

# KENTUCKIANA

# HUNTER



KENTUCKIANA CHAPTER - SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

FIRST QUARTER 2023



Photo By Alice Monarch

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# President's Message

By Lowell Stevens Chapter President

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2022 was a significant year for our Chapter, not only did we grow beyond the 25 to 100-Membership category we have been in since the chapter was formed, we have sponsored and coordinated over 15 projects and events and, once again,

KYSCI received the prestigious *Safari Club International Chapter of the Year* award. A big thank you goes out to KSYCI Vice President and Membership Chairman Alan Kirschenbaum and all our Members and Directors for the hard work and volunteerism for which we are known. Our projects and events included humanitarian, conservation, education, habitat, sportsmen against hunger, political advocacy, and membership gatherings, just to name a few.

The *Chapter of the Year* award is given for meeting or exceeding all the requirements for Chapters in the SCI Bylaws and SCI's Foundation Policy and Procedures Manual. A point system is used by the awards committee who review each application and award points based on established criteria. The Chapter with the highest number of points receives the award. Not only did we receive the *Chapter of the Year* award, we also received the *Newsletter of the Year* award. This award is given to the Chapter that is judged to have the best, most effective newsletter in its size category, and once again, we must thank Board Member Alice Monarch for all the work she does to make our Newsletter simply the best! Another significant award

is KYSCI Chapter Member Libby Gear's being selected as the *SCI and Cabelas Young Hunter of the Year*! Libby is KYSCI's 4<sup>th</sup> winner! She joins fellow KYSCI Chapter Members Tom Monarch in 2013, Clay Monarch in 2015, and Peyton Whitworth in 2018 as the international winner of this esteemed award!

We were also active at the end of the year on the political advocacy front by endorsing Mark Nethery for 3<sup>rd</sup> District Fish & Wildlife Commissioner. The Board decided Mark's qualifications, experience and accomplishments as past *President of the League of Kentucky Sportsmen*, where he worked closely with the Commission, put him in a great position to make even more contributions as Commissioner.

Sadly, on January 1, 2023, the Chapter lost one of its dearest members – Louie Manion. Louie has been a big part of our Chapter since its inception: he never hesitated to volunteer for any work regardless of what it was: he especially loved to do those tasks that involved hammers, nails or saws! Louie's smiling face was at nearly every event I can remember. He was instrumental in helping start our Youth/Apprentice Hunter Program and Kentucky Hunters for The Hungry – two of the biggest and most influential things the Chapter has done. Louie was always at our fundraisers, helping every way he could. There will certainly be a void at this year's banquet, and we will miss him.

And it is, once again, time to focus on the fundraiser! February 11<sup>th</sup> at Audubon Country Club will be the event you do not want to miss! Larry Richards, Jared Whitworth, Alice Monarch, Nancy Stevens and many others have put in countless hours lining up what I think is the biggest and best slate of Live and Silent Auction items we've ever had. There are things for everyone, hunts and fishing trips from all over the world and nine here in the US. This year, we also have a *Paco Riestra Dove Hunt*, *Namibia Safari Corporation Safari* and *Kap River Bear Hunt* as **Door Prizes** plus a beautiful, *Limited Edition Browning Shotgun* as a card raffle item. Can't wait to see everyone on February 11<sup>th</sup>! Purchase your tickets today on the Chapter website [www.kentuckianasci.com](http://www.kentuckianasci.com) as there is a capacity limit at the Audubon Country Club, and you don't want to miss out!

TO VIEW AUCTION ITEMS & PURCHASE TICKETS

VISIT [www.kentuckianasci.com](http://www.kentuckianasci.com)

TO BID ONLINE, VISIT [www.onlinehuntingauctions.com](http://www.onlinehuntingauctions.com)

(6% Commission Fee)



**ONLINE HUNTING  
AUCTIONS.COM**

Online Hunting Auction's  
Technical Support Line is  
866-313-0123

Alicia Feil [Alicia@liveauctiongroup.com](mailto:Alicia@liveauctiongroup.com) is KYSCI's Online Auction Specialist.

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## ABOUT THE COVER



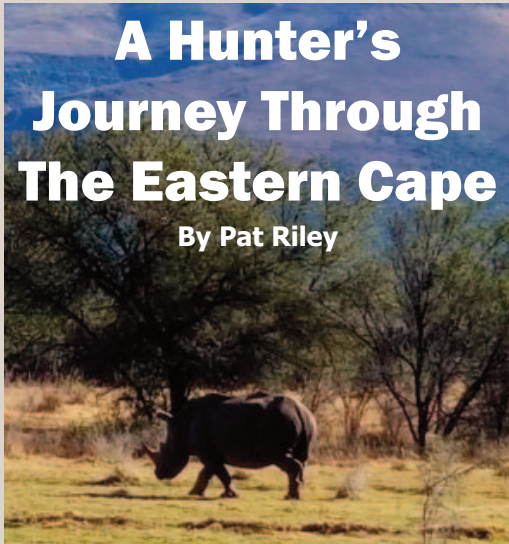
The Cover Photo of a Hartmann's Mountain Zebra was taken while hunting in Namibia with Jaco Van Der Merwe of Namibia Safari Company. Jaco and his wife, Marinda, have generously donated a 5-Day Plains

Game Safari in Namibia as one of the Door Prizes for our KYSCI Fundraiser! They have also donated a fabulous 5-Day Panache Photographic Safari featuring game drives through the famed Etosha National Park which will be auctioned during the KYSCI Live Auction on February 11<sup>th</sup>!



# A Hunter's Journey Through The Eastern Cape

By Pat Riley



Flying somewhere over the Atlantic Ocean in the middle of a restless June night, I smiled satisfyingly to myself realizing that I had once again escaped my busy life back in Kentucky and I was headed back to a place that now feels like a second home, AFRICA!! Kentuckiana SCI Chapter Member Ken Haeberlin and I had just begun our 8-day safari with Professional Hunter and good friend, Arnold Claassen of Arnold Claassen's, AC African Select Hunting Safaris. The COVID panic was subsiding and South Africa had lifted the Negative Test requirement the same week we were scheduled to fly over but we took the test, just in case, not wanting anything to prevent us from our dream destination. Shortly after takeoff, the pilots informed us that the in-flight mask mandate had been lifted and the plane erupted into cheers! Later, with the cabin lights out and many asleep, the rhythmic hum of the jet engines seemed to agree that eight years was way too long between safaris.



Ken and I had started planning several months earlier. We settled on an extensive list of targeted animals for Arnold to customize our long-awaited safari that might fit our wide-eyed ambitions. Little did we realize just how fulfilling and successful our safari would be! Arriving in Joburg late that first evening, we spent a short night at a very full Afton Safari Lodge occupied by lively hunter conversations at dinner and drinks around a mesmerizing campfire. We left just enough time for a quick shower and a couple hours sleep before we caught our connecting flight to Port Elizabeth early the next morning.



We landed at 8:30 A.M., cleared our firearms and met up with Arnold, our tracker, "Tools," and videographer, Leonard. We quickly loaded the truck and headed to the mountain camp up in the Winterberg Mountain Range. Along the way, we met up with Ken's Professional Hunter, Robbie, and Patrick, our other tracker, in their vehicle. The lodge was picturesquely nestled between high forested hills with a storied history going back to the early 1800's. We had a quick lunch, verified our firearms were still zeroed and headed out to try our luck for Kafue Lechwe that first evening.



Ken soon scored on a 26" bull by the river and I dropped a 23" bull higher up in the foothills! With two in the salt, we returned to the lodge for a delicious dinner of Lamb Chops and Sausages with all the accompaniment's including libations by the warming fireplace as the temperature had dropped below freezing shortly after the sun went down. We briskly walked to our respective sleeping huts and fell asleep quickly to the distant sounds of Baboon calls under a star filled sky.



Morning came quickly and after a light breakfast, we set off in different directions from the lodge. Robbie and Ken went looking for Vaal Rhebok and Mountain Reedbuck while Arnold, Leonard and I set off with Gemsbok and Mountain Reedbuck in our sights.



After several hours of glassing, we finally spotted some Gemsbok several miles away over some very rocky ground in thick brush by the river. The Gemsbok had eluded us most of the af-



**Continued on page 4**





**Continued from page 3**

ternoon, when Arnold devised a plan to intercept the herd by a lone green tree overlooking a dry riverbed that he believed would be their escape route. His plan worked perfectly; my 250-yard shot hit the bull in the lungs and the herd took off, this time toward our position. We set up for a follow-up shot as the herd ran by us at a mere 20 yards with my bull trying to keep up! He almost ran us over before turning away at less than 10 yards only to stumble and succumb all of which was caught on camera. What a thrill!



With evening approaching, we dropped the Gemsbok bull off at the skinning shed with our tracker, and Arnold and I took advantage of the hour of daylight we still had left to hunt for Mountain Reedbuck. As the sun was setting, the hills came alive with multiple small herds of Reedbuck. We crept along in the growing shadows to get a look at one of the larger herds that had a good-looking Ram. He was an ancient Reedbuck Ram with 6 1/4" well-worn horns and heavy secondary growth. He dropped to my shot at 125 yards! We met Robbie and Ken at the Skinning Shed where they showed us their trophies, another large Mountain Reedbuck, and a mammoth old Black Wildebeest. One and a half days in country and we had collected 5 SCI Record Book animals between us!



On Day 3, we packed up and left the mountain camp to head lower for the remainder of our hunt. Ken and Robbie hunted that morning in the area looking for and collecting a hard-to-find Vaal Rhebok. Ken's Vaal had half of one horn broken off but he was still an amazing trophy.



Arnold and I hunted Sable and spotted a good bull and followed his tracks in a dry creek bed. As we got closer, we backed off and climbed a nearby hill for a better look. He was magnificent and one double lung shot from the .375 H&H Magnum hit him squarely in the shoulder. Surprisingly, the bull reared, turned, and dove into the brush at the shot. After an easy tracking job, we found the bull about 70 yards from the shot location; unfortunately, he had rolled down a steep embankment and broke about 3" off his right horn. We searched but never found the missing tip; however, the bull still scored high Silver in the SCI books with 43 1/2" being his longest horn, and 9 1/2" bases and a wide spread of 43" between the tips. The diversity and number of animals encountered in Africa never ceases to impress me. Good PH's such as Arnold and Robbie are essential to finding, assessing, and getting a hunter on quality animals.



Day 4 found us hunting the Graaff-Reinette area in the Karoo. We drove high into very steep hills looking for Klipspringer. We found several, but in my haste to get into position, I fell hard on my rifle and after several missed shots, we discovered my scope was off. Discouraged but not deterred, we re-sighted in my scope and went looking for a big Blesbok. Arnold and I found a pair of old Blesbucks with almost white horns that seemed to glow even at over 600 yards out. We slowly narrowed the distance to 180 yards before I shot and connected just at sunset. Meanwhile, many miles away Ken and Robbie had located a Sable Bull rivaling mine in size. Ken carried his TC Contender pistol in 30-30 caliber along with his rifle just in case he got within 100 yards or so of any animals on this trip. Ken nailed a 100-yard shot with the TC at a massive Sable. His Sable had 43 1/2" long matched horns and 43" spread tip to tip. As of this writing Ken's Sable may be the new #10 Sable in the SCI Record book taken with a handgun!



Still in the Karoo, we hunted and harvested two great Waterbuck Bulls on Day 5 after some tough climbing in steep terrain. We were lucky enough to see a White Rhino and calf shortly before we stopped for







lunch. The cow Rhino seemed more than happy to show off her new calf for pictures until we got too close when caution became the better part of valor and we backed away. Ken also collected a Steinbok and large Red Hartebeest that afternoon.

On Day 6, we hunted in the Jansenville area. I hunted for Eland in a persistent rain and saw Eland but no shootable bulls. Ken hunted several miles away without rain and harvested a beautiful 28" Bull Nyala and a phenomenal Duiker, both green scored SCI Gold. The hard hunting combined with fabulous evening meals cooked around an open campfire accompanied with libations made for cherished conversations and guaranteed no trouble falling asleep.

Day 7 found Arnold and me above the clouds trying again for Klipspringer, but the Ram offered a very small target at over 250 yards at a severe downward angle. So, I missed, again... Ken went to the same area Arnold and I had hunted for Eland the day before and this time the weather cooperated and Ken harvested a SCI record book Eland with one perfectly placed shot using my 375 H&H Magnum.

Day 8 arrived and I again hunted for Eland. After locating a small group of old bachelor bulls, we set out to stalk up on them using a dry stream bed as cover through very tough thorny terrain that clawed at our clothing and skin on an unusually hot day. Arnold's plan worked and we popped up about 200 yards below the herd that was high in thick cover. We waited until they moved ever so slightly giving me a shot. Arnold told me to aim for the lungs of the last bull hoping a wounded bull would go downhill rather than further up making recovery extremely difficult. The big bull absorbed the shot showing little affect. Arnold told me to give him another round in the same area. My shot was slightly higher and spined the bull dropping, but not killing him. The bull thrashed wildly when he tried to get back up and bellowed loudly like a Cape Buffalo. We eased up the slope as Arnold bolted up to the bull. I grew uneasy and winded as we headed straight uphill toward a very much alive, very large bull Eland and moved over to the side with our cameraman. Halfway up the hill, I heard Arnold yell, "The bull is coming, shoot him Pat, shoot him!!"

The Eland bull plowed downhill on the same path where, mere moments before, we had been walking! I backed up and waited momentarily for the bull to clear the creek bed at the bottom and fired. This time the bull dropped and as good luck would have it, he dropped on a trail that we could drive in order to collect the beast. The bull was very old, his horns worn down, his skin scarred and a very large Dewlap worthy of the giant. I can't wait to see how that episode looks on film! Soaked with sweat and rubber legged from the hunt, we rested momentarily until the truck arrived. Now that was exciting, but the day was not over! We went out for Cape Grysbok that evening and harvested a SCI Gold Medal specimen that sparked my quest for the Tiny 10.

While we worked with the Eland, Ken and Robbie added a heavy horned White Springbok and a nice Impala ram to his hunt tally. Later that night, we toasted each other, toasted the animals we'd harvested, and toasted our pending departure as our safari drew to a close. The tally for our 2022 safari was 22 total animals harvested: 17 of those 22 making the SCI Record Book with one of those animals in contention for a Top 10 SCI position for a handgun Sable! We stopped briefly at the sprawling Splitting Image Taxidermy facility that would process the dip and pack of our trophies and oversee their shipping back to the U.S. The place was filled with trophies of all shapes, sizes and species highlighting just how big the safari business is for the South African economy.

Arnold and "Tools" took us to the airport, and we shared a last cup of coffee together followed by smiles, handshakes and bear hugs before we had to leave our African family and begin the journey back to the States. The flights back to Atlanta were uneventful and we both slept well on the long flight back over the Atlantic. We met several other hunters in Atlanta while we waited to check our firearms through Customs. We shared laughs, pictures and stories until all of us went our separate way to make connecting flights back to our own home states. We hunters share a special bond that cannot be denied and may be hard for others to understand. All I know is there are blood family members yet to experience Africa and that will be my new cause, slightly selfish though it may be.

Note that our PH Arnold Claassen of *Arnold Claassen African Select Hunting Safaris* has generously donated a 7-day hunt for two hunters to our SCI Chapter for our upcoming Fundraiser. Arnold also hopes to attend our fundraising banquet before he flies back to Africa to prepare for the 23 Season.



## Easy Hamburger Steak & Brown Gravy

By Joyce Cook

### INGREDIENTS:

1 pound ground chuck or round	1/2 teaspoon pepper
2 eggs, lightly beaten	1 teaspoon minced dry onion
1/2 cup Panko bread crumbs	1 can cream of mushroom soup
2 teaspoons minced garlic	1 package pioneer brown gravy mix
1/2 teaspoon salt	1-1/2 cups water (follow directions on back of gravy mix)

**DIRECTIONS:** Mix, ground beef, eggs, bread crumbs, garlic, salt, pepper and onion. Pat out into four patties and fry the patties. Draining the remaining grease in skillet. In a separate pan, heat the cream of mushroom soup, water and brown gravy mix until smooth. Pour gravy over the patties and simmer covered for about 10 minutes. Serve with a side of mashed potatoes or rice. So easy and good!



# CELEBRATE VALENTINES DAY EARLY WITH YOUR KYSCI FRIENDS 28<sup>TH</sup> KYSCI FUNDRAISING BANQUET

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023

AUDUBON COUNTRY CLUB - 3265 Robin Road, Louisville, KY

**Awesome Door Prizes - Check Them Out On Our Website [www.kentuckianasci.com](http://www.kentuckianasci.com)**





Editor's Note: Africa touches people! I witnessed the pure joy in Alyson's voice and saw the twinkle in Marty's eyes when they purchased Deko Safaris African adventure and I knew, based upon my own experience, that they would love Africa and they would love each other more because they had shared Africa! Here is their combined story.

## Is It... A Hunt of a Lifetime! Or... A Lifetime of Hunting!

By BOTH Alyson and Marty Stamper

Marty and I have attended the Kentuckiana SCI Fundraising Banquet for seven years now. Each year, we decide on a trip we would like to bid on. This year past year (2022), we, along with our friend, Brian decided to bid on the African Safari trip from Deko Safaris and we are so glad we did! Marty, Brian and I purchased this hunt for two hunters and two observers at the live auction. It was originally for six animals which were to be divided between two hunters; however, once we started hunting and saw the quality and abundance of the various species of wildlife, we could not resist taking additional animals. Between Alyson and myself, we shot ten animals (Alyson shot a Black Impala, Yellow Blesbok, Zebra, Gemsbok, and Springbok. Marty shot a Blue Wildebeest, Golden Wildebeest, Common Blesbok, Common Impala, and Warthog) and our friend Brian shot four (Common Blesbok, Common Impala, Blue Wildebeest, and Warthog).

WOW is the word that comes to mind about our hunting trip with



Deko Safaris! It was absolutely amazing from the time we were picked up at the Johannesburg Airport by Ruan and Gerhard till we departed for home. Deko Safaris is top notch from their professionalism and knowledge to their friendliness. The accommodations were stunning and the chalet was beautiful. Our laundry was done every two days which made it possible to only need limited clothing. The food was five star and our Chef, Stephan, made sure that all our meals were prepared to our satisfaction, especially anyone with food allergies. My wife, Alyson, has Celiac Disease and has to be extremely careful not to have wheat, rye and barley. Stephan catered to her allergy needs and prepared all of her meals gluten free, which was huge because any wrong food preparation could have ruined her trip. If you need special treatment, I promise you will not go hungry!

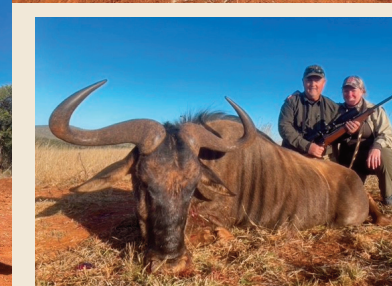
Our Professional Hunters, Ruan and Gerhard, gave 110% to make sure we harvested magnificent animals. No matter our age or experience, they made us feel very comfortable and confident, and we never felt rushed. The handling and respect for the game we were harvesting was unmatched. We were not only able to eat some of the game we harvested but the rest was donated to the locals to feed their families. The entire animal was consumed and absolutely nothing went to waste. Their knowledge of all African game and plant life was absolutely amazing. With this being our first trip to South Africa, we had a lot of questions and they were able to answer them all. We were able to not only enjoy fabulous meals at the lodge but also delicious fire cooked meals in the bush.

South Africa has some of the most beautiful sunrises and sunsets that pictures cannot do justice! Ruan and Gerhard took us up on the mountains to experience God's beautiful artwork with amazing sunsets and enjoyable camaraderie as we relived our daily hunts sitting around the fire. For Alyson and me, this was the most enjoyable hunting trip and vacation that we have ever experienced times ten!! The statement on their ad is definitely true! We arrived as friends and left as



family! We can hardly wait to go back to Africa for more amazing experiences to create more amazing memories. Deko Safaris far exceeded our expectations.

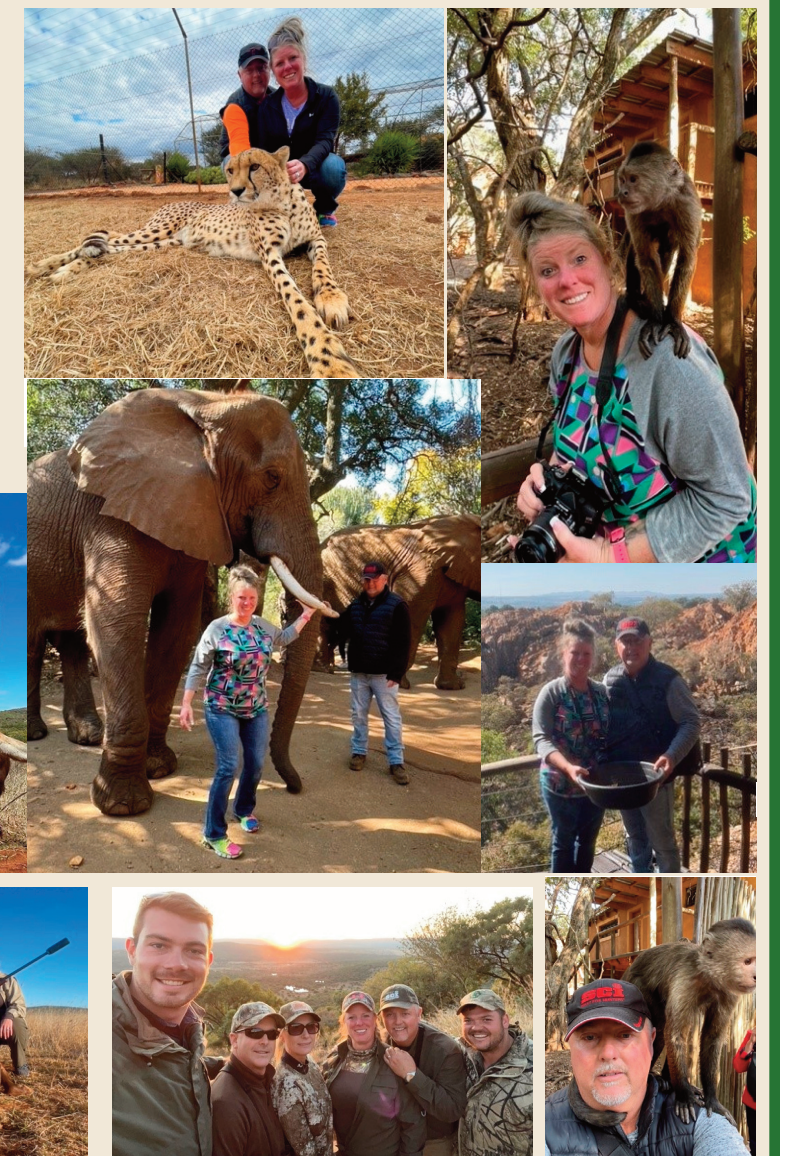
We also wanted to do some of the nearby excursions, so Bianca set it all up for us. Bianca did a lot of



the behind-the-scenes things for us to make these excursions an amazing experience as well. The excursions we took were the Hot Air Balloon Ride (highly recommended), Predator Park and the Elephant/Monkey Sanctuary, Pilanesberg Park tour and the cable car ride (also recommend them highly as you can tell from our photos). These side trips were amazing, the Blue Bag trip was amazing, the hunting was amazing, the people were amazing, the food was amazing, the accommodations were amazing and the many nights relaxing and visiting around the fire were amazing. The entire trip was totally amazing and when we speak of our African experience, smiles just happen!

Our skinner and tracker Johannes was also amazing. We thank him for taking care of our animals and teaching us some of his processing skills. We've all seen trackers on TV and wondered if they were that good. After seeing Johannes' tracking skills my mind was blown on how skilled and talented he truly is. This is a skill that is not taught, it is a God given gift!

Our sincere thanks to Ruan, Gerhard, Stephan, Bianca, Mike and the rest of the Deko family for their hospitality and friendship! They were a major part of fulfilling a dream for Alyson and me!!! Marty and I had talked about how this was a hunt of a lifetime but afterwards, we realized this is not just "a hunt of a lifetime," it made us think differently about how we plan our hunting trips! We believe we have discovered "a lifetime of hunting" in South Africa with Deko Safaris. You show up as a client but you leave as a family member as they made us feel a part of their family as well as them being a part of ours.







## The Compromise

### KDFWR Wildlife Biologist Randall Alcorn

Connie and James Riley live just outside of Richmond Kentucky on 25 acres. Their house and yard are part of a small subdivision that occupies 2 acres while the remaining 23 acres is part of a large field that backs up to other houses within the subdivision. Connie spends most of her time outside tending to her landscaping which is made up of a variety of wild and cultivated flowers. While they enjoy the wildlife that moves throughout their field, James also likes to keep things neat and allows a nearby farmer to cut the hay off twice a year. Two years ago, that farmer was unable to cut the hay and the field was allowed to remain in decent wildlife cover. During that time a covey of quail moved into the field and took residence within the fence rows and tree lines. Connie reached out to a wildlife biologist with the hopes of developing a plan to retain some of the habitat while still allowing the field to be mowed to suit James. After a quick tour of the property, it was suggested that a pollinator field border be established with shrubs to maintain consistent wildlife cover year-round. Connie was really interested in the idea of creating a wild-flower border around the entire field that would provide quality habitat as well as aesthetics to the field.



Connie applied for 2020 cost-share assistance through EQIP wildlife and was granted a cost-share contract in the spring of 2021. Once the contract was signed Connie immediately started preparing the field border through multiple sprayings as site prep and with the



June 2021

help of fish and wildlife biologist, got the site prepared with the use of a chain harr. Connie then broadcasted the seed in June of 2021 and later that summer began to see the emergence of wildlife flowers as the border began to take shape. That year multiple cuttings of hay were taken from the field, but the field border remained intact and was able to provide habitat for the covey of quail on the property.



September 2021

In the spring of 2022 Connie completed the final stage of her field border with the establishment of shrubs that will eventually connect tree lines together. Connie planted over eight species of shrubs to bring as much diversity into the habitat as possible. Once the shrubs become established, it will provide excellent wildlife soft mast forage as well as excellent winter cover for quail and other upland wildlife.

Management of the field border is going to be consistent as Johnson grass has found its way into portions of the farm from surrounding properties. The first cutting of hay has already happened this year on the property and the field border continues to provide excellent wildlife habitat and still holds the small covey of quail.



June 2022

## HABITAT IMPROVEMENT CHECKLIST

By KDFWR

### JANUARY

- Contact wildlife biologist to discuss upcoming planting season
- Take soil samples to determine soil nutrient needs
- Prepare firebreaks for upcoming prescribed burns
- Order seeds for spring planting

### FEBRUARY

- Mow Korean lespedeza or clover fields to encourage new growth
- Burn or mow fescue sod in preparation for converting to other cover types
- Disk fields in preparation for renovation to clover & grass
- Erect, clean, or repair nest boxes; check predator guards
- Install nesting platforms for geese

### MARCH - MID-APRIL

- Prescribe burn in preparation to eradicate fescue
  - Sow clover or lespedeza
  - Sow cool season grasses
  - Apply lime and fertilizer per soil test to wildlife food plots
  - Strip disk to promote bare ground & new forb growth
- To speak with a Wildlife Biologist, call 1-800-858-1549



# “LEGAL BRIEFS”

By Ivan Schell, Esquire



## NATIONAL NEWS

**Refuge Hunting:** In prior issues I have reported on the challenge that the Center for Biodiversity (CFB) has mounted to the expansion of 147 federally managed wildlife refuges which the Trump administration opened to hunting. That lawsuit has been dismissed without any changes to the expanded hunting and fishing opportunities for hunters and fishermen. However, in exchange for the dismissal the USFWS agreed to respond to another suit filed by CFB challenging the use of lead ammunition and fishing tackle within the refuge system. USFWS has until June 2023 to respond to this suit. The current Biden administration seems to be sympathetic to this concept, but the NRA and SCI has pledged to continue to challenge this effort.

**Bruen:** Likewise in the prior issue I reported on the explosion of litigation precipitated by the Bruen decision. The cases at this point are too numerous to report in their various stages of development. So, instead I refer you to a website which is following cases nationwide on the subject matter: “[Giffordslawcenter/lawcenter/gun-laws/litigation/second-amendment-case/watch](https://www.giffordslawcenter.com/lawcenter/gun-laws/litigation/second-amendment-case/watch)”. This is not an endorsement of the message espoused by this website, only the factual information.

## INDIANA

The Indiana DNR has proposed new regulations in a couple of hunting related areas. First, the DNR has revised the regulations related to the trapping of beavers in Indiana. Trappers, including nuisance trappers, must now use 330 Conibear traps and they need be only submerged in water only half-way. (Previously the laws required that they be fully submerged). This change will reportedly give trappers more flexibility in removing beavers to deal with beaver conflicts. This is consistent with the Kentucky rule already in existence.

**Tree stands/ground blinds on public land:** DNR now allows hunters to leave their tree stands, hunting blinds and even trail cameras on public land overnight. However, this equipment must be marked with the name, address and phone number of the owner or the owner’s customer identification number issued by DNR. Provided however, trail cameras may not be used on nature preserves and state parks.

DNR also prohibits the use of bait for turkey, migratory birds or deer on DNR property, except for crops planted and harvested by DNR employees or tenant farmers. DNR has now confirmed by rule that shed hunters can pick up antlers on DNR property without a permit.

## KENTUCKY

Kentucky now follows the new federal rule which allows crossbows to be used to harvest migratory birds. In addition, KDFWR has expanded the elk hunt drawing application period to run from August 1 of the preceding year thru August 30 of the year of that season, beginning with the application period beginning August 1, 2023, thru April 30, 2024. Also, hunters who have never drawn an elk tag, notwithstanding being longtime applicants, may participate in a “loyalty redraw”. This consists of a random drawing for elk permits that were left unpurchased by applicants selected in the first drawing. Apparently some 10% of successful applicants do not purchase their permits. These are most likely to be cow permits.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February – 2, 2023 **Board of Directors Meeting**  
6:30 PM Louisville Boat Club  
Contact: [alank.kysci@gmail.com](mailto:alank.kysci@gmail.com)

February 11, 2023 – **KYSCI Annual Fundraising Banquet**  
Audubon Country Club, Louisville, KY  
Contact: Larry Richards: [larry.kysci@gmail.com](mailto:larry.kysci@gmail.com)  
Register: [www.kentuckianasci.com](http://www.kentuckianasci.com)

February 22-25, 2023 - **SCI Convention**  
2023 Nashville, TN  
Contact: [www.safariclub.org](http://www.safariclub.org)

March 11-12, 2023 **Oklahoma Wild Hog Hunt**  
Stewart Ranch Outfitters, OK  
Contact: Ivan Schell: [ischell@mcbayerfirm.com](mailto:ischell@mcbayerfirm.com)

March 25, 2023 **Turkey Warm Up & Calling Clinic**  
Pattern Shotguns & Learn Calling from Chapter’s Seasoned Callers  
Location tba, Contact: [alank.kysci@gmail.com](mailto:alank.kysci@gmail.com)

April tba, 2023 **Board of Directors Meeting**  
Date & Location tba – Contact: [alank.kysci@gmail.com](mailto:alank.kysci@gmail.com)

May tba, 2023 **Big Bore Rifle Shoot**  
Get Ready for Dark Continent or Shake Up Your Shoulder  
Date, Location, tba, Contact: [alank.kysci@gmail.com](mailto:alank.kysci@gmail.com)

**RENEW YOUR KYSCI, SCI & NRA MEMBERSHIPS TODAY!**  
[mysafariclub.org](http://mysafariclub.org) • [home.nra.org](http://home.nra.org) • [www.kentuckianasci.com](http://www.kentuckianasci.com)  
**SCI YOUTH MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE**



# Bidding On That Big Hunt? Tips To Know Before You Bid, Win And Go!

By Alan Kirschenbaum



Are you thinking about bidding on a big hunt at this year's Safari After Dark auction on February 11<sup>th</sup> at Audubon Country Club in Louisville? Before you bid on the hunt of a lifetime, there are many details and things to consider – from the process of choosing the right hunt for you and the right outfitter, to booking flights, to getting

Passports and firearms permits if you're going to another country, as well as what you can and cannot take on a plane.

While the list goes on and on and may seem overwhelming, don't let this stop you from bidding, winning, and going! Just relax and join the fun! There are numerous Kentuckiana SCI Chapter members, who were first timers once who are willing to lend a hand and mentor you along the way. These folks will share their wisdom steeped in years of experience and many successful worldwide hunting trips – trips resulting in unmatched memories and sometimes even a spot for your name in the SCI Record Books.

Until I became a member of KYSCI and attended the annual fundraising banquet over 20 years ago, I had fished in Alaska, Canada, the Caribbean, and Mexico. While I was a seasoned international traveler, both for business and pleasure, hunting in a foreign country just wasn't on my radar. At the time, Founding Member Mike Ohlmann was mentoring me on local deer and turkey hunting when he mentioned the hunts to be auctioned at the upcoming banquet. Mike shared pictures of his recent trip to New Zealand. Those photos and Mike's enthusiasm piqued my interest!

Mike mentioned there was a New Zealand hunt to be auctioned and offered to guide me through the steps of how to prepare and what I needed to know to travel there and hunt with a firearm. So, after the smoke settled at the banquet, I was the lucky winning bidder of an exciting Kiwi adventure! I have since returned four more times to hunt and I became close friends with Outfitter Mike Wilks – all resulting in taking a Himalayan Tahr, on foot, that still holds Number 47 in the SCI Record Book. (See *Safari Magazine*, Nov.- Dec. 2013 "Personal Best" p.98)

Many fellow Chapter members go on these fabulous hunts auctioned each year at our fundraiser. In all instances, our Fundraiser Chairman and the Live Auction Committee have arranged for the donation, know the details and are qualified to give you an insider's perspective on what you need to know before you bid, win, and go on a fabulous expedition of a lifetime and they are more than willing to talk about hunting!

Here are a few tips to start you off: It's always wise before bidding on a hunt to know beforehand if the hunt is upgradable (i.e., if you plan on using it toward a credit on a higher-level trophy, another species or on a different sex of the same species – cow to bull, etc.). Are there unexpected hidden costs or a non-refundable deposit expected? Are meals and lodging included? Are there additional trophy fees, taxes, or land trespass fees? Know what level of physical conditioning is required to be fit and ready. Do you have or will you need any equipment that will enhance your experience? Do you need travel

insurance? What firearm should you bring? What are the requirements of traveling on an airplane or going abroad with a firearm and ammo? Does your outfitter offer firearms for rent or loan? What is considered appropriate for staff gratuities? Please note that all Hunt Donors' ads have outfitters' websites and contact information and they are definitely willing to talk about hunting!

After you are the winning bidder, contact and get acquainted with the donating outfitter as soon as possible. Get your dates booked. Ask questions and be straight with them about your expectations of the experience. Ask what city you need to fly into and what date? What are acceptable methods of payment? What is the cancellation policy? Someone from the KYSCI auction committee will have already reached out to the outfitter notifying them and you that you are the winning bidder. If there are any issues with an outfitter, the auction committee can help you navigate.

If traveling to another country, other important travel tips include booking flights properly – you do not want very short layovers when travelling with firearms and hunting gear. You want your gear to arrive when you do. Familiarize yourself with baggage and weight limitations. Seek out information on foreign culture and required or suggested vaccines.

Remember that your paperwork and preparations begin before you leave for your trip. Get your Passport, needed visas and arrival assistance in order. Your Passport should not expire within six months of your trip's departure date. Make a photocopy of your Passport for safe keeping. You need your original Passport when you leave and re-enter the United States, when you enter and debark your destination country, and if making a connection through another country, you will need your Passport there, too. You may need it when paying with a credit card or changing money. If you leave your Passport while in the field, be sure it is locked in a safe place. By habit as a seasoned traveler, I never leave my Passport, cash and credit cards behind. I keep them in a waterproof pouch with me. Treat a U.S. Passport as you would any valuable.

Before you depart, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) requires you to register any expensive items you intend to bring with you and return with in your possession. This includes firearms. You must complete a Form 4457 (available online at <https://www.cbp.gov>), but you still must register your property in person at a CBP office along with the Form 4457. Take the firearm in a locked case – unloaded – to a CBP office. Bring your Passport when doing this deed. There is a CBP office at any U.S. International Airport. If you are going to do this on the day of departure, arrive two hours earlier than normal (which is four hours prior to departure) as you may have to wait for an available CBP officer-inspector. If you're on an early morning flight this will not work. I go to CBP a couple of days in advance. In my experience, the customs inspectors at the Louisville airport are familiar with the process. The CBP office is past the terminal in a separate building (follow the signs), parking is free, and it's rarely crowded. Check for their hours. Without question, you need the registered, signed, and stamped Form 4457 upon arrival back into the U.S. to enter with your firearms. I carry the original 4457 with my Passport and put a copy in my carry-on.

In today's world of WOKE, politically correct culture, check with the airline regarding firearms and ammo before you book a flight. Rules change like the wind and some airlines do not permit the transport of firearms. Ammo always must be packed separately and in original boxes. Most airlines and/or countries want ammo in a locked, hard-sided case. Again, check the airline's rules as every country has a different set of rules. Your outfitter should help you with permits and current rules. Always know them before you go.

While I've seen people traveling on airplanes with cheap plastic gun cases secured with padlocks, I take no chances with the TSA or reckless bag-handlers and my precious rifles. With a padlock, you run

*Continued On Page 11*





## Chapter Loses Long Time Member & Friend Louie Manion

By Mike Ohlmann

Long time Kentuckiana Chapter of SCI member and friend, Louis (Louie) Manion, passed away on New Year's Day 2023. Having beat lung cancer after a two year stint of surgery, chemo and radiation therapy in 2016 and 2017, he was then diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in the fall of 2017.

After maxing out on radiation and without positive results from chemo, Louie underwent a radical therapy which removed, dissected, and reinstalled his pancreas in a different location within. For the next 5 years, Louie lived with peaks and troughs between recovery, recession and heavy chemo therapy. Most of us recognized various physical changes in Louie but enjoyed his constant smile and his readiness to help with setup and participation in most KYSCI and Wounded Warrior events. Louie was famous for being the first to show up when there was work to be done!

Louie continued to deer hunt even through the muzzleloader and modern firearms season in 2022 before succumbing to renal failure during the Christmas holidays. Louie happily received visitors in the hospital remaining alert and reminiscent about hunting, the early days of Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry (where he was heavily involved with our Chapter's processing nights) and our Chapter's many fundraisers, Boat Shows and Future Farmer's booths, Apprentice Hunter and Summer Picnic events in which he had participated over the years

up to and through December 31 before peacefully slipping away on New Year's Day.

### Obituary for Louis Wallace Manion Jr.

Louis Wallace Manion, Jr., 75, passed away January 1, 2023, with his family by his side. Louis was born on August 14, 1947, to the late Louis Sr. and Martha Jean Manion of Louisville. He was a self-employed carpenter and loved to go hunting, fishing in his spare time. He was a founding member of Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry in 1984 and volunteered every year to process tens of thousands of pounds of venison distributed to the needy. He was a long-standing member of the Kentuckiana Chapter of SCI and contributed numerous hours to hunter education, nature conservation, and fundraising. He was a key participant in the Woodford Warriors annual deer hunt and other volunteer activities to assist severely injured and traumatized military veterans and their families. He frequently volunteered for many other non-profits when asked. Louis was raised Catholic by faith and was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Diane Knabel. He is survived by his children Dawn Wibbels (Bruce) and David Manion; four grandchildren Jessica Lovell (Jerard), Skailer, Summer, and Shae Manion; two brothers Steve Manion (Margie) and Mark Manion (Stormie); three sisters Debbie Piper (Darel), Karen Sue Keener (David), Shirley Joseph (Vernon) and a host of family and friends who loved him.



### Continued From Page 10

the risk of a TSA inspector cutting it off if they choose to open your gun case. I've invested in a heavy-duty Boyt air travel-approved gun case that has exchangeable foam inserts for different rifles. I use the most durable TSA-approved locks with longer and heavier shanks specific for gun cases. There are many quality options. Find one that works for you. Don't skimp. I never pack binoculars, photo equipment or range finders in checked baggage. I carry them on.

Using a hunters' support service in certain countries that have reputations for difficulty is also a good idea. For example, I would not attempt the Johannesburg S.A. Airport without the service of Anne Gaines-Burrill of Air 2000 (see sidebar for her info). For a reasonable fee, she will arrange all your gun permits, domestic flights and layover hotels in Africa way ahead of time. Her people literally meet you on the flyway at the door of the airplane and escort you off the plane through Immigration and Customs, retrieve your luggage and walk you to the police at the airport to get your firearms. If you have a layover, Anne's people take you to the hotel, then meet you at the hotel the next morning and escort you to check in for your connecting flight. Trust me, the cost of her service is quite reasonable and worth every dollar! It will "grease" the wheels of getting through an airport where everyone wants a "gratuity" to do anything – including government officials. Anne will save you hours of frustration, save you extra gratuities, and bring you peace of mind; you are treated as a VIP! I wish somebody would offer a similar service entering Canada to help navigate through government officials at Trudeau (Montreal) or Pearson (Toronto) especially when traveling with a gun!

By comparison, when arriving in Namibia after connecting through Johannesburg, Customs and Immigration officers are courteous, friendly and there was no shake down. In fact, the officer joked with me about the difference between the countries as he lent me his cell phone to call Outfitter Jaco Van der Merwe. He refused a \$20 bill and said, "Sir, this is Namibia, not South Africa."

Entering New Zealand, you will claim your firearms at the police station in the airport. If your permit is in order all will go smoothly. As an island nation, however, beforehand you will go through a rigorous agricultural check. Be sure your gear is free of soil or vegetation. Regardless, they will dip your hunting boots. Do not have any foodstuffs. I arrived once at the same time a flight from China was disembarking and witnessed the confiscation of some of the most unimaginable things. I'll spare you the details. Enjoy the experience.

Okay, now that I've made the process of going on a big international hunt seem like one big pain, once you get the hang of it and with a little help from your KYSCI friends, who know the drill, it is definitely a worthwhile undertaking!

Take advantage of lessons learned by fellow Chapter members who have hunted in countries around the globe, traveled countless miles and spent many dollars doing it. KYSCI has a resourceful chapter membership that loves to talk hunting. With one-on-one personal mentorship, combined with online resources from SCI offering up-to-date travel and rules information on most countries, it will make hunting abroad easier. Chances are one of us has gone on the very trip you just won, and we have a personal relationship with the outfitter. We will be pleased to answer your questions. If we do not have the answer, we will assist you to find someone who does.

Our goal is to mentor you through what you need to know before you go and for you to experience a great hunting trip so you will be the winning bidder on many hunts in years to come.

- Contact Ms. Anne Gaines-Burrill  
Air 2000/Hunters Support Services, Johannesburg, South Africa  
Phone: +27 11 659 2649 Email: [air2000@global.co.za](mailto:air2000@global.co.za)
- Many of your fellow Chapter Members have hunted and fished throughout the world: to learn more ask a fellow Chapter Member or one of your Board Members. (Board contact info is in every newsletter and on [www.kentuckianasci.com](http://www.kentuckianasci.com))





**CELEBRATE VALENTINES DAY EARLY WITH YOUR KYSCI FRIENDS**

# 28<sup>TH</sup> KYSCI FUNDRAISING BANQUET

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2023**

**AUDUBON COUNTRY CLUB**

**3265 Robin Road, Louisville, KY**

**Social Hour 4:00 PM ~ Dinner 7:00 PM ~ Auction 8:00 PM**

**FEATURING HUNTS ON NORTH AMERICA  
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## **FABULOUS DOOR PRIZES**

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African Plains Game Safari**

**Paco Riestra Wing Shooting  
Argentina Dove Hunt**

**KapRiver Outfitter  
Canadian Black Bear Hunt**

## **ANNOUNCEMENT**



KYSCI's Libby Gear will be honored by SCI and Cabala's as the "2023 SCI & Cabela's Young Hunter of the Year" (story in next issue) during the Saturday night event at this year's SCI Hunter's Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. (February 22-25) To register: [www.safariclub.org](http://www.safariclub.org)

## **The Reward Of The Blue Bag Initiative**

**By Alyson Stamper**



KYSCI has participated in the SCI Blue Bag initiative for years, and Marty and I had always wanted to participate, but the opportunity had never presented itself until... We had heard others who had returned after an exciting African safari with glowing stories of the most rewarding part of the trip being when they hand delivered gifts to truly needy children and adults and we wanted to help, too.

Marty and I support our chapter's fundraiser and bid on and try to buy one trip each year for our vacation and in 2022, along with our friend, Brian, we began looking seriously at an African safari. We had done our research and during the 2022 KYSCI Fundraiser, we met Ruan and Gerhard who are Professional Hunters with Deko Safaris and formed an instant bond. After we met them, we were even more excited about bidding on Deko Safaris and WE WON!

When we found out our hunt dates, we let Ruan and Gerhard know that we wanted to sponsor a school or village by bringing gifts and they were excited about the possibilities as Deko Safaris had participated in the Blue Bag Program before. When we arrived in camp, Ruan let us know that there was a Welfare House (Orphanage) in the neighboring town that needed help. He had all the information ready for us; so, one day we went shopping in a nearby town to get

the goodies which was a reward in itself because not only the store clerks but all of the locals saw American Hunters buying clothes and other goodies as gifts for their children! There were 16 kids ages ranging from 2 to 18 at the orphanage, and each received shoes, socks, outfits, and blankets. When the Chef from Deko heard what we were doing, he and his wife matched our total contribution with food. (More Rewards of the Blue Bag Initiative!)



When we first arrived at Welfare House with the goodies, the smiles on the kids' faces were amazing. Some of the children were so excited that they were receiving gifts that they literally jumped up and down with excitement. One little boy kissed his hand and then put it over his heart. When we were greeted by the lady in charge, she took us through the home and showed us the living quarters then we passed out the gifts. Before we left, every child came up and gave me a hug and said thank you without being prompted. The mom of the lady who runs Welfare House stood and talked to me for 30 minutes holding my hand saying God is amazing and expressing her amazement that she

was standing with an American and holding my hand. She kept saying she wanted to visit America. As the lady's biological daughter talked to me, she cried because she had just lost her dad a month earlier and she wasn't sure how her mom, grandma and her were going to keep it going.

All of the children wanted to sing a song for us in both English and Afrikaans. By the end of our visit, there were several people in tears of joy and happiness including me. This extended family at Welfare House was amazing. It was very emotional and there was not a dry eye. This was a very heartfelt experience for both Marty and me. We now understand the Reward of the Blue Bag Initiative and we look forward to participating in more Blue Bag initiatives.