

Northwest SCI

Northwest Chapter of Safari Club International



Fall 2017

www.scinw.com



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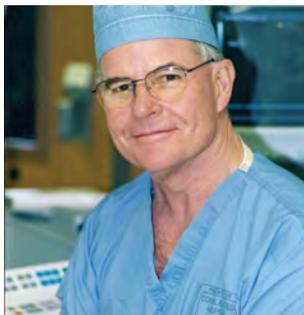
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Dave Randall



John Lazzar



Special Director Mike Skinner



Special Director Brian Wissner



Special Director Max Muller

Upcoming Events

-Sleigh Ride Dinner Buffet: December 2; see page 22 for more details.

-43rd Annual Sportsmen for Conservation Fund Banquet; FEBRUARY 17, 2018, see page 12 for more details.

Officers/Directors/Committee Chairs

Phone

Email

Officers:

President: JoDean Peters	253-988-2727	littlestsisjo@aol.com
Vice President: Del Berg	206-947-0598	berg.sue@comcast.net
Secretary: Cody Scriver	253-988-0557	trythis06@yahoo.com
Treasurer: David Irons	425-443-6603	david.irons.66@hotmail.com

Directors:

Expiring June 2020

Brett Singer	206-604-7713	brett.singer@yahoo.com
JoDean Peters	253-988-2727	littlestsisjo@aol.com
Del Berg	206-947-0598	berg.sue@comcast.net
Brian Wissner	425-283-6781	brianp.wissner@gmail.com

Expiring June 2019

Jim Chaffee	206-406-4024	jim.chaffee@raymondjames.com
David Randall	253-686-8064	randallsplumbing@comcast.net
Cody Scriver	253-988-0557	trythis06@yahoo.com

Vacancy

Expiring June 2018

Steven Ford	253-377-6728	sjford5@msn.com
John Lazzar	206-465-7872	johnlazer@aol.com
David Irons	425-443-6603	david.irons.66@hotmail.com

Vacancy

Special Directors

Mike Skinner	360-580-1634	webmaster@scinw.com
Max Muller	360-482-5754	kathleenl@centurytel.net
John Lecky	206-284-5345	lecky@u.washington.edu

<u>Past President:</u> Mike Rex	206-730-3763	lundboat@harboret.net
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Banquet Chairmen:

Gary Tennison	253-549-3777	gtennison@centurytel.net
Brian Wissner	425-283-6781	brianp.wissner@gmail.com
<u>Membership:</u> Steve Ford	253-244-0330	sjford5@msn.com
<u>Website:</u> Mike Skinner	360-580-1634	webmaster@scinw.com
<u>Gov. Affairs:</u> Chip Emmons	206-453-9403	chipgermany2007@hotmail.com
<u>Sensory Safari:</u> Mike Price	253-350-8737	mspricekent@hotmail.com
<u>Pathfinder:</u> John Lazzar	206-465-7872	johnlazer@aol.com
<u>Sportsmen Against Hunger:</u> Chip Emmons	206-453-9403	chipgermany2007@hotmail.com
<u>Edu.Rep./Sables:</u> JoDean Peters	253-988-2727	littlestsisjo@aol.com
<u>Newsletter:</u> Gary Swingle	520-289-9380	gary@ridgelinemarketsolutions.com

The Northwest Legacy

In Honor of our Past Presidents



Mike Rex 2015-2016



Chip Emmons 2011-2013



Bob Stallman 2010-2011



J. Alain Smith 2007-2008



Mike Price 2005-2007



Mark Dinwiddie 2003-2005



Gary Tennison 2001-2003



Chris Klineburger 1987-1988

Thank You!

Not Pictured :

Allen Ernst 2013-2015

Axel Strakeljahn 1995-1997

Ed Prkut 1988-1989

Gerry Lamarre 1979-1980

Tom Johnson 2008-2010

Mike Westad 1993-1995

Renne Mills 1986-1987

Jack Schwabland 1977-1979

Pete Papac 1991-1993

Steven Shull 1983-1986

Dennis Dean 1976-1977

Tony Sulak 1975-1976

Bill Harrison 1999-2001

David McBrayer 1990-1991

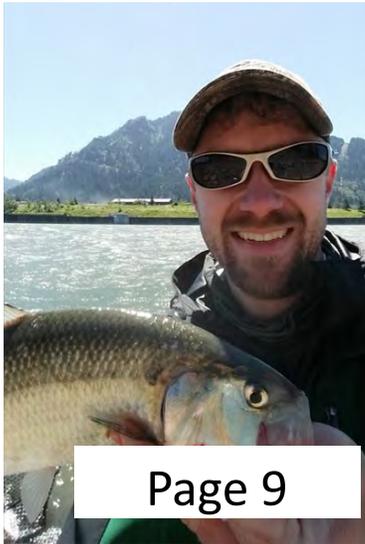
Buzzi Cook 1981-1983

Dr. Charles Day 1974-1975

Jack Gooch 1997-1999

Doug Robinson 1989-1990

Myron Storer 1980-1981



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MISS ONE MORE TIME....



AND IM GETTING A NEW OWNER



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President's Message

Summer has already turned to Fall and hunting seasons are going strong. The outdoors is a great place to be as the brisk mornings remind us that Fall is here. As we go about our yearly planning of our outdoor excursions and our hunts, we must be reminded of Safari Club Internationals' mission of protecting hunters' rights and promoting wildlife conservation. It is good to be a part of that mission by supporting the SCI Northwest Chapter. By fulfilling these goals, we will give ourselves, and tomorrows young hunters, opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and the wildlife that our conservation efforts preserve.

Hopefully, you will enjoy the articles and reports in this issue of the newsletter. The Chapter has taken part in some interesting projects and events. It is very rewarding to take part in these, as each one enriches our communities and brings like-minded people together to see old friends and to meet new ones. Members are also busy with fishing, hunting, and enjoying the great outdoors and have supplied you with some of their life-changing memories by writing a story or sending in photos.

Fall also brings us to the time to work on our next fund raising banquet. Our 2018 banquet is scheduled for February 17, so mark your calendars! The Board is still looking for volunteers for committee chairs and helpers at the banquet. So bring your ideas and talents to the next board meeting and sign on!

I would like to personally invite you to attend one of our monthly board meetings so you can see what goes on behind the scenes. We are looking for volunteers to join the board and help where they can: we currently have several Board openings and your interest and support would be greatly appreciated!!



We have our monthly board meetings on the second Wednesday of every month at the DoubleTree Inn Southcenter (16500 Southcenter Pkwy, Seattle, WA 98188). We meet in the lobby between 5:00 & 6:00 p.m. where you can order up a beverage, sit down, socialize and share hunting stories, etc. A little before 6:00 p.m. we all move into a conference room that is set up just for our SCI NW Chapter Board meeting at which time a waiter comes in and you can choose to order off the menu and pay for your dinner. The meeting begins promptly at 6:00 p.m. where you will be provided with meeting minutes from the previous month and an agenda so you can follow along. The meeting usually lasts for approximately 2 hours.

Hope to see you all soon, whether it be at a board meeting, chapter event, or out and about in the outdoors!

Good Hunting!

JoDean Peters

SCI Northwest Chapter President



News from National

US Government Orders Expansion of Hunter Access on Federal Lands

In a ground-breaking move, U.S. Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke issued an order in mid-September that directs the overseers of millions of acres of Federal lands to come up with plans to expand access for hunters and fishermen.

“Hunting and fishing is a cornerstone of the American tradition and hunters and fishers of America are the backbone of land and wildlife conservation,” said Secretary Zinke. “The more people we can get outdoors, the better things will be for our public lands. As someone who grew up hunting and fishing on our public lands - packing bologna sandwiches and heading out at 4AM with my dad - I know how important it is to expand access to public lands for future generations. Some of my best memories are hunting deer or reeling in rainbow trout back home in Montana, and I think every American should be able to have that experience.”

“We are delighted with this action by Secretary Zinke,” said SCI President Paul Babaz. “It will give American sportsmen and women much greater opportunity to hunt and fish on the lands that belong to all of us, and will assure the conservation of wildlife on those lands well into the future.”

Recognizing the critical role hunters play in conservation, Secretarial Order 3356 directs bureaus within the department to:

Within 120 days produce a plan to expand access for hunting and fishing on BLM, USFWS and NPS land.
Amend national monument management plans to ensure the public's right to hunt, fish and target shoot.
Expand educational outreach programs for underrepresented communities such as veterans, minorities, and youth.

In a manner that respects the rights and privacy of the owners of non-public lands, identify lands within their purview where access to Department lands, particularly access for hunting, fishing, recreational shooting, and other forms of outdoor recreation, is currently limited (including areas of Department land that may be impractical or effectively impossible to access via public roads or trails under current conditions, but where there may be an opportunity to gain access through an easement, right-of-way, or acquisition), and provide a report detailing such lands to the Deputy Secretary.

Within 365 days, cooperate, coordinate, create, make available, and continuously update online a single “one stop” Department site database of available opportunities for hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on Department lands.

Improve wildlife management through collaboration with state, Tribal, territorial, and conservation partners.

“The Secretary's actions today target some of the most important obstacles to hunting in the United States,” said Anna Seidman, SCI’s Director of Governmental Affairs in the nation’s Capital. “His focus on increased access, better education and volunteer activities will help provide greater opportunities for current hunters and encouragement for new and future hunters. SCI looks forward to working with the Secretary and the Department of the Interior on these new projects.”

SCI’s advocacy staff on Capitol Hill worked closely with other groups and government officials to help realize this historic change of direction by the U.S. federal government.

Thanks to SCI’s publications and hunter advocacy teams for keeping us informed on these issues.

To see more of what SCI is doing to protect hunting at the national and international level, visit www.safariclub.org

If you have old, new, funny or memorable pictures & stories about your outdoor adventures, we want them for our website and newsletter!

Send to gary@ridgelinemarketsolutions.com



Big thanks to Kirt Fredericks and Richard Lapinski for sharing these photos with us. Truly amazing adventures; congratulations!

Spring Time Fun: Family, Friends and Solo Adventures



Sitting at work just thinking of fall time hunting for deer, elk, black bear, waterfowl, upland birds and fishing for salmon I wonder what adventures I can find after the

cold of winter lifts to get back into the outdoors where I love to be. Through the spring and early summer I went on a few new adventures razor clam digging on the Washington Coast, shad fishing on the Columbia River at the Bonneville dam and remembered trout fishing as a kid when I was out this year reeling in my catch.

Razor Clams Digging

The razor clam season was finally opened after a few days of red tide concern at the beginning. Since Long Beach was closed for red tide the entire season the last year when other beaches were open the limit was increased to a 25 clam limit compared to the 15 per person on the other beaches that were opened.



Razor clam digging isn't that difficult and can be easily learned by just watching a few videos online and reading some "how to" articles before going out to give it a shot. There were also plenty of people willing to help out the newbie with a few pointers. I ended up pulling 11 razor clams from the sand with my clam gun after I dug a few holes and ended up with just a pile of sand and no clams in sight.

The long 2.5 hour drive from the Tacoma area was definitely worth the beautiful day on the Washington coast-

line. On the drive over I even saw some deer and elk grazing off the roadway and it was a perfect spring day to go on an adventure.

Next season I am planning to coordinate with my co-workers to go out as a group to dig some clams. Years ago my parents would go digging for clams with their families and I think getting my parents back out would be a great time to spend with them. Do you go clam digging with your friends, kids or grandkids?

Shad Fishing

This June I went fishing for shad for the first time and now I know what I have planned for the rest of my life in June. Fishing for shad is not the slow sit around activity that trout fishing can be, it's an action packed event where even newcomers and kids can easily catch 10-15 in a day or just in an afternoon. Typically shad counts through the Bonneville Dam build up to 20,000 a day in just over a week of the start of the spawning run and quickly climb above 50,000 fish through the dam each day. Fish counts can be found online for many different dams and waterways.



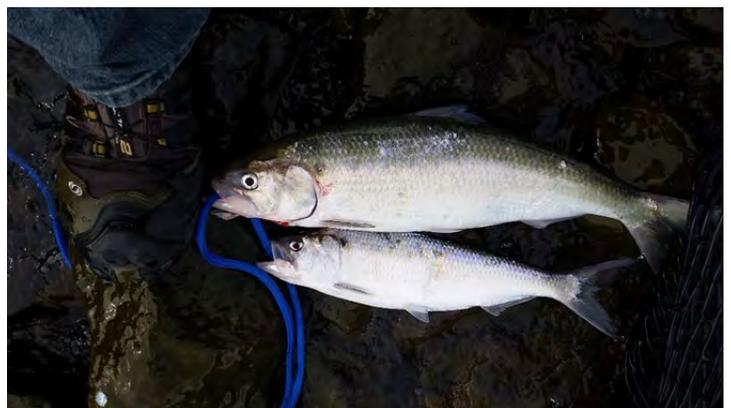
The 2017 season resulted in a peak of quarter million fish in one day through the Bonneville dam and held steady in the 100K to 200K range for over a week pushing the total count to 2.4 million shad nearing the end of the run. I made the 3 hour drive two different times and hauled in a total of 55 shad weighing just shy of 80lbs total. **[Continued on the next page.]**

Spring Time Fun: Family, Friends and Solo Adventures

As the numbers increased over the season I ended up catching 3 monster females that dwarfed even the large males that were 1.5 pounds because these females were a hefty 3 pounds apiece filled with eggs ready to spawn. In comparison the WA state record for shad is a monster 3.85 pounds fish. I ended up meeting my coworker at the dam one time and with over 20 years of experience between him and his brother they landed well over 150 fish, along with the help of my coworker's son, filling three 100 quart coolers that were also packed with ice to keep them cold. Since shad is actually a non-native invasive species in the Columbia river that was brought over from the East coast and originally introduced into California there is no catch limit and you can keep as many as you can land. Even though I caught a lot of fish it seems at times that there was a 50% chance of having them shake off your hook or getting snagged up in rocks and losing your jig. Watching other people will give you a few ideas of how to improve your technique to catch more fish, but unfortunately it doesn't matter who you are because everybody loses a handful of jigs in a day and gives you a lot of practice tying knots.



Shad can be prepared in a multitude of ways from pickling, canning, smoking and even deep frying. I have been told by coworkers and friends that shad is also fantastic for sturgeon and crab bait. The timing for shad fishing is almost perfect with the crabbing season just around the corner and the large numbers of fish caught daily makes for an exciting trip compared to sitting around and not catching anything for hours with other species which can be a hit or miss opportunity. Have you been fishing for shad before?



Top fish is a female & bottom fish is a male. Males usually range from 0.75-1.5lbs and females 1.5-3lbs.

[Continued on the next page.]

Spring Time Fun: Family, Friends and Solo Adventures

Trout Fishing



When April hits I start getting my trout gear ready. Lakes get stocked heavy and crowds of people fish the lakes hard so I find my best bet to be only

fishing my favorite spot for the first 2 to 3 weeks. If I am still trout fishing in mid-May I only go out to lakes that have been recently stocked so I can catch some fish instead of just sitting around all day without any bites. Thankfully there are early mornings, beautiful views and great fishing spots to enjoy so even if I don't catch any fish I still have coworkers and friends to chat with and the outdoors to enjoy.

I found an old picture of me fishing as a teenager on a camping trip. I still use this pole to go trout fishing and for other small fish. It still works great after a little bit of maintenance and new line every few years.



I had memories of hatchery pond fishing when I was a kid and the memories were not as clear as I would like to remember. I found these old film printed photos of me fishing with my grandmother having fun when I was 4.5 years old back in 1993. She passed away earlier this year and actually gave me my first rifle being her bolt action

Marlin in .22LR from her shooting days back in high school. I was really shocked and happy when she walked out at Christmas shortly after my 18th birthday and handed me her rifle from her high school shooting days. It works great for a 65 year old plinking gun every so often and hopefully will take it for small game hunting this year with me.



Do you take your kids or grandkids out fishing? What do you go fishing for with them? Have you handed down any of your old rifles to your kids or grandkids?

-Brian Wissner

Editor's Note: Thanks for sharing these stories and pictures, Brian. We always like to include these from our members. If you need a little help putting together a story, just email the editor at gary@ridgeline-marketsolutions.com to get started.

SAVE THE DATE!



**NORTHWEST CHAPTER OF SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL
43RD ANNUAL SPORTSMEN FOR CONSERVATION FUND
BANQUET & WILDLIFE BENEFIT AUCTION**

FEBRUARY 17, 2018

**HILTON SEATTLE AIRPORT CONFERENCE CENTER
17620 INTERNATIONAL BLVD., SEATTLE, WA 98188**

- 10:00 AM - DOORS OPEN FOR EXHIBITORS SET UP
- 2:00 PM - DOORS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
- 2:00 PM - SILENT AUCTION, RAFFLES & GAMES OPEN
- 3:00 PM - CHAMPAGNE RECEPTION
- 5:45 PM - SILENT AUCTION, RAFFLES & GAMES END
- 6:00 PM - DINNER AND PROGRAM
- 7:00 PM - LIVE AUCTION
- 10:00 PM - EVENT ENDS – THANK YOU!

You do not have to be an SCI member to attend. Exhibitor Booth Space is free with purchase of any dinner selection. Dinner package #1 and #2 Include Two Drink Tickets

EARLY BIRD TICKET SALES DEADLINE: January 29TH, 2018 @ 11:59PM

ADVANCE TICKET SALES DEADLINE: February 13th, 2018 @ 5:00PM

BEST DEAL: #1 DINNER PACKAGE (Early Bird)*

SATURDAY DINNER PACKAGE (STEAK OR SALMON)	\$ 75.00 Package value
TWO DRINK TICKETS	\$ 20.00 Package value
<u>15 RACK OF GUNS RAFFLE TICKETS</u>	<u>\$150.00 Package value</u>
VALUE	\$245.00
YOU SAVE	-\$120.00
YOU PAY ONLY	\$125.00 (If purchased by Jan. 29th, 2018) \$145.00 (If purchased after Jan. 29th, 2018)

MORE SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUET DINNER PACKAGES

#2 SPONSOR PACKAGE (*Early Bird*)*

SATURDAY DINNER PACKAGE (STEAK OR SALMON)	\$ 75.00 Package Value
TWO DRINK TICKETS	\$20.00 Package value
30 RACK OF GUNS RAFFLE TICKETS	\$300.00 Package value
ONE-IN-SIX CHANCE FOR A STOEGER SHOTGUN	\$450.00 Package value
<hr/>	
*SPECIAL BONUS, VOLUME XIII SCI RECORD BOOK SET	\$ Super added Value
VALUE	\$845.00
YOU SAVE	-\$495.00
YOU PAY ONLY	\$350.00 (If purchased by Jan. 29th, 2018)
	\$375.00 (If purchased after Jan. 29th, 2018)

***SPECIAL BONUS** - all Early Bird sponsor packages will include a two volume hard bound set of the SCI volume XIII Africa Edition of the record book!

#3 DINNER ONLY (*Early Bird*)*

SATURDAY DINNER PACKAGE (STEAK OR SALMON)	\$75.00
YOU PAY ONLY	\$75.00 (If purchased by Jan. 29th, 2018)
	\$85.00 (If purchased after Jan. 29th, 2018)

#4 FULL TABLE VIP RESERVATION \$3500.00

RESERVE A FULL TABLE OF TEN FOR 3500.00, AND THE TABLE WILL RECEIVE AS A GIFT, ONE (1) STOEGER 12 GA O/U SHOTGUN AS A THANK YOU. IN ADDITION EACH SEAT AT THE TABLE WILL RECEIVE ALL OF THE ITEMS IN PACKAGE #2 ABOVE. TWO DRINK TICKETS, 30 RACK OF GUN TICKETS, THE TWO VOLUME SCI RECORD BOOK SET, AND A BONUS CHANCE AT THE HENRY GOLDEN BOY .22 RIFLE. PLUS ALL SEATS ARE AUTOMATICLY ENTERED IN A ONE IN SIX CHANCE TO WIN ANOTHER SHOTGUN AS WELL!! THIS IS YOUR BEST CHANCE FOR A NIGHT YOU WON'T FORGET

*EARLY BIRD PRICING INCLUDES ONE "EARLY BIRD" BONUS CHANCE TO WIN A HENRY GOLDEN BOY .22 LR LEVER GUN! THESE TICKETS WILL NOT BE FOR SALE AT THE EVENT SO BE SURE TO REGISTER EARLY FOR YOUR CHANCE AT THIS CLASSIC RIFLE!

*EACH OF THE SPONSOR PACKAGES (#2) WILL ALSO HAVE A ONE-IN-SIX CHANCE OF WINNING A STOEGER CONDOR LONGFOWLER 12 GAUGE OVER/UNDER SHOTGUN WITH GRADE "A" WALNUT STOCK, IMPROVED & MODIFIED CHOKES.



For complete details and to purchase tickets, please visit us at
www.scinw.com

Your Chapter at Work:

Bob Oke Pheasant Farm Project

By Gary Tennison



Most people are unaware, as was I, that the Bob Oke Game Farm in Centralia raises pheasants, lots of pheasants. That farm is run by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. It raises about 50,000 pheasants each year to be released throughout the state at various game release sites. Eggs are gathered twice a day at the farm for a week or more, and then placed in the incubators as soon as enough eggs are gathered to fill the incubators. There are about 3,000 eggs in the incubator at a time with a new hatch occurring about every ten days after the initial batch. Once they hatch the chicks are put in progressively larger size pens as they grow in size, making room for the next newly hatched chicks. They progress from new hatched chicks to eventually ending up in acres of net covered flight pens.

The pheasant farm in Centralia was devastated during a February snow storm. All of the net pens were on the ground, torn netting, broken support poles and all of the support wires were in ruin. Bill Montgomery, the WDFW Region 6 volunteer coordinator put out an urgent plea for help to get the pens off the ground and back in operation for the onslaught of pheasants that would soon be coming down the hatching pipeline. Over 60 Master Hunter volunteers answered the call and got the pens raised, repaired and back in useable condition.

In April, with the Master Hunters list pretty well worn out. Bill Montgomery started contacting clubs and organizations such as SCI for help. The new urgent need was for help to assemble some bird feeders for their farm. These are not your normal back yard type of bird feeder. These feeders hold 900 pounds of feed and are about five feet tall.

Jim Chaffee got me involved in this project, through the master hunter network. We both ended up bringing several of the feeders home, assembling them two at a time and hauling them down to

the farm in our trailers. Each time I hauled two feeders to the farm, I would spend a few hours there putting more of them together and repeat the process. It was soon obvious that the 15 or so we had put together by hauling them home in pieces and then back to Centralia two at a time was never going to make a dent in the 100 or so feeder that the farm needed. At our April 12th chapter board meeting Jim organized a date for an all day work party.

On May 6th, Jim Chaffee, Del Berg, a friend of Jim's and I met at the farm with tools in hand and started two man bird feeder assembly teams. By the end of the day we had put together an amazing 25 of those feeders. Chris White, director of the farm and the crew at the farm were not only very appreciative of our labors but dually impressed! We had at the least made a sizeable dent in the job that needed to be accomplished.

Jim Montgomery put out a second and final plea for help from his list of master hunters and any SCI chapter volunteers on June 22. The first hatch of birds was already in the flight pens and thousands more were in the wings, no pun intended! This was a very short four day request notice, for a weekday work party on June 27th. This time Jim Chaffee, Mike Price, Brian Wissner and I from the Northwest Chapter, along with four Master Hunters showed up ready to work. In spite of the very hot day, we all stuck to the job and manage to assemble the remaining 51 feeders.

Once again Chris White and the workers at the farm were very impressed with the amount of work that we accomplished on that day. We were a little impressed ourselves! It is very gratifying to do a job and do it well. It is even more gratifying when that job is so greatly appreciated. See the comments below from Chris and Bill of the Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Quote from Chris White, DFW Director of the Game Farm.

I wanted to thank you for coordinating and volunteering for the feeder build on June 27, 2017. You were able to build 51 large range feeders. These feeders are very labor intensive to construct however once placed in the field they take half the manpower to maintain due to the large capacity, also they have a custom feed pan that decreases feed wastage. The Western Washington program will see decreased costs in both labor and feed usage thanks to the hard work of all who helped. I am sorry that I do not have everyone's e-mail so if you and others could forward this message I would appreciate it.

Quote from Bill Montgomery, DFW Hunter Education Coordinator for Region 6:

Great Job by all! I always argue with the other Regional Volunteer Coordinators, over whose has the best Volunteers, and you guys make my argument for me. It's great to see MH who take the program to heart, not needing the hours but helping out anyway. Again I want to thank everyone who helped, especially the SCI group for coordinating the work.

The Northwest Chapter's Anti-Poaching Program

In 2016, the Northwest Chapter launched its Anti-Poaching program rewarding individuals who've contributed to the conviction of a poacher, making them eligible for a reward (up to \$500).

The NW Chapter has Anti-Poaching signs that will be distributed everywhere we go.



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Brett.singer@yahoo.com

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SafariCare



Safari Club International is recognized worldwide for not only its hunting and conservation efforts but also its humanitarian contributions, dedicating resources to assisting those who are less fortunate and giving back to communities is an SCI value. The Safari Club International Foundation, SafariCare and our Blue Bags are a way you can support this cause. These bags are filled by chapters, individual members, church groups or even groups of schoolchildren. The contents may include medical, educational, and other relief supplies, clothing or toys. The Blue Bag is taken to remote areas of the world by hunters who have planned hunts in these regions. The supplies are then delivered directly to villages, clinics, orphanages, schools, doctors, caretakers and teachers to use with people in need. SCI and SCIF, like so many organizations, put forth enormous effort each year to help improve the quality of life throughout the world. Leaving the country and need a bag? Call our [Blue Bag Brigade](#) at (206)795-2895 to receive!



Are you traveling abroad? Contact the SCI NW [Blue Bag Brigade](#) via email at scinorthwest@gmail.com or call us at (206)795-2895 and let us know. We would love to send a bag along with you and help you fill it!



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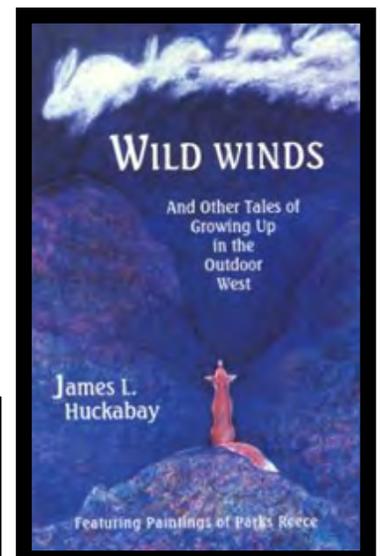
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Jim Huckabay's "Wild Winds and Other Tales of Growing Up in the Outdoor West" is in its third printing. Check it out and get your copy from Jerrol's Books at www.jerrols.com (search "Wild Winds")



National Hunting and Fishing Day Celebration

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is hosted a National Hunting and Fishing Day celebration. This family oriented event was a great way to introduce youth to target shooting, hunting and fishing. It's also an opportunity to recognize that hunters and anglers are and will continue to be among the most active supporters of wildlife management and conservation.

The event also featured:

- Lunch provided for free for the first 500 youth attendees and accompanying adults.
- Free participation bags with shooting safety gear for the first 500 youth attendees.
- Door prize drawings.
- A turkey hunting clinic, and presentations on scent-free hunting.
- Opportunities to learn basic knot tying.
- Opportunities to make plaster casts of animal tracks and Japanese-style (Gyotaku) fish prints.
- Conservation organization displays and information.
- Shooting safety and instruction
- The chance to catch over 500 trout stocked just for this event

This free event was also sponsored by the Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Safari Club International (NW Chapter), Stonerose, Volterra Restaurants and Chef/Owner Don Curtis, Bass Pro Shops, Trout Unlimited (Monroe Chapter), WA. Hunter Education Instructors Association (WHEIA), WA. Friends of the NRA (Grant), WA. Grand Lodge Medical Team, WA. Ornamental Game Bird Breeders, Master Hunters, Hunter Education Instructors, Puget Sound Knappers, National Wild Turkey Federation, Mule Deer Foundation, Chief Seattle Council BSA Shooting Sports Committee and Camp Pigott.



Gary Tennison, Mike Price, Jim Chaffee, JoDean Peters were on hand to help out in the booth this year.

State Hunting News

Online report offers insights into upcoming hunting seasons

OLYMPIA – With hunting seasons for deer, elk, waterfowl and upland game birds set to get underway in September, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has issued its annual online guide to hunting opportunities throughout the state.

WDFW's Hunting Prospects report, available at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/prospects/>, provides updated information about game populations, hunting rules and land access in every game-management district in the state.

"This report was compiled by local wildlife biologists to help hunters succeed in the field," said Anis Aoude, WDFW game division manager. "Whether you're a seasoned hunter or just getting started, you'll likely find some helpful information in Hunting Prospects." State game managers expect another good year of hunting, although hunters can expect new restrictions on deer and elk hunts in some areas due to the harsh conditions last winter. Meanwhile, hunting prospects for gamebirds are looking up, according to the report.

"This last winter was one of the tougher ones we've seen in recent years, and we have to give the herds – particularly those east of the Cascades – some time to rebuild," Aoude said. "Fortunately, most Washington deer and elk benefitted from a previous string of mild winters, so the affected herds are only slightly below our population objectives."

Late spring rains also delayed nesting for doves and some other upland game birds, but observations in the field indicate a good hatch this year, said Kyle Spragens, WDFW waterfowl manager.

Especially encouraging is the boom in the state's waterfowl populations, which have rebounded from the drought of 2015, Spragens said. Among the various species of ducks and geese that breed in Washington state, Canada geese are up by 17 percent, mallards are up by 74 percent and wood ducks are up by 76 percent from last year.

"This year's long, wet spring was a boon to waterfowl in our state," Spragens said. "Those local birds will be the

focus of hunters' attention until northern birds arrive later in the year from Canada and Alaska."

Aoude asks that hunters pay special attention to several new rules that will take effect this year:

- **Youth-only hunts:** The traditional bird hunt for hunters under age 16 has been split between two weekends this year, providing more options for them and the non-hunting parents, guardians and mentors who accompany them. The youth hunt for waterfowl is scheduled Sept. 16-17, followed by the youth hunt for pheasant and other upland game birds Sept. 23-24.
- **Goose bag limits:** Starting Oct. 14, hunters in most areas will be allowed to take up to six white geese and 10 white-fronted geese – in addition to their limit of four Canada – per day. The change reflects the large number of white geese on the northern breeding grounds.
- **Special deer hunts:** Youth hunters and hunters with disabilities can hunt any deer in Game Management Units (GMU) 101, 105, 108, 111, 113, 117, and 121 from Oct. 14-15 and Oct. 21-22 during the modern firearm general season.

Hoof disease precaution: Several units have been added to the list of GMUs where hunters are required to remove and leave behind the hooves of harvested elk to reduce the spread of elk hoof disease. Those units include GMUs 633 and 636 in Mason County, and 407, 418, 437, and 454 in north Puget Sound.

These and other hunting regulations are described in WDFW's Big Game Hunting pamphlet or Migratory Waterfowl and Upland Game pamphlets, available at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hunting/regulations/>

However, for an overview of how those hunting seasons are shaping up in specific areas of the state, Aoude recommends checking the Hunting Prospects report.

"Most serious hunters are eager to get all the information they can before they go afield," Aoude said. "The Hunting Prospects are designed to fill that demand."



Summer Meeting Recap

Once again, Alain and Shelly opened their home and fantastic trophy room to the Northwest Chapter for our annual summer meeting. Guests enjoyed the trophy room, a little golf, swimming, raffles, and a catered dinner. Donations were taken for local food banks again as was done in prior chapter meetings. **The generous amount of donations from our chapter members was dropped off by Gary Tennison at the Tacoma Salvation Army food bank. This is just one of many ongoing humanitarian projects that the chapter participates in.** The food banks are always in need of and very appreciative of our donations.



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DESPITE EFFORTS, GRIZZLY BEAR HUNTING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA AT RISK

During the May 2017 SCI board meeting in Washington D.C., the Canadian Chapters brought to the floor an issue concerning Grizzly Bear hunting in British Columbia.

In their upcoming election, the outcome may very well determine the future of grizzly bear hunting in British Columbia. Anti-hunting groups are focusing their efforts on closing the grizzly bear hunt, one of the province's most iconic species. If elected, the New Democratic Party has promised to close the grizzly bear "trophy hunt" in British Columbia for non-residents.

The GOABC (Guide Outfitters Association of British Columbia) asked SCI's chapters for financial assistance in supporting a strategy to help the B.C. Liberal Party candidate get re-elected. The B.C. Liberal Party is (similar to the US Republican Party) pro-business and pro-hunting. They continue to defend our right to hunt. In 2001 they were responsible for opening the grizzly bear hunt.

The New Democratic Party (similar to the US Democratic Party) closed the grizzly bear hunt in 2000 (their last time in power). The New Democratic Party is the official opposition and announced that if elected they would close the grizzly bear hunt for non-residents.

This is an emotional debate designed to win urban and "green" votes. This is not a scientific debate. The grizzly bear population in British Columbia is healthy and growing (~15,000 bears) with an annual harvest of about 350-400 bears (275 by residents and 125 by guide outfitters). This is a pure anti-hunting media movement and not in the interests of conservation of species management.

To be effective with their initiative to protect the grizzly bear harvest, GOABC set a goal to raise funds of \$250,000 to make a difference in the outcome of the pending election.

The SCI U.S. Chapters including our Northwest Chapter, stepped up with donations that totaled \$60,000. The check was presented to GOABC at their annual convention in Victoria, British Columbia.

You may have heard by now, that the election was not



what SCI, GOABC, and Hunters had hoped for. The New Democratic Party did win, and as promised stopped the hunting of Grizzly Bears in B.C. The following statement was put out by National SCI.

Government officials, bowing to the bluster of anti-hunters, have closed the hunting of grizzly bears in British Columbia, Canada. This move ignores all sound science that supports a continuation of grizzly bear hunting in that Province.

Safari Club International is actively pursuing a number of different avenues to address this pressing issue, including a call to base all wildlife management decisions on sound science that supports sustained use of those renewable resources.

In a letter to the Minister and Deputy Minister of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, SCI stated: "We at Safari Club International are deeply troubled by the recent announcement of the closure of grizzly bear hunting in British Columbia. "We feel this decision has been based on emotion and not science. Decisions of this magnitude must be made, using sound science-based conservation. There should have been stakeholder consultations before such drastic action was taken."

The actions in British Columbia follow elections earlier this year when the anti-hunters' influence became more prevalent in the government.

It is too bad that the hunting interests in B.C. came up on the losing side of this issue, as we all know it will be much harder to get the bear hunting resumed again now that it has been shut down.



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