BROADHeadlines

Safari Club International - Southeast Michigan Bowhunters



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BROADHeadlines **Submissions**

If you would like to contribute material to our chapter's newsletter (hunt stories, photos, editorials, recipes, calendar events, etc.), please forward to the Editor at newsletter@scibowhunters.com

From the Presidents Desk



Our 2017 fundraiser was a total success due to the hard work of all of our chapter members involved! Cheryl Fons did another fine job getting our live auction hunts. Kevin Mulkeran and Jerry Hensley ran the cashier booth like a well-oiled machine despite being short-handed. Paul Chapman sold out both the Crown Jewel and ATV tickets, impressive! Gregg Wujcik ran the RWB raffles in his "take no prisoner's" mode, another good job. Merle Shepard's baseball team handled the runner and spotter jobs smoothly while Merle ran the live auction without a hitch.

Our Auctioneers; Kurt Damrow, Steven Vaughn and Mark Hart did our live auction proud, good work guys. Our silent auction was a winning team effort with Colleen Easterbrook, Anne O'Conner, Corey Temple and Tammy & Kelly LoGrudice doing the honors. Jeff Weisswasser and Jim Martin ran the membership/Merchandise booth for record new sales! Loraine Shepard carried the live auction cashier duties to perfection. Don Van De Steene worked his butt off Friday night and Saturday morning getting everything ready for the fundraiser.

Rich DeLisle and Mike Williams handled the front door like the pro's they are. Nick Wujcik, Kyle & Rob Easterbrook, Colin Hawkins and Bou Hunter took care of the 1001 things that needed to be done, thanks guys, great work. Laurie Thompson and Jenny Olsen handled the Lucky Arrow raffle sales with their usual charm. John Gornyecz took great pictures or our event with a borrowed camera! Jim Wandrie worked the gun raffle alongside of our new friends at Bass Pro and they sold 17 decks of cards.

Thanks go out to Mike Wills who attended our pre-fundraise meetings, only to be down with back troubles, and could not attend our fundraiser. Finally, big thanks go out to Bob Easterbrook and Rob Delaurier for their work getting our fundraiser programs out on time and properly edited for printing. We are very lucky to have such talented people on our fundraiser committee, they make me proud.

Ralph



Hunting South Africa with Choronga Safaris

By Dan Sanko

When I think of South Africa, the image of a Gemsbok comes to my mind. From the black and white clown face to the long dagger like horns that include ridges 1/3 way up the shaft; Gemsbok is Africa with a capital A. To say that harvesting a gemsbok was the number one animal on my South Africa Safaris list would be an understatement. Every hunter that I have talked to that has traveled to South Africa had a "Safaris List." My list also included, Zebra, Kudu, Blue Wildebeest, Impala, Springbok, Blesbok and if am lucky enough to get this far down the list, number eight... Warthog.

This trip all began over a year ago when I was attending my local SCI fundraiser, where Choronga Safaris generously donated a 10 day bow hunt for plains game animals. The sound of "Going once... Going twice... Sold!!!" were the words that cemented my first trip to the Dark Continent in stone. Right after that, the "list" started to take shape.

Choronga Safaris owns and operates several bow hunting only cessions in South Africa with a verity of game that includes 27 different species. The plan was to hunt in ground blinds over established water holes, during the dry season (later July) and during the dark phase of the moon. The average shot distance would be between 17 and 25 yards. When you add these all up, it sounds like bow hunting heaven to me.

On July 29th my brother-in-law Drew and I began our adventure. From the time we left Detroit to the time we pulled up to the lodge was a *long* 27 ½ hours of planes, layovers, customs and car rides. My feeling of exhaustion quickly evaporated when we pulled onto the concession and were greeted by Kudu, Impala and Springbok in the trucks headlights. It was just as I remembered reading "African Game Trails," by Theodore Roosevelt. - there was game everywhere. Even though I was exhausted, I knew sleep was going to elude me because the next day was Christmas for this bow hunter.

We awoke the next day and after we shot a few arrows through our crossbows on the archery range, Drew and I had to attend an African Game Class. Evan Sloan and his staff conduct this class to help North American hunters understand what to look for and what is the best placement for a good clean shot. No matter how prepared I thought I was, or how many books I read about the African anatomy ,it was still hard to adjust to the forward placement of the African vitals.

Class was dismissed, and it was finally time to start hunting. Now, I have hunted in Wyoming for antelope in pop up blinds and in Michigan using deer blinds, but nothing prepared me for the Taj Mahal style of hides that Evan has created in front of his water holes. These blinds, "hides" as they call them, are approx 10' x 12' concrete bunkers that are set half in the ground, and located only 17-20 from water's edge. The front of the hide had two vertical slots for shooting through, a small opening for your video camera and a horizontal one way glass that ran the entire front and side of the hide that allowed you a panoramic view of the entire area. Evan truly thought of everything designing these.

That first morning was something magical. It was approximately 30 minutes after I hung my cross-bow on the hook and got settled in when the first group of cow Kudu walked by. Their long legs and wide body reminded me of rocky mountain elk. Next to walk in front of me was a herd zebra. Evan mentioned in class that Zebra are very wary and difficult to harvest over water. He has had clients come back 2-3 times before seeing a zebra close enough to shoot. Here it was day one, less than one hour into the hunt, and I had 9 zebra front and center. Zebra, when they commit to drinking, come in one at a time and line up side by side, making it difficult to get a shot. So the plan was to shoot the last zebra that leaves the water before the herd walks off.

This group of animals did not attend the same class I did. This herd of zebra came in all at once and occupied every inch of the water hole, and offered no clean shot. I noticed one particular animal that was not in the water, but very wary behind the water not wanting to come in. This particular zebra had gray shadow stripes in addition to traditional black and white stripes - it was magnificent. As the herd finished drinking, I knew that if I was patient enough, I would get a chance at that smart, wary beast. There was no way that all the other animals would fill their stomach and this one animal would go without. So I waited what seemed like an eternity before he slowly came to water. The herd moved out and right on cue, he walked into the water, broad side at 23.5 yards. Just as I was going to pull the trigger he heard something and turned and walked away. I knew he would be back because he was in the water for less than a minute. Again he came back in, and again got spooked and walked away. Time was becoming a factor, the herd began to move on and this animal had to drink soon. He finally eased his way into the water and presented a perfect broad side shot. I watched the arrow and lumenock fly true and through the animal, lodging into a log on the other side of him.



My zebra was located only 80 yards away, and as I started to walk up to the downed animal, I was amazed by the size and beauty of this animal. Yeah, I have seen pictures and yeah I have seen them at the zoo, but this one was truly beautiful. This one was massive, and this one was all mine. I wanted to spend as much time with each animal I harvest during my adventure, so after pictures and loading it into the truck; we went to the skinning shed for the unpleasant part of hunting.

Soon after the skinning, I was back

into a different hide looking over another water hole. It took only approximately an hour before animals started to come in. During the next three hours, it was a handful of firsts. I saw my first Impala, my first Blesbok, my first warthog. It was nonstop animals for the entire afternoon sit. If this is what happens on day one, what does day two have in store for me?

Day two was even better than day one. From sun up to sun down it was a parade of different animals. It started with an entire herd of Impala, which stood around the water for over an hour. There was some really nice rams in the bunch, but I wanted to make sure something was trophy class before shooting, so all I did was take pictures.

Next were Blesbok and more Impala, as well as a few small female wart hogs with piglets. Around 2pm I saw something in the brush move, and was not sure what it was. I grabbed my binoculars, and it looked like the entire landscape around me was moving. I discovered it was Eland, which are massive animals that weight over 1000lbs. The herd that decided to visit me that day was 43 in number, and it looked like a meat train coming in. For the next 2 hours, this herd would not leave, and they occupied the entire waterhole and surrounding area. Day two was now in the books and my number one animal was yet to be seen.



Day three started the same as the first two days. It was a cool crisp clear morning, and within an hour of arriving to the hide, the animals were on the move. I saw herds of Impala followed by a few Waterbuck, and later in the morning I caught a glimpse of a wilily little jackal. Just when I thought the morning could not get any more exciting, a bachelor group of Blue Wildebeest walked in.

Referring back to my class notes, I needed to look for; horns that curled out past the ears, cracking in the horns (not smooth) and thick bosses.

Check, check and check. The animal that stood in front of me met all the requirements. He also had several deep battle scars on his face so that was even more attractive to me. I lined up the vertical crosshairs of my scope on his front leg and released the arrow. Again it was true and through. This time, I was able to see the animal go down within 40 yards of the blind. He was a magnificent animal with big horns and blue / black ripples on his massive neck.

It looks like I would be spending my lunch at the skinning shed again. Not a bad problem to have. Do a little work, stretch the legs, eat lunch and then head back to a different hide for the afternoon hunt. That afternoon the parade in front of me started up all over again. This time I got to see giraffe and vervet monkeys, but no gemsbok. Day four through day six of the hunt was pretty much like the first three days. We got to the blind early, saw a wide variety of animals and just before lunch, I would release an arrow. During those days, I was able to harvest a Kudu, Impala and an awesome blesbok. But during those days I didn't see anything that looked like a gemsbok. I was beginning to think that my number one animal was going to elude me. That was until day seven of my eight day hunt happened.

Day 7 started very slow, by African standards that is, and I only saw a hand full of animals the entire morning. Around lunch time Evan had his PH move me to the same blind I shot my Zebra out of. It was the first time back to that location and like the morning hunt, it was real slow.

As the day came to a close and the sun was setting, I decided to start packing my things with the anticipation of being picked up soon. So I packed the range finder, the binoculars, and the arrows and let down my crossbow. Just as I was closing the last zipper of my backpack I heard a twig snap. I slowly looked out the window and there he stood, mister number one. But what was I to do? Everything was packed! Was it possible to unpack and cock my crossbow without spooking him? It might have been my only chance so I went for it. First I unzipped the backpack, ZIPPPP and grabbed an arrow. Wow that sounded loud to me. I looked out the window and he was still there. Next was the hard part. I had to find the cocking rope and actually cock the crossbow. ZIPPP, I got the rope. CLICK was the crossbow being drawn back. Now that was loud. Another look out the window and what? He was still there and finally committing to drink. Okay, now what? Oh yeah, class notes. Ridges should be 1/3 up the length of the horn, check. When he lowers his head to drink, the length of the horns should be past the front shoulder in length, check. Forget the class notes, light was waning and time was of the essence. I lined up the crosshair to the front leg and let the arrow loose. Instead of passing through, it stuck in the shoulder on the opposite side. As I watch him run off I could see the lumenock break off and fall at water's edge.

My mouth was dry, my hands were shaking and my knees were knocking. I was so excited to call the PH and say, "I just shot a gemsbok, and can you come help me?" Because of the looming darkness, we started to track the animal as soon as possible. It did not take long to see where he stumbled and went down, only to get back up and run off again. My heart sank a little but I knew the trackers were superb, and would find this animal before long. A few more yards down the trail and there he was. My number one African



animal was lying on the ground. I had to take a couple of deep breaths before approaching this animal. Here was mister number one. Here was the animal I traveled thousands of miles for. Here was the animal President Roosevelt talked about in his African journal. Here lay the animal that, to me, spells Africa with a capital A. He was a truly massive battle scared monarch, and a testament to quality of animals that are located at Choronga Safaris.

On the last day of my safari, I was awake well before the camp chef knocked my door. I was still looking for two more animals on my list, so this day could prove to be a very busy one.

As the minutes passed into hours, and the remaining two animals did not materialize, I started to reflect on what a magnificent adventure this has been. How would I be able to sit in a deer blind in Michigan and hope to see one or two animals during my hunt, when seeing 200 animals just in one day in Africa is considered slow?

I was very fortunate during this entire trip. Fortunate enough to win the auction at the SCI fundraiser banquet. Fortunate enough to hunt on a concession with an abundance of trophy animals. Fortunate enough to have a wife and family that understands my desire to see far off lands. Fortunate enough to harvest 6 magnificent animals that I will enjoy for the rest of my days and yes, fortunate enough to bring home mister number one!



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Brown's Hunting Ranch Jim McCrank	112 North East St. Get- tysburg, South Dakota 57442	(605) 765-9150 www.brownshuntingranch.com	Pheasant, Whitetail, Mule Deer, Antelope, Bison, Upland Bird and Waterfowl Hunts. Fishing Trips.
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		TEXAS	
Action Outdoor Adventures Richard H.Muennink	1914 CR 456 Hondo, TX 78861	(210)827-0053cell (830)741-5519office www.actionoutdoors.com	Over 75 Species of Native & Exotics Game Hunting.
River Expeditions	P.O.Box 9	WEST VIRGINIA (888)GO-EXTREME [463-9873]	New River Whitewater Rafting, Cabin Rentals, Horsebac
Rick Johnson	Lansing, WV 25862	www.goextreme.com	Riding, Rock Climbing and ATV Tours.
American Adventures Ranch Rick & Thea Vojtik	E27940 Goat Ranch Rd. Fairchild, WI 54741	WISCONSIN (715) 286-5173 (715) 579-8229 www.AdventureRanch.com	Whitetail Hunts.
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S N S Outfitters & Guides Sy Gilliland	P.O. Box 2827 Casper, WY 82602	(307) 266-4229 (307) 259-4168(cell) www.huntwyo.com sns@huntwyo.com	Antelope, Elk, Mule Deer, Whitetail & Black Bear Hunts

If you are an Donor and would like to change or add information to your ad, please contact Cheryl Fons safaricheryl@charter.net 810 288-2120

Safari Club International Southeast Michigan Bowhunters Chapter P.O. Box 71001 Madison Hts., MI 48071

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Calendar of events

Important Dates

State Hunter Apprentice Program (SHAP) at Echo Grove for kids 11-15 they get both the DNR and Bowhunter Ed certificate for a 3 day course. See our website for details

Archery Sites

Detroit Archers	248.363.6049
Detroit Sportsmen	586.739.3500
Double Action	248.588.4488
Flint Bowmen	810.658.2798
Huron Pointe	810.598.8018
Land-O-Lakes	810.750.1636
Lincoln Bowmen	734.782.9293
MJC-Royal Oak	248.589.2480
MJC-Macomb	586.791.4600
Multi-Lakes	248.363.9109
Oakland County	248.623.0444
Royal Oak Archers	248.693.9799
Starlight Lapeer	810.664.6401

Aug 11-13