

# KENTUCKIANA

# HUNTER



KENTUCKIANA CHAPTER - SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

FIRST QUARTER 2020



Photo by Ivy Stevens

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# President's Message

By Larry Richards, Chapter President

Phone: (502) 727-7700



Larry, Mallory & Her Mountain Lion

Wow, Folks, it's deep in the heart of duck season and I've had a bit of a break from work and have tried to make the most of every day! Mallory and I did our usual cow elk hunt in Colorado and stayed to do a Mountain Lion Hunt for her. I bought the hunt at last year's fundraiser and we have been really trying to learn as much about Mountain Lions hunting

as possible. First, we had to take the mandatory Colorado Mountain Lion course that each license holder must take and pass. Once this was complete, we talked to as many folks who know about Mountain Lions as possible to get the inside skinny. This is one of the most exciting North American hunts on which I have ever been! I can't wait to go back to Colorado next winter and get mine! I've got some great video to share if anyone would like to see it. This was the first time we have had a Mountain Lion hunt on our fundraiser auction and I'm glad to relate that just today, I got another one donated by our longtime benefactor **West Star Aviation!!** Hold onto your hat at the auction there is going to be serious bidding on this one! You can see their website at [www.catrackoutfitters.com](http://www.catrackoutfitters.com).

I hope the hunting season has been as good to you as it has been to me. As we approach our annual fundraising event, please take a moment and reflect on all the myriad good works we have accomplished with the funds we've raised in this once a year effort. Our membership steps up and gives us the ability to reach out to lots of places and make ourselves felt. I want to thank each

and every one of our members in advance for all the good things we have gotten to do this year. From **4-H** sponsorships to getting fledgling **NASP** programs off the ground to our **Military Pheasant Hunt Outreach** program to the **Sam Monarch Memorial Scholarship**, and the many other events too numerous to list, our outreach is helping a young generation get their feet wet in conservation, shooting, hunting, community service and the host of other things that it takes to make a good young man or lady stand out. We are understandably very proud of our young men and women that we are watching grow into the leaders our efforts will require going forward to keep our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment, hunting heritage and sport alive, vibrant and flourishing.

This is going to be our **25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fundraising** event and I'd like everyone to think about that a bit. We started from literally 15 people in a hotel room meeting and now we are over 100! We have prospered where others have failed through the hard work of dedicated individuals with the "First for Hunters" mission in the foundation of all we have done and will do.

The next decade will bring its challenges and its trials but I have no doubt we will continue to grow and excel in all we do! We need some new and invigorated talent on our Board of Directors to pick up the baton and move us into the next decade smartly and with purpose. Please give some consideration to what you can do to help us keep this train moving.

We have created a Legislative Committee, chaired and led by Colonel Mike Abell, to keep every sportsman and woman in the Commonwealth apprised of the pending changes coming out of Frankfort that affect us all. It is a huge task but if we are truly to be "First for Hunters" then it is a necessary step in our evolution.

Mike and I have attended every Committee and Commission meeting this year. We have had success in letting those folks know who we are, why we are doing what we are doing, and letting them know we are involved and taking sportsmen's issues to them. Along with the KYSCI-LAC website [www.kysci-lac.com](http://www.kysci-lac.com) a complete remake of the Chapter website [www.kentuckianasci.com](http://www.kentuckianasci.com) has been accomplished and it is a huge improvement. Please go to these sites and see what you are accomplishing! I've been a bit long winded this issue, but we have been hard at task this year and I'd like each member to feel a part of what's been done. You've earned it! I hope to see each of you on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and ask you to help me raise a toast to ourselves! We have certainly earned it!



Larry presents Ruan Van Greuning of Hartzview Safaris with a Knife for his outstanding support!



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## About The Cover

The cover photo was taken by Ivy Stevens while on a Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep hunt with his father, Lowell Stevens, in September 2019.

The picture is of Ivy's father and their guide, Paul Pierunek (in front). They are at an elevation of around 8,000 feet high above Timber Creek in the Clearwater River drainage of Alberta, Canada close to Banff National Park. This is day six of a 14-Day Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep hunt. In the distance between Lowell and his guide is a pointed mountain peak, which the party will actually reach in two days' time.

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Deep in high elevation forests of central Mexico, millions of monarch butterflies spend the winter clustered tightly together, their wings creating a scene reminiscent of fall leaves rustling in the breeze. It is within these trees, known as oyamel firs or “sacred firs,” that the entire eastern North American migratory population overwinters. Throughout the late summer and into fall, it is not uncommon to cross paths with this striking orange butterfly here in Kentucky. From late August through October, you’ll notice them on the move, stopping only to rest and to replenish energy along their journey south. Monarchs feed on nectar from flowers, which can be scarce along their migration route. This is just one of many challenges faced, as they must also avoid collisions, predation, inclement weather and disease as they travel from as far north as Canada south to Mexico. But perhaps most extraordinarily, not one of the millions of these migrating butterflies has previously made the journey to the overwintering grounds.

Monarch butterflies in North America can be divided into either the western or eastern population. These populations are separated by the Rocky Mountains, with little to no overlap between the two. Both populations contain the same subspecies of monarch, *Danaus plexippus plexippus*, but are differentiated by their geographical split. In Kentucky, we only see members of the eastern population, of which the migrating generation will be headed to Mexico. This is generally the fourth generation of monarchs each year. Monarchs in the west will also migrate, but make a shorter trip to overwinter on the coast of California.

Over the past 20 years, the monarch population has been in decline, with estimates of up to 90 percent loss from a population high just over two decades ago. Habitat loss and fragmentation, widespread use of pesticides and climate change have all been identified as factors contributing to this decline. This has led to much concern from conservation groups about the uncertain future of the species. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service has been petitioned to list the monarch as a Federally Threatened Species in accordance with the Endangered Species Act. Although this decision will not be made until December of 2020, stakeholder groups have already sprung into action across the monarch’s range to initiate conservation efforts for the species.

Many states have responded by creating conservation plans. In Kentucky, the Monarch Conservation Plan was developed in collaboration with other state and federal agencies, non-government organizations and private stakeholders. The plan aims to increase the quantity and quality of monarch habitat statewide, improve public awareness of the plight of the monarch, and inform individuals on what they can do to help. You can view the full monarch conservation plan here: [fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Documents/ky\\_monarch\\_plan.pdf](http://fw.ky.gov/Wildlife/Documents/ky_monarch_plan.pdf). Kentucky is also a part of the Mid-America Monarch Conservation Strategy, which brings together 16 states in the monarch’s critical breeding and migration range to promote habitat creation. While the monarch is the focal species of many of these plans, they encompass overall pollinator

## Digging In To Save The Monarch Butterfly

By Michaela Rogers

Environmental Scientist

Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources

conservation through the diversification and supplementation of nectar resources.

Alongside a supply of nectar resources, milkweed is crucial for monarch conservation. Known for its milky latex sap, the plant is the sole food source of monarch caterpillars. Female monarchs will search for milkweed plants on the landscape and lay their eggs onto the plant. Caterpillars will hatch out directly onto the food source that they will consume until pupation.

One of the most important actions individuals can take to help the monarch is planting milkweed. The most readily available species are common milkweed (*Asclepias syriaca*) butterfly milkweed (*Asclepias tuberosa*), and swamp milkweed (*Asclepias incarnata*), though others like whorled milkweed (*Asclepias verticillata*) and green milkweed (*As-*



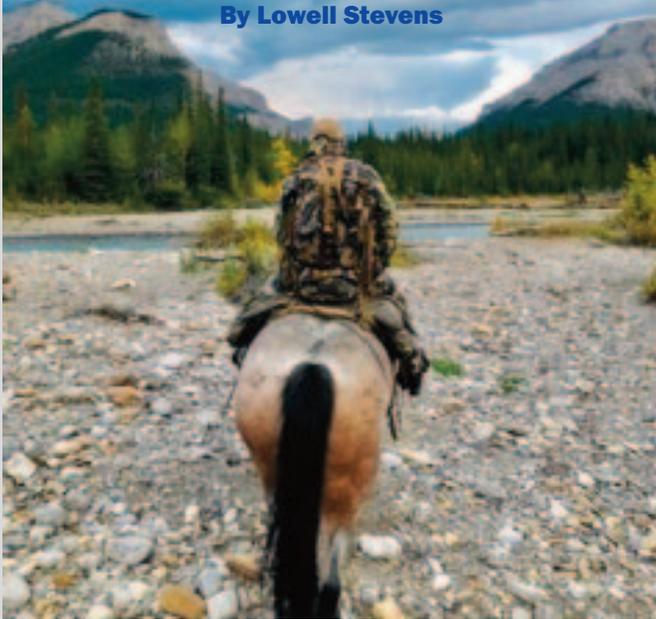
*clepias viridis*) are also accessible. Check with a nursery that stocks native plants or with local garden organizations to determine where milkweed plants may be found. Milkweed can be grown from seed, but note that the species in our area require a cold-stratification period in which a cold winter period must naturally or artificially occur before germination.

It is important to consider the blooming period of plants when gardening to support monarchs. Promoting flowers that bloom during spring and fall migration, as well as in the summer breeding season will ensure visiting monarchs (and other pollinators) will have a source of food. If you are able to plant milkweed species alongside native nectar resources for the monarch butterfly, you will have created a Monarch Waystation. Monarch Waystations are patches of habitat (ranging from small gardens to large fields) that contain all of the resources necessary for the monarch’s life cycle. Monarch Watch, a national monarch organization, manages a registration program for these Waystations at [monarchwatch.org](http://monarchwatch.org). This helps to keep track of where monarch habitat is being planted both in the state and nation-wide.

If you’re looking for other ways to help monarchs and other native Kentucky species, consider becoming a member of Kentucky Wild ([fw.ky.gov/kywild](http://fw.ky.gov/kywild)). This program provides direct funding to projects which enhance wildlife diversity, like the monarch conservation initiative. While monarchs will remain in Mexico through the winter months, it’s never too early to think about what you might like to put out come spring planting season. We hope you’ll consider the monarch butterfly in any of your future planting projects and help to support the species by creating a more monarch-friendly landscape.

# Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Hunt, Alberta, Canada Journal Entries August & September 2019

By Lowell Stevens



**8/30/2019**

I just texted my guide, Paul, and all is good with my flights and everything is on time so far. It's an easy trip from Louisville through Minneapolis and on to Calgary. What's different about this hunt is that my 25-year-old son, Ivy, is with me and it sure is great to have him along. We're spending a few hours between flights in the Delta Sky Club lounge catching up and winding down. This is going to be a wonderful trip; I can't wait to spend this time and share the experience with Ivy deep in the heart of the Canadian Rockies on the border of Banff National Park. He loves to backpack and hike and it would be hard to find a more beautiful place to enjoy. While we were up here skiing over New Year's in 2016, I remember wondering what it would be like to hunt sheep in this vast, steep and rocky terrain. Well, I'm about to find out!

**9/10/2019**

It's been almost two weeks since I wrote last. Going into this hunt, I had to keep telling myself that on this one, the chances of me coming home empty handed were higher than on any other. On this one, I would be rolling the dice. However, there were certain things I could control, first being me. I spent eight months physically preparing myself and for six days a week, I worked out harder than I have ever worked out in my life. I bought the best equipment and carefully planned every single ounce I would be taking with me. I studied Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep, taking notes from eight books authored by the best hunters in the world, and I was taking my son, Ivy. Not only did I want to give him the opportunity to experience what he loves – mountains, hiking and camping - I wanted him with me to keep my mind in the game, to keep me sharp and focused. He challenges me and I love that! Ivy has grown into an incredible young man. In addition to Ivy, as always God was with me, and this time I knew I had two guardian angels along that watched every step I took.

I could also control who I chose as my outfitter and guide. I wasn't referred to Paul and Susan of *Timberline Guiding*, *Cabela's* didn't set this up for me as usual, nor did I know anyone who had hunted with them before. I met them at the *Sheep Show* in January of 2018. I had talked with all the Alberta outfitters at the show and Paul and Susan simply rose to the top. I had a feeling of trust with them that actually ended with a feeling of being a part of their family when Ivy and I left them.

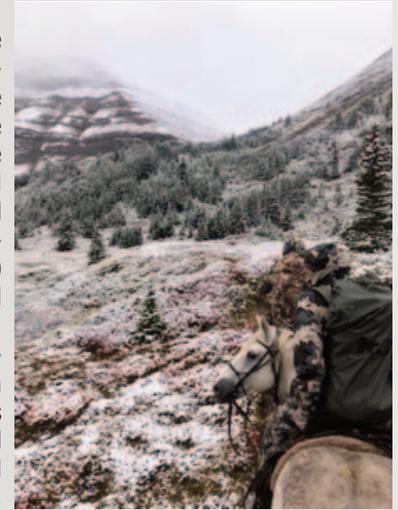
So, I controlled everything I could and left the rest to luck knowing that I would just have to simply deal with whatever the outcome may be. If I were unsuccessful, I thought, "Well, I've got 16 bonus points in Montana and maybe I'll get drawn to hunt Bighorn there some year in the future," or perhaps Paul would let me come back in October to continue the hunt during his last scheduled outing.

Well, none of the above was needed as I have experienced some times in my life when dreams really do come true. It had happened in the past when I met Nancy and it happened when Ivy and Slade were born! And it happened this time in GMU 420 right beside Banff National Park in Alberta!

I have dreamed of taking the Grand Slam of North American Sheep since I was 15 years old. This required successfully hunting the Dall Sheep of Northern Alaska, the Stone Sheep of British Columbia, the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep of Canada and Western US, and finally, the Desert Sheep of Southwest US and Mexico. I've read several books on the subject of the Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep about hunters taking pack trains through golden Aspen forests to base camps then hiking, spike camping and hunting on foot to high mountain passes shrouded in fog and snow seeing the majestic Bighorn lazily feeding on green grasses peeking through the light snow cover of early autumn totally unaware of the skillful hunter's presence.

That exact scenario happened to us except for the fact of the fickle mountain breeze that touched the back of Paul's neck as he peered over the pass where 25 rams were feeding. Up to that point, we had hunted for ten straight days never seeing a single legal ram. We had found plenty of ewes, lambs and younger males, but nothing we could stalk. We backpacked and rode horses; it was wonderful but extremely tough. We ascended and descended the mountains every day, sometimes twice gaining and losing anywhere between 2K and 3K feet. Many times, we went virtually straight up for hours.

The preparation I had done never allowed for a single sore muscle. We dried our clothes at the end of every day not from rain but from sweat. However, even with over 80 miles logged in my new boots, I was unaware they didn't fit properly until my heels





screamed in sharp pain on the steepest inclines. There were no blisters so I simply bore it with Advil and pushed on. Ivy never complained once and nearly always had a smile on his face. Paul was the hardest working guide I have ever had; he was relentless. We were having a ball, but we were seeing no legal rams. When Paul told us he had never taken a ram before the seventh day, I felt much better. There was a reason these hunts were 14 days long.

So, on that tenth day as Paul peered over the pass,

Ivy and I knew he was onto something. When he scanned with his binoculars, he always came back to the same spot! Ivy and I were 20 yards behind him because in this situation, one face is always better than three peeking over a rise. However, as I mentioned, nothing hides you from a wind on your back. When Paul felt it, he frantically began motioning for us to come and bring the gun!

I scrambled through the low bushes and snow as fast as I could on my knees ripping off my right-hand glove along the way! When I reached Paul and peered over, I couldn't believe what I was seeing – a single huge ram in a group of seven scrambling up the mountain about 350 yards away! I opened my bipod legs, settled the gun on a large rock in front of me and set the crosshairs on his shoulder. I noticed a few other rams in the group of seven but knew this was the one. Paul said, "Look at the group of 18 to the left. There's a pig in there too!"



I simply said, "NO, I'm taking this one," and didn't even bother to look. The ram was quartering away from me walking briskly putting distance between us with each step.

Paul called out, "380 yards!" I put the crosshairs at the top of his back in the middle of his body and as soon as he paused - I squeezed the trigger.

I knew I hit him; he turned and started coming back toward us with the rest of the group that was running. He was walking slowly and as soon as he stopped again, I hit him dead in the center of the shoulder and he started to go down. Paul began slapping me on the back!

I could still see the ram was moving a bit and told Paul I was going to hit him again and Paul said, "Okay." I just had too much into this hunt to roll the dice any more than I needed to and, again, this was something I could control. And just like that it was over! Not having



seen a single legal ram in ten of the most physical consecutive days of my life - in a matter of seconds - it was all over. The dream that began 40 years earlier, now had a light at the end of the tunnel; I had taken Ram #3!

I turned over on my back in the snow, took a deep breath and raised my arms pointing my fingers skyward to God, "Thank you!!"

The next three hours while we took pictures, deboned the ram and loaded him in our packs were surreal. We wore our heavy packs on the horses during the ride off the mountain down the valley. About halfway back to camp in the hour and a half long ride, I noticed a mountain on the left with a large peak in the middle and a smaller sub-peak on the left of it and an even smaller sub-peak on the right. For some strange reason that mountain was smiling at me. I then realized it was God in the middle, Sam to his left and Robert to his right, my two guardian angels. Ivy was in front of me and Paul with the ram horns sticking out of his pack was in front of him. I had never felt more loved, protected and honored in my life. I thank Ivy, Paul and his wife Susan, Nancy, God, Sam and Robert and especially my incredible sheep for allowing another dream in my lifetime to come true.

**9/12/2019**

This is the most relaxed morning I've had in years!



## 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

# The Biggest Deer I Ever Saw

By Mike Maddox



**Introduction:** The behind the scene story about this article is a story in itself! During our 2019 KYSCI Fundraiser, Alexandria Bryant Popham, an enthusiastic Breckinridge County 4-H leader and KYSCI fan, and Shannon and Jamie Morton, also dedicated KYSCI and 4-H supporters, teamed up to purchase the "Ultimate Youth Hunting Package" that Chapter Board Member Ivan Schell donated which included a deer hunt donated by the Sam Monarch Family on their farm in Breckinridge County. This highly sought-after youth whitetail deer hunt was to take place during early youth season in October. These staunch 4-H/KYSCI supporters then donated the youth hunt they purchased as a door prize to promote the Breckinridge County 4-H Shooting Sports Team! Madden Fulkerson, a very active 4-H student and the 10-year-old son of Annie and Jessie Fulkerson, was the lucky winner of that hunt! Madden practiced hard and was more than ready when Youth Deer Season opened. Madden would like to say a very special thank you to all the above 4-H/KYSCI supporters and to his special volunteer guide, Mike Maddox!

When asked to guide a young man to hunt his first deer, I wasn't sure I could remember all the things I had learned over my 50 years of deer hunting as I had stopped hunting deer about eight years earlier when hot coffee and cold mornings kept me in overdrive. I figured all the details would come back to me; so, I readily said yes and started calculating how we would approach the hunt.

A few weeks before season, property owner Alice Monarch and I started watching the cameras placed by piles of corn in various fields to see where the deer were the most active. It didn't take long to figure out which field had the most deer and the most activity in late afternoon, so the plan was to have Madden and his parents meet us at the farm by the front barn on opening day around 3:00 PM. Everyone arrived early and I got to meet Madden for the first time. His mom, dad, little brother, Shannon and Jamie brought Madden and all were hopeful and extremely excited in anticipation of Madden's first deer.

As I was talking to his dad about the rifle Madden would be using, he told me that Madden had been practicing with a .243 caliber bolt action rifle with a scope set up for his size, which was just perfect. After a rifle safety review, we gathered our gear and loaded into the side by side Kubota in which Alice would drive us to the blind. It was now close to 3:30 and we had another ten-minute ride to the blind.

We had chosen a single person elevated blind with a built-on ladder at the top center of a huge field which the Monarch's call *Tom's Stand*. The blind is named for Tom Monarch, Alice's older grandson who took his first deer out of this stand, and he has predominately used this stand to hunt out of on the farm.

We had to change the small stand around inside as it is small for two people to hunt out of easily. We moved two small shooting stools in the blind and when we loaded all our gear, with Madden and me in it, it was TIGHT! Madden would have three shooting directions from this blind: one straight ahead dividing the field in half and both ends left and right.

Only a small area directly behind the blind was not shootable.

After spending the first half hour practicing shooting positions from all three directions, Madden and I settled in for the hunt. Keep in mind Madden had to do pirouettes on a small rotating stool to shoot each end of the field without making any noise while, at the same time, I shifted enough to give him room. It was like turning sardines over in the can without disturbing the oil!

We finally settled in and within ten minutes, deer started appearing in the field. Madden's young eyes picked up the movement at the end of the field with two small bucks sparing. What a great way to get the adrenalin flowing! Soon, we had deer at the other end of the field. It wasn't long until we were surrounded by deer! We had to keep our heads down and look thru the cracks in the blind. If we got busted all the deer would spook!

One small spike buck knew something was wrong and he circled the blind for fifteen minutes

looking at the three raised shutter openings on the blind. I kept whispering to Madden, "Don't move." All this time as the suspicious spike buck kept circling, a flock of turkeys were feeding on the pile of corn which was directly below the blind. What an exciting racket it was listening to turkeys pick and scratch and eat the corn!

Deer were now in every direction. Madden watched amazedly as two does raised up on their hind feet and rushed at one another. Soon, several deer moved to the corn pile and we could actually hear the corn grinding in their teeth. I had never known what it felt like to be pinned down when I was in the Service, but I soon realized what it meant when more than eighty eyes were affixed on the openings in the elevated blind! If we moved, it would be game over. All we could do was to stay under cover.

While all this was happening, I was trying to canvas the field with my binoculars through the cracks. When I caught a glimpse of a huge deer at the opposite end of the field, I knew we were not set up in his direction. This massive deer was feeding at the time but when he raised his head, his rack looked like a tree top! It had to be six inches outside each ear and looked two feet tall. Unfortunately, he was one hundred and sixty-three yards away from us which was too far for a shot at a first-time deer with a .243. I handed the glasses to Madden and he watched the deer for a few minutes. The deer was very content feeding with about eight does surrounding him at the far end of the field. I figured if he would graze to within about one hundred yards, Madden might have a shot.

We decided to reposition ourselves 180 degrees in the blind just in case the big buck moved closer where we could get a good shot. That operation took a few minutes as deer were directly below us and the young spike was still circling curiously. Madden moved in slow motion just like we had practiced. I cautiously moved the sand bag from the right to left window ledge and Madden moved in his slow-motion pirouette without making a sound, again just like we had practiced. It seemed like it took us forever to get moved, but he did it perfectly. So, as we waited, we both stared at the huge buck feeding serenely at the other end of the field.

I'm not sure how long we focused on the feeding monster, but I kept telling Madden to check behind him which was the side we originally started watching. While practicing when we first climbed into the stand, the sun cast some shadows on the field that I used with my range finder to give Madden some perspective for how long of a shot I would let him take. I felt somewhere around seventy to eighty yards was about the distance we should stay within on his first ever attempt at a deer.



Madden & Guide Mike Maddox

After turning his head a few times and checking the opposite end of the field, he whispered with a full adrenalin rush and excitedly said, "That is the biggest deer I ever saw!" I looked thru the cracks and, sure enough, a really nice buck was standing in the shadow we had used to check the range within which we could shoot. I asked if that was the deer he wanted and he enthusiastically whispered, "Yes, I want him!"

Now, we had the deer Madden wanted standing broad side at seventy yards and we were turned 180 degrees the other way! I said okay and commenced to move the sand bag from the left window ledge to the right and did that successfully. Now, Madden had to carefully turn and get the rifle which all this time had been standing in the corner by my side. Taking great care, Madden finally got repositioned with one knee on the stool so he could change the elevation with the rifle like we had practiced. During all this time, the deer Madden wanted never moved.

I slowly handed Madden the rifle and he positioned it on the sand bag very slowly. The deer still never moved. I told him to take the safety off, get on the deer and squeeze the trigger just like he practiced with his dad. **Bam!** The deer went down in place to his front knees. All this time I watched Madden's deer through the cracks in the blind. I told him to reload another shell as we didn't want to have to track a wounded deer with it getting dark soon. He placed the second shot within two inches of the first shot on the right front shoulder and the deer lunged about four feet and was down. Two perfect shots!

Madden was as cool as he could be! As planned, we watched the deer for a few minutes and were fairly sure he was dead, but I cautioned him to never assume that as animals can surprise you. We unloaded the rifle and I open the door to the blind and worked my way down the ladder. Madden handed me the empty rifle and he came down. I told him to reload the rifle and make sure the safety was on and we would walk straight to the deer with him in position to shoot the deer again if his deer even flinched. When we got to the deer, Madden nudged the deer with the barrel and there was with no movement. Madden had a super nice eight-point buck! We unloaded the rifle and phoned Alice and the others who were waiting at the barn that we had a deer. They had heard the shot's echo and didn't take long to get there!

The ironic thing was the biggest deer Madden ever saw was the huge monster that stayed out of range at the far end of the opposite field, but when the really nice eight pointer was standing broadside at seventy yards, he truly was the biggest deer he had ever seen! Madden was thrilled and I was proud! I love hunting with young people!



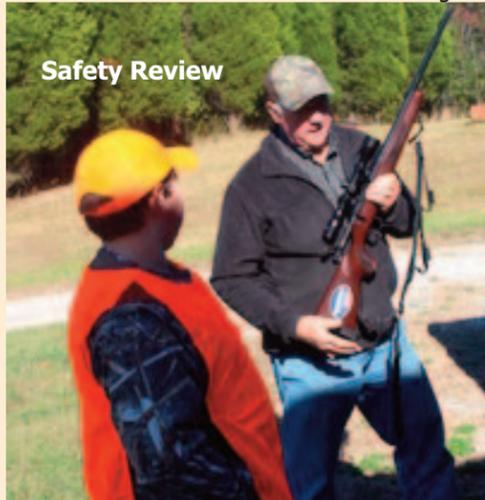
Madden Helping Set Up



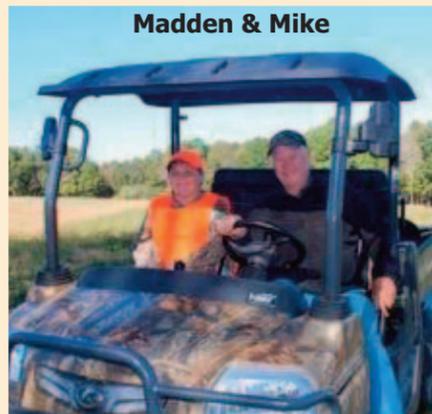
Madden & Mike



The Hunt Team



Safety Review



Madden & Mike



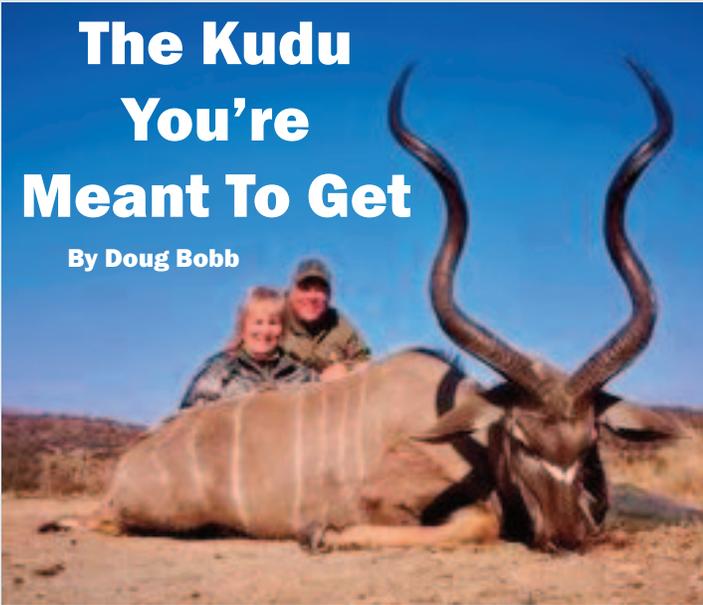
Happy Dad, Brother & Mom



Madden With Shannon & Jamie Morton

# The Kudu You're Meant To Get

By Doug Bobb



nesburg, we were met by Armand Theron, one of Graham's PH's, and one of South African/American actress Charlize Theron's less famous and less good-looking cousins. We soon loaded up the Land Cruiser and headed east. For the first couple of days, we were to be hunting at a private lodge about four hours east of Johannesburg. The lodge was beautiful, featuring large rooms with fireplaces as well as outstanding food and wonderful service!

We started hunting early the next morning looking for bushbuck. As we were hunting along a thick creek bank, Armand spotted a nice impala ram. Cherie and I hung back while



Colin went forward with Armand, along with Steven and Kaunda, our trackers. In the distance, we could see Colin getting set up for a shot with his rifle resting on a rock. I was thankful he had a solid rest for his first shot. It took a bit for Colin to get ready, but he made a perfect shot! The old ram was down! Smiles and handshakes went all around along with a hug from his mom. Colin had made a great stalk and shot on his first animal ever!

Cherie hunted springbok that afternoon and shortly learned hunting was not as easy as Colin had made it appear. She made several stalks on a very good old springbok ram, but he had played that game before, staying just out of range and moving away whenever they made an approach. Colin had a second successful stalk on a nice blue wildebeest that afternoon, but nothing for Cherie.

Cherie and Colin slept late the next morning to fight jetlag as the crew and I headed out to hunt for a bushbuck for me. After walking a creek bed and seeing females and a young male bushbuck, we happened to spot a good springbok in a place perfect for stalking. Kaunda took the truck to the lodge to pick up Cherie. She arrived in time to put a great stalk on the springbok. One shot and the ram was down and the celebrating began! On our last evening at this camp, I was able to get a nice bushpig. So far, so good!

The next morning, we were on our way to Graham's exclusive hunting rights concession, the famed movie setting of Songimvelo Nature Reserve. This is a large national game reserve encompassing over 100,000 acres. Elephants, buffalo and white rhinos make their home there as well as many species of plains game. Colin and Cherie both took zebras and blesboks. Now, it was time to get serious about Cherie's kudu.

Kudu! The Gray Ghost of Africa! American hunters seem to have an almost mystical relationship with these awesome antelope. Kudu are probably the most sought-after animal on a southern Africa plains game safari. They are majestic with their handsome stripes, white chevrons and tall, corkscrew horns. I was fortunate to take a great kudu bull on my first African safari several years ago. As my wife, Cherie, and younger son, Colin, were preparing for their first safari, kudu was the only animal Cherie knew for sure she wanted to hunt.

We had purchased *Graham Sales Safari's* African plains game safari at the 2019 Kentuckiana SCI Banquet. Cherie and I sat at the table with African outfitter, Graham Sales, and two couples that had been on safari with him the previous year. After hearing their exciting stories, I knew Graham's hunt would be an excellent first safari for Cherie and Colin, neither of whom had ever hunted before, let alone been to Africa.

Graham got in touch with us shortly after the banquet and we soon made our plans. Because this was my fourth trip to Africa, the focus of this safari was for Cherie and 16-year-old Colin to do most of the hunting.

Arriving in Johan-



We stopped and glassed several areas on the tall hills coming up out of the flat plains. As usual, the trackers' amazing eyes first spotted kudu on a mountainside. Cherie, Armand and Steven headed uphill to begin the stalk, but the ghost lived up to its nickname and eluded them. That evening, Cherie was still in good spirits, just disappointed she wasn't able to get close to her kudu. The second day was much the same. We found kudu in the same general area, but after multiple stalks, the kudu still had the upper hand. Cherie was exhausted and disappointed, but more determined than ever.



That evening I told her I was very proud of her and told her the story of my first safari. My friend Dean and I were in Namibia hunting with *Namibia Safari Corporation*. I had bought that hunt at a previous SCI banquet as well. The first morning as we were leaving camp, we spotted a really nice kudu. Kudu was number one on Dean's list, so we agreed he would have the first shot at one. Jaco van der Merwe, owner and PH, led the way. We hunters were not very organized for that first African stalk and the kudu got away. More than once!! Then there were blown stalks and missed shots at other kudu. Jaco remained calm and patient. Dean was discouraged but Jaco told him that the trackers always say, "You get the kudu you're meant to get." The next day, Dean took a fine kudu bull. I told Cherie that her days of hard work had earned her a chance at the kudu she was meant to get. We just hadn't found the right one yet!



The next morning as we were driving around the now familiar mountain, we spotted a kudu in the tree line at the base of the mountain. As she made her way over, a quick shot was followed by tears of joy and relief! We had found Cherie's kudu!

When she tells her kudu story, Cherie often uses the phrase "life-changing." She didn't realize the hard work and dedication it would take to kill a kudu bull. She hadn't known until she tried that she was capable of hiking up and down those mountains multiple times to finally get her shot at the kudu she was meant to get! Now, she knows she can do anything she sets her mind to doing. I guess there really is something mystical about kudu after all!



## Breckinridge County 9-11-Year-Olds Win State Championship 15-18-Year-Olds Place 3<sup>rd</sup> in State Championships

By Alexandria Bryant Popham, Breckinridge County Extension Office

On September 8<sup>th</sup>, 23 members of the Breckinridge County 4-H Trap Club competed at the Central Kentucky Wildlife Management Area in Berea for the Kentucky 4-H Shooting Sports Trap Competition which resulted in the 9-11-year-olds winning the State Championship and the 15-18-year-olds placing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the State, both in Division II. This was the culminating event for the Breckinridge County 4-H Shooting Sports program.

This program would not have been possible without the support of the Kentuckiana Chapter of SCI. Their generous donations of equipment, including shotguns, made practices, as well as, participation in the KY 4-H State Shooting Sports Competition possible. Thank you to the KYSCI for their continued support of 4-H Shooting Sports Programs. Their generosity provides much needed ammo and supplies for our growing trap program. We aim to instill a passion for shooting sports and provide opportunities for youth to develop their knowledge and skills, regardless of their financial situation.



**9-11-Year-Olds**  
Brayden Carman,  
Grace Ball, Caleb Ball,  
Colten Carman & Gabe Martin



**15-18-Year-Olds**  
Logan Walz, Frank Lucas,  
Nolan Hardesty,  
Ethan Tucker & Ryan Crist

# “LEGAL BRIEFS”

By Ivan Schell, Esquire



## NATIONAL NEWS

**Off Road Retrieval of Harvested Elk & Bison.** Several anti-hunting groups sued the US Forest Service in Arizona federal district court to challenge the travel management plans that allow off-road vehicle use for the retrieval of harvested elk and bison as well as other hunting related activities. In September the court ruled in favor of the existing plan, but the anti-hunting groups appealed to the Ninth Circuit where SCI filed a brief and argued the case in February of 2019. The court took only a short time to again rule in favor of the plan so off road vehicles may still be used in Arizona to retrieve game.

**Elephant Importation.** As reported last quarter several anti-hunting groups challenged the US Department of Fish and Wildlife decision to allow importation of elephant and lion trophies from Zimbabwe. Subsequently USFWS withdrew their rulings and instituted a case by case approach to processing import applications. Now the antis are challenging the new permitting process. SCI and NRA have moved to dismiss the cases. Oral argument has not yet been scheduled.

## KENTUCKY NEWS

**Bear Hunting.** Last quarter this column reviewed the new for 2019 structure for bear hunting. That structure basically created bear zones for each county in the bear hunting area but only provided for the taking of two female bears before the county would be closed to bear hunting. The old system applied to the entire bear hunting area and allowed 10 females to be taken before hunting was closed state-wide. The new system does allow for unlimited hunting of males while a county is open, but results in rapid closing (typically after one day) in counties with higher bear populations. A reliable rumor has it that the system will be changed again in 2021 so bear hunting will not be closed after a specific number of females is taken. This would be a step in the right direction.

In addition, on the day prior to the opening of the 2019 bear firearms seasons, KDFWR changed the rules for hunting bears with dogs during the chase season which followed the firearms season. The regs opened Wayne County to hunting with a two female limit, but closed the Daniel Boone National Forest, Miller-Welch Central Kentucky WMA, Beaver Creek WMA, Cane Creek WMA, Mill Creek WMA, the Pioneer Weapons WMA and Redbird WMA. This significantly reduced the available public hunting grounds for chasing bears with dogs and firearms. Previously other public ground that was off limits included Cumberland Gap National Park, Hensley-Pine Mountain WMA and Big South Fork National River and Recreational Area.

**Coyote Hunting.** Another area where KDFWR is still feeling its way relates to hunting coyotes after dark. Under the new rules, coyotes may not be hunted after dark in any county or area where the deer and /or elk firearm season is open. No night hunting is allowed from June 1 thru November 30. During the open months, December 1 thru May 31 (the reg says March 31 but this is probably a typo) a person can use a shotgun on public ground to kill coyotes at night. On private ground a shotgun or rifle of .243 or smaller caliber may be used with a light after dark. Provided, the light or night vision device cannot be attached to a motorized vehicle. Private ground hunting requires a written permission from the landowner carried on the person of the hunter during the hunt.

**Special Elk Permits.** This column has devoted much attention in recent editions to the awarding of special elk permits to charitable organizations. I have relayed the Board's dissatisfaction with the Commission's awarding permits to the same organizations year after year even though the records and organizational documents of the organizations have not complied with the statutory and regulatory requirement for the awarding of the permits. This dissatisfaction has clearly impacted the Commission's activities in these areas but so far has resulted in simply moving the goal posts for organizations to now qualify where they would not have done so before. For example, organizations which not only promote hunting and fishing but ones which involve the shooting sports (like trap leagues) have been legitimized. However only one special commission permit can be awarded to any distinct organization for a given species (i.e. no multiple elk permits for the same organization). Realistically this is no change at all. These changes do not address the practice engaged in by some commissioners of pooling their votes to make sure that each of their favorite entities would receive an elk tag for sale every year.

Under new rules, each special commission permit will now be randomly assigned to a hunting area at the time of

the selection of the charitable organizations. This means that some permits will be very valuable and that some will be of much less value due to the poor results attained in some of the areas. A committee of the SCI Board has begun working with state legislators directly to seek a statutory remedy to the abuse of the permitting system. A potential silver lining of the recent change in executive administrations is that leadership in the Cabinet of Tourism has changed. This provides an opportunity for the development of relationships with a new group people responsible for oversight of KDFWR with hopefully better results than was experienced with the prior administration.



## Joyce's Diet Cabbage Soup With A Variation

½ head of cabbage, chopped  
1 c diced yellow or white onions  
1 c diced carrots\*  
4 c chicken broth\*

1 c diced celery  
1 diced green pepper  
3 minced garlic cloves



Combine ingredients in a large, covered pan and cook until tender. Eating as much of this soup as you like and drinking plenty of water can result in rapid weight loss but do not stay on this diet for more than one week at a time. Cutting calories, sugars and starches with this diet soup can jumpstart your more balanced weight loss plan.

\* Carrots and chicken broth can be exchanged for 1 c diced tomatoes and a package of Lipton Dry Onion Soup and 4 c beef broth for a heartier taste variation.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

February 5-8, 2020 – **SCI Convention**

- Reno, Nevada
- Contact: [www.safariclub.org](http://www.safariclub.org)

February 22, 2020 - **SCI Chapter Fundraising Banquet**

- Audubon Country Club, Louisville, KY
- Contact: Sherry Maddox [explorer111749@aol.com](mailto:explorer111749@aol.com)

### To Join or Find Other Outdoor Friends Events Contact:

- **Friends of NRA Events**  
Contact: John LaRowe at [jarowe@nrahq.org](mailto:jarowe@nrahq.org)
- **League of Kentucky Sportsmen Events**  
Contact: Bob Edwards at [bedwardslouky@insightbb.com](mailto:bedwardslouky@insightbb.com)
- **QDMA Events**  
Contact: Pete Blandford at [pete\\_blandford@yahoo.com](mailto:pete_blandford@yahoo.com)
- **RMEF Events**  
Contact: Bill Carman at 859-489-1593 or [Bcarman@rmef.org](mailto:Bcarman@rmef.org)
- **Quail Forever**  
Contact: Jack Dahl at [j.dahljr@att.net](mailto:j.dahljr@att.net)

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[mysafariclub.org](http://mysafariclub.org)  
[home.nra.org](http://home.nra.org)  
[www.kentuckianasci.com](http://www.kentuckianasci.com)

## Friends Of NRA Present \$6,500 To KHFH



On September 26, Chapter President Larry Richards, his wife, Jeanette, Board Member Alice Monarch, KY-LAC Chairman Colonel Mike Abell and his wife, Chapter Member Aline Abell attended the **Friends of NRA Banquet** held in West Liberty, Kentucky. During that event Larry, representing **KYSCI** sponsored **Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry**, accepted a check from NRA in the amount of \$6,500 for the benefit of **KHFH** from NRA Event Organizer Jimmy Cantrell!

**VISIT THE CHAPTER WEBSITE &  
[www.kentuckianasci.com](http://www.kentuckianasci.com)**

**LEGISLATIVE ACTION COMMITTEE WEBSITE  
[www.kysci-lac.com](http://www.kysci-lac.com)**

## KYSCI Assists NWTF With “Women In The Outdoors” Event

By Alyson Stamper



Being a member of KYSCI and NWTF, I am thankful to KYSCI for helping facilitate the **NWTF River Ridge Longbeards** in support of **Women in the Outdoors (WITO)**. This daylong event, held in Henryville, IN, provided women an opportunity to learn about the outdoors. Groups of four women received one-on-one attention in archery, handgun, shotgun, basic turkey hunting, deer hunting 101, campfire cooking and outdoor preparedness. The ladies came away with a better understanding of the outdoors and were provided lunch, a t-shirt, raffle gifts, and more.

## Cloverport NASP Team Receives \$500 In Matching Funds From KYSCI

By Alice Monarch

I wish every member of KYSCI could have been with me last week when I had the honor of presenting a hard-earned \$500 matching funds check to a very deserving, very grateful Cloverport Independent School NASP Team. This bright-eyed, energetic team not only worked to make the \$500 for matching funds, they exceed their goal making \$549 profit selling Krispy Kreme Doughnuts! When they added our \$500 check, they had earned a total of \$1049 to buy much needed arrows, bow strings, target covers and other equipment.



As impressive as this team's willingness to work together to raise money to help support their team was the way they worked together to turn their school lunchroom into a First-Class Archery Range in fewer than ten minutes! A couple of the older team members helped Head Coach Joe Stinnett hang the backstop netting while Assistant Coach Patricia Snyder watched as the rest of the team of varying ages rolled out the bows and set up the targets, arrows and arrow holders to precision distances from the targets and between shooters. (Coach Stinnett climbed the ladder to hang the net for safety reasons and I said Coach Snyder "watched" instead of saying she "supervised" to emphasize that this entire team functioned calmly and efficiently like a well-oiled machine with neither coach having to give directions or corrections!)

### Coaches Accepting Check



Still within that same ten minute time frame, every student was lined up with bow in hand and the exact number of arrows in each quiver ready for the word. When the all clear was given, arrows flew as the coaches walked the line giving pointers and encouragement! As quivers emptied, each archer turned and walked back to sit and wait until every archer was done, at which time, the archers moved purposefully back to their places in line and waited for the next all clear to commence firing. I was totally, totally impressed!!

Not only were these young people focused, they were good archers!

### Sarajo Cain-Perfect Form After Release



I watched as one young lady, Sarajo Cain, a junior, moved with the grace of an accomplished ballerina or should I say Robin Hood! Her every movement was smooth, deliberate and precise and her targets reflected her accuracy! The attributes I noticed most in Sarajo were present in every student as I looked down the line! They were serious and motivated and they were having fun!

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT



## 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL KYSCI FUNDRAISING BANQUET GALA & SILVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

February 22, 2020

Audubon Country Club  
Louisville, Kentucky

**REGISTER  
ON LINE**

Introduction of Sam Monarch Scholarship Winner  
Social Hour 4:00 ~ Dinner 7:00 ~ Live Auction 8:00

Featuring US & International Hunts & Non Hunt Items

For Auction Descriptions & Registration Visit:

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

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