

KENTUCKIANA HUNTER



KENTUCKIANA CHAPTER - SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

THIRD QUARTER 2012



Depicted is a juvenile Himalayan Tahr in the Cook Mountains (Southern Alps) on the South Island of New Zealand. Tahr were introduced to New Zealand as a gift from the Duke of Bedford in 1904. A mature bull tahr is a very beautiful and coveted trophy.

Photo by Clay Monarch

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Visit Our Web Site: www.kentuckianasci.org

President's Message

By Mike Maddox

By the time this 3rd Quarter Edition of the Kentuckiana Hunter Newsletter is received by you, I will have completed my tenure as President. I have been so fortunate to have worked with such a talented group of individuals on the Board. Collectively, with the continued support of our membership, we have achieved a lot during my two years in office. Some of the highlights include:

- The Chapter's Youth Apprentice Hunter & Firearm Safety Program continues to grow in the number of participants each year, and our program has developed into a benchmark event that other SCI Chapters use as a model for their own youth programs.
- Each year our Chapter sponsors a Military/Veterans Appreciation Pheasant Hunt at Clover Creek Hunting Preserve and we are sponsors of the KNG Wounded Warriors Project.
- This year, an educator with the 4-H Shooting Sports Program is being sponsored by our Chapter to attend the American Wilderness Leadership School at Granite Ranch in Jackson, WY.
- Our Fundraising Banquets have continually and consistently had great community and membership support and the proceeds continue to fund our projects and programs from year to year.
- This past spring, Kentuckiana SCI teamed up with the NWTW Twin Lakes Chapter to sponsor a youth turkey hunt in which 36 young hunters participated.
- As you will read in this edition, a successful Kentuckiana SCI Membership and Friends Day in the Country and Picnic was held at the Monarch Farm.

- A good time was had by all who attended our Chapter's Annual Prairie Dog Safari which was held in Kansas this year.
- Our Chapter has co-sponsored several SCIF "Blue Bag" projects taking clothing, medical, and school supplies to very needy children in Africa.
- Kentuckiana SCI has continued to help introduce and fund Archery in the Schools and we are supporters of the 4-H Shooting Sports Program and the Boy Scouts.
- Our Chapter continues to support the Hunters for the Hungry Project and the Non-Sighted Children's Sensory Safari and more.

As we go forward with new leadership, I would encourage everyone to think about how he/she can support the organization. Each of you has skills, talents, and a little time to help educate a youth about how much fun it is to break that first clay bird, catch that first fish, see a turkey fly up out of the brush, or watch a mother deer coach a new fawn on how to survive. These rare opportunities which I remember from my youth made a difference in my life.

I am passionate about teaching our youth as I had to learn these things on my own. My mom and I lost my dad when I was twelve years old and there wasn't a group like our Kentuckiana SCI Chapter to reach out and mentor me as we are now able to do for other youth. Each time I see the excitement of surprise or success in a child's face, I am so glad we have an organization like Kentuckiana SCI that is devoted to introducing our youth to outdoor activities which enrich their lives for today, tomorrow, and years to come.

Spotlight On



August 4-5, 2012 - Annual Kentuckiana SCI Apprentice Hunter Education Weekend

- Held at White Oak Elk Ranch in Henryville, Indiana
- Conservation & Hunter Safety Education/On-Range Training/Instruction
- Hands-On Outdoor & Hunting Related Experiences
- Archery-Crossbow-Shotgun-.22 Rifle & High Power Rifle-Muzzleloader
- If you can help, call Mike Maddox (502) 253-9679

August 23 - 25, 2012 - SCI Fall Board Meeting in Jackson, Wyoming

January 23-26, 2013 - SCI Hunter's Convention in Reno, Nevada

- "The Greatest Hunting Show on Earth" / "The Ultimate Hunters' Market"
- Visit www.scifirstforhunters.org for reservations & information

January 25, 2012 - Sables Luncheon Show & Auction in Reno, Nevada

- Luncheon/fundraiser held at Atlantis Hotel Ballroom during SCI Convention
- Entertainment is Artie Dean & Bourbontown from Louisville, Kentucky
- All funds raised at this annual event go directly to SCIF Education Programs
- Go to www.showsci.org for convention registration and ticket purchase

February 23, 2013 - Kentuckiana SCI Chapter Fundraiser Banquet

- Holiday Inn Hurstbourne, Louisville, Kentucky
- Mark the date and invite your guest now!



Kentuckiana SCI Membership Elect New Officers & Directors

In early June, President Mike Maddox sent out to the membership a call for nominations for Officers and Directors of the Kentuckiana SCI Chapter for the upcoming fiscal year. With the aid of those nominations, the Kentuckiana SCI Nominating Committee put together a slate of candidates for Chapter Officers and Directors and included space for write in candidates. The persons elected for leadership positions by the general membership are as follows:

President - Bill Hook
Vice President - Tom Hebert
Secretary - Aline Abell
Treasurer - Sherry Maddox
Past President - Mike Maddox
Directors - Mike Abell, Bob Edwards,
Mike Graham, Sam Monarch,
Larry Richards, Jim Warren
(Randy Phelps has 1 year remaining)



Habitat Improvement Checklist and Brush Piles by KDFWR

Comments by Sam Monarch

The bell is old, but it never fails to ring true! For wildlife to survive and prosper, it must have access to food, water, and cover every day of the year. Our society is becoming more urbanized each year, and we see farms turning into subdivisions. What were pastures and fallow land a few years ago are now backyards and city streets! The end result is that cover needed for wildlife survival is disappearing at an alarming rate. It may be impossible to stop the evolution of civilization but access to wildlife cover is laying around waiting to be put to use. A simple, effective, and inexpensive source of small game cover which is often over looked is brush piles.

Brush Piles. "Brush piles are an excellent way to create much needed cover for wildlife on your property. Brush piles can be created using just about any type of material depending on the choice of the landowner. For a more natural look, create a pile using tree limbs or brush 15-20 feet in diameter and 3-4 feet high. Build this type in woodlands, along wooded trails, or along field edges.

For a more durable, long lasting brush pile, use rocks, concrete blocks, or clay tiles. These piles can be as small as 4-5 feet in diameter. Build this type in areas where a "neat" appearance is desired or in areas being managed by prescribed fire. Cover is one of the most important components of suitable wildlife habitat with brush piles meeting this need; therefore, you cannot have too many brush piles. Be creative in your designs and watch as wildlife begins to enjoy your private property."

The Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife Resources is a valuable source of expert information and they are glad to advise a landowner. Just call 1-800-858-1549 and ask for a private lands biologist.



Tom cuts brush for a brush pile



Clay works on a brush pile

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT CHECKLIST "LATE SUMMER AND FALL"

August

- Perform exotic/invasive species removal.
- Create wildlife waterholes when the soil is dry enough.
- Manipulate dove fields for season opener.
- Mark trees for timber stand improvement.
- Plant winter wheat in late August.

September

- Order tree & shrub seedlings.
- Spray herbicide to kill fescue.
- Sow clover & cool season grasses.
- Prepare firebreaks & seed to winter wheat.

October-November

- Leave a portion of crops standing all winter for wildlife.
- Leave food plots fallow for two years (minimum).
- Plan for next year's projects.
- Do not fall-plow crop fields.
- Order catalogs for seedlings, shrubs, or seed for spring.
- Flood moist soil management units.

SCIF Education Matches Grant by the Kentuckiana SCI Chapter to the Breckinridge County Shooting Sports Program

By Sam Monarch

In many, if not most, of the rural counties throughout Kentucky, the 4-H Club is the largest and most active organization for youth. In Breckinridge County, Ms. Lynette Allen with the University of Kentucky Extension Service has enjoyed remarkable success in developing a Shooting Sports Program for the youth. Under Ms. Allen's supervision, literally hundreds of youngsters have learned and practiced the skills of archery, black powder and modern rifle marksmanship, and trap, skeet and sporting clays shooting. In addition to the shooting sports there are classroom studies wherein 74 future hunters recently earned their Hunter Safety "Orange Cards". Ms. Allen and her volunteer coaches spend hours and hours with the youth practicing and competing in local, regional, and state competitions, all of which is very expensive. Our Chapter's donations have made it possible for many children to enjoy and participate in the shooting sports who without such support would be unable to participate.

Again this year, our Chapter was able to donate \$500.00 to

the Breckinridge County Shooting Sports Program which donation has been applied to ammunition, targets, and other expendables.

This year, our Chapter's donation was matched by a \$500.00 grant from the SCIF Education Division (Sables). This combined donation of \$1,000.00 gave a tremendous boost to a growing shooting sports program. The support of our membership makes it possible for our Chapter to help ensure a future generation of outdoors persons!



Sam Monarch Presents Chapter Donation to Ms. Lynette Allen.

An Adventure with a Master of Aoudad

By Alan Kirschenbaum

Glassing across miles of high country desert trying to spot Barbary Big Horn Sheep is an undertaking akin to finding a needle in a haystack. Doing this and guiding, hours of climbing, crawling, and stalking over severe terrain is a talent for which Bubba Glosson of Southwest Trophy Hunts is renowned. He's the "real deal" when it comes to hunting the West Texas mountains, and Aoudad, the local name for Barbary Sheep, is his forte.



West Texas Desert

Glosson's focus is on the experience of the hunt, not just what the ruler reads on another dead animal at the end of the day: a novel idea gone astray in today's climate of score fever. In spite of his traditionalist outlook on our sport, his clients currently hold the #4 and the #5 free range Aoudad in the SCI Record Book. Bubba's client list of 140 plus-inch rams taken each year is long.

Aoudads were introduced into Texas about 75 years ago. They are found naturally in the rocky, mountainous regions of northern Africa in Algeria, Tunisia, northern Chad, Egypt, Libya, northern Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger and Sudan. While they can be hunted at high fence preserves in Texas, make no mistake, with Glosson you're signing up for a wild, free range, high altitude sheep hunt in the Davis or Glass Mountain Ranges. Be fit. Have the right gear and your chance of nailing a trophy ram is real.

Glosson hunts Aoudad from the October rut through March. My expedition was last February, so I equipped with gear similar to the gear that I use hunting Thar on foot in New Zealand: layers of clothing that I can peel off as it warms up, mountain-worthy boots, and my trusted 300 Weatherby Magnum, Mark V, Lightweight with a 3.5x14 power scope sighted in at two inches high at 200 yards with a 168 grain Barnes bullet. Mature rams go above 300 pounds and are super tough beasts. A well-placed shoulder shot to break them down is a must if you don't want to lose your trophy to this rugged wilderness.

After a three-and-a-half hour drive from El Paso International Airport, I met Bubba Glosson in Alpine near Marfa, Texas. It is in this picturesque location where George Stevens filmed his classic Giant with James Dean, Liz Taylor, and Rock Hudson in 1956. The hotel where the cast stayed is still open for business and you can get a great meal and a good cappuccino in Marfa. This beautiful area is the hook under New Mexico, east of the Rio Grande River, near Big Bend National



Bubba

Park, about 80 miles east of old Mexico. There are lots of cattle and the area is also rich in native Desert Mule Deer and

Antelope: three big goats were bedded down along the road welcoming me as I pulled into town.

On day two of my scheduled four-day expedition with Glosson, I finally got the hang of spotting Aoudad. It was unseasonably hot for February and nothing moved all day. We saw a lot of fresh sign: droppings, huge scrapes in the rocky soil made with wide sets of horns, a few good Muleys, but no Aoudad were to be seen. After lunch and a siesta on the hard ground, we started up again glassing miles of terrain in search of sheep.

After scouring an area nearly two miles away, on the horizon in a spot I had previously glassed numerous times, there now appeared six tan dots that had not been present before. I turned to Bubba and asked, "Are those sheep?"

Bubba replied, "Good eyes," and after looking at them in the spotting scope, with keen judgment, he said, "There's a shooter in there, let's go." Like the master he is, after calculating the wind and developing an approach strategy over the high desert terrain, we made our move.

Adrenalin has a way of making time go by quicker than anticipated. With at least two hours of daylight left, we were in a final approach toward the rams. The rest of the stalk would be on our hands and knees on a collision course crawl to a bluff where Bubba calculated the rams were grazing on the other side and moving downward. We were stalking into a brisk wind that would cover our scent and help us with any unavoidable noise as we made our way.

As we reached the end of the bluff, Bubba carefully peeked over and did not see the rams. "Turn around and look up," he said. He figured they had changed directions and were about to come over the top of the bluff and get above us. We expected to get busted at any second. Not what we had hoped for, but with a pounding heart, I kept my eye on the rocky horizon while Bubba crawled further to the bluff's edge to get a better look.

Urgently hand signaling me to crawl toward him, I gathered my gear and inched my way over. "Set up on that rock," Bubba whispered. "They did not go over the top; they tucked closer into the bluff. Here they come! Shoot the last ram in the group." Simultaneous to Bubba saying, "Shoot him," I squeezed off a 65-yard shot. The big ram ran 50 yards and collapsed while his compatriots ran a few yards further, turned, and watched us celebrate, then casually moved off.



Aoudad

As our celebration continued, the hue of a late day sun on the desert, combined with a waning adrenaline high, melded peacefully into a hunter's bliss: completing a successful harvest, physically mastering the terrain and altitude, and having an adventure with a master guide who is an all around good person. I will hunt with Bubba Glosson again and soon.

If you are interested in this adventure go to Southwest Hunts' web site at www.swhunts.com

Hunting Kentucky Wild Hogs

By Ivan Schell

In January 1996, I called a friend and arranged for my first wild pig hunt in East Tennessee. We used dogs and revolvers and had a roaring good time. By the time you read this, I will have hunted wild pigs on three continents and am seriously committed to the sport of wild pig/boar hunting. Because of this dedication to wild hog hunting, I decided to explore the possibilities of hunting porkers closer to home here in Kentucky. The results of that investigation follow.

Wild hogs constitute a great problem for farmers and ranchers throughout the country. One man's pain, however, is of course another's pleasure. Hunters pursue the animals, sometimes even planting them in new localities to enhance the sport, much to the chagrin of ranchers and state departments of fish and wildlife. Reported in at least 45 states, wild pigs are reputed to have been released initially by Christopher Columbus and his compadres in about 1500. Loose hogs turn feral within a few generations and thrive in most climates in the continental U.S.



Wart Hog

Initially reaching the Cumberland Plateau in 1960, wild hogs were first reported in Kentucky in 1988. Some believe that these hogs found their way to Kentucky with the help of hunters. In Kentucky under KDFWR regulations, it is illegal to import or possess wild hogs. Criminal sanctions have reportedly been imposed on individuals in Todd and McCreary Counties within the last couple of years. Nevertheless, wild hogs are reported by KDFWR to be in 37 Kentucky counties as of January 2012.

Hogs spread rapidly. Sows are capable of reproducing at the age of 6 to 10 months and have two litters of 10 plus piglets per year. They travel in maternal groups called "Sounders," numbering 20 to 30 pigs. Although safe to eat when properly prepared, wild hogs carry wildlife related diseases and at least 45 parasites transmissible to both domestic stock and humans. Ecological damage to crops and human plantings is estimated at \$1.5 billion nationwide per year. These damages include rooting and wallowing, competing for food sources with deer, wild turkey and other wildlife, destroying plant life and preying on everything from reptiles and ground nesting birds to deer fawns. Controlling the spread of these pests (game animals) requires the removal of all age classes concurrently. KDFWR biologists believe that hunting is a poor tool for population control because it pushes the animals to other properties and forces them into nocturnal behavior. The Department claims that trapping with corral traps is the most effective means of controlling the beasts, allowing nighttime trapping and the eradication of entire family groups at the trapping site. Trapping is most effective in winter when food sources are in short supply. Interestingly, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has resorted to aerial gunning and reportedly killed 237 pigs in Hickman County (Western Kentucky) during December 2010. Notwithstanding the position of KDFWR with respect to the effectiveness of hunting, their regulations allow no-limit hunting at any time during daylight hours with any weapon as long as the hunter has a

regular hunting license. One outfitter named Double "G" Outfitters has a website advertising commercial hunts in Kentucky, for \$250 for a trophy boar; however, their phones have been disconnected.

Another professional operation, an Alabama-based outfitter named Dristin Mizell, has explored running commercial hunts in Kentucky but claims that populations are too small to be dependable. However, Tom Young, a wildlife biologist with KDFWR recently reported that there are plenty of wild



First Tennessee Pig

hogs in Pond River Bottoms. Tom reported the trapping of a 400 pound hog there in December 2010. This is a location close to the White City Wildlife Management Area (WMA) along the border of Muhlenburg, Hopkins and Christian Counties. The largest concentration of wild hogs in Kentucky is located in Pond River Bottoms with an estimated population of 1,000 head. However, Tom has advised me that no hogs have actually been reported in the WMA. He suggests knocking on doors to seek access to private areas. Tom Young also maintains a list of hunters that he supplies to land owners if they ask.

Public hog hunting is available in the Big South Fork National Park located along the Kentucky and Tennessee borders in McCreary County. For a \$5 fee, a hunter can gun hunt hogs here during deer gun season and during a special hog hunting season which runs during the months of January and February. No dogs are allowed and certain other regulations apply, all of which can be found on the park's website at www.nps.gov/biso. According to the park ranger on the Kentucky side of the border, the best place to find the hogs is on Peter's Mountain in far southwest McCreary County. If you want to purchase a non-resident license and travel to Tennessee, the Tennessee park ranger reports that the best hunting is found in the Big Island area.

Of course, the best opportunities are likely to be found in private areas. I have personally tried to gain access to Bernheim Forest, but the KDFWR biologists beat me to the punch. They report having substantially controlled the Bernheim sounder over a three year period of intensive trapping. Other folks in Henry County report extensive damage, and hogs have been reported chasing children in the Fowler Ridge neighborhood of Covington. Unfortunately, KDFWR will not release the names of private land owners who have complained about problems with the hogs, so you will be on your own to try to find an owner who will allow you access.

Come fall and winter of 2012, I will be in the field to see whether there really are huntable populations of hogs in Kentucky. I will keep you posted.



Texas Father/Daughter Pig

A PICNIC TO REMEMBER

BY MIKE MADDOX

At a recent board meeting, everyone was brainstorming ways to engage the Chapter membership and perhaps recruit new members when the idea of hosting a picnic was suggested. The idea quickly gathered momentum and we discussed a number of possible locations and settled on the idea of having it at Sam Monarch's farm. There was some concern as to whether folks would travel the hour and a half from Louisville to Hardinsburg where the farm is located but the board decided to give it a try.

A committee of four worked through the logistics, set a date, and initiated plans for putting on the event. Several activities would be available for attendee participation to include rifle shooting, archery, corn bag toss, fishing and hiking. We wanted to make this a family event to bring our membership and potential members together to meet and mingle and share in the outdoors.

Sam took a special interest in the event by orchestrating several weeks of work to turn the farm into a showplace for the venue. On Tuesday preceding the event on Saturday, the weather dumped three inches of rain in a matter of a couple of hours. Gravel roads were washed out, tree limbs fell, and water was everywhere. Although there was initial concern about having to postpone the event, e-mails went flying and calls were made to assure everything was still a go. With a little dozer work and about 100 tons of rock, the roads were back in top shape by Saturday.

A local caterer was selected to provide the food as the restaurant, Becky's 101 in nearby Cloverport, was located very close to the farm. Becky Wethington, the owner, suggested a menu of pulled barbecued pork, fried chicken, hash brown casserole, green beans, slaw, rolls, and homemade desserts, and sweet tea.

The day started off a little cool but the sun was out and promised to be a great day. Things came together like they were planned! Everyone had been given driving directions and most found the farm without any problem. The archery backdrop net was placed and looked as if it were designed to fit in the spot selected. The corn bag toss had plenty of shade. The rifle range was set up for the youth to shoot up close and the adults to shoot longer distances, and the lake was full of big catfish just waiting to be caught.

A number of tent awning shelters were set up around the lake pavilion which created a great meeting place and a great seating for dinner. Approximately fifty-five adults and a dozen children attended the event. Early afternoon found people surrounding the lake to fish, several were being coached by Tom Hebert at the archery area, Sam had a full house at the rifle range, and others went on a hike to enjoy the beautiful day. An impromptu contest of "rock skipping" broke out down by the creek and when the wind picked up, some members brought out their kites. Open spaces afforded many an opportunity to test out one member's boomerang while some of the younger children were entertained by tadpole chasing. By the time five o'clock arrived, everyone had worked up an appetite. Becky put on a real country spread. The food was delicious and the homemade desserts were a big hit. Judging by how quiet things got during dinner, everyone sure loved the food!

Thanks to everyone who attended and a big thanks to Sam and Alice Monarch for providing their beautiful farm to have the event. Good Lord willing and if Sam and Alice are gracious enough to open their farm to us again, the Chapter will plan a future event on the farm, and we hope that you will join the fun.



Black Powder Tahr

By Clay Monarch

Editor's Note: The author, Clay Monarch, is the 13 year old son of Katie and Ed Monarch of Louisville, Kentucky. Clay is an 8th Grader at St. Agnes School in Louisville.

In July of 2011, my grandparents, Alice and Sam Monarch (aka Mamaw and Pap) asked my older brother (Tom) and me if we would like to hunt Himalayan Tahr (tahr), European Red Deer (red stag) and possibly Fallow Deer (fallow) in New Zealand. We enthusiastically responded, "Yes!!!"

I had seen Pap's red stag and his fallow in his home many times, and I had especially admired the red stag as the animal was majestic. His body size and antlers were both mind-blowing! The stag grabbed my attention, and I couldn't wait to see one in person. Pap's fallow deer had a really nice rack, but the thing I noticed most about it was all of its battle scars. I had heard stories that fallows would stand up to the huge red stags and that fallows were very territorial and quite feisty; however, the tahr which hung as a mounted rug in Pap's stairwell was a mystery to me. I knew that Pap had hunted the tahr years earlier, but I didn't know the first thing about tahr. The hunt was going to be a year away, but I was ready! I was eager to meet new people and hunt in new places and see new animals: I was excited about a new adventure!

We had a year to get ready. At every opportunity, Tom and I visited our grandparents and practiced shooting our black powder muzzleloaders. Our presents under the Christmas tree looked like a "camo ad" out of Cabela's and we had "camo birthdays" and received much of the gear we needed for our upcoming New Zealand hunt. Seventh grade passed quickly, and our departure date of June 11th was soon here.

We started our flight in early afternoon on June 11th in the States and arrived in Christ Church, New Zealand at noon on June 13th. Though we were a little over one day enroute, we'd lost a day as we crossed the international dateline which set our Kentucky clocks a day ahead. When we arrived in Christ Church, we quickly headed to the baggage claim area where we were eager to meet my grandparents' friend and our outfitter, Ewan Bennie. To our surprise, there were two men waiting to welcome us! I was greeted with hardy handshakes and big smiles from both men as Ewan quickly introduced us to his friend and business associate, Steve Millird, who had bought Ewan's hunting business. We had known that we were to be Ewan's last hunters, and we were glad that the new owner was going to be hunting with us.

I was tired from the long flight, but the scenery near where we would be hunting tahr was breathtaking. On the left side of the road, there was one sheep farm after another which farms were separated by rows of trees or shrubs made into fences and hundreds and hundreds of farm deer behind woven wire fences. In the distance on the right side of the road were beautiful but gargantuan, skyscraping mountains that I soon figured out I would have to climb. Fearfully, I asked Steve, "We are not going to be climbing those mountains, are we?"

Steve replied, "No, not those, but some just like them or maybe a little higher."

I hesitated, "Seriously," I quizzed.

"Yes, seriously," he responded.

As we drove to our first destination of Geraldine, I wanted to



View of the Mountains

learn everything I could about New Zealand and the adventure on which we were about to embark. I must have asked hundreds of questions, but Steve was patient and answered them all. Quite frankly, I was nervous as the mountains were getting closer and taller by the minute.

As we pulled into the Scenic Route Motel, I thought it looked like a nice, friendly little motel. The motel was wonderful. It had all the comforts of home: it had a nice bathroom with a shower, 2 bedrooms, a kitchen, sofas, TV, and various appliances.

The first morning, we traveled from our motel to a station (farm) owned by a man named Ben McLeod. There Tom and I met our guides, Greg Maw (pounced Moore) and Don Greg. After a few "Hello's", Mamaw, Pap, Steve, and I started up a freshly bulldozed mountain road with our outfitter/guide/friend, Ewan Bennie while Tom, Don, and Greg led the way in Greg's vehicle. We drove up the narrow, winding road through the mountains spotting tahr.

As we reached the end of the road, Tom, Steve, Greg, Don and I hopped out of the truck and started up a dry creek until we reached a split in the creek and an opening at the base of a mountain range. Tom and Don went off to the right, not to be seen for several hours. Greg, Steve, and I followed the creek to the base of a mountain. I noticed that the creek we had been following scaled the mountain in front of me. The creek looked like it must have begun as a snowmelt. Being an inexperienced tahr hunter, I didn't know what to expect. Greg looked straight up then looked at Steve. He glanced at me and said, "Right 'O'", grabbed some plants, and propelled himself up the mountain.

Steve followed Greg and I thought to myself, "They must be joking! Surely, we were not going to climb that mountain. It was straight up!" but I was very, very, very wrong! They did not turn around and laugh; they just kept going.

Where we started up the mountain, the terrain was at a 75 degree angle (literally) and often, I, too, had to grab hold of a plant and pull myself up. I soon learned to take a good look at each plant I was grabbing as one plant, the "Spaniard" (speargrass), left my hands burning.

We climbed steadily for a couple of hours stopping only for a drink of water or to look at a bull or some nannies. After climbing about ¾ of the way up the mountain, we stopped for lunch. As I sat down, I seriously looked down for the first time and I could not see the bottom of the mountain! We had climbed so high that we were in a cloud!

After lunch, the weather began to turn for the worse and it started to snow. As we reached the top, we scanned the mountain looking for tahr and we saw a few bulls and a bunch of nannies. We climbed on still determined to claim a tahr for me.

We finally sat down in a tahr bed which was dug out in the side of the mountain.

We waited for the clouds to clear, but after 30 minutes, the clouds were still holding. As we continued to wait, a hail-like snow fell on our gear and soon built up on me. After a bit, the clouds cleared just enough to let us see that we needed to start heading down the mountain.

As we were picking out the best route down, we saw 4 or 5 bull tahr that could be possible shooters, so we climbed back up to get into a shooting position. Since I was using a .50 caliber black powder muzzleloader, I wanted to get within 150 yards of the animal. We moved closer and I sat down on a comfy rock to get into a shooting position, but nothing is ever that perfect on a mountain. Before we could get a real good look, clouds rolled in and freezing sleet and snow poured down on me and in my line of sight at a nice 12 +/- inch tahr. As we waited for the blizzard to pass, the tahr slowly



Pap, Mamaw, Tom & Clay

walked off and out of range.

It was getting late, and we decided to head down the mountain. We reached the bottom exhausted but happy to go back to our temporary homes.

Next morning, Pap stormed into our room and flipped on the lights with a loud "good morning!" We were still sore and tired from the first day's climb, but Tom and I jumped out of bed, dressed, ate, grabbed our Knight muzzleloaders and packs and headed for the truck. Soon, we were on our way to the station.

When we meet up with Don and Greg, we decide to take a few shots with the muzzleloaders to confirm their zero. Taking this time turned out to be a real good idea. Tom's rifle was right on; however, my rifle was shooting low and we had to bring it up a few clicks. With the rifles zeroed and reloaded, we split into our previous groups and headed for the mountains.

Tom and Don headed off to a new mountain to climb, spot, and stalk while Ewan, Steve, Greg, and I decided to try a different approach. Ewan had spotted some tahr on the side of a mountain. It was decided that Ewan, Mamaw, and Pap would try to spot tahr through the spotting scope and with the aid of walkie-talkies, help Greg, Steve, and me



Clay and Steve in the Southern Alps

get into position if we, or they, could locate a good tahr. All of the guides had said that tahr don't look for danger from above, so it was decided that Greg, Steve, and I would climb the back side of the mountain and come over the top and then try to maneuver into range. Ewan estimated that the climb would take us at least 2 hours and they went back for a second cup of coffee in the warm while we headed up the back of the mountain.

As predicted, it took us a little over 2 hours to climb to the top. When we reached the top, we stopped for a bite of food and then we walked the ridge to a higher point and then to the peak of the mountain. When we stopped for a brief rest, I looked around and realized that I could see for miles and miles. With the clouds gone for the first time, it struck me that I had climbed a real mountain!

As the day went on, we saw several tahr tracks and a couple of dens. We had seen many bulls but no shooters. As we were watching a herd of nannies, a baby tahr walked within 10 yards of us and we grabbed our cameras. The young tahr stayed close to us for quite some time.

At the end of the day, we walked down the mountain empty-handed and exhausted, but happy. We met up with Tom and headed back to Geraldine for dinner. After dinner, as we settled into the Scenic Route Motel, Tom and I shared stories of our days' adventure. We had both sweated profusely and had been wet inside and out. We were equally exhausted and our bodies ached with pain, but we were still determined to get a tahr!

As I woke up to the fresh scent of New Zealand air, I remembered that Day 3 was supposed to be an easier day for Tom and me and it turned out to be for me. We slowly drove along a dried up creek that had a road bulldozed through it and we glassed for tahr. After a couple of hours, a good tahr was spotted and Tom, Greg, and Don took off up the mountain after it. Using the walkie-talkies,



Clay points out a tahr to Ewan and Greg

Steve, Ewan, Mamaw, Pap, and I watched and reported on the tahr for Tom until that tahr took off over the mountain. Tom, Don, and Greg continued to hunt on foot and we continued to look for a tahr for me. We ended the day with good food and good conversation at the usual restaurant. Back at the motel, we had a nice cup of tea and headed for bed.

As the forecast was for unhuntable weather, the fourth day was started with Greg, Steve, and me



Clay and Steve in the Cook Mountains

determined to get a nice bull tahr before bad weather hit! We hopped into Greg's truck and headed up that same rough, narrow mountain road again. Within 10 minutes, we spotted a solid 12 ¼ inch bull that was only about 500 yards up! We moved on hoping to see a better bull. About 5 minutes later, we spotted another nice bull and this one was bigger than the first. Steve decided that he and I would go after it and Greg would spot for us from the truck.

Steve and I ventured about half way up the mountain and the bull ran to some nannies over on the next ridge. We decided to leave this bull and go back down the mountain then trek up the creek. We soon met up with Greg who had spotted some bulls at the top of a snow-capped mountain and the stalk began. We had to climb straight up to keep out of sight, and I had to be careful where I stepped as the spikes on my crampons screeched if I hit a rock and the noise would alert the tahr. The bulls were moving down the mountain and the wind was blowing in our faces as we closed in on the tahr.

When we finally paused to rest my sore legs and get a drink, Steve decided to look around; excitedly, he motioned me up to him. When I reached Steve, he signaled that a shooter that would score 12 ¼ or more was facing up the mountain from us. I went prone and set up on the tahr at 100 yards, took a deep breath, let half of it out, and squeezed the trigger. Boom! As the wind carried the white cloud of smoke over my back, I was able to see the bull rear back, stumble, and fall. The 290 grain all copper TMZ Barnes Bullet and my Knight Muzzleloader had preformed perfectly! I waited and when I was sure the tahr was down for the count, the mountain exploded with laughter and shouts of joy. Finally, I had taken the tahr of my dreams and secured the thought of being able to sleep late in the morning.

Back at camp, we measured the tahr and he scored nearly 12 ½ inches! I was speechless, tired, and amazed all at the same time. I could not have been happier! Tom and the rest of the crew arrived 10 minutes later with the news that he, too, had been successful and the mood again lightened! We measured Tom's tahr, took photos, and said our good-byes to Don and Greg. As we left the Ben McLeod Station, where friends and memories were made, my thoughts returned to the mission I had just completed and I was euphoric!

Stories of tahr hunting and past hunting trips circled the table at dinner on our last night at "The Village" restaurant. Still excited from



Clay with his Black Powder Tahr

our victories, we headed back to the "Scenic Route Motel" and packed our bags and prepared to leave the next morning. We were anxious to begin a whole new adventure at Hollyburn Deer Park in Tuatapere, New Zealand at Ewan's home but that is another story for later.

SCI Visits Washington

By Sherry Maddox

On May 10, 2012, SCI representatives from Chapters around the country spent the day on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. meeting with Senators and Representatives from their Districts. Sherry Maddox represented our Chapter and met with Senator Rand Paul (KY), Rep. John Yarmuth (KY), Rep. Brett Guthrie (KY), Aides from Congressman Todd Young's (IN) and Geoff Davis's (KY) offices. A recap of the topics discussed during each meeting is outlined below. This information is re-printed from documents assembled by the SCI Office in Washington DC.

H.R. 4089 – Sportsmen's Heritage Act of 2012 / SCI Urges the Senate to Introduce and Pass H.R. 4089 The Sportsmen's Heritage Act, H.R. (4089) was adopted by the House on April 17, 2012 on a strong Bi-Partisan Vote. This is a significant first step in recognizing the importance of and facilitating the expansion and enhancement of hunting and recreational fishing and shooting. This bill is basically a compilation of three stand-alone Senate bills (S.20, S. 106 and S. 838), plus an additional provision, that promotes and advances our hunting and recreational fishing and shooting heritage. Specifically this legislation:

- Requires hunting and recreational shooting and signing to be recognized activities on all Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management lands and incorporates much of the language and intent of S. 2066;
- Clarifies that the Environmental Protection Agency does not have the jurisdiction to regulate traditional ammunition with lead components and lead fishing tackle and incorporates the language and the intent of S. 838;
- Amends the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow hunters who legally harvested polar bears in Canada prior to its listing under the Endangered Species Act to purchase permits in order to transport their trophies in the U.S. and incorporates much of the language and the intent of S. 1066 and;
- Protects recreational shooting on National Monuments under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management.

As stated in a letter sent to Senator Mitch McConnell and signed by several organizations to include SCI, "The passage of H.R. 4089 is an important step in the advancement of America's sporting heritage."

H.R. 1581 and S. 1087 – Wilderness & Roadless Release Act - Safari Club International requests additional Congressional co-sponsors to support H.R. 1581 and S. 1086. H.R. 1581 would return land management decisions on millions of acres of public land to local forest manager and local communities, instead of having these lands managed from Washington in a one-size fits decision making process.

Background

- Currently the BLM manages over 6.5 million acres as Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) even though the agency has recommended to Congress that these areas are not suitable for wilderness designation. These areas have been in limbo since the agency recommended them for release and Congressional action is needed to approve the agency recommendation.
- Recent studies have shown that the greatly reduced amount of timber harvest on our federal forests over the last 20 years have reduced forage opportunities for wildlife on our federal lands. Many types of wildlife such as elk and grouse require active forest management to open forest canopies to allow for sunlight penetration to ground level, in turn promoting vigorous growth of grasses, forbs, and shrubs that established a nutritionally-rich forage base essential to sustaining healthy wildlife populations. This same management that helps wildlife population also helps prevent catastrophic forest fires and can help prevent the spread of bark beetles that have decimated millions of acres of the west.
- Sportsmen, especially elderly, youth, and disabled hunters, are also harmed by the lack of access to these de facto wilderness areas. Many of these types of hunters have a particularly difficult time getting to hunting destinations that are inaccessible due to de facto wilderness management. Studies have shown that one of the biggest reasons for the decline in hunting participation in recent years has been the lack of access to hunting lands.

Economic Benefit:

- Hunters and anglers contribute the majority of dollars spent on conservation through license fees and excise taxes. The hunting industry supports local economies and fuels jobs and economic growth in rural America. The most recent data available shows that hunting and fishing support 1.6 million jobs across the United States and directly contributes 76 billion dollars to the economy. In addition to this direct impact hunting and fishing create an economic ripple effect of \$192 billion.

Endangered Species Act Reform Safari Club International requests that the Natural Resources Committee, the Agriculture Committee, and the Energy and Commerce Committee hold hearings to identify possible legislative solutions to modernize the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

Current Problems with Endangered Species Act

- **Species Recovery:** The primary goal of the ESA has been to recover species at risk of extinction. Unfortunately the ESA has failed in its species recovery efforts. Currently there are over 2000 species listed as "threatened" or "endangered" while only 20 recovered species have been removed from these lists since the ESA was enacted.
- **Management by Litigation:** Presently, the vast majority of the scientific decisions for species conservation are inappropriately being made by the courts and not by the wildlife professionals within the federal agencies tasked to administer the ESA. Litigation is dictating the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) priorities for dealing with species in jeopardy and is depleting the agencies' personnel and financial resources.
- **Economic Impact:** The ESA detrimentally impacts jobs and the economy, particularly in rural communities. There are numerous examples of sustainable human development projects with carefully planned wildlife mitigation measures being blocked and private property rights being infringed by the ESA.
- **Enhancement Permits:** The FWS imposes a burdensome requirement that trade in a species "enhances the survival of that species" before it will issue import permits for threatened and endangered species even if such import would be allowed under the Convention on Trade in Endangered Species. The additional enhancement finding requirement by FWS is a significant burden to international hunting, which has been shown to be the most effective means of funding sustainable wildlife conservation in developing countries.
- Global Conservation Act of 2012

CONGRESSIONAL ACTION NEEDED SCI respectfully requests that Members co-sponsor the Global Conservation Act of 2012. The Global Conservation Act (GCA) will ensure the expansion and enhancement of critical wildlife habitat and facilitate the creation and protection of countless jobs while reducing global conflict and instability throughout economically deprived countries. Sustainably managed wildlife and natural ecosystems benefit local, regional, and national economies by generating income and maintaining thousands of jobs from activities like tourism, the sustainable management of natural resources, sport hunting and recreational fishing. The GCA would establish a process for identifying and implementing new approaches to enhance and expand the benefits of international conservation to bolster the natural resource-based international economy and, as a direct byproduct, the U.S. economy.

Family Turkeys

By Mary Free-Phelps

I was more interested in just filling my turkey tags and getting back to fencing. We had a deadline set by the Grayson County Extension Office to get the fence completed and our "cost share" paperwork done and to them. I killed a Jake opening morning, and I was happy with him.



Randy and Grandson, Jonathan, took two really nice gobblers on the afternoon of opening day. Jonathan's bird had 1 5/16" spurs! Later, Randy took another really nice gobbler. He had been hunting on Mrs. Willadean Alvey's farm during the

morning with no luck, but as he was driving back to the house, he saw a nice gobbler cross a field and go into our woods, so he did a sneak on him and bagged him.

My second bird busted me 3 times over 14 days of hunting. After the gobbler busted me the third time, it was a wonder he even came to my calling the fourth and final time. Randy and I were working on something in the parking area between the house and metal barn and this gobbler just kept hammering about 150 yards from behind the old livestock



barn. Randy said, "Go in the house and change into your hunting clothes and go get him, I can handle this by myself." So I did!

I snuck down the four wheeler trails and stopped every now and then to let out a yelp or two, so I could keep tabs on where he was. (I had ear surgery in 1989, because I had become deaf. The surgery helped tremendously, but I have difficulty with direction). I got to a Tee in the 4 wheeler trail and stood behind a huge oak tree for cover thinking the bird would use the adjacent 4 wheeler trail as a strut zone.

I peeked around the huge oak tree to see if I could spot the gobbler. I could not! Immediately across from the huge oak tree, out popped this gobbler from under a pile of ice storm debris and under our property line fence 10 feet from me! He broke into a full blown strut! There I stood with my shotgun in my left hand and my shooting stick in my right. It did not take long before he figured that I did not belong there.

The fourth time I worked him, hens took him away for about 2 hours. I could still hear him gobbling during those two hours.

Then, he finally remembered, after those hens were done with him, that there was another hen (me) calling earlier. The only problem was that he tantalized me for 40 minutes feeding in the food plot in front of me before he came into shotgun range. That was his fatal mistake!

My gobbler was 21 1/2 lbs. with 7/8" spurs and an 11 1/4" beard. Randy 1st gobbler was 21 lbs. with 3/4" spurs and a 9 1/2" + 6 1/2" beard. Randy's 2nd gobbler was 21 lbs. with 3/4" spurs and a 10 1/4" beard. Jonathan's gobbler was 23 lbs. with 1 5/16" spurs and a 10 3/4" beard.



"AUTHORS" NEEDED

Kentuckiana Hunter needs more "hunting authors"!!!

All articles published in our newsletter are written by fellow Kentuckiana SCI members!
Share your hunting experiences with friends and preserve your hunting memories by writing an article for the newsletter!

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CMP COMMITTEE AFIELD "Annie Oakley Day"

By Bob Edwards



On Saturday, June 16, 2012, at the Fern Creek Sportsman's Club, the Kentuckiana Safari Club International Chapter CMP/Shooting Committee participated in the fourth annual Annie Oakley Range Day. The purpose of this event is to introduce women who have never used a firearm to the shooting sports. Seventy-two ladies from eighteen to approximately sixty-five years of age spent a beautiful early summer day learning the basics of firearm safety, function, use and range conduct in a subdued, friendly setting with no pressure, and they seemed to enjoy the experience.

The event is entirely funded by sportsmen. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation donated cash, the Fern Creek Sportsman's Club donated the use of their entire facility for the day, along with some ammo and all the clay birds, and several of the club's members donated use of their own personal firearms. The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Foundation donated cash.

The Kentuckiana Chapter Safari Club International donated use of the club's Lazershoot training equipment, use of the club's training rifles, shooting safety equipment, and the Club's trained shooting coach. The club also arranged a donation of one hundred boxes of .22 ammo from Lotus Gunworks for the event. The Kentuckiana



Safari Club International Chapter views projects such as this and Archery in Schools as an extension of our ongoing work to introduce as many new participants as possible to the shooting and hunting sports.

We teach the function of the firearm and the general safety

course then, with eye and ear protection provided, we send the ladies out to different shooting stations. Gary Roman from Firearms Service Center instructed the shotgun segment and provided the shotguns. Scott King of King Archery instructed the archery segment and provided the archery equipment. KYSCI member Roger LaPointe who is a certified instructor in every NRA shooting discipline conducted the rifle segment using the KYSCI club training rifles.

KYSCI/CMP Shooting Committee member Bob Edwards, a Civilian Marksmanship Program accredited coach, National Rifle Association three position small-bore accredited coach, National Shooting Sports Foundation (Olympics) three position small-bore accredited coach, Kentucky Justice Cabinet instructor, KDFWR hunter safety instructor, and Archery in Schools instructor, conducted the handgun segment of the day's instruction. Additionally, Derek Turner of Lotus Gunworks, a trained instructor, and John Cline, an experienced range officer, along with Kevin and Jacquie Kuhens, also staffed this station.



The ladies fired over 5000 rounds of .22 in a variety of single action revolvers, double action revolvers, and an assortment of semi-autos. They left this class well able to handle nearly any handgun they might encounter. The participants were encouraged to bring their own firearms as well, and for those who did, personal one on one instruction was provided for them after the initial instruction.

