Manager Matias Corrales and Partner and CEO Matt Venesia.

reported in *Safari Times* previously, some 3,000 hunting trophies were seized in a multi-agency raid focused on outfitter Caza Y Safaris, which has been accused of numerous wildlife-related violations.

Logistic Solutions is accused of exporting illegally harvested wildlife for Caza Y Safaris.

Both companies have denied any wrongdoing.

When the Logistic Solutions warehouse was raided in 2024, the government seized all trophies and documents present. Since Logistic Solutions handled about 80 percent of Argentina's trophy exports, trophies from almost every

outfitting company in Argentina were in that warehouse when it was raided.

For over a year, a handful of outfitters have been actively working to get their clients' trophies released. That is finally happening.

Other outfitters have been waiting to see if Algar Safaris and the others would succeed before spending funds to have their own clients' provincial hunting documents reissued and lawyers file petitions to release each trophy. Now that court orders have released trophies to three outfitters, a clear and repeatable process has been established for other operators to follow.

While that is a positive development, there are other factors that will affect hunters differently.

Most of the hunting operators the Hunter Information Service has contacted report working with attorneys to release their clients' trophies, but a few have taken the position that this is not their responsibility. Others are absorb-

Continued on page 31 ►

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Extra Scouting Helps Nevada Hunter Score In Early Dove Season

By Andy McCormick

Dove hunting has been tough overall this year with a variety of temps and storms rolling through Northern Nevada.

Areas that normally held some sporty dove shooting were not as productive as usual.

However, sometimes if you stick it out and get resourceful, remain positive and get out and about amongst the vast swaths of BLM land available in Nevada and actually scout for the gray bandits, you can do well.

Barley, my wirehair Griffon, and I have been roaming north, south, east and west out of the Reno area and hitting waterholes, flight corridors and glassing loafing areas, while deploying decoys and the Dove Mojo where practical to try and suck in passing bandits.

After a fruitless morning hunt recently, we ventured into a very remote area and came across a spot with water all over the desert floor and amongst the sage. As soon as I saw the valuable water in the middle of nowhere, I became excited and assumed that there surely had to be



Andy McCormick had a good day dove hunting in Nevada recently with his Pointer FT12 in Mossy Oak.

birds coming to this oasis.

Temps were in the 90s, so shade was imperative for Barley to remain comfortable and safe.

I grabbed the gear from the truck and got things situated in the shade. I placed the Mojo near the open water about 30 yards away.

With cool, clean water in the bowl for Barley, he was all set up. I then sat on my dove stool, had my POINTER FT12 Semi Auto in Mossy Oak and OD Cer-

akote all loaded up with number 7 1/2 shot ready. I had swapped out my modified choke with an improved cylinder choke instead. I expected close work about to take place.

Not five minutes went by, and the sagebrush began to come alive with the sounds of valley quail all around us. Barley was on full alert with the quail chatter, snapping his head left and right to zoom in on their exact locations. But his quail focus was interrupted by the flight of an

incoming pair of doves. They passed by from right to left and must have seen the Mojo in action because they hooked back around and floated in for a perfectly set up double. The Pointer Semi came up and Bam! Bam! ... two down. Barley was off to the races into the green grass and water for the retrieves.

"Dead bird, dead bird," I said. I whistled, and Barley proudly trotted back to the shade with doves. We were both very happy to be in the mix of shotguns going off, birds dropping and whistles. Good boy.

We managed to end the midday shoot with a respectful harvest of the gray bandits and a satisfied dog. The POINTER FT12 Semi performed flawlessly and is sure to be deployed again soon.

We are so looking forward to another great bird season in Nevada with quail and chukar sightings looking very promising to say the least.

I am grateful for the opportunities to spend time in the field with a great dog, combined with some good sport.

Andy McCormick is co-owner of Legacy Sports International.

SABLES PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Luau Celebrates Denver Chapter, Sables



BY IRENE DUDLEY-HANLON
SABLES PRESIDENT

As the new president of Sables, I am truly amazed and honored to be part of the community called Sables.

One gathering we recently had was with the Denver Sables, together with the SCI Denver chapter. They hosted a magnificent luau event set against the scenic backdrop of Colorado's foothills.

Former Sables President Susan Hayes and her husband, Bill Hayes, graciously welcomed us to their impressive barn-dominium for a memorable evening. Upon arrival, each guest received a beautiful and aromatic plumeria lei, which was specially delivered fresh from Hawaii by the Hayes.

The evening commenced with a cocktail reception on the patio, offering picturesque views of the surrounding hills and mountains while also allowing guests the opportunity to network and engage in conversation.

Dinner featured authentic island cuisine, accompanied by background music that encouraged continued interaction among attendees. Desserts were freshly prepared by the women of Denver Sables, who also managed the event's décor, setup and cleanup. Their commitment and meticulous attention to detail were clearly evident.

After dinner, guests were entertained by Polynesian performers presenting a variety of traditional dances from the islands, including New Zealand's Haka and Poi, the Samoan Fire Knife, 'Ori Tahiti, and Hawaii's Hula. The dancers also invited attendees to participate



Sables President Irene Dudley-Hanlon (left) and Sables Past President and SCI Vice President Susan Hayes.

in the Poi and Hula dances, providing a memorable experience for all present.

The evening progressed with a DJ providing music as guests began to dance outdoors under the stars, illumi-

nated by tiki torches and a bonfire. The event was truly memorable and enjoyed by 100 attendees.

Sables and SCI organized this event with the aim of fostering member engagement and encouraging greater involvement within the Chapters and committees. I extend my sincere appreciation to the Hayes family, SCI Denver Chapter, and their Sables that helped with the event for their ongoing generosity, commitment, and loyal support.

Are you eager to connect with like-minded women who share and support your enthusiasm for hunting, conservation and education? Establishing a Sables Committee within your SCI Chapter is not just about organization — it's about cultivating a vibrant community where women inspire, support and lead one another. Sables Committees collaborate with their local SCI Chapters to:

- Raise funds
- Support educational programs
- Serve as ambassadors in their communities

However, beyond their impact, Sables foster a sisterhood — women uniting around a common mission and a love for the outdoors. Through networking, leadership and friendship, Sables infuse fresh energy into every chapter.

If your chapter has yet to form a Sables Committee, now is the ideal time to launch one. Together, we can educate the next generation, forge lasting friendships and create a legacy for the future of hunting and conservation.

For more information on how to get started, and have a luau or other such fun events, please reach out to me, Irene Dudley-Hanlon, Sables President at iredudleyhanlon.sables@gmail.com.



Trophy Room Design

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CHAPTER NEWS - PENNSYLVANIA

Pennsylvania Chapters Work Together

By Sean Jackson
SCI Chapter Service Specialist

Leaders from Pennsylvania's SCI Chapters gathered recently in Benezette, Penn., for a landmark statewide meeting, bringing together a powerful coalition of Chapter presidents, board members and national representatives all under one roof.

Hosted at the Keystone Elk Country Alliance, the event was more than just a meeting. It was a unified effort to chart the future of SCI's impact across the state.

Among the attendees at the August event were leaders from the Blue Mountain, Pittsburgh and Lehigh Valley Chapters, joined by a SCI Director-at-Large, a Regional Representative and two SCI staff members — underscoring the significance of this gathering at both the state and international levels.

The agenda was focused and ambitious: expanding membership, advancing advocacy efforts to protect hunting rights,



Shown from left, SCI State Liaison Bee Fredrick, SCI Director-at-Large Chris Muller, Blue Mountain President-Elect Mike McConahy, SCI Chapter Service Specialist Sean Jackson, Lehigh Valley President Dan Soliday, Region 25E Representative Matt Smith, Pittsburgh President Brian Pitell and Director-at-Large Chris Gemondo all met in Pennsylvania recently to discuss issues important to SCI members.

strengthening public relations and creating coordinated support for projects and charities.

These discussions weren't just theoretical — they were strategic action sessions aimed at building momentum and aligning priorities across all seven Pennsylvania chapters.

By addressing challenges together and pooling resources, these leaders are positioning Pennsylvania SCI to be more influential than ever in policy conversations, conservation initiatives and public outreach.

This collaboration has already proven its power.

Over the years, Pennsylvania's SCI chapters have collectively contributed more than \$200,000 to special projects at Keystone Elk Country Alliance, a shining example of what can be achieved through united effort.

Attendees were also treated

to elk viewing at the Alliance property — a fitting reminder of the conservation successes that SCI members work tirelessly to protect.

The experience reinforced the direct connection between the Chapters' fundraising, advocacy and on-the-ground conservation results that benefit both wildlife and the sporting community.

The significance of this meeting extends far beyond Pennsylvania.

It stands as a model for other states with multiple SCI chapters, demonstrating that when leaders align their missions, share resources and coordinate their advocacy, the collective impact is far greater than any one chapter could achieve alone.

This statewide unity ensures that SCI's voice in Pennsylvania is not only louder but also sharper, more strategic and more capable of shaping the future of hunting, conservation and outdoor heritage for generations to come.

Tymeson Promoted To Vice President Of Government Affairs

Chris Tymeson has recently been promoted to Safari Club International Vice President of Government Affairs, where he will lead SCI's legislative, regulatory and policy strategy at the federal, state and international levels.

In this senior leadership role, Tymeson will oversee SCI's government relations team, shape advocacy priorities and serve as the organization's key liaison to policymakers, agencies and allied conservation organizations.

Tymeson brings more than two decades of experience in natural resource and wildlife law, including his tenure as Chief Legal Counsel for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks and as Vice-Chair of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' National Legal Committee. Since joining SCI in 2021, he has advanced the organization's policy agenda across the U.S., delivering testimony, tracking legislation and engaging stakeholders to defend hunting freedoms and promote science-based conservation.

"Chris brings unmatched legal expertise and a lifetime of passion for hunting

and conservation," said SC President Jeff Meyerl. "As Vice President of Government Affairs, he will ensure SCI's voice is clear and powerful in protecting hunters' rights and advancing conservation policy around the world."

A U.S. Army veteran and lifelong outdoorsman, Tymeson has hunted and fished across the United States, Canada, Africa, Asia and Europe. He was a longtime Hunter Education Instructor and has taught law enforcement officers, policymakers and public servants on legal and regulatory matters.

He holds a J.D. from Washburn University School of Law and received his B.S. from Missouri Southern State College. He and his wife, Kelley, live in Overland Park, Kansas, with their four children who share his passion for the outdoors.

"We are thrilled to have Chris leading our advocacy efforts," added SCI CEO W. Laird Hamberlin. "From modernizing the Endangered Species Act to expanding hunting access and supporting international conservation programs, his leadership will be essential to achieving SCI's mission."



Chris Tymeson will oversee SCI's government relations team.

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CHAPTER NEWS - WISCONSIN

Lake Superior Chapter Celebrates 25 Years In A Big Way

By Scott Olson

Lake Superior Chapter President

The Lake Superior Chapter of Safari Club International proudly celebrated its 25th Anniversary earlier this year in Hinckley, Minn.

An Outfitter Appreciation event was hosted on April 3 at a nearby Northwood's themed tavern. More than 75 outfitters, guests and board members shared stories and caught up with friends.

April 4 started with a sporting clays shoot. The shoot had a record number of new shooters, mostly lady members of our Sables Committee.

Nick Hoffman, a Minnesota native and host of Nick's Wild Ride on the Outdoor Channel, as well as one of the hosts of SCI's national dinner and awards programs at the Convention, entertained our audience each night with a mix of music and storytelling that always holds our members' attention. This was the second time Nick entertained us at our event.

The Chapter was honored to have Safari Club International CEO Laird Hamberlin and his wife, Katie, attend the event. What a treat it was to spend time with both of them! They were impressed with some of our uniquely "Lake Superior Chapter" activities, especially our custom cake auction each night, giving away an ATV on Friday and a side-by-side UTV on Saturday.

April 5 started with our annual Veterans' Breakfast, then some informative seminars. Later, a sold-out Sables Wine and Cheese event sponsored by the Chapter's treasurer, Lisa Gingerich-Olson of Coppersmith Global Logistics, kept the ladies busy.

One of the Chapter's goals each year is to increase the membership of both the Chapter and SCI. Regional Representa-



Shown from left are Nick Hoffman, Jordan Wisecup, Chapter President Scott Olson, Treasurer Lisa Gingerich-Olson, Katie and Laird Hamberlin, and Auctioneer Bruce Brock, along with 400 other SCI members, enjoying the Lake Superior Chapter's 25th anniversary event.

tive Jordan Wisecup works our membership booth tirelessly each year.

To celebrate our Chapter's 25th anniversary, I worked with six of our award-winning outfitters to have a free raffle available to all members of the Lake Superior Chapter.

- International Adventures Unlimited: Roe Deer hunt in Scotland
- Nootka Island Lodge: British Columbia fishing trip
- Leyo Outfitting: Montana Trophy Elk hunt
- Africa Maximum Safaris: NW Province of South African Plains Game safari
- Western Cape Game: Western Cape Province Golden Wildebeest safari
- Mike Popp's Nature Adventures: Idaho Predator 4 Pack hunt including Moun-

tain Lion, Wolf, Bobcat and Coyote

Jordan and the membership booth were busy right up until dinner both days. At our 25th anniversary event, we sold 79 annual National memberships, 10 three-year National memberships, and 90 Chapter memberships!

CEO Hamberlin was our guest speaker Saturday evening. Laird talked about SCI's mission on local, national and international levels and challenged all of the guests to continue supporting SCI and the Chapter.

Laird spoke of being a Southern boy, and while being a recipient of the prestigious World Hunting Award from SCI, his favorite things to hunt were DDT: deer, ducks, and turkey. What a great reminder that Safari Club International is

First for Hunters, all hunters.

After Laird's speech, I took the stage again and called all the youth in attendance to the front of the stage. We had 27 youth, 17 years and under, in attendance.

On behalf of the Chapter, I announced that the Lake Superior Chapter was presenting each youth with a Minnesota lifetime hunting/fishing license. (Wisconsin youth were given \$500 on the promise that they would use the funds for hunting and fishing licenses.)

The attendees gave a standing ovation to the Lake Superior Chapter. It was an incredible thrill to be part of this event; all of the Chapter's hard work was visible to the attendees.

What will 2026 bring? Stay tuned!

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Canada Wildlife Conservation Partners Formed To Defend Outdoor Heritage

SCI-Canada Is One of Four Founding Members

By Barbara Crown
Hunter Information Service

SCI-Canada is one of four leading Canadian conservation organizations to launch Canada Wildlife Conservation Partners, a coalition designed to unite conservation-focused organizations across the country in defending the rights and traditions of hunters, trappers and outdoor enthusiasts.

From the wetlands of Manitoba to the high country of British Columbia, Canada’s wild spaces and wildlife have been subject to increasing threat — not just from environmental pressures, but from policies and misinformation that seek to limit access to and enjoyment of Canada’s natural heritage.

Canada Wildlife Conservation Partners unifies the voices of organizations committed to advancing science-based wildlife management, safeguarding biodiversity, defending the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and promoting public understanding of the value of sustainable use.

Former SCI President John McLaurin originally tasked Chris Everett, Chapter/Advocacy Services Specialist SCI-Canada, with exploring ways to unite Canadian outdoor organizations and leverage their collective strength.

Previously a staff member of MP Blaine Calkins, Ev-



Alberta Minister for Forestry and Parks Todd Loewen (second from left) meets with representatives of the Canadian Wildlife Conservation Partners: Canada-SCI Chapter/Advocacy Services Specialist Chris Everett (left of Loewen), Delta Waterfowl’s Canada Director of Governmental Affairs Brian McRae (right of Loewen), followed by Wild Sheep Society of BC CEO Kyle Stelter, Vice-President of Wild Sheep Society of BC Chris Barker, Executive Director of Fur Institute of Canada Doug Chaisson and Delta Waterfowl’s Vice-President of Canadian Policy Jim Fisher.

erett collaborated with other dedicated individuals and key organizations in sustainable-use conservation to create the CWCP. Founding members are Delta Waterfowl, Fur Institute of Canada, Safari Club International-Can-

ada and the Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia.

More like-minded organizations across Canada are expected to join, increasing the organization’s voice and power to defend the rights of all outdoor enthusiasts.

“For far too long, different levels of governments have divided the outdoor community in Canada. It is time that we all band together and stand up for conservation, hunting, trapping and our outdoor heritage,” said Everett, who is also Chair of CWCP.

“Having a like-minded group of sportsmen and women come together under the Canadian Wildlife Conservation Partners will ensure that no group is excluded. Together we can work to protect the outdoor heritage we all value and enjoy,” she said.

CWCP members can collectively advocate on issues such as firearms, loss of land access, wildlife science and management, and international trade in wildlife.

From its collaborative platform, CWCP members can promote a shared vision for sustainable wildlife conservation in Canada and present coordinated policy recommendations, support and guidance to government decision-makers in Ottawa and provincial and territorial capitals.

Policy makers will not only hear the collective voice of 100,000s of hunters and trappers across Canada but will also be held accountable to them.





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CHAPTER NEWS - ARGENTINA

Argentine Chapter Promotes SCI At Buenos Aires Game Fair



From left, President of the Argentina Chamber of Tourism Maria L. Teruel, National Secretary of Tourism and Environment Daniel Scioli, Emilio Paris SCI Region 37 Representative, SCI Corporate Secretary Joseph R. Pedersen, SCI Director of Chapter and Member Services Jason St. Michael and President of the Argentina Chamber of Hunting and Conservationism Alejandro Saint Antonin.

By Emilio Paris

The City of Buenos Aires hosts the annual Arms, Hunting and Fishing Fair, one of the most important events of its kind in South America.

The fair attracts thousands of visitors, both enthusiasts and professionals, who come to discover the latest innovations in hunting, sport shooting, fishing and outdoor activities.

For several days, the exhibition grounds become a meeting point where national and international exhibitors showcase a wide range of products, from hunting and sporting firearms to fishing gear, boats, camping equipment and specialized clothing. In addition, the program includes talks and live demonstrations.

The Argentine Chapter of Safari Club International participates in this event every year, taking advantage of the opportunity to promote SCI's principles and its ongoing work defending hunters' rights and supporting wildlife conservation.

Visitors also learned about the work of the Shoonem Foundation, dedicated



SCI's Jason St. Michael and Joseph R. Pedersen, a Master Measurer, organized a seminar for official measurers.

to the protection of the huemul deer, a native species of which only about 500 remain in Argentina and considered the most endangered mammal of the Western Hemisphere.

The Argentine SCI Chapter actively collaborates with this foundation, rein-

forcing its commitment to conservation.

This year, SCI welcomed two special guests, Safari Club International Corporate Treasurer Joe Pedersen and Director of Member and Chapter Services Jason St. Michael, whose presence helped strengthen institutional ties.

Taking advantage of the fact that Pedersen is a Master Measurer, a special seminar for official measurers was organized, with the participation of nine attendees.

Additionally, meetings were held with the authorities of FLUAA, the Argentine equivalent of the NRA, where common challenges were discussed.

We also met with the National Director of RENAR, the official body in charge of firearm registration and control, to suggest measures that could streamline temporary firearm import procedures for visiting international hunters.

Finally, the Secretary of Tourism and Environment received us and listened to our concerns regarding delays in trophy export permits.

During the meeting, we extended a formal invitation for him to attend the upcoming SCI Convention in Nashville, an event that will provide firsthand insight into the significant economic impact of sport hunting as a source of foreign revenue for the country.

Emilio Paris is the Safari Club International Regional Representative for South America.

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RECORD BOOK

New Criteria For The World Hunting Award

By Aaron Smith

Record Book and World Hunting Awards Department Manager

In this ever-changing world of hunting, the Record Book Committee constantly reviews current policies, procedures and criteria.

When it comes to the awards, it is imperative for the committee to consider the changes in the hunting world and how they affect the participants of the World Hunting Awards program.

Recently, the committee has done just that, by looking at what it takes to accomplish the World Hunting Award in this day and age.

Now, more than ever, there are forces outside of our control that influence the decisions we make when determining what and where to hunt next. With that in mind, the committee has made a change to the criteria for achieving the World Hunting Award.

Previously, to achieve the World Hunting award, a participant must have completed 17 Diamond Level Inner Circles, 11 Milestones, African 29, North American 29, Fourth Pinnacle of Achievement, Zenith Award and the Crowning Achievement Award.

Going forward, participants in the World Hunting Awards program can achieve the ring a little differently. They will still need the same number of Inner Circles at the Diamond Level, the same number of Milestones, and the Pinnacle, Zenith and Crowning. The difference will be they can now achieve the ring by completing (in addition to the above) two of the three following Milestones: African 29, North American 29 and the European 25.

With the addition of the European 25, members will have another route to accomplish their goals. But, make no mistake, this will not make achieving the ring any easier. The European 25 is a difficult Milestone to achieve, as only eight people have achieved this Milestone since its inception in 2017.

Permits for some species can be very difficult to attain in some cases. It will also most likely take more hunts to achieve this milestone than it would to achieve the African 29. When going to Africa, you can usually take five or more species on a single safari, whereas in Europe, you will usually only be able to hunt one species and maybe a couple more if you're lucky.

Consideration should also be given to the difficulty of the species one will have to take to achieve the European 25. There is a total of six different ibex, which are uniquely difficult to harvest. Other species include seven different chamois, five different red deer, moose, Eurasian brown bear, gray wolf, European roe deer and several others.

Each of these species presents its own set of unique challenges and experiences and will test any hunter's capabilities. Going forward, the Record Book Committee will continue to review the World Hunting Awards program and the ongoing changes in the world of hunting to best serve our members.

The committee takes their work very seriously and, to that end, will only make changes if they deem them necessary. It was not without great debate that the committee came to this most recent decision, and you can rest assured they did not make it in haste.

It is our pleasure to serve members and give them the best opportunities possible to achieve their goals. With the most recent changes, we are excited to see many more achieve the World Hunting Award in the near future.

As always, thank you for all your support of SCI and the Record Book and until next time, happy hunting!

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Jan Dams Wins The Weatherby



BY CRAIN
BODDINGTON
COLUMNIST

On Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2026, at the Music City Center in Nashville, Jan Dams of Belgium will be the 66th recipient of the Weatherby Hunting and Conservation Award.

Instituted by Roy E. Weatherby in 1956, the “Weatherby” is one of the oldest and most prestigious honors in the hunting world.

It is given annually by Weatherby Foundation International

to one hunter who has distinguished himself or herself in the game fields of the world. And, throughout his or her career, has upheld the highest standards of character and sportsmanship, and has significantly advanced the causes of wildlife conservation and youth education.

Other than these, and despite various rumors, there are no specific requirements for the Weatherby. Today’s ballot is exhaustive and detailed. Submission is by invitation. Ballots are evaluated by a blue-ribbon selection committee, primarily former winners, with committee results ratified by the Foundation board.

I was in grade school when I first read about the award in Weatherby’s annual Weatherby Guide. Early winners like Herb Klein, Jack O’Connor, Warren Page and Elgin Gates were my heroes, and I was still amazed that I met them.

The first gala dinner I attended was in 1979, when the great Dr. Bob Speagle was the winner.

His award was presented at the Beverly Hills Hilton. Back then, the Weatherby gala was Roy’s party. It was a massive black-tie gathering and often a major stretch for the gun company that bears his name.

From 1956 until his passing, Roy hosted the event every year except for 1975, when he suffered a serious heart attack.

Another hunting great, Dr. Jim Conklin, was the last recipient at “Roy Weatherby’s party.”

After Roy’s passing in 1988, a group of his friends got together to honor his memory. Led by Andy Oldfield, an early President of Safari Club International, Weatherby Foundation International (WFI) was formed “to educate youth and the non-hunting public on the beneficial role of ethical sport hunting and its contribution to sustainable use wildlife conservation, and to protect our constitutional right to do so.” And to perpetuate the then-33-year-old Weatherby Award.

As we got things off the ground, there was no presentation in 1988. In 1989, Michigan’s great Don Cox was the first Weatherby winner under Foundation stewardship. With few exceptions, the award has been presented annually since.

When Weatherby Foundation was in its infancy, we started in partnership with SCI, holding our gala in conjunction with the SCI Convention. We restarted that tradition in 2025 and will do so in 2026, and I hope into the distant future.

The Weatherby Hunting and Conservation Award is back home with SCI, where this traditional and important award belongs. And in Nashville, where SCI’s convention belongs.

It seems like I’ve followed the Weatherby award most of my life, and I guess I have. Our first president, Andy Oldfield, not just a former Marine but a member of the Chosin Few, was a persuasive guy.

I was an early WFI board member, served as president and I’ve served on the Selection Committee for many years. Most of that time, I never dared dream I might become a winner.

At the start, Jack O’Connor and Warren Page were



Jan Dams took this lion on the Faro River in northern Cameroon in 2014. West African lions typically have shorter manes than lions in East and Southern Africa. This big cat is a wonderful old male.

America’s top gunwriters, and a fledgling Weatherby, Inc. needed ink. As the award grew in prestige, the criteria changed. Roy gathered a selection committee of serious international hunters.

From the 1960s, anyone considered a “professional” in the hunting industry was excluded, including outfitters, taxidermists, booking agents, journalists (we didn’t have outdoor TV, or “influencers” back then).

Under the Foundation, that rule gradually relaxed, over time allowing Mike Simpson, Jimmie Rosenbruch, Jim Shockey and even me to win.

Not relaxed in any way are the rigorous standards and accomplishments required to become the one annual winner.

Typically, the selection committee identifies five finalists, one winner by vote tally. Because the Weatherby gala has long been held early in the year, the date of the award precedes the actual presentation.

So, Jan Dams is the 2025 winner and will receive his award on Feb. 18, 2026. The 2025 finalists are: Jeff Damaske of Colorado, Jay Link of Wisconsin, Deron Millman of Ohio, Gervasio Negrete of Mexico and Andrey Zaika of Russia.

Being identified as a finalist for this award is a singular lifetime hunting achievement, and the competition starts anew each year. Just one exception: Regardless of qualification, no one is allowed to win on the first ballot.

I was a finalist for a decade. I’d pretty much given up and was completely surprised when I finally got the call.

Today, hunting accomplishments account for 65 per-

cent of the award. For the Weatherby, only big-game counts, smallest to largest, only free-range animals.

Each winner and each finalist’s profile is different, yet much the same. A selection of game from most continents, and a major collection from his/her own continent.

Animals taken are not specifically weighted or prioritized, but Weatherby hopefuls will have taken a lot of the tough stuff: Many sheep and goats, a lot of forest game, most of Africa’s spiral horns, plenty of dangerous game, a wide selection of antlered, horned and furred game, and much more.

From the selection committee’s perspective, evaluating hunting accomplishments is relatively simple. Character and sportsmanship are not so hard. Even worldwide, it’s a small community, and one’s reputation tends to speak for itself.

Contribution to wildlife conservation and youth education is more difficult, certainly the most subjective. I’ve watched this play out for so long, you might say I’m one of the longest-standing “Weatherby groupies.” I think it’s fair to say: “We all do what we can.”

It’s difficult to compare my (or most winners’) contribution to, say, that of Adrian Sada, who was singularly responsible for the salvation and recovery of desert big-horns in Mexico.

The Weatherby’s origin is in the United States, the gala has always been held over here, and the U.S. holds the world’s largest hunting community. Thus, it’s not unusual that most winners have been U.S. citizens.

Continued on page 23 ►



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CHAPTER NEWS - WEST VIRGINIA



Thirty-five participants had the opportunity to get outside and burn some powder recently in West Virginia during the Coal Country Chapter's first-ever Turkey Shoot. Here, SCI members Millard Bradshaw, left, and Daron Dean, get ready to pull triggers.

Coal Country Chapter Holds First Turkey Shoot

The Coal Country Chapter of SCI got outside recently with its first-ever Turkey Shoot at the Beech Fork Park Shooting Range in Wayne County, West Virginia. The shoot attracted about 35 participants and allowed an opportunity to get to burn some powder and have some fun, all while also raising funds for outreach. Participants enjoyed the camaraderie and competition against

each other to win prizes. The chapter was able to sign-up several new SCI members as well. To end the turkey shoot, lunch was provided at Chapter President Chad Tiller's home where attendees visited his trophy room. The Coal Country Chapter is thankful to all who attended and is proud to further the cause of Safari Club International.



The group saw many exotic species on the Pettus Ranch, including Grévy's zebra, also called an imperial zebra, native to Kenya and Ethiopia.

SCI Staff Visits Wildlife Partners Ranch

By Jaime Rodriguez

WildLife Partners hosted SCI staff recently at their Pettus Ranch location near Goliad, Texas, and showed the visitors the sprawling lands and many exotic game animals. WildLife Partners owns four breeding facilities. They are located in Pettus, Mountain Home, Pearsall and Carrizo Springs, Texas. The properties are home thousands of animals across more than 50 species of exotic wildlife. The group saw many game animals, including kudu, Cape buffalo, black wilde-

beest, blesbok, bongo, springbok, zebra, nyala, Thompson gazelle, white bearded wildebeest, Grévy's zebra among others. The operation is a great example of how successful wildlife conservation can be once a capitalistic motive is employed. We want to thank Katie Leibold, WildLife Partners vice president of marketing, and Kelsey Jackson, media and sponsor coordinator, for providing the tour. WildLife Partners, an SCI corporate sponsor, has invested millions of dollars in infrastructure and has assembled one of the best staffs in the industry.

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CANADA REPORT

SCI Canada Adds Chapters, Defends Hunters' Rights On Parliament Hill

By Chris Everett

Chapter Services Specialist Canada

Safari Club International recently chartered two new Chapters in Canada: Central Alberta and Timmins-James Bay in Ontario. We are very excited to see those Chapters hit the ground running and are starting to plan events in their communities.

Both new Chapters, as well as a representative in Nova Scotia, attended Chapter Leadership Training in August at the Legends Ranch in Bitely, Mich. All the attendees spoke about how much they learned and were excited to take the next steps with the knowledge and connections they made at the training.

For Chapters that have not participated in one of our training sessions, we highly recommend taking part, as the relationships you can build with other Chapters are incredibly helpful for you.

I was in Alberta in early August to represent SCI at the annual summer meeting of the American Wildlife Conservation Partners. Other Canadian organization representatives who were working with Chris on building the Canadian Wildlife



Shown here, from left, SCI Director of Chapter and Membership Services Jason St. Michael, Canada Chapter Services and Advocacy Specialist Chris Everett and Member of Parliament for Essex Chris Lewis met in Ottawa to discuss the importance of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

Conservation Partners were on hand to observe the meetings and finalize the plans to launch the group.

SCI Staff were also busy writing a response for the Environmental Assessment for the Toqlukuti'k Avalon Isthmus Green Energy Project in Newfoundland. We have grave concerns about this wind project that would impact important

caribou and moose habitats. Our submission was received by the Minister for consideration for the project. More details on the outcome of this consultation will be shared next month.

At the end of August, SCI was made aware of the Bloodvein First Nations barring non-Indigenous hunters from entering some crown land in Manitoba. We

were in constant contact with our partners on the ground and issued a statement calling on the government to uphold the law and hold those responsible for the blockade accountable. We continue to monitor the situation and will advise members of any developments.

SCI Director of Membership and Chapter Services Jason St. Michael and I also spent several days on Parliament Hill in June meeting with Members of Parliament and senators.

With more than 30 meetings with representatives from every corner of Canada, discussions centered around the state of hunting and wildlife across Canada and the world.

Many of the MPs and senators recognized the important role that hunters and anglers play in managing wildlife populations and are ensuring that the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation is top of mind when making decisions that could impact wildlife.

SCI will continue meetings with MPs and senators in the fall when they return to Parliament Hill for the fall sitting schedule.

CARLO CALDESI AWARD BY HOLLAND & HOLLAND



BUKHARAN MARKHOR
DENISE E. WILKER
Outfitted by Saip Seren - Eurasia Safaris - Turkey



HUME ARGALI
JOSÉ MARIA LOSA REVERTÉ
Outfitted by Namika Beck - Beck's Hunting - Spain



SIBERIAN IBEX
RENATO BALLABIO
Outfitted by Kaan Karakaya - Shikar Safaris - Turkey



MID CAUCASIAN TUR
PEDRO DE AMPUERO-CASTELLANOS
Outfitted by Alexey Podlyashkin - Club Ibex - Russia



MARCO POLO ARGALI
SHAFIA BARZANI
Outfitted by Karakul Sokhibkulov - Bars Outfitters - Tajikistan



BUKHARAN MARKHOR
SHAFIA BARZANI
Outfitted by Karakul Sokhibkulov - Bars Outfitters - Tajikistan

JAN DAMS WINS THE WEATHERBY: Continued from page 18

However, the Weatherby has always been an international award, dedicated hunters of all nations welcome to compete.

Since 1956, the Weatherby has been awarded to great hunters from 11 nations. In addition to the U.S., eight hunters from Mexico, four from Spain, two from Canada, one each from Denmark, France, Hungary, Iran, Italy and Russia.

This year's winner, Jan Dams, is the second from Belgium, following the 1984 winner and pioneering international hunter Jacques Henrijean.

Jan Dams was born in Herentals, Belgium, in 1954. He left school at 19 when he lost his father to a car accident, starting his own business at 30, primarily related to supermarkets in his native Belgium.

His hunting career began at the age of seven, when his maternal grandfather gave him his first rifle, a .22.

Although his passion for hunting began early, as a young man, he had other pursuits: Flying, driving in car rallies across Europe, and playing high-speed polo. Today, he's also an avid golfer, enjoys cooking, and spending time with his family. However, his passion for hunting started early and remains strong.

He credits his love for mountain game to a "baptism" on a chamois hunt in his early 20s. Since then, he has taken an astonishing 70 different varieties of wild sheep and goats on five continents.

Early on, he met Dennis Campbell of Grand Slam Club/Ovis, who remained a mentor in mountain hunting and was himself a Weatherby finalist at his passing.

Jan has also taken more than 30 members of Africa's Big Five. Unlike many Weatherby winners who are first and foremost big game hunters, Jan Dams is an avid bird and small game hunter, with his profile in that arena equaling his big game experience.

He and his wife, Dominique, reside in a 600-year-old monastery and are parents to twin daughters, Camille and Valentine. As a conservationist, his current and life's work is protecting landowners, the environment and wildlife from the socialist green wave sweeping Western society.

One more thing to know about Jan Dams: You needn't look closely at a photograph to be certain he is in it. Look for the gentleman with slightly gray stubble and a good-humored grin underneath a bright red beret. The beret is just for protecting himself against rain and sun, but as his personal signature.

On Jan. 18 in Nashville, please join me in congratulating Jan Dams, the 66th and 2025 winner of the Weatherby Hunting and Conservation Award.

If you haven't been to a Weatherby gala before, trust me, it's a night to remember, and I feel fortunate to remember so many of them!

carlocaldesiaward.it - info@carlocaldesiaward.it

CHAPTER NEWS - SWITZERLAND

Swiss Members Help Restore Black Grouse Habitat

Partnerships, Funding Grow As Volunteers Log Hours In The Mountains

By Manue Piachard

Project Coordinator

SCI's Helvetia Chapter in Switzerland is working with conservation partner Association Alpine Tetrao Tetrix to restore open breeding habitat for black grouse in the Swiss Alps.

The project's aim is to open mountain pastures by using goats to graze and eventually kill the invasive green alder plant.

Fifty-one goats have been placed on six alpine pastures in Switzerland's Vaud Canton (province/state), where motivated alpine farmers also want to clear the land for grazing livestock and stop the expansion of green alder. The project's goal mutually benefits both private landowners and black grouse.

Volunteers labored 59 days this year building five-wire fences to contain the goats in areas selected for clearing and to prevent wolves from killing the goats. Some volunteers joined numerous times, enjoying several days in the mountains walking up flower-covered slopes in the sun, lively conversations and picnics of good cheese and wine.

Many of these volunteers were not hunters, although we hope we will see more hunters volunteering this month to help remove the fences as hunting season starts.

Hunters with pointing dogs are helpful during our summer bird counts, and we hope to recruit more of them, so we have enough dogs to count in all the areas we have previously surveyed and can track our progress in restoring grouse



The project's aim is to reduce green alder to make room for plants that are a better habitat for black grouse in the Alps.

numbers.

Our partner, Agroscope, has already observed that there is more biodiversity and new plants after only one year in places where cows and goats have been grazing, compared to places where green alder was mechanically cut, showing the efficacy of our ecological approach.

In the future, we hope to create dedicated teams for each pasture we are restoring. That would allow volunteers to

become familiar with "their" part of the mountain, facilitate the job and allow volunteers to become more autonomous and independent. The goal is to extend the use of goats to stop the spread of green alders in other areas, too.

The project has attracted much attention, with several journalists coming to observe our work,

write articles, air radio shows and record videos highlighting our activities. Two of those videos aired in August on the in-



The goal is to extend the use of goats to stop the spread of green alders in other areas, too.

ternet and television.

Additionally, a Milanese academic working on a Ph.D. about black grouse restoration efforts has asked to visit the mountain pastures where we are working in order to study our project.

Colleagues from SCI Italia also have facilitated a collaboration with the Foundation Mach, Italia. Their research team wants to evaluate the state of the black grouse population and how maintaining open areas will affect them.

They plan to conduct research in numerous countries, with Association Alpine Tetrao Tetrix as their associate in Switzerland.

Also in the works is the creation of a "toolbox" to guide and advise others on how to use goats to clear pastures and create open areas for black grouse even when wolves are potentially present.

Several organizations and foundations are now supporting the work of the Association Alpine Tetrao Tetrix to restore black grouse habitat through ecological methods.

In 2025, five new foundations were elected to finance the program, joining SCI Helvetia, the Vaud Canton, and the Foundation Gelbert. They added 80,000 Swiss Francs (\$99,300 US) to the budget, and the association is now seeking 106,000 Swiss Francs (\$132,000 US) to manage activities planned throughout 2026.

Anyone who would like to assist with our black grouse restoration efforts can contact the association at aatt.tetras@gmail.com.

CHAPTER NEWS - MIDDLE EAST

Middle East Chapter Hosts Gala Event In Qatar

The first-ever Middle East Chapter Gala took place Sept. 12-13 at the luxurious Waldorf Astoria in Doha, Qatar, and brought together guests from around the world to champion wildlife conservation and the rich traditions of hunting.

The conception of the Middle East Chapter was driven by an enthusiastic group dedicated to preserving these vital traditions. The Gala was a remarkable occasion that featured inspiring conversations, meaningful connections and a shared commitment to the mission.



Luminaries of the hunting world attended the Middle East Chapter's inaugural Gala event Sept. 12-13 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in Doha, Qatar.

Esteemed guests such as Jim Shockey, Craig Boddington; Diana Award winners Rene Snyder, Abigail Day, Claudia Ricci; and SCI President-Elect Mike

Crawford, along with Chapter representatives from across the globe graced the Chapter with their presence.

A highlight of the event was

a comprehensive awards and recognition program designed to honor the achievements of hunters worldwide.

This robust program is tru-

ly one of a kind, celebrating a legacy of conservation and significant contributions to the natural world.

President H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Faisal Al Thani expressed his gratitude for the global participation from the SCI community and his pride in the team for organizing such a memorable historic inaugural event.

He eagerly anticipates building a strong Chapter and advancing SCI's mission both in the Middle East and worldwide.

For more information about the Middle East Chapter, please visit www.scimiddleeast.org.

CHAPTER NEWS - PAKISTAN



SCI Pakistan Chapter leaders Hamza Saleem Khan and Muhammad Ali Shah discussed wildlife conservation and local community support in Peshwar with Honorable Speaker Babar Saleem, Pakistan Chapter Chairman Syed Sumsam Bukhari, Chapter leader Muhammad Asif, and the Honorable Speaker Saleem's security officer.

Chapter Works To Secure Hunting In Pakistan

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Is Home To Markhor, Ibex And Urial

By Barbara Crown
SCI Hunter Information Service

SCI Pakistan Chapter leaders recently met with influential government and wildlife officials in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province to advance sustainable-use wildlife conservation and hunters' rights.

The high-level SCI Pakistan delegation traveled to Peshawar in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (formerly known as the North-West Frontier Province) on Aug. 8 to present a comprehensive proposal to strengthen wildlife governance in the province.

"This is an important step toward collaborative conservation in one of Pakistan's most biodiverse regions," said SCI Pakistan Chairman Syed Sumsam Bukhari.

"By working closely with government institutions, communities and conservation stakeholders, we can protect wildlife populations, restore habitats and ensure that local communities benefit directly from conservation programs," he said.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province is located in the northwestern region of the country. It is the fourth-largest province of Pakistan by land area and the third-largest province by population.

The area is home to a number of key Caprinae species, including Kashmir markhor, Himalayan ibex and urial.

Led by Bukhari and joined by members Muhammad Asif, Hamza Saleem Khan and Muhammad Ali Shah, the team met with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Secretary of Wildlife Shahid Zaman. They discussed how enforcement of existing wildlife regulations could be strengthened while also protecting hunters' rights and ensuring hunting access.

The importance of communities was also emphasized, particularly methods to incentivize community-based conservation programs that protect and enhance wildlife while benefitting local communities.

Additionally, the delegation suggested methods to craft a forward-looking vision for the future of conservation efforts and how to expand public awareness to build support for sustainable-use conservation principles.

The delegation offered the full support of SCI Pakistan Chapter to implement these initiatives.

Following the departmental meeting, the delegation visited the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to meet with Honorable Speaker Babar Saleem, along with several members of the Provincial Assembly.

Honorable Speaker Saleem expressed his commitment to supporting new legislation that will advance wildlife conservation while safeguarding hunters' rights.



SCI Pakistan Chapter leaders Muhammad Ali Shah (from left), and Muhammad Asif stand with Pakistan Secretary of Wildlife Shahid Zaman, Pakistan Chapter Chairman Syed Sumsam Bukhari and Hamza Saleem Khan during the meeting at the Provincial Assembly of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.

The delegation presented the Saviour of SCI Pakistan medal to Honorable Speaker Saleem and to Secretary of Wildlife Zaman for their commitment to supporting sustainable-use conservation and hunting rights.

"The SCI Pakistan Chapter remains committed to promoting science-based, sustainable-use wildlife management, empowering rural communities and enhancing Pakistan's global image as a leader in ethical hunting and conservation," said SCI Pakistan Chapter Chairman Bukhari.

CHAPTER NEWS - TEXAS

Chapter, Outfitters Speed Assistance To Argentina's Poor



SCI San Angelo Chapter, Terra Pampa Lodge, Charles Parcus and Sanat Rosa of Pampero are cooperating to bring supplies to Argentinians through the SCIF Bell Family Blue Bag program.

Argentina welcomes international tourists and hunters who visit the region to enjoy its nature, wildlife and landscape.

From the bonds that form between the guest and local communities, Terra Pampa Hunting Lodge decided that a percentage of the total value from hunts donated would be allocated towards supporting local schools in the area.

San Angelo Texas Chapter of SCI played a key role in making this possible.

Thanks to their commitment to supporting our communities, 20% of an Argentina Live Auction item is redirected every year to benefit local schools.

"This is our first donation," said a representative of Terra Pampa Hunting Lodge. "We know it's a small gesture, but as we see it, it's the beginning of something greater."

SCI Life member Charles Parcus, owner of Hunt Fiercely, supported this idea from inception and worked with bringing it to life by organizing and coordinating the clients who took part in the donation. Parcus recently started Greater Call Outdoors to provide outdoor recreational experiences to adults who have experiences of life-changing illness or injury during public service in law enforcement, military or fire fighting.

These same opportunities will be provided for children who have experienced similar injuries through no fault of their own. Additionally, they will assist schools in rural areas of Argentina where the hunting industry is active, to increase literacy rates and assist autistic students as well.

"After seeing the poverty, lack of funds to assist schools, there is a desire to get Bell Family Blue Bags going to Argentina," said Parcus. "My hope is that American hunters will make them a regular accessory on every hunt to this amazing country."

Parcus has been taking hunters to Argentina now for several years and decided to show Argentines that hunters care for the people in the communities we visit. Blue Bags are a great conduit for that endeavor.

He also started a charity in Texas to assist on an even larger scale. Minds are being opened and changed concerning hunting already.

The San Angelo Chapter is leading the way with the help of Jimmy Fontenot and Erica Verfurth.

"Blessed to be a part of San Angelo SCI, and thankful for the partnership with the Donnelly Family in Argentina," said Parcus.

In another humanitarian effort, Pampero's Santa Rosa Branch made a generous donation of work clothing to the Agrotechnical School in Argentina.

Their support strengthens the spirit of cooperation between the private sector and educational institutions.

Now four schools in Argentina have benefitted from Blue Bags.

Like Being Nine Again



BY TERRY
WIELAND
COLUMNIST

Gun auctions are a lot like Christmas: There are the presents you know you'll get (socks, jeans), those you hope to get (a new .22) and those that come out of nowhere and you wonder how they knew you wanted one when you hardly knew yourself.

At an auction, you may arrive with a long list of guns to look at, and a short list of those to bid on, but the most intriguing are those that leap into your

arms and ask, "Where have you been all my life?"

Personally, I've never been a huge fan of the Ballard, in spite of a long-standing appreciation for the great American single-shots. Undoubtedly, it's the darling of them all and, for many enthusiasts, the greatest ever. It's not the strongest, but then it never needed to be, but it has a strong claim to being the most accurate (ask Harry Pope or George Schoyen) and it can be the most graceful. Mate a Ballard with a beautiful piece of walnut and a Pope barrel, engrave its receiver with classic scroll, and you are holding a piece of art history.

The reason I never cottoned to it was reality masquerading as principle: I didn't want a junker, and I couldn't afford the better ones. Also, by accident some years ago, I fell into possession of a Stevens 44½ Schützen in a higher grade and became hooked. This aligned with my lifelong habit of championing the underdog, which, compared to the Sharps, Ballard, Winchester High Wall and Remington rolling block, the Stevens certainly is.

Still, I love to look at Ballards, and the Rock Island premier auction in August held one with real promise.

It was a Union Hill No. 8 in the standard Schützen configuration: Half-octagon barrel, double set trigger, lovely walnut, and all original and un-messed with. Marlin, which manufactured the classic sporting Ballards, made this model in the late 1880s, when it retailed for \$34. They were chambered, according to the books, only in .38-55 and .32-40.

This one, however, was neither identified only as ".32 C.F." At the time, the .32 W.C.F. (Winchester Center Fire) had been around for a dozen years, introduced by Winchester for its Model 1873. Rock Island assumed the Ballard was chambered for this, but the "W" had been omitted because Marlin did not want to credit Winchester.



Ballard Union Hill No. 8, manufactured by Marlin in the 1880s, chambered in .32-20 and fitted with a mid-range tang sight and globe (non-adjustable) front sight. For a "moderately priced" target rifle, this one is certainly striking.

None of the books that I can find lists the .32 W.C.F. (or .32-20) as even an optional chambering for the Ballard, although James J. Grant noted that some had been made in the slightly larger, slightly more powerful .32-30 Remington. Could this be that?

For whatever reason, bidding ended suddenly with the rifle in my possession — a little over five grand, if you must know — and I immediately took it off to Lee Shaver, America's single-shot guru, for a check-over and chamber cast. With the Ballard, a chamber cast is easier with the rifle dismantled. Turned out it was, indeed, a .32-20, but with a bore measuring .308 instead of the usual .312.

Lee was surprised because he thought he'd originated that combination, and over the years has made or rebarreled half a dozen rifles that way. With black powder and a soft lead bullet, such an undersized bore promotes accuracy. I have it on semi-reliable authority that Thompson/Center offered its .32-20 barrels with this

arrangement as well, so who knows? At any rate, Marlin did it, at least once, 140 years ago.

As he was taking it apart piece by careful piece, Lee concluded that, first, the rifle may have never been disassembled since it left the Marlin factory long ago and has certainly been shot very little. Rock Island rated it as 60 to 80 percent overall, but I, being a shooter rather than a collector, who likes rifles to show their age, would rate it higher than that. If you asked me, I'd say "Beautiful shape. Just beautiful."

Fortunately, .32-20 brass is freely available and I have a strategic store of Ffg black powder and lead bullets.

One of those windfall Christmas presents:
Who needs to be nine years old?

Terry Wieland is a writer specializing in fine firearms. His latest book is Great Hunting Rifles — Victorian to the Present. Wieland's biography of Robert Ruark, A View From A Tall Hill, is available from Skyhorse Publishing.

A BUSY SEPTEMBER DEFENDING HUNTING IN NATION'S CAPITAL: *Continued From Page 3*

Sport Fishing Regulations, commonly referred to as the Hunt-Fish Rule.

In June, SCI submitted comments expressing support for the opening of hunting opportunities on nine National Wildlife Refuges and the expansion of hunting opportunities on seven National Wildlife Refuges, across more than 87,000 acres. SCI applauds the Service's final rule opening those acres to hunting, including the inaugural hunting opportunities at Southern Maryland Woodlands National Wildlife Refuge and the formal opening of hunting opportunities at Grasslands Wildlife Management Area.

However, these new opportunities are only available to hunters and anglers

who do not use lead ammunition or tackle. SCI is disappointed that the Service has not reconsidered unsupported restrictions on the use of lead ammunition or tackle that negatively impact hunting opportunities. SCI has fought against these unnecessary bans in court and in Congress, and we will continue to fight for expanded hunting access to our public lands!

The key location of our Hunters' Embassy on Capitol Hill continues to draw important events. In early September, SCI hosted Senator Markwayne Mullin (R-OK) for a fundraising lunch at the SCI Hunters' Embassy with more than 30 attendees.

SCI thanks the Senator for his friend-

ship and his commitment to protecting hunting freedoms and our Second Amendment rights.

SCI also held a Hunt Club Roundtable with Representative Rob Wittman (R-VA) at the Hunters' Embassy and thanked the Representative for his continued leadership on lead ammunition and tackle bans.

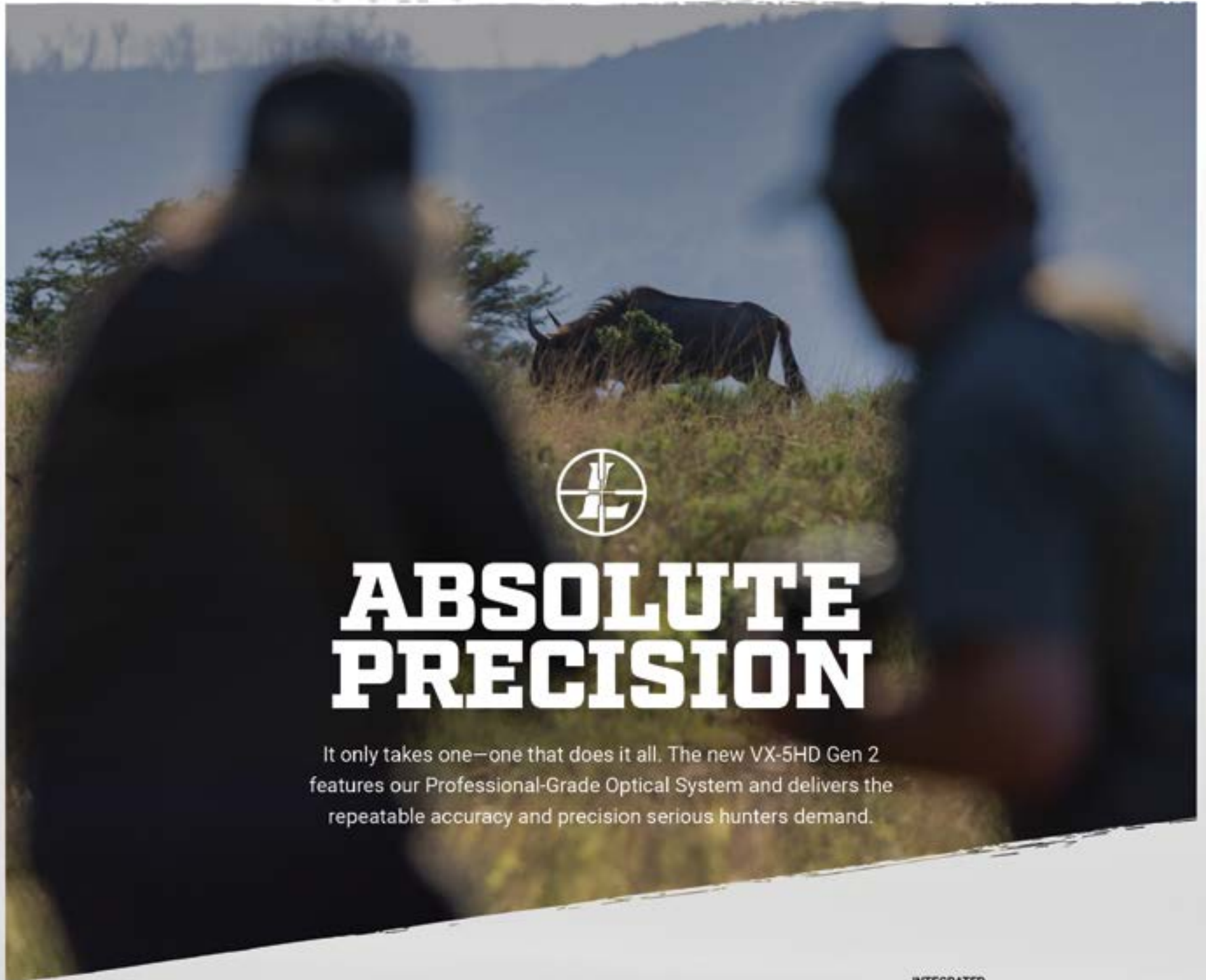
And finally, in September, SCI held a Hunters' Embassy Lunch and Learn with Kurt Thiede of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies. Thiede taught a course on state wildlife management and the impact of federal policy decisions.

SCI will continue to fight for the issues most important to hunters, including

Endangered Species Act modernization, protecting access to public lands and affordable, traditional ammunition and removing red tape from international trophy imports.

We will be working closely with our champions on the Hill to advance major pieces of legislation, such as Gray Wolf and GYE Grizzly delisting bills, as well as Chairman Bruce Westerman's (R-AR) comprehensive ESA reform bill, the ESA Amendments Act.

Many of the CSF dinner attendees went to the airport to fly home the day after. But SCI remains on duty in the nation's capital and continues to ensure your voice is heard where it matters most — at the highest levels of government.



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OBITUARIES

Ricardo Longoria, Accomplished Bowhunter, Held More Than 100 World Records

Ricardo Elliott Longoria Wright, a world-class bowhunter who hunted on six continents and took more than 350 species with a bow, died recently. He was 52.

Longoria received numerous honors for his hunting and philanthropic achievements. He was the youngest recipient of the Safari Club International's World Conservation and Hunting

Award, having achieved it solely with a bow. He was SCI's Asia Record Book Sub-Chairman.

Prior to his passing, Longoria was nominated for and will receive the 2026 International Hunting Award at the 2026 SCI Convention in Nashville in February.

"I was so sad to hear about Ricardo," said SCI President Jeff Meyerl. "He was a valuable member of the Record Book and SCI, contributing to the success of both for decades. He was a passionate bowhunter and humanitarian."

Longoria was born and raised in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. He spent much of his childhood at Rancherías, the family's ranch in Northern Mexico, one of America's original game preserves.

"My earliest memories are filled with dusty trophy rooms, black-and-white safari photos, and the leather-bound hunting books that lined our shelves. These moments planted something in me that's never let go," he once said.

Longoria graduated from Monterrey Tec, received his MBA from UNC Chapel Hill, and attended the Executive Education Program at Harvard Business School.

He dedicated his professional life to the family company beginning in 1998 and became CEO in 2004. He led with his vision and dedication. His legacy will endure in the culture and values he established in the company.

Longoria was a lifelong bowhunter and conservationist whose passion for wilderness and wildlife is deeply rooted in family tradition. Influenced by the stories and adventures of his father and grandfather — both avid hunters in East Africa — Longoria developed a deep appreciation for the natural world at an early age.

Longoria has 375 entries in the SCI Record Book, all of them taken with a bow. Eighty-six of those entries are still No. 1 animals in the archery section of the Record Book, and 234 of those entries are listed in the Top 10 in the archery category. Nine of his Record Book entries are No. 1 overall when considering all methods of take.

Longoria hunted on every continent available and achieved every SCI Award

available with a bow except for three Milestones.

To challenge himself further, Longoria then applied for the SCI awards utilizing the rifle standards, which require more entries, and fulfilled those requirements using only his bow harvests. He managed to achieve another 38 SCI individual awards this way.

Ricardo was an extremely active member of Safari Club International through his many years of active participation and leadership on the following committees: Record Book and World Hunting Awards; Alternative Hunting Methods; Young Hunter of the Year; Humanitarian Services; International Affairs & Development; SCI Director at Large; Safari Club International Foundation Advisory Board; Nominations; and Awards & Recognition.

"He was a personal as well as a professional friend of mine," SCI CEO W. Laird Hamberlin said. "He was known worldwide for his bowhunting accomplishments and was very involved in SCI, and along with me at Shikar Safaris."

"We extend our condolences to all of his family, and especially Brittany Hosmer Longoria, daughter of the SCI Foundation's longtime President, Joe Hosmer. Ricardo will be missed," said Hamberlin.

Longoria's involvement in the hunting and conservation world is unmatched. He received the Dr. Ed Ashby Lifetime Achievement Bow Hunting Award, Safari Club International (SCI) President's Award, African Professional Hunters Association (APHA) Selous Award and Trinity Oaks Partner of The Year.

His passion for the outdoors, wildlife and conservation led him and his wife, Brittany, to create the Longoria-Hosmer Foundation. LHF is dedicated to supporting wilderness and wildlife conservation projects, anti-poaching efforts and outdoor educational programs focused on responsible wildlife stewardship. Their efforts aim to keep wild places wild and ensure that future generations are able to enjoy them while understanding their immense value.

Longoria is survived by his wife, Brittany A. Longoria; parents, Ricardo Elliott Longoria Derby and Cheryl Wright Longoria; sons, Ricardo Tomás Longoria and David Elliott Longoria; stepson, Sig Joseph Hosmer Peterson; brother, Carlos Federico Longoria; sister, Cassandra Nile Longoria; and niece, Carolina Nile Longoria.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Longoria-Hosmer Foundation at longoriahosmer.org.



Ricardo Longoria was an accomplished bowhunter and humanitarian.

Lavern 'Vern' Edewaard Dedication And Service Remembered

Past President of SCI Lavern "Vern" Edewaard passed away on Sept. 9 at the age of 91.

Edewaard was a dedicated supporter of SCI. He served as President of the SCI Michigan Chapter from 1981 to 1983, and as SCI President 1988-1990.

When he was elected SCI President at age 50, he sold everything and devoted all his time to that post for the next two years. His interest in hunting began as a boy when his father took him rabbit and pheasant hunting. This led to hunts for deer, bear and caribou across North America, and finally to Africa.

He traveled to Africa 21 times (his wife, Carol, accompanied him for 20 of those trips), and he collected the Big 5 and most of the species of plains game.

He also hunted in Canada, Australia, South America, Spain, Russia and New Zealand. He authored a book called "Hunts By Vern," which he said would substantiate to his kids why a shortage in inheritance might take place.

One of his greatest accomplishments was being the inspiration behind the SCI

Michigan Chapter Humanitarian Initiative, a cause that reflects his service for others.

The initiative has helped open doors for disabled children, wounded veterans, other physically debilitated veterans and Purple Heart Veterans whose injuries prevent them from hunting, providing an opportunity to those who might otherwise be left behind.

"While we mourn this great loss, we also celebrate the legacy Vern leaves behind — one of dedication, compassion, and unwavering belief in our shared purpose," the Michigan Chapter posted.

Edewaard was preceded in death by his parents, Julia and Menno Edewaard; parents-in-law, Marie and Henry Gort; his brother

and sister in laws, Sandra and Carl Edewaard, Morris Gort, Lucille and Arnold Blaukamp; and a great-grandson, Theodore Groenink. Surviving is his wife, Carol (Gort). Together they raised four sons, Steve and Wendy, Jeff and Rosetta, Randy and Jodie, and Jim and Stacy.

He also leaves behind 10 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.



Lavern "Vern" Edewaard, the 13th President of SCI, will be remembered for his dedication and service to SCI.

Bob Nosler Led Nosler For 40 Years

Robert "Bob" Nosler, Chairman of Nosler Inc. and son of founder John A. Nosler, passed away on Sept. 2, 2025, at the age of 79.

Nosler Inc., of Bend, Oregon has been manufacturing bullets, cartridge cases, ammunition, firearms and suppressors for over 75 years.

After enlisting in the U.S. Navy and serving in the Submarine Service aboard the USS Nathan Hale during the Vietnam War, Bob returned home to Oregon to join the family business as its sixth employee. From the production floor to the executive office, he immersed himself in every aspect of operations, rising through the ranks to become chairman.

During his four decades of leadership, Bob guided the company through significant expansions and innovations. He championed the development of the Nosler Acartridge family, the expansion of premium ammunition lines, and the successors to the legendary Partition bullet.

One of his proudest achievements was returning the company to complete family ownership in 1988. Bob's vision helped transform Nosler into a modern, full-line manufacturer of bullets, brass, ammunition, rifles and proprietary cartridges.

"Bob was more than a leader of this company — he was a mentor, a friend, and the living connection between the foundation laid by our grandfather and the future we continue to build today," said Nosler President John R. Nosler.

"We will honor his legacy by staying true to the principles he lived by — innovation with purpose, craftsmanship without compromise and a deep respect for the hunting tradition," he said.

Bob is survived by his wife, family, and the generations of hunters and shooters who trusted in the products he worked tirelessly to create. His leadership and presence will be deeply missed as the third generation of the Nosler family carries forward his legacy.



Bob Nosler was the chairman of Nosler Inc., and the son of founder John A. Nosler.

STATEHOUSE ROUNDUP



SCI's COO Louis Cole and State Liaison Bee Frederick attended the National Hunting and Fishing Day Proclamation signing ceremony with Governor Brian Kemp. SCI joined Georgia DNR's leadership and various other conservation organizations in supporting hunting and angling in the Peach State.

SCI Opposes Wolf Reintroductions In The Midwest

By Chris Tymeson and Bee Frederick

Another state is considering a measure that would allow the reintroduction of wolves, this time in the Midwest. SCI is there to point out the devastating results in other states. Plus, advocacy team members and SCI leadership travel across the country to support SCI Chapter events and strategies.

PENNSYLVANIA Continued Expansion

State Liaison Bee Frederick joined a gathering of leaders from SCI Pennsylvania Chapters in Benezette for a focused discussion on expanding the reach, impact and coordination amongst the seven in-state Chapters. Among the agenda items were expanding membership, advocacy, public relations and coordinated support of projects and charities. Chapter leaders from the Blue Mountain Chapter, Pittsburgh Chapter and Lehigh Valley Chapter were joined by one SCI Regional Representative, two SCI Directors-at-Large and two national SCI staff members at the Keystone Elk Country Alliance (KECA). Attendees also enjoyed elk viewing at KECA, a program these chapters have collectively supported over the years, with over \$200,000 going to various special projects.

ILLINOIS Opposition of House Bill 2627

SCI sent a letter opposing House Bill 2627, which would grant the Department of Natural Resources authority to implement "rewilding as a conservation strategy," including the reintroduction of apex predators. SCI objected to any forced introduction of apex predators onto the landscape, pointing out that forced reintroduction of gray wolves in Colorado has led to significant hu-

man-wildlife conflicts. The letter pointed out that reintroduction of gray wolves or other predators would create even greater challenges in Illinois.

TTHA went on to wrap up the Hunters' Extravaganzas with a superb show in San Antonio. As the home to SCI's business operations office, SCI was well represented with a number of staff on

and Special Operators Training Foundation. The Chapter made significant donations to both organizations and raised funds to support conservation, advocacy, education and humanitarian programs.



SCI Federal Liaison Nick Uberti (left) joined TTHA CEO & President Christina Pittman, SCI Fort Worth Chapter President Jeff Kennedy, SCI Membership Services Manager Alexis Cassidy and SCI Membership Development Representative Dakota Kinsey for another great Hunters' Extravaganza event.

TEXAS

Hunters' Extravaganza Success

Texas Trophy Hunters Association (TTHA) continued its Hunters' Extravaganza tour with a successful event in Fort Worth, Texas. Federal Liaison Nick Uberti, Member Services Manager Alexis Cassidy, Membership Development Coordinator Dakota Kinsey and Fort Worth Chapter President Jeff Kennedy were among numerous SCI team members present in support of TTHA.

site assisting TTHA and promoting SCI's mission. Now that the 2025 Hunters' Extravaganzas are finished, all focus is on TTHA's Outdoors Extravaganza in Dallas, Jan. 9-11, 2026.

Additionally, Senior Litigation Counsel Regina Lennox introduced SCI's advocacy program at the SCI Fort Worth Chapter banquet. The sold-out event also featured a keynote address by SCI CEO W. Laird Hamberlin, as well as presentations by the Bell Family Foundation

LOUISIANA

Annual SCI Acadiana Chapter Banquet Sells Out

SCI's VP of Government Affairs Chris Tymeson traveled to the Pelican state and attended the 9th Annual SCI Acadiana Chapter banquet and fundraiser. The sold-out event was held in Lafayette and attended by more than 350 individu-

Continued on page 31 ►

SCI OPPOSES WOLF REINTRODUCTIONS IN THE MIDWEST: *Continued From Page 30*

als. While there, Tymeson engaged with members, prospective members and the leadership staff of the Louisiana Department of Fisheries and Wildlife.

MICHIGAN

NRC Stands Firm On Coyotes

The Michigan Natural Resource Commission (NRC) voted in favor of a resolution to work on treating coyotes and beavers as nuisance species instead of voting on reinstating year-round coyote hunting. While SCI was hopeful that the NRC would move forward with formally changing the regulations surrounding coyotes at this most recent meeting, the resolution from the Commission expressed their commitment to making the changes prior to the regular furbearer regulation cycle in the Wildlife Conservation Order in 2026.

Additionally, SCI Eastern State and Local Liaison Bee Frederick traveled to the Great Lakes State to participate and lead a session at SCI Chapter Training. Frederick taught a session on federal, legal and state advocacy and interacted with current and future leaders from Chapters all over the country.

COLORADO

SCI Joins CWC To

Improve Commission Meetings

SCI joined a Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project coalition letter ahead of the August meeting of the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Commission, requesting improvements to the public interaction process at future Commission meetings.

Also in the Centennial State, Vice President of Government Affairs Chris Tymeson attended the annual planning meeting of the Colorado Wildlife Conservation Project. Colorado SCI Chapter President Brett Axton also attended, and after the meeting, the group hosted a reception for CPW Commissioners, CPW staff and state and local elected officials.

Finally, SCI joined a coalition letter commenting on the Draft Colorado Parks and Wildlife beaver management plan.

NEBRASKA

SCI Supports Mountain Lion Season In Cornhusker State

SCI filed comments in the Cornhusker State supporting the proposed mountain lion hunting season regulation and the



Shown here, from left to right, are Acadiana Chapter President Richard Kennedy III, SCI Regional Representative for Region 18 Stephen Caldwell, SCI Chapter Services Specialist Sean Jackson, SCI Director-at-Large Brandon Bredemeyer, and SCI VP of Government Affairs Chris Tymeson to support the success of the Acadiana Chapter fundraiser.



Pictured here, from left to right, are VP of Government Affairs Chris Tymeson and State Senator Phil Fortunato, R-31st Legislative District, during the joint Oregon-Washington Sportsmen's Legislative Caucus event.

proposed mountain sheep hunting season order. At the public hearing, the Commission voted in favor of both proposals.

MONTANA

Statewide Increase On Wolf Harvest

The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission met to discuss wolf hunting

and trapping regulations, among other things. After six hours of debate and impassioned public comment, the Commission voted to increase the number of wolves that can be harvested statewide from 334 to 458, with specific quotas in place for Region 3 and Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 (adjacent to Yellowstone National Park). SCI strong-

ly supports responsible management of game populations, including at levels that promote balance among predators and prey, maintain harvest opportunities and reduce conflicts between humans and wildlife. The increased harvest opportunity will provide Montana the ability to manage the wolf population more effectively across the state, consistent with State law and the Commission's mission.

GEORGIA

SCI Staff Attended National Hunting and Fishing Day Proclamation Signing

SCI's COO Louis Cole and State Liaison Bee Frederick attended the National Hunting and Fishing Day Proclamation signing ceremony with Governor Brian Kemp. SCI joined Georgia DNR's leadership and various other conservation organizations in supporting hunting and angling in the Peach State.

SCI thanks Governor Kemp for his unwavering support of sportsmen and women!

Chris Tymeson is SCI Vice President of Government Affairs and Bee Frederick is State Liaison.

ARGENTINA STARTS RELEASING SEIZED TROPHIES : *Continued from page 7*

ing the costs of the process, but some have told clients they will be passing the cost on to them.

And then there are the clients who already paid Logistic Solutions for shipping and now face paying another exporter for new export documents and shipping fees.

Each operator is likely to have a different approach, and affected hunters should be prepared for a range of possibilities.

The Hunter Information Service has been assisting members swept up in this problem since Au-

gust 2024 and has a list of nearly 120 members who receive email updates on their hunting operators' efforts.

A report is also posted to the Hunter Information Service section of the SCI website.

Affected hunters can see the latest developments at safariclub.org/hunter-information-service.

Scroll to the bottom of the page to the news blog where updates and other news are posted.

To receive updates by email, email bcrown@sci-firstforhunters.org.



Catena Safaris' newly established export company, Argentina Trophy Export, will handle the shipment of the newly released trophies and all other client trophies moving forward.

100 Years And Going Strong

Editor's Note: We had asked you SCI members to tell us your stories about using Winchester Model 54s and .300 H&H Mag. and .270 Win. cartridges on the 100th birthday of these special rifles and cartridges.

By Paul Johnson

Who brings an 87-year-old rifle chambered in a 100-year-old cartridge to a South African safari of a lifetime? Well, that would be me. Guilty as charged.

The rifle in question is a circa 1938 Winchester Model 70, and the chambering is the .300 Holland & Holland Magnum, the original .300 magnum of 1925. My rifle barrel, like many of the era, is simply stamped “.300 MAGNUM” as it would be three decades after the birth of the H&H before the .300 Winchester Magnum would hit the gun store shelves.

Also known as the “Super 30,” the .300 H&H is a neck-downed .375 Holland & Holland with a sloping shoulder (8°-30”) to take full advantage of Winchester’s pre-’64 controlled-feed for a smooth bolt throw through the magnum-length action. The .300 H&H has long been recognized for its inherent accuracy, including a 1935 win by American shooter Ben Comfort in the 1,000-yard Wimbledon Cup.

The ammo choice was an easy one as I love to shop locally, and SCI vendor, Nosler, is only a few hours south of my home in southeast Washington State. Their Trophy Grade ammunition utilizes a 180-grain Accubond bullet that develops muzzle energy of 3,477 foot-pounds, more than enough “umph” for Africa’s plains game and only 25 foot-pounds less muzzle energy (and a lot less kick) than the exalted .300 Win. Mag. in most commercial loadings.

Another great reason for choosing this centenarian caliber over other .30s is when answering the question, “What caliber are you shooting?” The .300 Holland & Holland Magnum easily wins the “Cool Classic” award in hunting camps from Alaska to Zimbabwe.

I would be hunting with Tam Safaris, located near the Mountain Zebra Preserve, 160 miles north of Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape Province. I had conversed with brothers Peter and Stephen Tam for several years at our annual SCI Conventions, and I’m sure they were questioning whether I would ever book a hunt when I finally pulled the trigger for the second and third weeks of March, late summer in the Southern Hemisphere.

Tam Safaris has earned a reputation as a high-quality outfitter for plains game as well as lion, rhino and Cape buffalo in the dangerous game category. I would be targeting nyala, sable, Cape bushbuck, and any other trophy opportunities that presented themselves of the 40-plus species on their expansive properties.



Paul Johnson (left) and PH Stephan Tam took many fine trophies in South Africa with Johnson’s 87-year-old rifle chambered in a 100-year-old cartridge.

Stephen lost the coin toss with his brother and would be my PH. He and his family met me at the Port Elizabeth airport, and we headed north on a three-hour drive to their main camp. His wife, son and daughter slept in the back seat while Steve and I chatted the entire trip — one of the best tips I can pass on to other hunters is the importance of your PH being in sync with your expectations and physical limitations. We spent the drive north reviewing all we had discussed in Nashville.

In my case, issue No. 1 was not to hunt from the Land Cruiser, but to get out and stalk game in the bush, which led to issue No. 2, my need for lots of water in the 80-plus-degree heat of the day. I had done my part, five mornings a week for the last two years, I was in the gym getting my 70-year-old body in good enough shape to keep up with Steve’s pace that re-defined the word “breakneck.” I had also practiced extensively with my rifle, as issue No. 3 was shooting at distances not to exceed 200 yards, which was my self-imposed limit.

I really enjoy getting as close to the game as humanly possible. I practiced shooting downhill, uphill, across canyons — every conceivable shot I might encounter in the field. I was as ready as I could possibly be, or so I thought.

Hunting nyala would consist of hiking the thick acacia brush and trees near Paul’s River (at this time of year, an easily wadable creek) that flows for miles

through the property. This is a secretive species of antelope; nyala translates from the Zulu language as “shifty one.” Not one to stand out in the open, nyala hunting tactics include stalking the edges of the meadows to spot one through the brush or waiting in ambush near the creek in the evening when they come down to drink.

We drove to the rifle range first thing in the morning to sight-in the .300 H&H. The first round was on target, 1/2-inch low at 100 yards, as I had been practicing throughout the frigid winter in the sagebrush of eastern Washington State, and now it was in the 80s in the midst of an African summer. A quick adjustment and the next round was 1-inch high, right where it should be. Steve then asked for one more round at the 200-yard gong. The rifle spoke, and the 180-grain Accubond struck the target smack dab in the middle. Time to go hunting.

We drove quite a way south to a dry creek bed. We were about to hike down the steep wall to cross the creek when a female nyala emerged from the thick brush. We quietly lowered ourselves to the ground as she fed on both grasses and brush on the edge of the small meadow in front and below us.

Thirty seconds had barely passed when we saw the ivory-tipped horns of a nyala bull over the thick acacia brush. Following the path of the ewe, he stepped out into the open in all his glory, spiral horns, dark dorsal mane turning white

from his ears to his tail and a second mane starting at the chin and stretching all the way down his underside to the rear legs.

At that moment, the difference in size between males and females of the species was in full view. Nyala are the most sexually dimorphic antelope; the males can be twice the size of the females, and this was certainly the case in front of us. I started to move my rifle into position, but I got the look from Stephen, and he mouthed the words, “too small.”

So, we sat there and watched while the bull did everything in his power to entice the ewe. He nuzzled her cheek, rubbed his neck across her back, and, if he had thought to bring flowers and a box of chocolate, he would have added them to the mix. She was not impressed. After a few more minutes, they wandered off in separate directions and we made our way down the switchbacks, crossed the dry creek bed and scrambled up the other side.

For several hours, we slowly and quietly paralleled the dry creek and surrounding brush to no avail. We scared up numerous small antelope, but not one sight of the iconic orange lower legs sliding through the brush. We finally called it a day, looking forward to another gourmet dinner from our camp chef, Dakar.

On the second day, after lunch, we drove to the other side of the river down

Continued on page 35 ►



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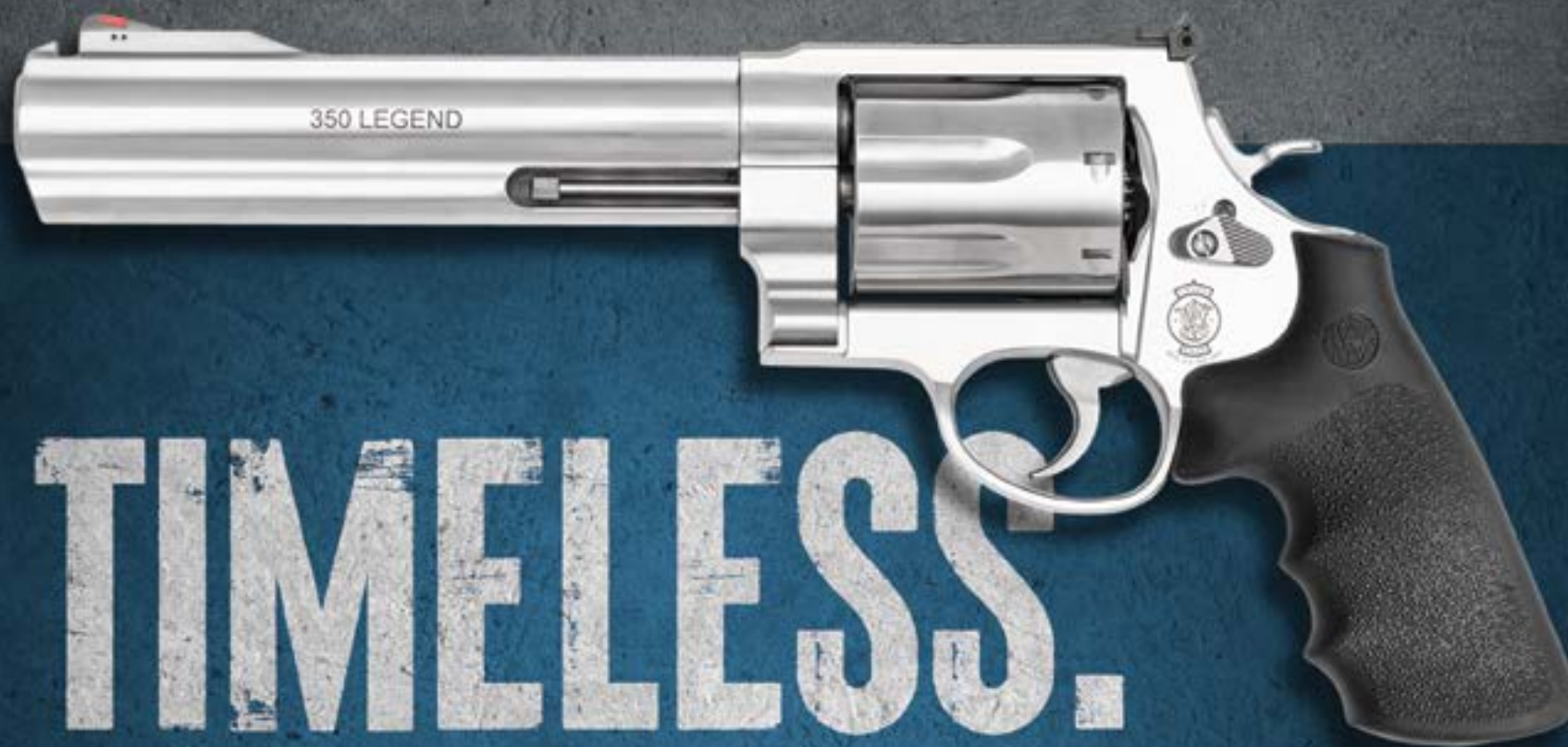
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READERS REPORT FOND MEMORIES WITH
CLASSIC RIFLES, CARTRIDGES: *Continued from page 32*

a steep slope. It was a boulder-strewn two-track that proved the need for the Land Cruiser’s low gear range. As we came around a corner, the road ended and 50 yards ahead of us was a steep cliff that resembled klipspringer habitat.

We came to the edge of a huge meadow, a 70-yard oval, and we started to glass the far side when we saw orange legs through the undergrowth — a bull nyala. We moved to intercept him, but when we came to the point where he should have emerged, nothing. Apparently, the kudu isn’t the only “grey ghost” of Africa.

We continued on towards the river and came upon a depression that had the appearance of a giant hand pressed into the earth, and we moved alongside the middle finger to the thumb when the little finger that was completely in shade got up and headed up a ramp to our level. The “shadow” became Cape buffalo — dagga boys!

Three of the group milled around on the other side of the depression while the fourth purposely moved towards us. Steve had his .470 Nitro Express at the ready, and I stood there feeling fully inadequate with a rifle that was somewhat short of the 4,000 foot-pounds of energy needed to dispatch the critter if he came any closer.

At 20 yards, he stopped, stared with bloodshot red eyes, and shook his horns, giving me the look the African writer, Robert Ruark, described as “he looked at me as if I owed him money.” However, this buff was looking at me as if he were coming to collect payment. Finally, he turned away and joined his comrades at a trot and disappeared into the thick brush.

We continued towards the creek, following a ramp down to the grassy flats where the creek/river flooded in the rainy season. There was enough brush to give us some cover, and we walked down around two bends before we came to a long, straight view downstream. Two smaller nyala bulls were alternately feeding in the green grass and taking drinks from the creek.

A third, obviously larger bull, came down to the creek, fewer than a hundred yards away and I stayed still, my Winchester at the ready with the Leupold scope at 4.5 power, all that was needed given the short distance and lowering sun of the late afternoon.

As Stephen continued to evaluate the bulls downstream with his binoculars, I stood behind him, stooped over, with just enough of my head exposed over his shoulder to view the spectacle in front of us.

Just then, in my right-side peripheral vision, a hog deer, an Asian exotic, calmly walked upstream on the opposite bank. I thought we were going to be busted, but the doe continued past, oblivious to our presence. A sigh of relief was quickly extinguished when a hog

buck came into view 40 yards behind her, crossing the creek just upstream past our position.

I didn’t dare breathe for a full minute. Steve made a quick turn toward me and gave me the “we just got away with that one” look. Just then, another nyala bull came down to the river on our side. He was significantly bigger than any that we had seen in two days, with nearly four inches of ivory tips atop thick, long horns.

Steve set the sticks up, and I settled the Model 70 into place. The nearside front leg was straight up and down, so I followed up the back of the front leg with the crosshairs until I came to the sweet spot, released the safety, and pulled the 2 1/4-pound trigger.

The rifle spoke, and the nyala bull lurched upward at the front shoulder with the hit. He spun around twice in tight circles and plunged into a pile of brush.

Excitedly, we clapped each other on the shoulder as the remaining nyala and other game sped up off the river and disappeared into the acacia trees.

The light was fading, so we quickly took a few pictures. Steve radioed our tracker in the truck miles away from us, and he smartly called for help from camp to find our position in what was now complete darkness.

We had seen a king cobra in the river earlier that day, and I had no interest in encountering it again in an attempt to find the truck.

In half an hour, we heard the crew crashing through the brush and alerted them to take a right turn down to the river, where we waited with our trophy.

Finally, they appeared above us and slid down to our position. Loading the bull onto a canvas drag bag, we found a game trail up to the brush line and stumbled around in the dark in the general direction of the trucks.

Once there, we loaded up the nyala, got into the Land Cruisers and weaved around in the dark until we found the two-track and made our way back to camp.

Darfur, our camp chef, greeted us with a pair of his special elixirs, ice-cold gin and blueberry tonics, which miraculously erased our exhaustion.

Without bothering to change out of our hunt clothes, we sat down to another amazing meal. This evening, the entrée was Wellington African style, his version of the British delicacy made with kudu tenderloins.

The next week had much more in store, with potential SCI gold medal sable and Cape bushbuck to hunt, encounters with rhino, a visit to the nearby school with SCIF Amy Bell Blue Bags, black springbok spot and stalk in lion country, and many more adventures with Stephen and Peter Tam.

Paul Johnson is a Life member from Washington State.

SCI MEMBERS WORLDWIDE HUNT SUCCESSFULLY



Luke Gerhart, an SCI Life member who has achieved extensive hunting honors, took this copper springbok in the Limpopo province of South Africa. He achieved seven awards this year, including his Third Pinnacle of Achievement.



Cecil Hammonds achieved his Dangerous Game of Africa Milestone Award this year, which included harvesting this impressive Nile crocodile while hunting the Mbizi Game Reserve in Zambia.



Recently reaching the Copper Level, Pygmy Antelope of Africa is SCI Life Member James P. Bryant. He is pictured here with a beautiful Sudan oribi he took in 2024, one of the animals that helped him achieve his hunting goals.



Pictured here with a caracal entry is SCI Life member Bob Wilson. As an accomplished hunter, he was recently presented with the Bronze Level Animals of Africa Inner Circle.



Hunting in Australia back in 2022, SCI Life Member and honored hunter Carlos Mondragon Jr. was able to take this feral ox, ranking No. 21 in its category.



SCI Life member Mark Carrier achieved his South America 8 Continental Award this year. He is seen here with an American bison he took in New Mexico, measuring 67 6/8.



SCI Life member Ben Barnett hunted in the mountains of Austria to get this Alpine chamois that scores 24 2/8 in the SCI Record Book. With a ranking of No. 43, it allowed him to complete the requirements for the Gold Level Inner Circle Award for the Chamois of the World



While hunting with a muzzleloader in Kansas, SCI Life Member Brent Wineinger harvested this nice Midwestern white-tailed deer that scored 169 1/8. It ranks No. 50 overall and is a Top 10 for muzzleloader entries in the SCI Record Book. It helped him complete the Copper Level Hunting Achievement Award.



While hunting the Brooks Range in Alaska, Craig L. Van Arsdale took this Alaska-Yukon moose, contributing towards him completing his Bronze Level Antlered Game of the Americas.

Hopkins Is New SCI State And Local Liaison

Keely M. Hopkins, a seasoned government relations professional and licensed attorney with over a decade of experience in wildlife management, conservation and firearm policy, is Safari Club International's new State and Local Liaison.

Hopkins brings a wealth of expertise gained from leadership roles at the National Rifle Association-Institute for Legislative Action and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, where she directed legislative, regulatory and political strategies across multiple states.

Her work has spanned wildlife conservation policy, international law, firearm legislation and grassroots advocacy, making her a powerful advocate for hunters' rights and sustainable

use wildlife management.

During her career, Hopkins:

- Directed legislative activities in five states for NRA-ILA, managing Political Action Committee strategies, candidate endorsements and grassroots engagement campaigns.
- Led the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation's Western States Program Team and served as the organization's lead on firearm policy.
- Chaired the National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition, representing more than 8 million members on federal land use issues.
- Partnered with conservation organizations, state agencies and legislators to advance science-based wildlife management and hunting policy initiatives.



Keely M. Hopkins, SCI's new State and Local Liaison, is an experienced government relations professional and an avid hunter.

A graduate of Willamette University College of Law with a Juris Doctorate in Government and International Law, Hopkins has studied abroad in Spain, Tanzania and China, gaining unique insights into global conservation and legal frameworks.

She has testified before legislatures, built bipartisan coalitions and collaborated with federal agencies on landmark initiatives.

An avid hunter herself, Hopkins has pursued game species across North America and recently completed her first South African hunt this year.

SCI looks forward to Hopkins' leadership in shaping critical conservation and advocacy efforts on behalf of hunters worldwide.

6 New Chapters

SCI Now Has More than 160 Chapters Worldwide

SCI has approved six new Chapters in New York, North Carolina, Northern New Mexico, Northern Alaska, France and Germany.

"Every new chapter brings fresh energy, leadership and purpose to SCI's global mission," said SCI President Jeff Meyerl. "With these additions, our voices and community grow stronger and they extend our impact. We are excited to welcome these Chapters

into the SCI family and look forward to the extraordinary work they will do in their regions."

SCI chapters are the heart of the organization's grassroots strength. They connect hunters locally while amplifying SCI's advocacy and conservation efforts nationally and internationally. From engaging in policy discussions and conservation projects to mentoring the next generation of hunters, Chapters

are essential to SCI's success.

"Our growth underscores SCI's leadership in standing First for Hunters," said SCI CEO W. Laird Hamberlin. "These new Chapters represent hunters who refuse to sit on the sidelines. They are stepping up to protect wildlife through sustainable use, safeguard access and opportunity, and ensure that future generations enjoy the same freedoms we cherish today."

With the addition of these chapters, SCI continues its Chapter expansion across the U.S. and globally. Each Chapter is committed to driving forward SCI's mission of protecting the freedom to hunt and promoting wildlife conservation worldwide.

OFFICIAL JOURNAL

SCI Chapters

Local Chapters are the strong backbone of Safari Club International's grassroots successes. They raise money for local initiatives, such as education, conservation and veteran's projects, and contribute funds to the international organization. If you are ready to join, or to form an SCI Chapter in your area, check safariclub.org or call (888) 486-8724 and ask for Chapter Services.

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