

KENTUCKIANA



HUNTER



KENTUCKIANA CHAPTER - SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

SECOND QUARTER 2014

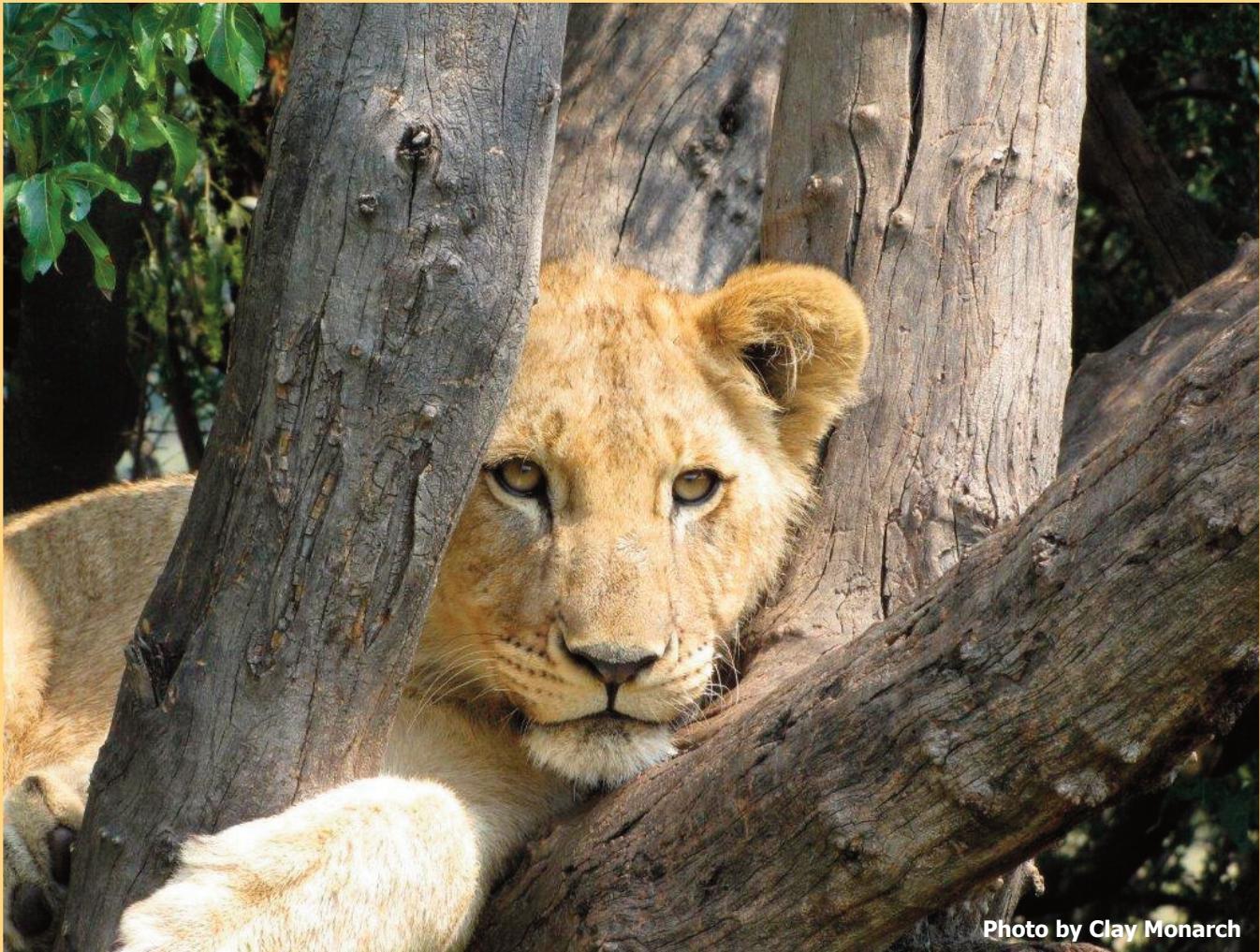


Photo by Clay Monarch

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Visit Our Web Site: www.kentuckianasci.org

President's Message

By Bill Hook, Chapter President

2014 Fundraiser, A Huge Success!

I would like to thank all of the outfitters, donors, volunteers, and buyers, who, because of their support, helped make our 20th annual banquet/fundraiser a great success, and it was a great success! We had a large crowd and a full house for dinner and the auction. I would also like to thank you, our members and your friends, who came; because of your generosity, our gross revenues were up 26% over last year.

I cannot say enough about the great team that banquet chairman, Ivan Schell, put together: Lowell Stevens took charges of the live auction; Sam Monarch once again served as the live auction hunt coordinator; Tom Hebert as always nailed the silent auction; Sherry Maddox took care of all the behind the scene logistics; Mike Graham was the go-to guy for printing and IT; Larry Richards had the unique ability to secure some outstanding auc-

tion items; Bob Edwards worked all year looking for great items for the live and silent auctions; Kathy Ohlmann was in charge of the selection of the banquet hall and dinner menu; Ann Schell decorated like nobody else can; Mike Ohlmann's expertise served us well on his 20th banquet committee; Jim Warren was whatever we needed him to be; Mike Maddox worked on his 16th banquet committee as "Mister Fix-it," Louie Manion, Randy Phelps and Mary Free-Phelps were always there to help put it all together. I want all of them to know that their efforts and hard work are greatly appreciated!

One final but different note... our election of officers and board members is coming up very soon. Serving on the board is very rewarding and a lot of fun: please contact me or another board member if you have an interest in serving.



2013-2014 Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

President - Bill Hook
Vice President - Tom Hebert
Secretary - Aline Abell
Treasurer - Sherry Maddox

Board of Directors

Mike Abell Bob Edwards Mike Graham
Sam Monarch Ivan Schell Larry Richards
Jim Warren
Past President - Mike Maddox

Cover Photo

Cover photo depicts a male South Africa/Namibia Lion Cub on the Moketsi Game Ranch north of Bloemfontein, South Africa.

2014 SCI Hunters Convention Highlights "Kentuckiana Hunter" Newsletter Wins Again!

By Sherry Maddox, SCI Vice President

If you are an SCI member, you may have read numerous pre and post convention articles in the Safari Times. As a member of the SCI Executive Committee, I can verify that it is a year full of planning that culminates in the greatest hunting show in the world. Las Vegas is now the home for the SCI Convention for many reasons to include airlift in and out of the city and enough space to accommodate our exhibitors, meetings and attendees.

Over the course of 4 days, SCI members have access to book hunts anywhere in the world and to shop for anything from firearms, art, home décor, clothing and accessories. Each evening's event includes dinner, awards, live auctions, silent auctions and entertainment from ranging from comedians to guest speakers to live music.

For me, as an SCI Vice President, days are filled with meetings, spending time on the floor interacting with exhibitors and attendees, and participating in various fundraising event. In addition to the above, what every member of SCI needs to understand is this convention is the largest fundraising event for our organization.

Included in this year's activities were the Sables Luncheon, Show, and Auction that set record attendance. All proceeds from the luncheon, show, and auction go to funding our education programs. The Hunter Defense Fund also held a luncheon with funds raised going toward ongoing political awareness and responses needed to protect our freedom to hunt.

This year, I had the honor of presenting the Chapter Publication Awards. Our Kentuckiana Hunter publication was chosen

as the 2013 Outstanding Publication Award winner in its category and I was thrilled to present the award to the chapter editor, Sam Monarch. This is the 5th consecutive year our chapter has received this award and the 9th year overall. It was impressive to see the covers of our 2013 *Kentuckiana Hunter* publications displayed on the large monitors as the winner was announced.

Although this is the "digital age", our chapter has continued to produce an outstanding hard copy publication. Sometimes you just need to hold paper and read from something other than a computer screen. The *Kentuckiana Hunter* highlights chapter activities, member hunt reports, conservation, current legal issues affecting local hunters, humanitarian services and educational projects and programs to name a few. I am sure as you read this edition, you will agree the award was well deserved, but, more importantly, that you will find valuable information about the programs and activities in which our chapter is involved.

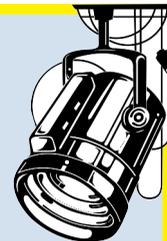
Thank you to all who contribute information and articles to the newsletter. To Sam and Alice Monarch, thank you for the many hours you spend putting together each edition, and thanks to Pam Noble of J&C Printing for her expertise in putting it all together.



Sam and Alice Monarch
With Publication Award



SPOTLIGHT ON SPONSORS



Kentuckiana SCI Says "Thank You" To Fundraiser Sponsors

Mike & Aline Abell
Kentuckiana SCI

Ace's Gun Shop
Monty Quinn
Hawesville, KY

Afrihunt Safaris Namibia
Justus Brits
Windhoek, Namibia

Auction Solutions, LLC
Elizabeth Monarch
& Lonnie Gann
Louisville, KY

The Baker's Rack
Ann Baker Leazenby
Owensboro, KY

Blue River Studios
Louisville, KY

Briarwood Sporting Club
Chris Daniels
Bellfontaine, OH

Cabela's
Louisville, KY

Clayton Ranch
Judd Clayton &
Aaron McGaughey
Camp Wood, TX

Clover Creek Hunting Farms,
Jeff Tate
Hardinsburg, KY

Crazy Horse Archery
Louisville, KY

Dick's Sporting Goods
Louisville, KY

Bob Edwards
Kentuckiana SCI

Excalibur
www.excaliburcrossbow.com

First State Bank
Blake Willoughby
Irvington, KY

Mike & Torie Graham
Kentuckiana SCI

Tom Hebert
Kentuckiana SCI

Holiday Inn Hurstbourne
Louisville, KY

Bill Hook
Kentuckiana SCI

Horn & Antler Safaris
Craig & Jenny Dempster
Waimate, New Zealand

International Adventures
Michael & Danielle Grosse,
Gunnison, CO

Keeton Custom Knives
Bill Keeton, Laconia, IN

Kimber USA
www.kimberamerica.com

Knight Rifles
Gordy Edwards
Athens, TN

Lotus Gunworks
Louisville, KY

Louisville Cornhole Shop
Louisville, KY

Mike & Sherry Maddox
Kentuckiana SCI

Madubula Safaris
John & Lauri Abraham
Cascades, South Africa

Marupa Safaris
Pieter Vivers
Marken, South Africa

Monarch Auction & Realty,
Miller Monarch
Hardinsburg, KY

Sam & Alice Monarch
Kentuckiana SCI

Noem's Wildlife Artistry
Dave & Crystal Noem
Union, KY

Mike & Kathy Ohlmann
Kentuckiana SCI

Peregrine Company
Stuart Ray
Louisville, KY

Randy & Mary Phelps
Kentuckiana SCI

Reed, Weitkamp, Schell,
& Vice
Louisville, KY

Larry Richards
Kentuckiana SCI

Ivan & Ann Schell
Kentuckiana SCI

Silvertine Wildlife Company,
Steve Rahn
Saskatchewan, Canada

Spanish Mountain Hunts
Gonzalo Colomina
Madrid, Spain

Lowell & Nancy Stevens
Kentuckiana SCI

Jim Warren
Kentuckiana SCI

Wilderness Mint
www.wildernessmint.com

Yudofsky Furriers
www.yfur.com
Louisville, KY

PROTECT YOUR RIGHT TO HUNT! SUPPORT OUR 2ND AMENDMENT!



**Renew your
SCI MEMBERSHIP
today!**

**Contact: Chapter Liaison, Sherry Maddox
502-253-9679 or explorer11749@aol.com**

Thank You, Mr. Cabela

By Sam Monarch

Each year as Alice and I entered the SCI Convention Hall, we walked past two large boards that listed major donors/supporters of SCI. One name that always appeared on that board was Dick Cabela. Co-founder of Cabela's Sporting Goods, Mr. Cabela was an avid hunter and supporter of both SCI and NRA and made comments to the effect that one cannot hunt without a gun and that we needed these organizations to protect our right to hunt and to own guns. Mr. Dick Cabela passed away on February 14th of this year.



Weeds: Reflections On Habitat

By Walt Cato

Early morning on a clear, crisp December day in 1951 witnessed the Rabbit Hunter striding out the backdoor with his Iver Johnson 410 single barrel in hand. In his jacket pockets were a Case pocketknife, a piece of fruitcake wrapped in wax paper, and several red three inch Super X shotshells with #7 1/2 shot. He was thirteen years old and on his way to an all day hunt. School was out for the holidays.

He walked approximately a quarter mile crossing the highway and past his school, before reaching the Illinois Central railroad track. On the east side of the railroad was a tract of about 30 acres that had formerly been the county work farm, abandoned the previous year. The landform was taken up by a large cornfield, going fallow, and an abandoned hog pen and shed used occasionally for shelter by homeless people.

Rabbits were not numerous in the scanty cover but the Rabbit Hunter usually started one or two to shoot at in the thick cover. His shooting average was not good with the .410 and he did not begin to take game with regularity until the following year when he graduated to a 16 gauge shotgun and when the cornfield began to revert to native grasses and forbs with an attendant increase in game.

The Rabbit Hunter had very little knowledge of the identities of the wild plants that replaced the corn. He recognized beggars lice, broom sedge, sweet Annie (annual wormwood) and honeysuckle, but the balance of the thick vegetation was to him just weeds. Probably the average citizen would have viewed the overgrown tract as a piece of real estate crying out for new concrete and construction or, if for agriculture, a uniform ground cover of the then new-to-the-area KY 31 Fescue.

Tall fescue (*Festuca Arundinacea* Schreb) is now the most important cool-season grass in the U.S. providing the primary ground cover on some 35 million acres. It is, for agricultural purposes, a versatile perennial used to provide pasture and hay for livestock, for various turf purposes and for erosion control. During the 40's and 50's, there was phenomenal interest in and widespread planting of fescue throughout the Midwest and a large portion of the South. (AGR-149. "The Tall Fescue Endophyte," 6/91, Southern Beef Management Handbook, Dr. Don Ball, et al.) Much of Kentucky's pastureland was planted in fescue, displacing bluegrass, orchard grass and native grasses. Farmers admired it, with the endorsement that "It's what makes Kentucky green," but tall fescue is not good ground cover for game. It provides neither cover nor food for game birds and rabbits. Its presence has been linked, among other factors, to a scarcity of rabbits and the disappearance of bobwhite quail over much of their former habitat.

In 1952 fescue did not grow on the Rabbit Hunter's tract. As native plant growth covered the ground which was no longer cultivated, numerous rabbits and then bobwhite quail took up residence there. In the ensuing years, the Rabbit Hunter had success hunting rabbits and quail there. Not having an experienced mentor, he learned hunting ethics from reading Robert Ruark's "The Old Man and the Boy" columns in *Field & Stream*, Havilah Babcock, Nash Buckingham, Archibald Rutledge and other authors, and gained practical experience working the weedy cover of his chosen tract. The Rabbit Hunter grew up coincidental with the process of the covert reverting from a cultivated tract practically devoid of game to a game rich pocket surrounded by urban development. He witnessed, for example, the birth alongside the railroad tract of a feral apple tree that, as his teen years went by, produced small red sweet apples. He acquired dogs to hunt with; beagles, a springer spaniel and later an English setter, and he began to take hunting companions on his hunting expeditions to the tract.

The Rabbit Hunter introduced one of his father's friends, a truck gardener and experienced rabbit hunter (who carried a cherished Baker double barrel) to the covert and together they would make periodic hunts there. With an experienced eye for plant growth, the truck gardener took note of the cover as they methodically hunted through it. He would frequently comment about the species of weeds they passed over and through. Once he exclaimed, "Look at this!" He took out his Barlow knife and dug up a small tuber about which he announced, "It's a wild parsnip?" The gardener was much excited by this discovery but the Rabbit Hunter could not understand why such a small plant moved the gardener. In a small way this experience added to the Rabbit Hunter's knowledge and appreciation for the individual wild plants which comprised his ecological niche.

Hunting alone and sometimes with the gardener, the Rabbit Hunter accumulated a wealth of hunting experience and in the process took with regularity quail and rabbits from the tract until industrialization eliminated hunting there in the mid seventies.

The Rabbit Hunter's covert was not a unique phenomenon. Prior to the post-war development brought about by rapidly expanding construction of residences, new highways, industry and shopping malls, much of the land near urban areas was prime game habitat. The Rabbit Hunter recalled a conversation with an individual who pointed out the abundance of game in Louisville's suburban areas in those days, "I kept two pointers at my parents' home on Bashford Manor Lane. Those dogs had choke bore noses and I had a double-barreled 20 gauge Parker.



Habitat Improvement Checklist By KDFWR

April-May

- Begin preparation of dove fields
- Plant tree & shrub seedlings
- Spray herbicide to eradicate fescue
- Conduct timber stand improvement & create brush piles
- Establish wildlife mineral licks

May-June

- Plant annual grain food plots/dove fields
(Do not plant in same location as last year)
 - Sow warm season grasses & wildflowers
 - Hinge-cut cedar trees for living brush piles
- [For more info, call KDFWR (800) 858-1549]



In the late forties, we could start out walking from home and cover ground now occupied by GE Appliance Park and the dogs would find as many as ten coveys of birds." A bird hunter would be hard put to find that quality of bird hunting nowadays anywhere including South Georgia and Texas.

The current emphasis on substituting warm season grasses for fescue in Kentucky and other states is a shining ray of hope in the effort to rebuild populations of small game and up-land birds. In pre-settlement days, Kentucky was covered by about 3 million acres of native grasslands. Native warm season grasses such as prairie cordgrass, eastern gamagrass, switch grass, big and little bluestem, Indian grass and side-oats grama are bunch grasses, growing

in clumps that provide excellent year round cover for small game and nutritious (6-19% protein) forage for livestock while retaining enough bare ground to allow game bird chicks to move freely in search of food. Farmers and other real estate owners may now contact the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife for details about restoring their acreage. Financial assistance may be available. ("Native Warm Season Grasses," Habitat Improvement Program, Kentucky Depart of Fish an Wildlife)

Outdoorsmen in Kentucky cannot return to land use conditions of the fifties in the Rabbit Hunter's dim past. However, significant strides can be made in reconstructing available habitat, of which plenty remains, by dedicated conservationists. Once again, people in suburban and rural areas may hear the sweet music of the bobwhite quail whistle and see a resurgence in rabbit populations and non-game bird species. With dedicated conservation and restoration efforts, in the words of the math professor in the movie Jurassic Park, "Life will find a way."



What SCIF Education Sables Do For Chapters



By Sherry Maddox, SCI Vice President

Several education programs to include American Wilderness Leadership School (AWLS), Scholarship and Hands on Wildlife Kits are paid for through funds raised by Education Sables. What you may not realize is the significant support Sables provide to SCI Chapters. A portion of funds raised by Sables is returned to the SCI Chapters through:

- Education Matching Grants which support chapter education programs and activities. A chapter may choose to submit more than one grant in a single fiscal year. Kentuckiana Chapter SCI has received several Matching Grants for various education programs to include recent grants for the National Archery in the Schools Programs.

- Chapter Youth Grants provide funds to support chapter activities that engage youth in conservation education, shooting sports, and outdoor recreation. The Kentuckiana Chapter has received a total of \$15,000.00 for our Annual Youth and Apprentice Hunter Program.

- Education Sables provide training for Chapter Education Committee Chairs & Chapter Sables Committee Representatives.

- Hands on Wildlife Kits provide educators with conservation education instructional tools they can use in hands-on instruction. Each year a limited number of kits are gifted to area schools and other appropriate agencies which are often facilitated by the SCI Chapter.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

June 28, 2014

- 3rd Annual Kentuckiana SCI Family Day in the Country Picnic
Location: Sam Monarch Farm in Breckinridge County, KY

August 2 & 3, 2014

- Annual Youth & Apprentice Hunter Education Weekend
Location: Rick Davis Farm near Henryville, IN

February 4, 5, 6, & 7, 2015

- Annual Safari Club International Convention Location: Las Vegas, NV

February 21, 2015

- Annual Kentuckiana SCI Fundraising Banquet Location: Louisville, KY

IN THE PLANNING STAGES

• Kentuckiana SCI Hog & Dog Safari

Let Mike Ohlmann (502 645 4816) know if you are interested in hunting feral hogs and prairie dogs in Oklahoma. Space is limited.

• Kentuckiana SCI Learn to Shoot Day

Members, family, & friends receive expert instruction in skeet, trap and/or sporting clays. If interested, call Bill Hook (812 944 7826).

• Kentuckiana SCI "Top Gun" Event

Chapter Members compete at skeet, trap and/or sporting clays for the honor of being "Top Gun". If interested call Bill Hook (812 944 7826).

• Kentuckiana SCI Rifle Sighting-in Day

Deer season sighting-in day. If interested call Sam Monarch (270 756 5748).

A SPECIAL WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS



The Kentuckiana Chapter of SCI extends a very special "Welcome" to our new Chapter members! Say "Hello" to new members:

Thomas Cogswell
New Albany, IN

Pat Riley
Louisville, KY

Michael Fisher
Manilla, IN

John G Roth MD
Lexington, KY

George McMakin III
Lexington, KY

Jared Whitworth
Hardinsburg, KY

Jay Middendorf DVM
Lexington, KY

Kenneth Whitworth
Hardinsburg, KY

Paul and Pam Noble
Scottsburg, IN



2014 FUNDRAISER RECAP

By Ivan Schell, Fundraiser Chairman

In the planning stages for nearly a year, the Kentuckiana SCI 2014 Fundraiser delivered great food, fantastic hunting opportunities, a previously unmatched variety and selection of auction items, plus the patented camaraderie that Chapter Members and their guests have come to expect and enjoy. Immediately upon entering the event space, members noticed that we had taken over the entire ballroom space and added exhibit tables for multiple outfitters who requested the opportunity to attend and display at the event. This feature added to the general excitement of the evening and provided much better access for members to the donors.

This year also saw two exciting new raffle buckets: one featuring an archery package and the other a bird hunting package with a 12-gauge shotgun. For the ladies, the raffle bucket featured a choice between beautiful Thinsulate gloves with fur trim and a jeweled cell phone purse or a 24k gold plated necklace and earrings crafted in Paris.

Our Special Raffles were some of the best ever featured at a fundraiser and included a Kimber Ultra Crimson Carry II, .45 ACP and a choice of a Ruger 10/22 .22 or a Benelli Nova 12-gauge shotgun that had all of our shooters salivating.

Immediately prior to the opening of the live auction, Sherry Maddox, the evening's Mistress of Ceremonies, and Bill Hook, Chapter President, recognized several Chapter members for outstanding achievements including the awarding of the National Chapter Publications Award. The co-editors of the Newsletter, Sam and Alice Monarch, were also recognized as the outstanding Chapter Members for 2014. In addition to co-editing the newsletters, the Monarchs sponsor a Chapter outing and participate in virtually all Chapter activities.

Sherry Maddox then introduced Army Colonel Mike Abell who in turn introduced this year's theme which was military dress of any period. Mike explained that his active duty table guests would be the honorary judges of this year's competition, and he took an additional moment to recognize Vietnam Veterans. After close review of all uniforms and costumes present, including a genuine Confederate Civil War uniform worn by Slade Stevens, the committee unanimously selected Nancy Hatcher, dressed as a Japanese Geisha Girl, and Larry Richards, in his Vietnam Air Cavalry officer's uniform, as the two winners.

Next came the main event for the evening, the live auction. Heading the live auction were four African Hunts: Madubula Safaris and Marupa Safaris, each in South Africa, and two Namibia Hunts from Afrihunt Safaris and Namibia Safari Corporation. Winners of these hunts could take an expansive variety of plains game, and Madubula Safaris offered upgrades to include elephant, crocodile and hyena for our adventuresome member.

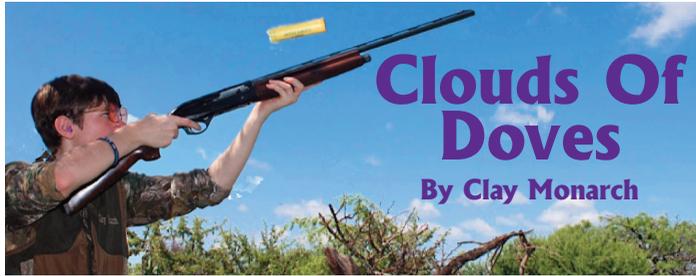
Mike Ohlmann is the lucky member who will be traveling to Scotland to hunt on the Royal grounds of Balmoral Castle for Roe Deer, and Lloyd Jones won the Silvertine Elk Hunt in Saskatchewan Canada. Other lucky bidders will be hunting with Horn & Antler Safaris in New Zealand, Spanish Mountain Hunts near Madrid, Clover Creek Hunting Farms here in Kentucky, Briarwood Sporting Club in neighboring Ohio, and Clayton Ranch in Texas.

Other fabulous items included a handcrafted fixed blade knife by Bill Keeton (designated Black Gold for the 1924 Derby winner), an Excalibur Exocet crossbow, a cabin vacation on Green River Lake and many other items. The pièce de résistance, however, was a custom muzzleloader with many special features built by KNIGHT Rifles, Inc. exclusively for the Kentuckiana Chapter. Not far behind was a number matched M1 Garand Rifle from WW-II in superior condition, donated by Larry Richards.

Spirited bidding was the order of the evening with exhortations by auctioneers Miller Monarch and his son-in-law, Lonnie Gann. Pete Cameron and Alan Kirshenbaum locked up in a long distance battle over a well-bred black lab puppy. Peter held tight and won his next great bird dog. Elizabeth Monarch's "Auction Solutions" has supported our Chapter for years and their talented efforts have directly enhanced Kentuckiana SCI's ability to fund its charitable agenda.

This incredible evening would not have happened without the dedication of the Fundraiser committee through months of meetings, dozens of emails and persistent pursuit of the best available auction items to had. Special thanks to Sam Monarch, live auction hunt sub chair; Lowell Stevens, non-hunt live auction sub chair, Tom Hebert, silent auction chair, Sherry Maddox, multi-tasker-in-chief, and Committee Members Mike Maddox, Mike Ohlmann, Aline Abell, Mike Abell, Randy Phelps, Mary Phelps, Ann Schell, Kathy Ohlmann, Alice Monarch, Larry Richards, Jim Warren, Bob Edwards and Bill Hook. Finally, we thank all of our generous sponsors listed in this issue and on our website www.kentuckianasci.org.





Clouds Of Doves

By Clay Monarch

I had hunted doves in Argentina before and remembered the excitement of meeting new people and integrating into a different culture. The thrill of hunting clouds of doves had been unforgettable! My grandparents, Sam and Alice Monarch (aka Pap and Mamaw), renewed those memories when they surprised my brother, Tom, and me with the news that we were revisiting the Sierra Brava Lodge during our school's winter break!

Upon our arrival at the Sierra Brava Lodge in Cordoba, Argentina, we were greeted warmly with smiling faces and hardy handshakes. The excellent staff seemed eager to start helping us on my second Argentinean dove hunt. The beautiful lodge was a bonus considering what was in store for Tom and me... three days of nonstop dove shooting in one of the most beautiful countries I had ever seen. As Zeke, the lodge manager, welcomed us and showed us to our rooms, we could smell the delicious meal being prepared for us.



Sierra Brava Lodge

We soon made our way to the gunroom where I selected a 20 gauge Benelli, and then followed Zeke to the dining room where savory appetizers awaited us. Soon, Nacho, our chief, appeared with 5 plates of Argentinean beef filet mignons with a fresh mushroom sauce. After dessert was served, our time in the air began to catch up with me, and my eyelids grew heavy as we headed to our rooms. As we settled in for the night after nearly 24 hours of layovers and long flights, I dreamed



In The Gun Room

of clouds of doves flying overhead. Tom and I had set a goal of each taking 1,000 birds a day, but, realistically, I didn't think that would be doable! I had shot 631 birds on the best day of my first trip and I had thought that was pretty wonderful. Now, we were competing for 1,000 birds each per day. Maybe I had talked too much!

The next morning, we took a short drive out to the field where we were to shoot doves. As we drove in, Tom and I watched in amazement as the clouds of doves of which I had dreamed the night before were flying over us. There were even more birds than I remembered. Suddenly, the truck stopped and Zeke hopped out and told Pap and me that this was where we were getting out. Waiting for us was my amigo and previous bird boy, Jose, who greeted me with a hug and a huge smile

As Tom and Mamaw drove to their blind, Pap, Jose and I took a short walk down to my blind where I would shoot palomas (doves). As I walked, I watched my step because of the sharp thorns on the bushes while above me, the sun beamed down. The warmth of the Argentina summer was very welcome and very different from the freezing temperatures we had left in Kentucky.

As soon as we settled down, the doves started coming in

close and they started falling! "Buneo!" a loud cry from Jose assured me that my first bird was down. I tilted my shotgun toward Jose and he quickly pushed in another cartridge. The birds flew constantly from every direction and the shooting was endless. At noon, we took a break and headed back to the lodge for an awesome lunch. I had finished with 343 doves, an excellent morning but not near the half waypoint of my 1,000 bird goal. I remained optimistic, but I knew it would be a tough job to get 657 more birds in the afternoon.

Nacho soon brought out 5 plates of more premium Argentinean beef with sides of fresh green beans and mashed sweet potatoes. Absolutely delicious! After lunch, Tom and I went out to the pool and sat down to enjoy the view for a while before we returned to shooting. Soon the truck drove up and I signaled my grandparents to come along. We all hopped into the truck and went to the next field.

When we arrived, Mamaw and I walked up a rocky path to our shooting blind. It was overlooking a forested area and doves were pouring out of the foliage. As my grandmother set up her cameras, Jose loaded my shotgun. The shooting commenced and the doves started to speed up. Doves were flying everywhere overhead and quick side shots proved to be a challenge but I got the hang of it. Shells started flying and I was determined to get 1,000 birds for the day. Even though my finger was getting numb and my gun was getting hot, Jose's click on the bird counter and reassuring, "Bueno! (good) or Muerto (dead)!" made me want to keep on pushing my limit.

657 more birds, a sore shoulder and a blistered hand later, I reached my goal! I had dreamed of reaching this number but now it was a reality! I radioed my brother and he was very close to reaching the same goal. Once we were all done and back in the truck, we discussed our success. During our "bragging session", Tom and I declared that we would repeat our success the next 2 days. "3,000 birds each! How is that possible?" I questioned myself.

When we got back to the lodge, we ate more premium beef and discussed our plans of 1,000 birds a day. Zeke told Tom and me that not many youths had achieved this lofty goal, but we were determined. After dinner, I took a warm shower, and again had dreams of clouds of doves flying over my head, but those visions were interrupted by booming thunderstorms. Would our plans, and our "boasts" be washed away by rain?

The next morning, we were late getting into the field because it had been storming all night and into the morning. As there was fear of another thunderstorm, Tom and I worried that we would not achieve our goal of 1,000 doves on our second day. Soon, the rain stopped but just long enough for us to get in an hour and a half of shooting. It seemed as though the birds were flying faster and higher because they knew another storm was coming. I had to pick my shots more carefully or my percentages would plummet. The hard part was learning which shots to take but I soon improved on that skill. I was satisfied when I finished the morning with 411 birds. As we rode back to the camp, we could see another storm creeping in on us.

During our break after lunch, we admired the beauty of the passing thunderstorm with heavy rainfall, but as soon as the rain stopped, we headed back to the field and the shooting commenced. The bird movement was almost identical to that morning, constant but challeng-



Clay and Tom With Part Of A Morning Shoot

ing. Taking 589 birds was going to be difficult, but, 4 hours later, I finished with 1010 birds on the ground. I walked over toward Tom to tell him of my victory expecting him to be close to reaching his goal; however, Tom had gun problems and he still had nearly 400 birds to go.



Clay and Birdboy Jose

I had mixed emotions! I felt like he could not reach his goal and I was elated that I was going to beat him for that day, but then, he is my brother and I wanted him to succeed. I handed him my gun and wished him good luck then Pap and I made our way to the truck to wait. About 2 hours later, Tom came bounding down toward us! He had made it...1,000 birds! We headed back to the beautiful lodge, enjoyed another exquisite meal, and went to bed.

Next morning, we woke up to chirping birds and the smell of fresh bacon cooking. What else could I wish for? Maybe another 1000 birds to top off the trip! A thousand birds a third day in a row couldn't be possible, could it? I asked the same question over breakfast, but Zeke assured me that if I shot well, the birds would be there.

As we rode to the field, we learned of the plan to set up camp and eat lunch in the field. I knew from my previous trip that Nacho knew how to prepare a great field lunch. Nacho's cooking is something to remember and I was sure I would not be disappointed.

Our morning of constant overhead shooting proved to be tricky, and I was starting to miss shots! I could tell reaching 1000 birds was going to be a difficult. I started working harder, but I knew my percentage had suffered. I ended the morning with



Lunch In The Field

501 birds with 700 cartridges. At lunch, I learned that Tom also had enjoyed a successful morning, and our joining the 1000 Bird Club for a 3rd day in a row was looking possible.

Lunch was great! After more premium beef and a quick nap in a hammock, I was ready to get back at it. My last blind was in the middle of two hills, and the birds were coming in fast. I was choosing smarter shots and my percentages were picking up! I could hear shots being fired from behind me, and I felt like Tom was doing well. I stayed focused and ignored multiple blisters. When I finally reached 900 birds, with only 100 left to go, I again focused on my percentages. Birds were plentiful as always but the shots were farther than I liked. I had plenty of time left, and focusing on good shots paid off. When I finally reached 1000 birds for the 3rd and final time, I was pleased with my success rate of 77% for the trip! After I unloaded my shotgun for the last time, I threw off my boots and sat down. I was both exhausted and ecstatic!

After dinner, we heard the loud clamor of noisemakers and excited voices welcoming both Tom and me into the 1000 Bird Club (Times 3). We were given medals and hats with "1000 Bird Club" on them and were told that our names would be engraved on plaques and proudly displayed along with other 1000 Bird Club members.



Induction Into The "1000 Bird Club" (Times 3)

The next morning, after I packed my suitcase, Tom and I went to sit outside to enjoy as much of beautiful Argentina as we could before we had to leave. Both Tom and I had reached our lofty goal and we had enjoyed the company of our Argentina friends. After another round of hardy handshakes and warm goodbyes, I reflected that I had bonded with my Argentina friends and that those clouds of doves flying over my head now extend to the ground and Tom, Pap, Mamaw, Jose, Zeke, and Nacho are an integral part of that vision.

Duck Hunting After The "Polar Vortex"

By Mike Maddox



The Duck Hunters

Our local news was filled with events resulting from the "Polar Vortex" and the extreme cold that dropped down from the north on January 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2014. Pipes were frozen, school was cancelled and many businesses were closed with sub-zero temperatures and wind chills in the minus 30 to 50 degree range. Watching these events early in the week, I was not sure our group of duck hunters would be able to keep our Reelfoot hunt destination plans at the end of the week. The weather forecast projected a warm up and I sure hoped it would be accurate. In September, when we made reservations with Jeff Riddle's Guide Service on Reelfoot Lake, we picked three days in January even though we had hunted with Jeff before Christmas the last

four years. When Thursday arrived, the temperatures started climbing into the plus 30 degree range. The trip was on!

Fellow SCI member, Mark Eley, set up the trip again this year and coordinated the lodging and the outfitter. Part of our group met as agreed at the lake on Thursday evening as only six of us would hunt on Friday. The other three were to arrive late on Friday evening to join the hunt. As usual, Jeff called and verified that we were to meet him at 5:30 the next morning at the boat ramp just up the road from a trailer we had rented.

Once the Thursday evening team arrived, we headed to Boyette's Restaurant in Tipton, TN. Boyette's serves food family style and specializes in chicken, chicken livers, catfish, frog legs and quail. Along with the entre', they serve French fries, onion rings, green beans, white beans, and cole slaw. After everyone was stuffed from all the food, we headed back to our trailer which was in front of the boat dock right on the lake.

With the excitement of small boys waking up on Christmas morning, everyone woke up fifteen minutes before the alarm went off. We got ready, loaded up and headed to the ramp in the dark. To add to the atmosphere, the lake was frozen from all the sub-zero temperatures earlier in the week with lanes cut like roads through the ice from boats going to and from the hunting blinds on the lake. Jeff, Malcolm (our other guide), and Grady (their Chocolate Lab) were already at the ramp unloading the airboat

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Duck Hunting After The "Polar Vortex"

and the duck boat that would haul our gear and us to the blind. As we loaded into the duck boat, Jeff said he needed three of us to load into the airboat that he used in icy conditions to break the path to the blind through the ice that had frozen the night before.

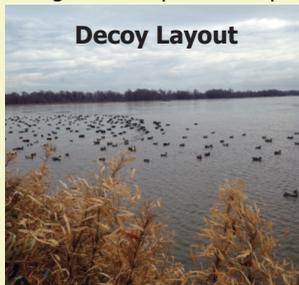
The first morning the lake was a solid sheet of ice about three inches thick. The paths from the day before were frozen with ice chunks sticking out in various directions. When the airboat took off, it was like standing on a tarmac at the airport. We let the airboat get ahead of us as the prop wash was dangerous with small pieces of ice and mist flying everywhere. As we moved along in the dark, the ice was popping and cracking as the duck boat pushed through the broken ice path. After a 30 minute trip, we got to the blind where the water opened up right in front of us.

Jeff had kept a pump running all night to keep a hole open in front of the blind for the ducks to land in. He must have had a thousand decoys set up in front of the blind. As we motored through the path in the decoys, he pulled to the rear of the blind that was covered with bamboo shoots. The boat glided gently under low hanging shoots and disappeared under what was actually the boat port of the blind.

Jeff and Malcolm had battery-operated lights to see by until the generator kicked on and provided 110V lighting for the rest of the day. The blind was about thirty feet long and had about six feet of head clearance inside. With propane heat and a kitchen complete with a stove and refrigerator, it was just like home out in the middle of the lake. With big sheets of black rubber separating the open areas from the shooting platform, this was one of the best commercial blinds from which I have hunted.

As usual, we arrived at the blind about twenty minutes before shooting time so we could pick a shooting spot and get our guns loaded and shells in place as there are typically lots of diving ducks flying at first light which may offer a shot. The blind faced east and sunrise on a clear morning was beautiful; however, it made for some interesting shots as the sun rose in the sky and blinded us when the calls came out to "take them"!

Our first morning was overcast and about 30 degrees with



winds of 5 to 10 mph out of the southwest. The wind was critical as the birds set up to land into the wind. We had Mallards coming in in pairs and small flights all morning. We got a work-out all three days as it was like we all were on a step-master with all the ups and down between flights of birds. Jeff had built a step down from the shooting platform in front of the main floor to the open area that allowed the shooters to step down so we could keep low and not flare the birds as the guide called.

Our first day started instantly with divers coming in and shots ringing out. Birds fell out of the sky and Grady, the Lab, was ordered "back" which order was followed by a splash as he leaped from his camouflaged platform attached to the end of the blind. There were big sheets of ice outside the open hole the guide had created and some of the shot ducks landed on the ice. Grady was the first dog I have ever seen that had the skill to climb up onto the ice from deep water. He had retrieved over 3000 ducks from that blind and was a machine navigating through the decoys and ice.

The rest of our hunting party arrived on schedule and each day started the same all the three days.



It was nonstop shooting with singles, doubles and intermittent flights of Mallards, Canvasbacks, Teal, Red Heads, Shovelers, and Widgeons buzzing the blind! The smaller ducks were a real bonus between the many flights of Mallards, and, oh, yes, we even called in a pair of Canadian Geese and were able to take one of them. The Polar Vortex had pushed so many ducks and geese to the Reelfoot area that hunting was the best I have ever seen in my 40 years of hunting ducks.

During the three days, our group shot one hundred twenty-four ducks and one Canadian goose! We managed to shoot a variety of beautiful ducks and each hunter selected one to have mounted to remember this outstanding hunt. I want to say thank you to Jeff and Malcolm for blowing the duck and goose calls until they turned blue and to Grady for all his retrieves. This outfitter is a pro and delivers 150%.



Sunrise Over Reelfoot

SAVE THE DATE!!

Saturday, June 28, 2014

3rd Annual "Kentuckiana SCI Day in the Country & Picnic"

Sam Monarch Farm, Breckinridge County, Kentucky

Members & their families & friends are invited for a full day of fun!

Rifle Practice (.22 Rifles & Instruction Available for Youth & Beginners)
 Archery (Equipment & Instruction Available) - Fishing - Hiking Trails
 RTV Trails - Yard Games - Picnic

A Fun Day for Everyone Regardless of Age

LET US KNOW YOU ARE COMING!
 Call Sam Monarch 270-756-5748

NOTICE... HOG & DOG SAFARI NOW IN THE PLANNING STAGES



A 3 Day, late April or May hunt in Oklahoma for Feral Hogs and Prairie Dogs is now in the planning stages. There are a limited number of openings, so let Mike know if you are interested. For information and/or reservations, call Mike Ohlmann at 502-645-4816.

Martisan's Homemade Mustard

Submitted by: Martisan Theron
"Jules of the Karoo Safaris"
DeAar, South Africa

¾ cup sugar 1 T corn flour (starch)
¾ cup vinegar 2 eggs
1 T mustard powder

Mix all, beat together and bring to a boil. When cooled, add ½ cup mayonnaise plus ½ cup condensed milk plus 1 t Colman's Country Mustard. Serve with cold meat and gammon (game). Wonderful with sandwiches.



Editor's Note: Please pay special attention to "On the International Scene". In summary, the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty signed by President Obama would circumvent our 2nd Amendment! The UN, not the US, would control our gun rights! 46 Democrat Senators voted to confirm Obama's Arms Trade Treaty...

"LEGAL BRIEFS"

By Ivan Schell, Esquire

The state legislatures of Indiana and Kentucky have been actively spinning their wheels without accomplishing anything. The Indiana Senate produced Bill 404 intended to authorize high fence hunting for deer in Indiana, contradicting an IDNR ruling against such activities. The vote, along party lines [Democrats opposing], fell two votes short, 25-23, of passing. This means that the high fence battle will continue in the Indiana courts. I reported last quarter that the Attorney General of Indiana has decided to appeal the Harrison County Court's decision allowing high fence operations. You may recall that the case brought by Rodney Bruce owner of White Bluff Preserve near Corydon was in conflict with a similar case which found in favor of IDNR in Owen County, Indiana. I called the office of Greg Zoeller, Indiana Attorney General, and as of yet they have not assigned an attorney to appeal the case. But now that the Senate bill has collapsed, Zoeller's office will no doubt get his appeals machine moving again.

In Kentucky, PETA supporters have earned the enmity of Kentucky dog breeders by introducing Bill 409. This legislation would make it a Class D felony to keep dogs in a kennel unless the kennel provides continuous access to "adequate exercising areas" and would allow the dogs to be seized if law officers determined that they had "probable cause" without any charges being filed. Fortunately, the Kentucky legislature is too bound up in its budget fights to allow this bill to have a chance of seeing the light of day.

Elsewhere. In the D.C. Circuit, SCI is fighting the "3 antelope battle" with anti-hunters who would rather see these species (scimitar horned oryx, dama gazelle and addax) go extinct rather than to employ a rational system of sustainable hunting. This suit will likely be moot due to 2014 Omnibus Bill passed in January, which authorized antelope hunting.

SCI is preparing to file suit in California to oppose a new California law which prohibits the importation of legally taken mountain lion trophies from other states. California apparently thinks it has the same powers against other states that the U.S. exercises against other countries. This should be really interesting. Stay tuned.

The prohibition to Sunday hunting in Virginia will be a thing of the past as soon as the governor signs a bill passed by both houses of the state legislature.

On the International Scene, John Kerry's effort to get the US to ratify the United Nations Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) died when the Senate signed the Omnibus Appropriations Bill in January. The ATT is touted by liberals as being no threat to the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution because the preamble provides in part, "Reaffirm(s) the sovereign right of any State to regulate and control conventional arms exclusively within its territory pursuant to its own legal or constitutional system."

The text of Article 5 of the ATT, however, ignores this grand language and requires that, "Each State Party shall establish and maintain a national control system, including a national control list," which list must be provided to the UN and other member parties under Articles 5, 6, 12 and 13. (All without regard to the limitations of a State's laws like the 2nd Amendment.)

Back in October 2013, a bipartisan group of 50 Senators wrote a letter to Obama denouncing the Treaty. It should be noted, however, that if a few of the Senators who actually voted against the ATT (53 currently sitting Senators) cease to oppose the ATT, the result could be reversed. Check out the list of Senators who support the Treaty at www.beforeitsnews.com/alternative/2014/horray.



My "Blue" Birthday Party

By: Sam Monarch

Alice and I recently returned from a wonderful hunting trip with Jules of the Karoo Safaris in the Karoo Region of South Africa some 300 miles west of Bloemfontein. The accommodations were beautiful, the food was varied and delicious, the companionship was superb and the hunting was world class, but the highlight of the trip was my "Blue" birthday party! You might ask how can a senior citizen possibly enjoy another birthday except to say that he had survived another year.

Before I share the story of my "Blue" birthday party with you, there is something else you should know... I am weary of hearing about poverty in the United States. Poverty depicted at its worst in the US often reflects wealth in other countries. How many families do you know whose water supply is a creek behind their dwelling, or whose cooking stove is two large rocks with a grate over an open fire and who are grateful for any meat given to them by a local farmer or a hunter? How many families do you know who live in a small hut with no doors and dirt floors or families whose bathroom is a hole dug in the ground? Orphaned children, and there are so many, are taken in by family members or friends who may have no food to feed them. In many cases, there are no jobs and no money. This is poverty.

How many children do you know who leave their families on Sunday night and ride for miles in the back of a truck to get to a "boarding" school where they live in a crowded, small shanty with strangers till Friday evening? How many schools do you know that feed the children on 19 cents per child a day? Some of the schools we have visited have no desks, few chairs, and the few books they have are old paperbacks and teachers teach from a chalkboard because they have no paper or pencils. The children have very few clothes and socks are a luxury. At the last school we visited, many children had no socks and some had no shoes. This is poverty.

The native children who live on the Theron property are very lucky by comparison to most native children we have seen but, still, they have so very little. The Theron's provide each family with a small brick home that has an indoor, coal burning, cook stove that also heats the house during the winter and they have running water. If medical treatment is needed, the Theron's take care of them. In most cases there is both a man and a woman in the house and work, and thus pay, is available to them. These children must also travel several miles to a boarding school and must pay for a place to live during the week in order to go to school.

...And this brings me back to my "Blue" birthday party. In 2009, Alice and I first became aware of the SCI Blue Bag Program where SCI provides a hunter with a "Blue" Humanitarian Services duffle bag and the hunter (our Kentuckiana Chapter of SCI and Alice and I split the cost) fills it with new clothing and school supplies for the native children. Delivering our first Blue Bag was one of the most emotionally rewarding and heart warming experiences of our lives. These presents provide much needed help for the children while improving the public perception of hunters and hunting worldwide. A Blue Bag is now part of our every African trip.

Being south of the equator, the seasons in South Africa are reversed from ours so Alice and I hit the winter clearance sale at Walmart and purchased about 140 name brand sweatshirts, turtlenecks, and tee shirts at half price making our dollar go a lot further. In addition we bought enough stuffed animals, beanies, bandanas, socks, flip flops, etc. for each child to get an extra gift. This year SCIF filled a second Blue Bag with 2 soccer balls, ball pumps, jump ropes, reading glasses, socks, toys,



Merriman School

pencils, paper, chalk, crayons, rulers, and other school and medical supplies. Together, we had enough gifts for the 23 children on the Theron Farm and the 70 children at Merriman School.

Alice and I had previously hunted with the Theron Family and had a pretty good idea as to the children's sizes and Martisan Theron updated our information. Martisan and Alice decided to surprise me with a birthday party for both the farm children and me. Our daily routine was to hunt until lunchtime, eat lunch, then take a nap, and go back out and hunt till dark. On Sunday, March 9th, my birthday, the farm children interrupted my nap by singing "Happy Birthday" to me. It was a wonderful surprise! The children then escorted me to the lodge where a long table boasted balloons and cupcakes, soft drinks and candy!



Farm Children Singing "Happy Birthday" To Sam

On display for the children were all of the new clothes, stuffed animals, socks, beanies, and other things we had brought. Martisan took

the children one at a time over to the presents where the children got to pick out their own presents from the Blue Bag gifts! Each child picked several new presents then joined me for cup cakes and soft drinks. The gift giving concluded with hands full of suckers and peppermint candy compliments of the First State Bank, Irvington, Kentucky.



My "Blue" Birthday Party

The next day, we visited Merriman School to deliver more Blue Bag presents. We had taken 2 Blue Bags to them during our visit to the Karoo last year and when we arrived several of the children saw our safari truck pull into the schoolyard and recognized us. Some of the children came running toward us while others ran to tell the headmistress, Mrs. Suzanne Theron, that we were there.

We visited with the children as they brought their plates of putu (similar to our grits) flavored with springbok gravy out to eat on the porch. All eyes stayed on the Blue Bags until lunch was finished, then it was time to open the bags to see what was inside! The first thing out of the bag was a new soccer ball and the excitement on their faces was priceless! One of the children ran to get the ball we had brought to them last year. The outside covering was literally worn off and it had a hole in it but they were still playing with it! The children oohed and awed as the new bright colored tee shirts, stylish turtlenecks, wool beanies, glittering sweatshirts, warm socks, much appreciated school supplies, etc. were taken from the Blue Bags, and their eyes danced when the suckers and peppermint candy came out! Many of the children had not had a piece of candy since our visit last year.

It is impossible to fully describe the smiles on the children's faces or the sparkle in their eyes at the lodge birthday party or at the school party. It is rare for an old hunter to enjoy yet another birthday but being the gift giver can make the difference! On your next safari, take a Blue Bag to the children in the area where you hunt.

For information on how to take a Blue Bag, call SCI Humanitarian Services (520 620 1220) or call me (270 756 5748).



Merriman School - Helping Alice Open The "Blue" Bag