



HUNTERS

OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF SCI CHAPTERS IN WISCONSIN AND ILLINOIS
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2023

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Editor/Publishers: Mark & Coni LaBarbera

HUNTERS is a bimonthly publication for members of SCI chapters in Wisconsin, plus bonus electronic circulation, which includes some of the world's most avid and affluent conservationists who enjoy hunting here and around the world. They have earned a reputation of leadership on natural resources issues and giving to protect and support the future of hunting and conservation here and abroad. To share your message with them, send ads and editorial submissions to Mark LaBarbera at wiscimag@peoplepc.com.

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HUNTERS

Official Magazine of SCI Chapters in Wisconsin and Illinois
November/December 2023

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SCI Region 16 Report

by Charmaine Wargolet,
Regional Representative

A chill is in the air, and we are right in the middle of hunting season in Wisconsin and Illinois. It is a great time of year to be a sportsman or woman! Enjoy your time afield!

As I wondered what to talk about this issue, it happens we just firmed up today a deal between the Wisconsin DNR and three of our chapters, Badgerland, NE WI, and the WI chapter for contributing funding for the National Archery in the Schools (NASP) program. By the time this reaches everyone all of the approvals should have gone through and we should have a firm plan in place. A huge thanks to Randy Mayes from Badgerland for spearheading this process and getting it to the finish line with just a few tweaks added by the rest of us.

The plan is to have each of these three chapters collectively fund \$800 per start up archery program in middle and high schools. We will start by giving \$3,200 from each chapter to fund twelve start up programs that the DNR NASP coordinator determines are ready to fully implement the program. The full cost of the program is \$3,450 of which \$1,500 comes from the National NASP organization, \$855 from the WI DNR Bow Grant, \$300 from the WI Bowhunters, and \$800 from the SCI chapters. They will provide the oversight to make sure the programs are



being run in the physical education classes and the equipment is not just shoved in a closet somewhere.

The SCI chapters will have a banner in each of the DNR trailers that they will hang during all of the state tournaments and will send us quarterly reports as to which schools received the start up grants. This is a win-win for everyone concerned and we are all really excited about it.

This is another great example of Region 16 chapters working together for the good of our outdoor heritage. Another really excellent example is the Black Bear Research Endowment that is described in another article in this magazine. For \$100,000 SCI secured the naming rights for a portion of the Endowment. It is "The Safari Club International Wisconsin Black Bear Research Fellowship." SCI National contributed \$10,000, the Little Orchard Foundation contributed \$20,000, and the rest (\$70,000) was contributed by the Badgerland Chapter, Illinois-Chicago Chapter, NE Wisconsin Chapter, SE Wisconsin Bowhunters Chapter, and Wisconsin Chapter! As members of these chapters, you can certainly be proud and pleased with their use of your chapters' hard earned money!

The holidays are approaching, and I do not want to miss a chance to wish you all the Happiest of Thanksgivings and the most Blessed of Christmases with those you love.

As always, shoot straight, be well, and God bless!

SCI Helps UWSP Fund \$1 Million Bear Endowment

Building on 46 years of impactful black bear research, the College of Natural Resources at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point has received a \$1 million endowment to ensure the continuation of the work and support the development of future conservation professionals.

The funding comes from three sources:

- **The Stephens Family Foundation Wisconsin Black Bear Research Project Endowment:** The Stephens Family Foundation is a staunch supporter of conservation and the UWSP College of Natural Resources. These funds will support all operations and needs of the college's black bear research and education.
- **The Searle-Dew-Thomas Boone and Crockett Wisconsin Black Bear Fellowship Endowment:** This endowment will support a research fellowship program, providing undergraduate and graduate student opportunities in cutting-edge black bear research.
- **The Safari Club International Wisconsin Black Bear Research Fellowship Endowment:** Multiple Wisconsin chapters of Safari Club International — including the Badgerland Chapter, Bowhunters Chapter, Illinois/Chicago Chapter and Northeast Wisconsin Chapter — have come together to secure funding in support of UW-Stevens Point's black bear research and education initiatives. These contributions will significantly enhance the university's ability to protect and conserve Wisconsin's black bear population.

"As a testament to our unwavering commitment to wildlife conservation, these funds will enable us to conduct comprehensive research and promote education and training on black bear ecology and management," said Brian Sloss, dean of the College of Natural Resources.

"We are extremely grateful to everyone who has supported this cause for their visionary contributions," he said. "Their gifts will provide valuable knowledge and experience in black bear

management to budding conservation professionals in perpetuity."

Dean Emerita Dr. Christine Thomas is an SCI member who helped secure multi-year funding through long-standing relationships with Region 16 Representative Charmaine Wargolet and other SCI leaders. The resulting endowment will yield benefits long into

techniques, further enhancing her impact on students and underscoring the promise her appointment holds for the future.

UW-Stevens Point's College of Natural Resources boasts a rich history in black bear research, housing one of the most extensive datasets available on these animals. With over 1,450 under-



Associate Professor Cady Sartini holds a baby black bear at a workshop giving students hands-on research experiences at a bear den.

the future and add to the conservation legacy of all involved.

Cady Sartini, an associate professor in the college, has led the Wisconsin Black Bear Research Project since 2020. She brings a wealth of expertise to the role, with extensive experience in wildlife and a strong commitment to student research. Sartini's creation of the Black Bear Ecology and Management course provides a weekend-long workshop where students learn and refine field

graduate majors, including more than 400 wildlife majors, UW-Stevens Point is a trailblazer among undergraduate natural resource and conservation programs in the United States. The college's commitment to hands-on field experiences and multidisciplinary career skills has earned it a strong reputation in conservation education and a platform in which to inspire the next generation of resource managers and conservation stewards.



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Legislative Update

by Dan Trawicki, SCI Lobbyist

Wanted to give you all an update on some of the issues going on that we have been working on. Joel Kleefisch and I made the five hour drive at the end of July for a fundraiser for Senator Rob Stafsholt. He has been a key player and chairs the Sporting Heritage Committee among others. Fact is, no outdoor issue will move forward without his approval. He also has killed many bills that negatively affect us.

SCI bought a table, and we were surrounded by great sportsmen from throughout the state. While there, we had a chance to talk with the Senator and bring some ideas forward on issues that affect us all. It was no surprise to any of us, when Sen. Stafsholt brought forward a bill (SB 139/AB 137) that would require the DNR to establish an actual goal number of wolves in the state. As a member to the wolf study committee, I have been continuously frustrated with the DNR and their unwillingness to do this. Virtually every sporting group in the state has asked for it. This bill does not look to set that number but would require the DNR to do so. We strongly support SB 139 and AB 137 and have registered so.

You may also have been aware of a recent article that appeared in Safari Times where National SCI came out supporting the position of our DNR which is the exact opposite position I have been taking as your lobbyist. I have reached out to National on several occasions asking them about this stance but as of this writing have yet to hear back. I will continue to move this forward.



Sen. Rob Stafsholt welcomed SCI to his fundraiser.

Lastly, by now you are all probably sick of hearing about our railroad crossing issue. I've written about it for several years always expressing optimism about success or some resolution. As you also are aware, we have not done well. As a result, I have redefined that mission.

I have always felt and still do that we should have the ability to cross RR tracks in our pursuit of the outdoors. After numerous hearings, legislative visits, and letters to the editor, it was clear it was going to be difficult if not impossible to move our agenda forward. After some discussion with my partner Joel Kleefisch, we decided to start over and look for small victories.

As it turns out the new Railroad Commissioner Don Vruwink was willing to meet and talk with us. Last month,

Joel and I met with he and staff members in Madison. Commissioner Vruwink was very gracious and easy to talk with.

As a compromise we all agreed to look at areas that have high traffic concentrations, and in some cases the state has built parking areas to accommodate sportsmen. In some of those key areas we would look at funding and try to find ways to create additional crossings that would provide legal access to outdoor activities. I realize this is less than our original desired outcome. But after many years of trying, we need to get some access that will help us all. I'm very grateful to Commissioner Vruwink for his willingness to listen, and desire to have an outcome that benefits all of us. I will keep you posted.



Railroad Commissioner Don Vruwink and staff met with SCI Lobbyist Dan Trawicki and Joel Kleefisch.

SB139 Would Require Wolf Population Goal

by Bob Matthews, Senior Coordinator, Great Lakes States, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation

For Safari Club International chapter members throughout the Great Lakes region, wolf population management is a familiar topic. Wisconsin Senate Bill 139, introduced by Senator Rob Stafsholt, Co-Chair of the Wisconsin Legislative Sportsmen's Caucus, would require the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to include a numeric population goal in its statewide wolf management plan. Science-based wildlife management is a quintessential element of conservation success in America, and the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) supports legislative efforts that retain state wildlife management agency authority while ensuring those agencies are following practices that are best for the state's wildlife populations and the sportsmen and women that pursue them.

For more than 30 years, SCI has worked with CSF, together serving as the nation's leading authority in developing and defending legislation that protects and advances our outdoor

traditions. CSF has been influential in passing over 1,000 pieces of pro-sportsmen legislation since 2018 alone by working directly with its unprecedented network of 2,500+ bipartisan, pro-sportsmen elected officials operating at both the federal and state levels across three powerful caucuses.

A common practice among state wildlife agencies across the country where wolves exist, including a numeric wolf population goal in its wolf management plan, would provide the DNR with an accurate frame of reference to evaluate whether the plan is achieving its intended goal of properly managing wolves in Wisconsin. The DNR estimates that Wisconsin is home to more than a thousand wolves, which freely range into Minnesota and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, creating a regional population of more than four-thousand wolves. This population – which CSF contends has fully recovered and should be delisted and under active state management – will likely continue its growth beyond what is healthy for not only the wolf population itself, but also the cattle, elk, deer, and other Wisconsin

species that wolves predate.

Earlier this year, CSF submitted comments on the DNR's draft wolf management plan and expressed concerns over the plan's failure to include a numeric population target that the DNR could use to evaluate the success of its management practices. Senator Stafsholt's bill, which fellow Caucus Co-Chair Representative Treig Pronschinske has co-sponsored, retains the DNR's discretion to determine the practices through which wolves in Wisconsin should be managed, including by statutorily required hunting and trapping seasons once wolves are inevitably delisted.

In September, CSF submitted testimony in support of Senator Stafsholt's bill. Through the robust network of legislators that comprise the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses, CSF will continue to support legislation that reinforces science-based wildlife management while safeguarding the time-honored traditions that sportsmen and women have enjoyed for generations.



Legislative Update

Senator Stafsholt Leads on Wolf Issue

by Dan Trawicki, SCI Lobbyist

Recently, Senator Rob Stafsholt and other legislators in both the Senate and Assembly brought forward new legislation to require the DNR establish a wolf population goal. Safari Club along with about every sporting group in the state has asked this from the very beginning. As a member of the states wolf study committee, I have been increasingly frustrated by the states inability or unwillingness to place an actual number on how many wolves we have in this state. Safari clubs position has been consistent. We believe wolves have a place here, the question has always been, how many?

Senator Stafsholt from District 10 should be commended for his

leadership on this issue. Senator Stafsholt has long been a leader on recreational issues. As chairman of the financial institutions and sporting heritage committee, he has always represented the sportsmen and women of this state in a positive manner. This legislation does not set that goal number but would require the DNR to establish that number. Joining Senator Stafsholt in the Senate were Senators Cowles, Felzkowski, Marklein, Quinn, Testin, and Tomczyk. Members of the Assembly included Green, Armstrong, Behnke, Bodden, Brooks, Callahan, Dallman, Edming, Gustafson, Magnafici, Mursau, Penterman, Pronschinske, Sapik, Schutt, Summerfield, Tittl, Swearingen, Schrae, and Rozar.

Safari Club has also gone on record objecting to the fact that when the DNR does offer licenses, they do not take into account the Indian tribes (that are allocated one-half of the recommended harvest) take very few or zero wolves. The federal judge who ruled in this case clearly allows the state to make adjustments to the harvest based on tribal quota being utilized. The state has consistently refused to take this into consideration. To put it clearly, if the state comes out and says they want a harvest of 300 wolves, and 150 of that 300 are allocated to tribal harvest we'll be under harvesting by approximately 50% every season. What seems like a common-sense argument has never been taken into consideration.

Illinois & Chicago Chapter Report

by Dale Rimkus, President

Please join us for upcoming chapter events. We're only a month or so away from the December 10 Annual Christmas Brunch. It's a fun morning with great food and friends old and new, plus an opportunity to meet with St. Nick himself! He knows if you've been bad or good, but he may not have heard about your latest hunting adventure.

Fellow SCI members from other chapters are also invited to our 52nd Annual Fundraiser & Banquet. Please join us April 20, 2024, for another amazing banquet.

Details for these and other chapter activities will be updated at www.sci-illinois.com.

If SCI Founder C.J. McElroy could join us, he would be amazed.

As many of you know, SCI evolved from the Los Angeles Safari Club, which was founded in 1971 by "Mac" McElroy. In early 1972 a club member from the Chicago area by the name of Roman

Hupalowski, a well-known booking agent with a great hunting resumé of his own, was at a meeting of the Los Angeles Safari Club. That evening, members approved expanding the club to include other groups. Shortly thereafter Roman invited Mac to Chicago to meet with a group of hunters Roman brought together, using his agency's mailing list of clients. Roman and his group of Chicago area hunters received Mac enthusiastically and this group became a chapter in what was to become Safari Club International. Mac returned to let the L.A. members know what had happened in Chicago. On March 9, 1972, the name of "The Los Angeles Safari Club" was changed to "Safari Club International," with the Chicago Chapter as one of the two founding chapters.

The Illinois & Chicago Chapter has a long and distinguished history in SCI. The Chicago branch of the chapter was the one organized by Roman Hupalowski in 1972. Some years later



the Illinois branch was spun off to accommodate even more hunters and conservationists. The two branches re-joined forces several years ago, re-united by our common purpose, and have moved forward together to continue our mission to protect our hunting rights and provide an organization for all hunters, novice or experienced, to enjoy.

When you join us April 20, 2024, for the Annual Fundraiser & Banquet you'll be treated to many superior items on our Live Auction and our legendary Silent Auction. You can expect great hunting and fishing trips, top of the line firearms, exquisite jewelry, artwork, hunting gear, and unique one-of-a-kind items. Please mark your calendars!

Wisconsin Chapter Report

by Sean Coykendall, President

The Wisconsin Chapter's Annual Sporting Clays Outing was another fun event. Watch for photos of members and friends having fun in a future issue. The chapter has been doing this for 34 years and our members and other shooters keep coming out to break clays and try to win some raffle prizes, but the underlying motivation is really just to have fun and share camaraderie with kindred spirits.

Now that the summer weather is turning to cooler temps, we are ramping up the planning for our 47th Grand Banquet at the Brookfield Convention Center. We have great board members that are bringing new ideas and energy to the chapter in hopes of making this our best banquet yet. Be on the lookout for the different ways we will be looking to make sure you enjoy the weekend and see our appreciation for your support.

As we end October and open our November HUNTERS magazine, I'm still

enjoying September memories. September is my favorite time of year because it means that bowhunting season for whitetails has finally arrived. SCI members and other hunters start chasing their target bucks. It also means another year that someone will be hunting for the first time. If you know a child, teenager or adult that has expressed interest in getting out in the woods, we owe it to each other and the future of hunting to take him or her afield now in November without waiting until next September or October. Most of us were introduced to hunting by a family member or friend that went out of their way to let you experience the thrill of hunting. Pay it forward by being that person to take an individual on their first hunting adventure.

Charmaine will be sharing news in her column in this issue about SCI's new arrangement with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and National Archery in the Schools Program, which we believe will help



increase opportunities for many more students to be introduced to archery. Hopefully, it will be a steppingstone toward becoming a bowhunter. We want to do more than our fair share of recruiting others to join us in looking forward to future September openers.

Good luck to all of you who are lucky enough to be entering the woods in the coming months!

Northeast Wisconsin Chapter Update

by Marty Witczak, President

Over the years we have added great members to our board. Let me introduce a recent addition and share with you her bio and photos. If you don't already know Betsy Wandtke, this will help explain why we are all so enthused.

She was born and raised in Oshkosh. Her father and two brothers were deer hunters, but in that era, girls were not supposed to want to hunt.

At age 21 she was mentored by someone who nurtured her desire to know more about hunting, fly fishing, shooting firearms, throwing tomahawks, basically anything to do with the out-of-doors. She not only learned how to hunt with a shotgun, a rifle, a muzzleloader, and a bow, but also hunted and competed with handguns as well.

Because of her enthusiasm for the outdoors, Betsy became a volunteer for many nonprofits. She traveled extensively, hunting, fishing, and working to raise money. She learned the importance of why hunters do what they do. Working with like-minded volunteers, she learned about animals and how to take care of them and their habitat. As she said, "Non-hunters and anti-hunters should know that hunters do more for wildlife conservation than anyone else."

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation was her first paid fundraising job as a "Major Gifts Officer" covering five states. She said, "Working with volunteers at banquets and with donors willing to give six-figure donations was fun and exhilarating!"

Working in an Emergency Room in Wausau as an EMT, Betsy was sought

out by a board member of Weatherby Foundation International who wanted her to make it bigger than it had ever been, and she did just that as Director of Operations. She raised millions of dollars to get kids in the field. She put boots on the ground to improve habitat and girls and women in the field to expand their horizons and realize their dreams of harvesting animals to feed their families and their memories. Empowering women, girls and boys was such an important cause to Betsy she continued to do it by teaching Concealed Carry and Personal Protection.

While working for Weatherby Fdn., she met Dan Harrison, owner/operator of "Harrison's Hunting." They became fast friends, and she joined him in his life-long cause to get kids in the field. She became part of the non-profit "The Great American Mentors" that he and others had launched. Then they started "Reloading Our Heritage" non-profit to mentor youth.

Betsy went on to be the Executive Director of Wyoming Wildlife Foundation.

Betsy has hunted and fished extensively worldwide and educates non-hunters that have no idea how important hunters and fishermen are to the environment.

Betsy and Dan started DB Global Safari's, LLC, joining forces with Congressional Sportsman's Foundation, Richard Childress, and others, and are now booking hunts all over the world! Betsy also is a Wisconsin realtor focused on vacant land and recreational property. She also maintained her EMT license.



Betsy says, "Teaming up with partners around the globe has always been a dream. Introducing Americans to the excitement of hunting or fishing in areas virtually unknown is exhilarating and contagious! What a ride this will be!"

Being a part of the local SCI chapter has always been important to Betsy. You may have seen her standing on tables coaxing someone to bid "just one more time." Now, back on the board, she will be more engaged than ever!



Lake Superior Chapter Report

by Jennifer Dums

The Lake Superior Chapter hosted our First Annual Golf Tournament fundraiser this August. We raised money for the local youth trap teams and utilized the team members as volunteers. The event was well attended with almost 20 teams! We raffled off great prizes and everyone had a great time for a great cause. We are already planning a bigger event for next year! The Black Bear golf course graciously offered the facility and also donated to the event. We'd like to thank all of the sponsors and volunteers that made this event a success. Here are some photos.



Wisconsin's Serpent Arms Unveils Air Shotgun

by Mark LaBarbera

I was blown away by the lightweight simplicity, effective firepower, and cool design of the 28 gauge compressed air shotgun handed to me by Joel Braun, owner & founder of Bullseye Industries, parent company of Serpent Arms, Juneau, Wisconsin. The CNC machining company had decades of experience and success. Now, the Bullseye and Serpent professionals are enjoying additional success with a fun product that also fits their passions for guns and hunting. Braun, as well as Serpent Arms' Kevin Grotelueschen, will tell you that it has been a labor of love and a fun challenge as they developed and patented their products. In addition to the SA .550 L 28 gauge

pre-charged pneumatic air shotgun I've been using this fall, they also patented a cartridge that holds various size shot. I used steel, tungsten and lead that the gun delivers from 800-1100 fps. The sleek design includes a carbon pressure tank that serves as the stock, as you can see in the photo of hunter Paul Mayer taken during last month's waterfowl hunt. The tank holds 4,351 psi (300 bar), is refillable and replaceable. The tank on the single shot lever action shotgun has been good for

about 10 rounds before needing a refill, but you can also simply screw off the air tank and instantly screw on one of the spare tanks from your blind bag or backpack. Besides being just plain fun to shoot, the gun is quiet with no recoil. That makes me think of using it where you don't want to disturb the neighbors or let others know where you're at, or for new shooters and mentored hunting opportunities. For squirrel hunters and others, there's an advantage in using a near-silent gun. For early adopters, it's a cool new thing to show your buddies before they see it later elsewhere. "We are now in production and orders will be filled in the order they are received," said Braun. The gun retails for about \$1,499. Check out www.serpentarms.com.



Irene's big halibut was the highlight of Patrick's adventure that included rockfish and salmon.



Adventure Report:

ALASKA

by Patrick Barwick

At the Wisconsin Chapter banquet in early 2023 we bought an Alaska fishing trip from Safari Unlimited and Drake Dawson. The boat was "Gone Again Charters" with Captain Jeff Bryden and his son Cody as First Mate.

My wife Irene and I have been to Alaska six times, so we figured on doing the full tour as we have done before. After spending the night in Anchorage, we got up early to take the train to Talkeetna and spent two nights there. It's a small town with a lot of history. We hunted out of there in 1997. From the lodge you can see Mount Denali if

weather permits. About 70% of the time, you cannot see it.

Onward by train to Denali, we stayed at the Grande Denali for two nights. It has a fantastic view because it is high on a mountain. With a landslide blocking part of the road in Denali Park you can only go about halfway through. They are in the process of building a bridge across the slide area. But it won't be done until 2025. We saw sheep, moose, caribou, and small critters.

Back to Anchorage for a night, we got back on the train to Seward the next morning. That's where our charter was out of. We spent two nights at Wind

Song Lodge just relaxing and exploring Seward. We took the Kenai Fjords park cruise and saw whales and porpoises, seals, and glaciers.

Our fishing charter company has people stay at the Captain's Lodge when you book your trip, so we went there and got the rundown from Jeff as to how the fishing was going to be. Six people were fishing, so we met the others. A couple from Colorado and a father and son from Alabama.

The first day of fishing was for cod and rockfish. We caught 64 cod, three halibut and four rockfish. On the second day we concentrated on salmon and rockfish. Only caught three salmon but slammed the rockfish. Yellow, black, Gray variations of rockfish were interesting to catch. Day Three we went for halibut in a deeper area about 250 feet down. Two fish a day with a two-day limit, I caught my two average size 23- to 24-inch fish. The Alabama guys got theirs with one coming up when a Ling cod tried to eat it. It was in the cod's mouth. About a 4 ½- to 5-foot fish. The Ling cod season wasn't open, so they could not even bring it in the boat. He had to get the halibut out of the cod's mouth to bring the halibut into the boat.

My wife Irene caught a small halibut earlier and needed another for her two-fish limit. She was by a rod that got a hit. Grabbing the rod, she started reeling, and instantly everyone knew it was a nice fish. It took her about 15 minutes to get it up to the surface. They harpooned it and brought it into the boat, the catch of the day at 55 inches and 85 pounds! Her face was one big smile. She also caught one about 50 pounds, but she had her two fish by then so back it went. We also caught more rockfish to end a great fishing trip to Alaska.

We brought back 116 pounds of fish. We think halibut is as good a fish, if not better, than walleye to eat and we will be enjoying it for a while!

Looking back, it all started at an SCI fundraiser where anyone can take the first step on your next adventure! If you are interested in this trip, contact me for information at Patrick Barwick, 414-405-8612



Stacy & Mike's Excellent Adventure

by Stacy & Mike Davis

After making three prior trips, the list of desired game on this safari included some of the more difficult South African trophies. As our outfitter Mac McSeveney (owner of Hunters Creek Safaris)

City Lodge hotel (located in the airport) – sidebar, we chose to work with Rifle Permits to ensure the guns paperwork was in order and there were no issues receiving or checking in Thursday morning for our connecting flight – a few extra dollars well spent!

was spent looking for a "Sharpie." Many were spotted, most female, and others were too elusive to offer a look. After 5 hours of looking for the 'Sharpie', a large Caracal was spotted. Mac asked if we wanted him, without hesitation the answer was YES! Stacy made an excellent shot, and the photos began. It's always a good feeling with the PH is as excited about the trophy as the hunter, in this case I think Mac and the other 2 PHs (Hugo + Ruan) with us were more excited. All commented this was the largest they had ever seen. After the excitement of the Caracal, we decided to call it a night (or morning) as it was after 1 am.

The following couple of days (5/12, 13) were spent putting on many miles walking looking for Red Duiker and long nights looking for the Sharpe's Grysbok. We spent some time during the days looking for Eland.

Day 4 (5/14) took us to a new camp, we looked for Eland during the day, no luck. Went out that night to look for Sharpe's Grysbok, and Stacy was fortunate enough to take a very nice one

about 11:00PM. It was very nice to have an 'early night'.

Day 5 (5/15) was more relaxed, and a nice break. The afternoon weather was cool and rain, thus keeping the game bedded.

Day 6 (5/16) we visited a different concession, saw many animals

shared with us prior to arrival, "This trip will be more difficult hunting, including some moving around to increase our chances of success." With this in mind, and the attitude of "If it is meant to be, it will happen," we departed with as much anticipation and excitement as the previous trips combined.

Arriving in Johannesburg on a Wednesday (5/10) evening, we spent the first (short / very short) night at the

Took a short flight to Polokwane and the official safari began.

Thursday (5/11) afternoon (after verifying rifle accuracy) we started by looking for Stacy's Red Duiker, and Sharpe's Grysbok. These little critters are quite elusive! Found a few females, however no males. Thursday evening



(Buffalo, Sable, Impala, Kudu, Wildebeest, Kings Wildebeest, Roan, Giraffe, and monkeys to name a few)! Eland was at the top of the list, however again the afternoon weather was cool and rain. We spotted a large Waterbuck on our first day in this camp and had seen him a few after as well, it wasn't until 'today' I decided if we see him again, I would attempt to harvest. Of course, he was nowhere to be found.

Day 7 (5/17) started off with a quick drive around camp, and fortunately we found the Waterbuck. A very nice trophy at 31"!

The rest of the day we spent touring Kruger National Park, on our way to the third and final camp. Kruger was good. We entered the park at Orpen gate and exited to the south near Malelane. The highlight of the trip was

seeing a pack of Hyena's with a fresh Impala kill. Aside from this seeing many elephants up close along with buffalo, lions, hippo, and a Rhino it was great adventure.

Day 8 (5/18) We started the Crocodile hunt, the goal for the day, obtain bait. Stacy and I each took a warthog. A blind was built in one location, bait and game cameras were placed in a couple of locations. Had a great lunch by a small lake / pond. Being Africa, the pond held a few crocs and hippos. The afternoon weather again was not great.

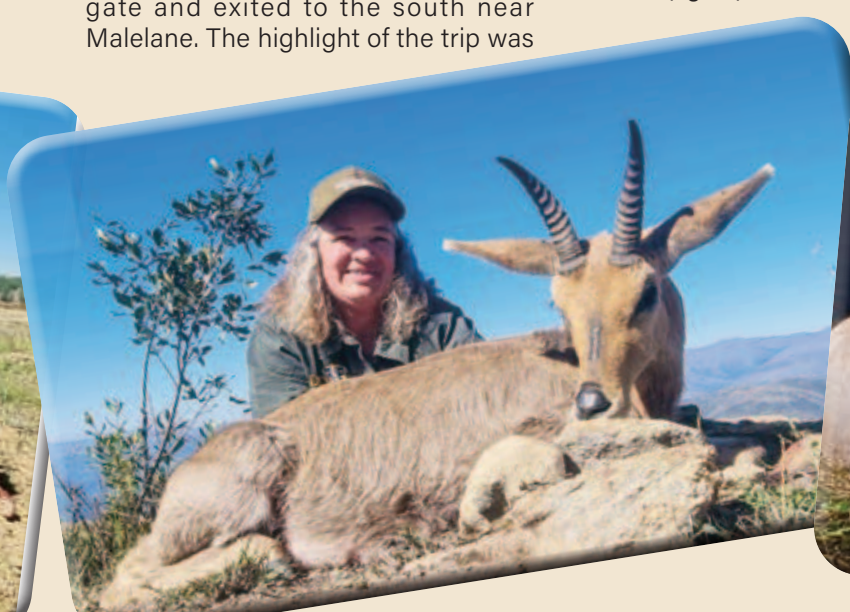
Day 9 (5/19) – Mac and I reviewed game camera pics and decided to sit for a Croc. Stacy and Hugo went to a different concession looking for Red Duiker (again), no luck with the Duiker.

Day 10 (5/20) – Stacy and Hugo went to a different concession for Red Duiker, Nyala, and Mountain Reedbuck. They saw a few Nyala's and towards the end of the day found a very nice Nyala to take. With just enough time for pictures before the sun went down.

Day 11 (5/21) – Mac and I went to a different concession for Eland and Springbok, while Stacy and Hugo went back for Mt. Reedbuck and Red Duiker! Stacy took a Mt. Reedbuck in the morning and continued to hunt for Red Duiker the rest of the afternoon. I took a Very large Eland and a Springbok in the morning as well and even saw a

large Fallow deer that we pursued but were unable to get a shot at it. That night Stacy told Mac and Hugo she would wait for the red Duiker until the next trip. She and Hugo had put in a lot of time, miles and sweat into it but it wasn't meant to be this time.

Day 12 (5/22) – Stacy and Hugo headed to the concession Mac and I had been at the day before for a try at Eland and Springbok. Stacy took both before noon! The Eland was along a maze field and after the shot, it took off into the field, luckily only going about 70 meters. Mac and I sat at the Croc blind. The weather was warmer, and it was determined more bait was needed. A very large body warthog filled the order. The evening was spent looking for Hippo. The hunt took place in the banana tree orchard adjoining the





place a large amount of bait and hope the rotting smell would entice a large croc to our area. We went all in on this notion and the decision was made to stay near the bait for as long as it took. While a Toyota Land Cruiser is extremely versatile for traversing land – IT IS NOT suited well to sleep 4 people... but it added to the adventure. And until you've spent the night in the bush, in a Land Cruiser you really have not experienced a true safari (this thought made us feel better at the time ...). About 6 am on day 14, the stink had not brought any Crocs in.

Day 14 (5/24) – after getting an excellent breakfast, we returned to the bait area and found 8 good size crocs had moved in closer, however not close enough. The trackers were left

Crocodile River. Night Hippo hunting was an experience, fortunately a very good experience. After a large bull was spotted, we were able to stalk to within 30 yards of him. Once the shooting sticks were set and I was ready, the light was turned on, and the order to shoot was given. The first shot was true, and the big animal went 60 yards before dropping, however was intense as he was trying to make it to the river.

Day 13 (5/23) – The weather was finally forecasted to be warm / normal for this time of the year. Based on this and having spotted a large croc near our hunting location we decided to



to watch the bait. We moved to a different part of the concession checking on another bait. Another good croc was spotted here. We attempted a stalk; however, he was on to us. We decided to leave him alone and come back in the morning.

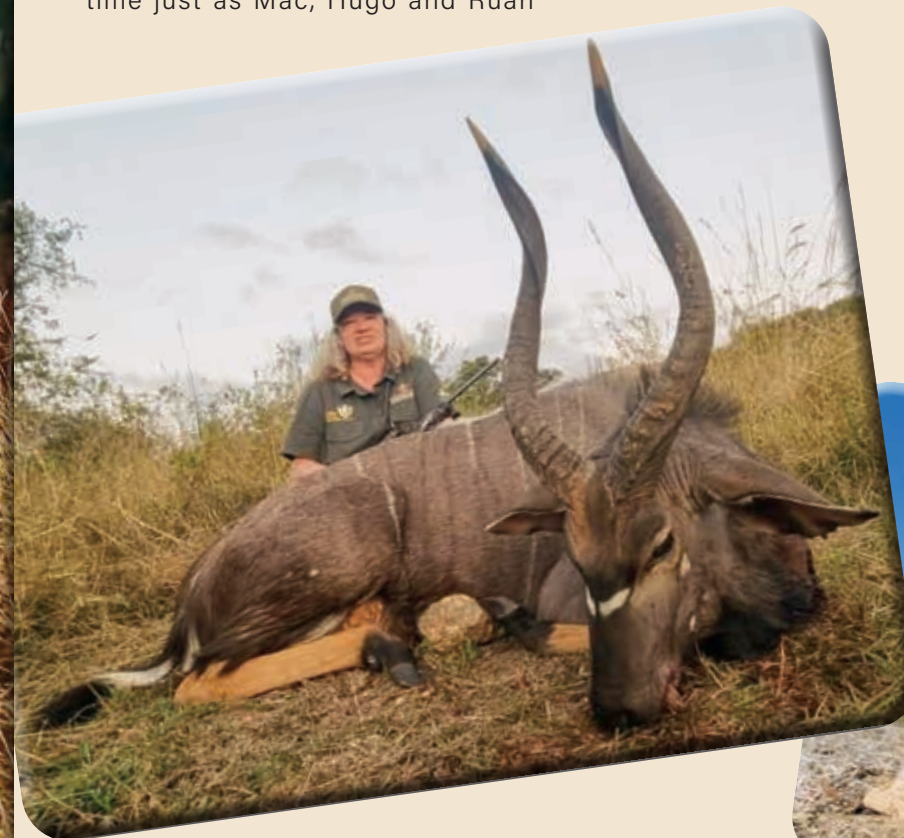
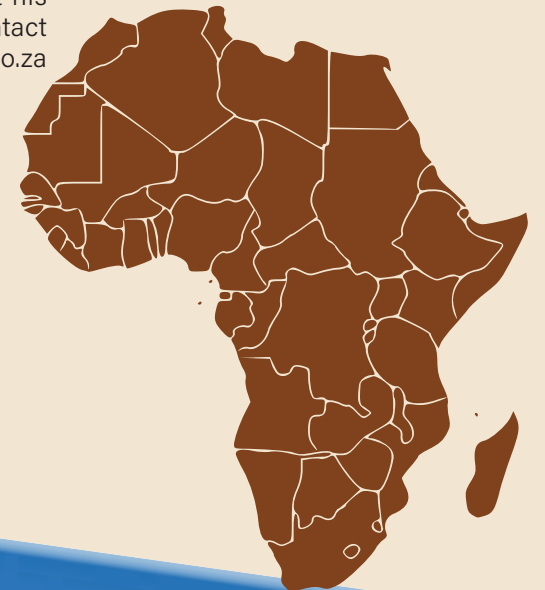
Day 15 (5/25) – Last hunting day. Went back to the same location as the previous night and we were pleasantly surprised to find 3 more crocs in the area, and one of them was larger. After waiting for him to climb out of the water and completing a stalk to within 65 yards was able to place a good first shot to keep him out of the water. A few follow-up insurance shots made sure he stayed on land.

This was a great trip with our trip ending with a free-range croc, and Hippo as they both came out of the Crocodile River into areas that we could hunt them. The concession that we ended our trip at is just across the Crocodile River from Kruger National Park.

As always, we thank Mac and Madelein McSeveney of Hunters Creek Safari Outfitters for the time and effort, they put into making this a safari to remember. Madelein couldn't make it out hunting with us on this safari, but she was working hard for us the whole time just as Mac, Hugo and Ruan



(while he was with us) were to make sure this was a great safari. Visit his website Hunterscreek.co.za or contact him via email: info@hunterscreek.co.za for more information.



12 Was a Magic Year!

by Brent Cochems

Turning 12 will be a year that Bryce from Oregon, WI will never forget. Coming into the year Bryce had spent the last two years taking part in the mentor hunts with me, his dad, during archery deer, gun deer and turkey seasons. There was always action and a few almost, but nothing to show. You know the saying "That's why they call it hunting not catching."

Just like every other year heading into a season, we would go to the range and practice numerous hours. To Bryce it always seemed easy when you were at the range. Get in the woods and it doesn't seem easy at all. With every time and every hour spent in the woods he learned something that would help him with his next opportunity.

Then he turned 12 and it all came together. It started with Bryce harvesting his first deer ever, a nice 8-point buck October 29th during archery season. Then came gun deer season and he harvested his first doe. To complete the trifecta, he harvested his first turkey, a 24-pound Tom with a 9-inch beard, during the youth turkey hunt.

As a father there is nothing more rewarding than watching your 12-year old have success, along with the smiles and excitement from their success. This will also be a year that this dad won't forget!



Badgerland Chapter Report

by John Martinson, President

If you like shooting shotgun, then the annual SCI Badgerland Shoot For Adventure sporting clays shoot was the place to be.

I know of at least one of the shooters shot four rounds along with all the games and they had a smile from ear to ear being in their happy place.

The Rio Youth Trap shooting team helped us out by managing the games such as The Rabbit, Long Bird, and Poison Bird. It's always awesome to get the youth involved for the future of hunting.

Rio Conservation Club Inc. went above and beyond the call of duty with keeping each station filled and managed with birds, bartending, cooking a delicious lunch, and clean up.

Guns, Guns, Guns, Prizes, Prizes, Prizes were in abundance with quality guns, and useful prizes. We even had celebrities like Dan Small, and Alan Heath just to name a few.

We even had a feel-good story about a young man from the Rio youth trap team who wanted to shoot but didn't have the money and his mom was at work, but a member of the Rio Conser-

vation Club stepped up and gave him the money. Low and behold he was able to get into the raffle and won a nice shotgun. Now he has his own shotgun, and he doesn't have to borrow one from the team anymore.

Hopefully we can see you all next year and as always non-members are always welcome.

Our Hunters Expo will be February 16th & 17th, 2024 at Chua Vista Resort Wisconsin Dells.

Safe hunting and have fun.





SCI Member Ben Laskowski Helps Connect Youth to Outdoors

The Ojibwa Bowhunters group in New Berlin hosts a Youth Outdoor Skills Day supported by the SCI Wisconsin Chapter that brings hundreds of students and families to the club grounds where instructors teach outdoor skills at various activity stations. SCI member Ben Laskowski is one of the key organizers that makes it possible. In some cases, like with the Outdoor Heritage Education Center's Touch of the Wild trailer, he makes a personal donation to support this successful outreach program.

Last summer, one of the additional activities involved learning skills like knot-tying to help remove barriers to fishing participation.

"Captain Greg" leads the fishing team on Saturday July 29th when more than 200 youth attended the event. The fishing educational booth taught youth how to cast safely and accurately, tie a Palomar and Clinch knot, fish identification, safety while on the water and Aquatic Invasive Species. During the day you heard the youth yelling, I got another," or "Missed one!" while fishing for backyard bass in the casting booth. Besides youth, adults also liked learning the how to tie the different knots.

Huge thanks to Ben, the Ojibwa Bowhunter volunteers, and Karen Karch of National Professional Anglers Association for helping in the fishing educational booth. After the youth attended all the hands on stations, they received a NPAA Future Pro shirt and

Shakespeare fishing educational book thanks to NPAA, Future Angler Foundation and Learn 2 Fish With Us. Greg would like to thank his sponsors and Learn 2 Fish With Us sponsor's which include: National Professional Anglers Association, Shakespeare, Mercury Marine, Berkley, Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's Outdoor Fund, The Boat Doc, Lake Poygan Sportsman's Club, Dave's Musky Club, Off Shore Tackle Company, Northland Tackle, TTI Blakemore Fishing Group, Maui Jim, WowGee, Future Angler Foundation and Pioneer Marina.

And Ben says thanks to OHEC, SCI and other supporters. The Touch of the Wild sensory safari education trailer (1 of 5 that OHEC keeps busy all across Wisconsin) continues to be one of the most popular attractions year-after-year at the Youth Outdoor Skills Day.



Conservation:

CWD Ticks

CWD is persistent in the environment, which begs the question: what are all the ways that deer can come in contact with CWD? UW-Madison researcher Dr. Heather N'te Inzalaco decided to think outside the box in her investigation into landscape and community-level factors of CWD transmission.

Inzalaco is a part of the UW-Madison lab that works on many SW CWD Study projects, led by Dr. Wendy Turner, who we introduce to you in this edition. Turner is a wildlife disease ecologist who is bringing her knowledge and experiences to Wisconsin from working with anthrax in southern Africa and facilitating many wildlife disease research projects. She talks about her ranching background, similarities between her anthrax work and CWD, and what it's like building the IPM.

There's a lot we don't know about chronic wasting disease (CWD), especially all the ways deer can acquire it. We know prions can be directly transmitted between deer and that they can persist in the environment, infecting more deer. Beyond that, our understanding gets murky. However, the details matter because they determine how CWD epidemics will unfold and what management actions might be effective. That's where Dr. Heather N'te Inzalaco, who started her CWD research in 2020, steps in.

Inzalaco is a post-doc student at UW-Madison, working with Dr. Wendy Turner, the unit leader for the USGS Wisconsin Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit. Inzalaco has experience working with CWD and scrapie (another prion disease that affects sheep and goats) from working in the prion research lab at the USGS National Wildlife Health Center. Prior to working with Dr. Turner, she was part of the late Dr. Joel Pedersen's lab when he was at UW-Madison working on a DNR funded research project developing methods to detect CWD prions in soil, using a newer protein amplification assay called the real-time quaking-induced conversion (RT-QuIC) assay.

"I carved research projects out for myself," Inzalaco said of her start in Dr. Pedersen's lab. "I felt it was important to consider host behavior interactions with environmental factors that I felt had been overlooked previously with CWD and how those fit into CWD dynamics."

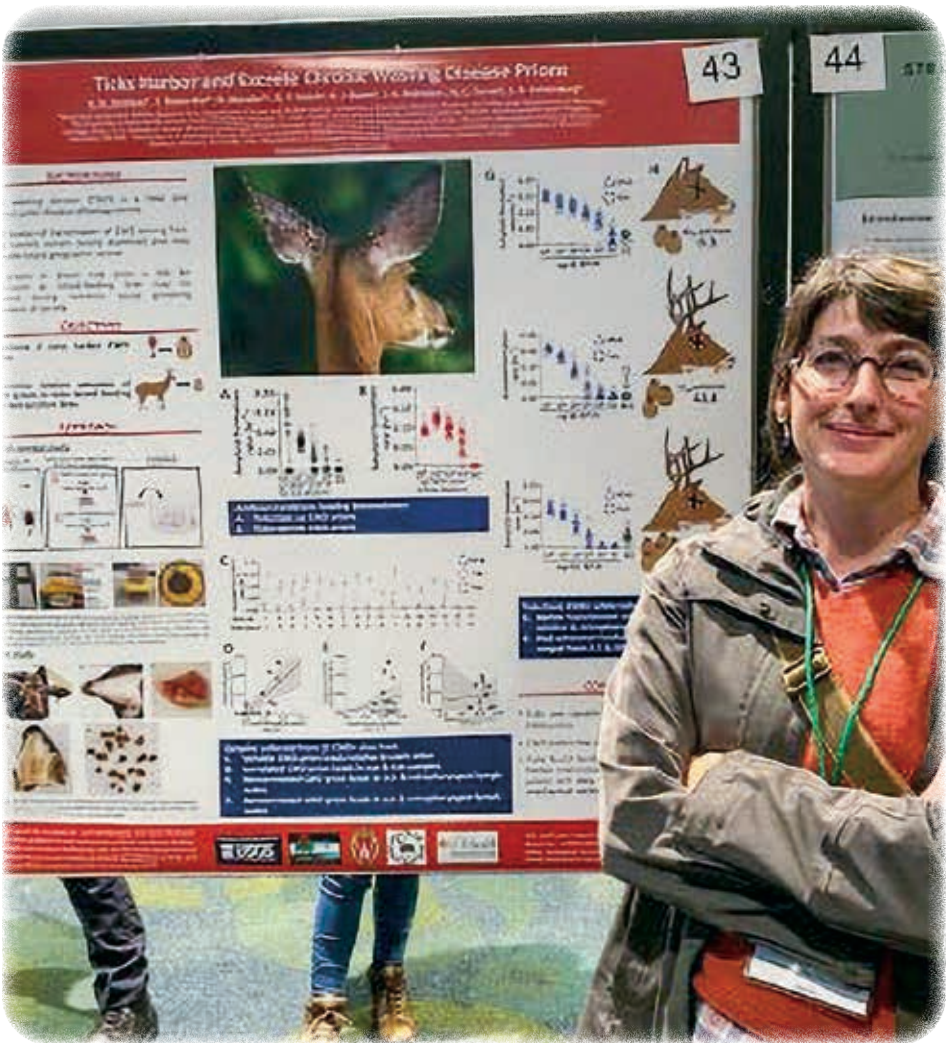
Inzalaco said there are most likely many environmental factors that could be contributing to the spread of CWD and prevalence increases of the disease. "CWD is a disease system that is extremely complex. It likely has a large environmental component, and these landscape- and community-level factors need more focus on them," she

said. Inzalaco decided to investigate two potential environmental sources of CWD transmission: ticks and predators.

First Steps: Detecting Prions

One of the first steps to understanding the potential roles of these environmental components is determining if they contain prions. Inzalaco is determining if these kinds of environmental variables have prions present and if the amounts of prions they harbor are enough to cause disease transmission.

To detect prions in these "weird sample types," Inzalaco used the



Inzalaco won Best Student Poster Presentation at The Wildlife Society's 2022 national conference, a prestigious honor, for her poster featuring her research on ticks. Photo courtesy Heather Inzalaco

real-time quaking-induced conversion assay (RT-QuIC), a fluorescence-based assay that can detect prions in samples containing very low prion levels; the same assay researched in the Pedersen lab. “RT-QuIC is very sensitive to ultra-low levels of prions and is a relatively quick assay compared to other diagnostic assays. It’s also more financially manageable than some other CWD diagnostic methods,” said Inzalaco.

RT-QuIC exploits the ability of misfolded prions to self-replicate by placing a sample that possibly contains infectious (misfolded) prions with a sample of normal prions. If there are misfolded prions in the test sample, they convert the normal prions and then aggregate to form prion clumps



Inzalaco examined over 2,000 deer heads and collected ticks from 175 of them. Photo courtesy Heather Inzalaco.



Allogrooming is where deer groom each other to help remove ectoparasites, especially from hard-to-reach areas like the back of the neck and ears. While deer can transmit CWD directly through saliva during these grooming sessions, Inzalaco zeroed in on the purpose for deer to groom each other: to remove ticks.

from other CWD-testing methods. It also allows for earlier detection of CWD prions in a sample, possibly opening doors to less invasive methods of CWD testing.

Ticks

Inzalaco realized that one of the most common social behaviors among deer, allogrooming, could be facilitating CWD exposure and transmission.

During allogrooming, deer can consume the ticks and tick blood meals. Blood from a deer with CWD contains infectious prions and naturally ticks ingest a lot of blood. “That’s what is concerning - how much blood [the ticks] take up and how long they stay attached. Couple that with white-tailed deer’s grooming of one another, and you have two important factors that we need to consider. Ticks may be a mechanical vector for transmission of CWD,” said Inzalaco.

Inzalaco first needed to find out if ticks can take in prions from blood and if so, can it be detected by RT-QuIC. She used artificial membrane-feeding assays made from silicon membranes to feed prion-loaded blood to black-legged ticks (also known as deer ticks) and then tested those tick samples using RT-QuIC. Inzalaco found that not only is RT-QuIC compatible for detecting prions in tick samples, but that ticks do harbor and excrete prions.

Armed with this proof-of-concept that ticks can assimilate prions from a

blood meal, Inzalaco moved onto the next step. She headed over to the DNR’s CWD processing facility to collect black-legged ticks from hunter-harvested deer heads submitted for CWD testing. Inzalaco examined over 2,000 deer heads and collected ticks from 175 of them. She focused on collecting ticks that were still attached and had been feeding so they had a blood meal. Of the 175 deer heads Inzalaco collected ticks from, 15 were CWD positive. Inzalaco analyzed the ticks collected from those 15 deer to determine if the ticks had taken in CWD prions from those deer.

Three of the CWD-positive deer heads also contained CWD-positive ticks with transmission-relevant levels of CWD prions. “This study shows that blood is important when we consider the implications of social grooming behavior among deer, suggesting that ticks could play a role in transmission,” said Inzalaco. Inzalaco’s findings on ticks were recently published in the journal *Scientific Reports*. Now that

it is shown that ticks can harbor CWD prions, the next steps for this research will be to determine how often deer consume ticks and if consumption of infected ticks will lead to disease.

Predator Scat

Inzalaco then turned her attention to another understudied aspect of the environment and CWD: predators. The tissue of CWD-infected deer (including muscle, skin and internal organs) is eaten by car-nivores or scavengers at carcass sites, so it makes sense that they must play some role in the distribution of prions in the environment. “We don’t know enough about how predators influence the bioavailability of prions. Do they help reduce the amount of CWD prion contamination on the landscape? Do they mitigate the risk by consuming diseased animals?” said Inzalaco. It is also possible that they could spread CWD prions in the environment when dragging diseased parts from carcass sites, or defecating elsewhere, spreading prions to new places.

Collaborator Spotlight: Dr. Wendy Turner

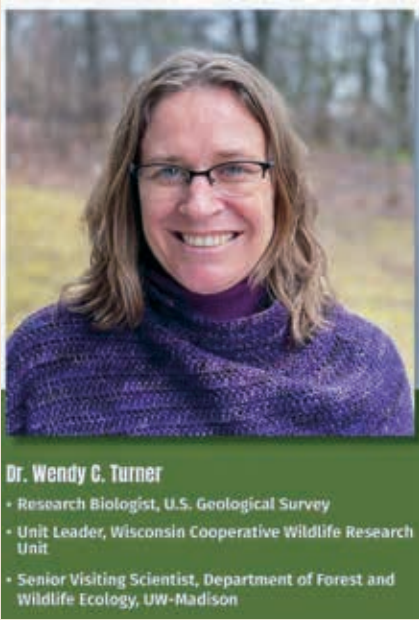
What Is Your Role In The SW WI CWD Study?

“My role has really been to support the DNR working with these datasets and facilitate between projects,” said Turner.

Turner is a wildlife disease ecologist who joined the SW CWD Study in July of 2020, at the end of the field work phase for the project and the beginning of the data analysis phase.

Turner, in conjunction with DNR Deer Research Scientist Dr. Dan Storm, works with students and postdocs in her lab at UW-Madison on many CWD projects. Some of the folks in Turner’s lab we have introduced before in this newsletter. Dr. Alison Ketz is the lead scientist building the IPM for the SW CWD Study. Dr. Marie Gilbertson has made an appearance in the past couple of Field Notes newsletters, sharing her findings for the SW CWD Study on juvenile dispersal, adult deer necropsies and how those may affect CWD distribution. Dr. Heather Inzalaco, introduced in this edition on her tick and predator research, is currently studying deer carcass sites, scavengers and CWD transmission.

Many others in Turner’s lab are also working on CWD projects such as:



- Buck movement ecology during rut
- Transmission risk at deer scrapes and food plots
- Deer behavior and transmission risk from video camera collar data
- Predator movement and CWD

“The main theme running through all these projects is to understand the role of environmental variation, host ecology and behavior, and pathogen distribution patterns in the risk of CWD transmission,” said Turner.

How Will Your Background Help Studying CWD?

Turner feels that her prior role as an assistant professor at the University at Albany, State University of New York prepared her well for the SW CWD Study. “I had a big project working on anthrax in southern Africa where we had field teams in two countries, collaborators from all over the planet, and a whole bunch of grad students conducting projects. I feel very confident in facilitating research and making sure things are getting done,” said Turner. She found that whether studying disease systems in southern Africa or in Southwest Wisconsin, similar questions were being asked.

“What is really interesting about these wildlife disease systems is working with pathogens that have really persistent environmental forms, so they don’t need to be inside the hosts to be a part of the disease system,” said Turner. Then, she continued, the interesting questions become:

- Is the pathogen survival the same in different habitats or environments?
- How do animals encounter the pathogen and what is in the environment?
- What behaviors, what environmental conditions change contact with a pathogen?
- Who is most likely at risk—males, females, young, adults?

Those questions sound familiar, right? While the system is different, the questions and approaches to

research can be similar, Turner said. She enjoys seeing the collaboration between members of her lab working on anthrax in Africa and CWD in Wisconsin, and how the two projects can help each other. “You might not know anything about zebras, or deer, but you know a lot about the challenges of trying to deal with pathogen contact and how to approach [studying] it,” said Turner.

In addition to her experiences as a wildlife disease ecologist, Turner’s Wyoming ranching roots brings in a different perspective to her work. Working with the DNR to answer these CWD questions in Wisconsin often means working with private landowners to access study areas. In Wyoming, Turner was the private landowner that state or federal scientists would sometimes need to work with conducting research projects. “It gives me a different perspective on things. I remind our team that the relationships with our landowners are so important, we can’t do any of the work that we do without them,” she said.

What Interests You The Most About The SW CWD Study?

“I can’t think of a different location or a system that has monitored this disease as long or as well as the [DNR] has in the Southwest Wisconsin ecosystem, just the size of the datasets, how many animals have been sampled each year, the number of GPS collars out there... There’s nothing like that out there,” said Turner.

The chance to work with these datasets is what attracted Turner to the project, as someone who knows very well the hard work and effort that goes into collecting that much data. This collaboration, Turner said, also means being able to accomplish more together. “Being able to leverage that effort to ask more complex questions means there’s a lot more that we can answer,” she said.

What Does Building The IPM Look Like?

“It is a very ambitious project,” said Turner. “Alison Ketz is working hard on it. It’s a complex model to put together.” Dr. Alison Ketz is an ecological statistician and quantitative ecologist in Turner’s lab who took on the challenge of building this unique model.

There are a lot of moving parts in the IPM, bringing together all those datasets that attracted Turner to the study. Adult and fawn survival, CWD surveillance data, and taking in consideration what is happening spatially and over time. That’s hundreds of thousands of data points for Ketz to consider and run through the model. When running continuously, Turner said, the model can take more than a month to complete. “I think it’s really hard to fathom,” said Turner. The model is more than 18,000 lines of code and if something doesn’t add up, that’s 18,000 lines of code to comb through to find the issue.



Dr. Wendy Turner in the field with some of her lab members that work on SW CWD Study related projects. Left to right: Turner, Matt Hunsaker, Alison Ketz, Marie Gilbertson, Heather Inzalaco. Photo courtesy Wendy Turner.

But there’s more to creating and running this model than just knowing and going through code, Turner said. “It’s quite technical and requires a lot of specialized skills. You have to understand the disease. You have to understand the program. You have to understand how an IPM works and what you’re trying to do,” she said. Turner is excited that recently another expert with the required skills, DNR Research Scientist Glenn Stauffer, joined Ketz to help review the code.

The IPM is in the troubleshooting stage, said Turner. “It’s an awful lot of checking to make sure everything is working the way it’s meant to be, we want to make sure when we’re giving a result, that it’s an accurate result,” said Turner.

Like when she studied ticks, Inzalaco first had to determine if prions could be detected by RT-QulC from different carnivore and scavenger scat samples and develop the best protocols for each species sample. She started with spiking assays, taking scat of nine different species (wolves, coyote, crow, raven, eagle, black bear, cougar, raccoon, and red fox) from areas with no CWD detections and spiking the samples with known levels of CWD material. Some of these negative controls (wolf, coyote, raven, cougar, and red fox) were collected in the Greater Yellowstone ecosystem in 2020, which did not have any CWD detections at the time of collection, while the rest came from wildlife rehabilitation centers.

"I worked with dried feces. Then I take CWD-positive material, usually brain from a deer in the late stages of CWD, which I also test using RT-QulC beforehand, and make multiple dilutions of that brain sample that I then mix with each scat sample. Then I process the spiked scat samples and enrich them to help recover any prions I put in and use RT-QulC to test those processed and enriched samples," said Inzalaco. RT-QulC was able to detect CWD prions in all the spiked predator scat samples, showing that Inzalaco's methods were ready to be tested in the field.

Inzalaco applied these protocols when analyzing seven different coyote

scat samples collected near mortality sites of deer collared by the Southwest Wisconsin CWD, Deer and Predator Study. Six of the seven deer mortalities were CWD-positive. Inzalaco tested viable tissue from each deer for a relative measure of concentration of CWD prions to compare to the amounts in the coyote scat. Predators will use scat to mark the area around carcasses they are feeding on, so it is likely that the scat came from the same individual coyotes that were feeding on the deer.

Using RT-QulC, Inzalaco was successfully able to detect prions in the coyote scat collected at the mortality sites, setting the stage for further investigation into the role predators play in CWD dynamics. "We have empirical evidence to see that predators are involved, and now we have a way to evaluate it," she said. Because of Inzalaco's work, RT-QulC can be used to test for CWD in many different scat samples, which could lead to earlier, non-invasive surveillance of CWD in areas where monitoring is low or inconsistent.

Opening the Door

Inzalaco's work made possible new avenues of investigating CWD transmission, and she has begun to shed light on several potentially important pieces of the CWD dynamics puzzle.

"We can use the RT-QulC assay to test new sample types, which could be

quite useful. It allows us a glimpse at ecologically- and management-relevant, community-level factors that might be influencing why prevalence of CWD is still increasing, [despite control efforts]," said Inzalaco.

Currently, Inzalaco is studying how soil can influence environmental transmission of CWD, using the RT-QulC assay to test soil samples taken from mineral lick and baiting sites in Wisconsin and Tennessee. Combining the soil analyses with camera trap images to monitor deer behavior, Inzalaco is investigating how prion loads accumulate in soil over time and how deer behaviors when visiting a site might contribute. She will also be working on a project that aims to better understand prion deposits in soil at carcass sites and how scavengers influence those deposit distributions.

There is still a lot more to learn about how CWD spreads through a landscape, but now Inzalaco has thrown open the door and is walking through. "We have preliminary data, but we need to do more," she said. Inzalaco is excited to continue working with the DNR and Dr. Wendy Turner's lab at UW-Madison to advance her research, further evaluating how ticks, scat and soil influence CWD dynamics. The small details matter—and Inzalaco's work will help us better understand, and hopefully better manage, chronic wasting disease.



*A coyote walks through the shallows of a pond.
Photo Credit: Snapshot Wisconsin*

Pierce Pennaz +One



Pierce Pennaz shot this buck with his dad Steve who encourages SCI members and others to invite at least one newcomer to join you when you go to the shooting range or hunting.



ELAND CHARGED!

by Randy Wagner

There is something about Africa that makes it hard to turn your brain off at night. Maybe it's the anticipation of the hunt, maybe it's the excitement of travel, or maybe the sounds of the wildlife outside your door. I don't know, but the 5am wake up with a cup of hot coffee helps warm the chill of early winter on the dark continent.

When the second cup of South African freeze-dried coffee was finished, it was time to load the gear and get

perched in the back of the Land Cruiser. The Ruger #1 was in the truck, and we were ready to roll!

Driving through the concession, eland was not my priority simply because I still had the "must have animal," the kudu on my list. During the week we had seen several kudu bulls, but my Professional Hunter (PH) Biella said that he was sure we could do better. Those words should have been fresh in my mind as he had been saying that same thing to me several times throughout the hunt.

I was watching a young kudu bull and a few of his girls when I heard the words I had been waiting for, "Mr. Randy get ready." I was sure that he had found a big kudu that I couldn't see.

We got off the truck and I was scanning for this kudu bull but all I could see was a group of eland standing in the distance, and Biella was watching them.

As a side note I had researched all the animals on my list and thought that I had a pretty good idea of what to look for in a quality animal. I was looking for an old eland bull with a dark hair tuft on his head as well as a big dewlap on the neck so when I saw this bull I was not terribly impressed. He had a large dewlap, but he was blonde on top. I was thinking that he was young but boy was I wrong.

We made our way to a comfortable 150 yards and got on the sticks. I was looking at this eland and I asked Biella if he was sure I should shoot his bull.

"Mr. Randy, I promise you this bull is huge!" I had a

nagging bit of doubt, but remembering he is the professional I took a quick breath and felt the trigger snap. The thump of the bullet on impact with the front left shoulder was obvious, the bull hunched up and lurched forward straight into thick cover. We headed straight to the spot where the bull was standing and quickly realized that the shot was on the money.

We skirted the brush and saw the group of eland cows run across into one opening and then quickly out of our view. They were however by themselves, and we knew the bull had stayed behind in the thick cover.

I was trying to move through the brush quickly and as silently as impossible, maybe It was the adrenaline that caused me to step on every dry leaf and snap every twig in South Africa. I single-handedly sounded like rush hour traffic driving through a bubble wrap factory.

Biella caught a glimpse of the bull standing by himself behind a thick patch of thorns, forty yards out in thick cover, I was loaded and ready for a second shot.

I squeezed the trigger, and this shot to hit its mark about 1 inch away from the first. While reloading and admiring my shots I heard Biella yell to me, "Shoot again!" Biella is much younger and way nimbler than I am. I could see him moving quickly to cover with my son Jackson, all the while yelling, "Shoot again!" as the bull is closing the

distance. I realized that one ton of eland bull is charging with his head down and is within 20 yards when I raise up for a third shot.

At this range I've only got a patch of hair showing in the scope. I raise my head off the stock and with my best pointing skills I fire the

last shot into the center of his chest. Holding my breath and waiting for the impact I see the bull stagger and trip over a bush. The bull was down, and I took a huge breath. Ten steps and I was standing at this magnificent bull.

Full of adrenaline, and with shaking hands, I reached out and put my hands on his horns. The excitement was exploding out of my ears! I'm feeling all the emotions that hunters go through on a successful hunt but I'm also feeling the emotion of the charge.

When I started to get back to reality, I recalled Biella's words promising me that the bull was huge.

"Mr. Randy, this is the biggest bull eland I have ever hunted!" Biella said that this was a special bull and that he was extremely excited for me. I guess I still didn't know how big he was until we put a tape on him.

No matter what could have happened in the following days this hunt was complete, and I could not have had a better experience. I harvested a bull of a lifetime.

I did see several more kudu bulls but all were passed because I knew they would not have measured up to this massive eland.

This bull officially scored 99 2/8 which ranked him as #76 a Gold Medal trophy.

Hunt Report:

Youth Duck Hunt 2023

by Loren Voss,
WI Turkey Commander

Why is the Wisconsin Turkey Commander writing about the Wisconsin 2023 Youth Duck Hunt? In my younger years, before I was bit by the wild turkey obsession, I had two Labrador Retrievers and did a fair amount of duck hunting. So, when my middle grandson Evan asked me to take him, this grandpa was elated. My grandson asked me because my son Nathan was in Wyoming elk hunting the hard way with his hunting partner. Nathan and his hunting partner put on as many as 10 miles a day chasing elk. Last year, my middle granddaughter Rosie asked to take her turkey hunting. When any one of my grandchildren wants to go hunting, I am a happy grandpa.

In my past years of duck hunting, I met a friend, Lee Graves, who has opened his land for 26 years and allowed any youth duck hunters to enjoy his land. Lee works long hours building blinds, erecting raised walkways through the marsh to the blinds putting decoys and retrieval boats at each blind, supplies ammunition if needed, has a trap thrower with birds for shooting practice, has food and candy, rents a Porta-Potty, and does everything he can to make sure youth duck hunters have a great time. A little story on the reason the Porta-Potty is rented - through the years with people

hunting and no bathroom, nature makes it so hunters must expel the great food that is part of the hunt. Did you ever see a dog rolling in the grass? Do you know what they normally are rolling in? A Porta-Potty was a requirement.

Now to the actual hunt with my grandson. The Voss family has a cottage close to Lee's land. On Friday night I drove down to Sun Prairie to pick up my grandson. My grandson's girlfriend was dancing at half time at his high school's football game. We had to see that before we left. She did an excellent job. We get to the cottage and set everything out to be ready for the next day. We get to bed at 11 p.m. We must be up at 4 a.m. to get ready to hunt. We get to Lee's land and Lee takes us out to the blind that Evan and I would be hunting. We walked on the path that Lee has cleared and put wood chips on for the six youth hunters he is hosting this year. Evan puts the decoys out. Grandpa, at 75 years old with a fake knee, no longer walks in the marsh grass.

We are in the blind waiting for shooting time. The season is open. We see nothing. About 15 minutes after opening a flock comes to land in our decoys. Bang, Bang, Bang! Three teal down. The flock circles back - Bang - another teal down. My grandson is shooting great! Dave, a gentleman that brought his lab to retrieve ducks for

youth, picks up one duck Evan could not reach. In fast action we have four teal. The bag limit is six ducks. After a little while a single comes in. Bang, Bang - another teal duck is down. Evan now has five teal ducks and one more bird and he will have his limit. We wait and wait. It is pretty slow, and we are not seeing much.

We see six ducks fly by the blind to our right. They are coming our way. They try to land in our decoys.

Bang, Bang, Bang! We watch the flock fly away and one bird drops a long way out. Evan has his limit of ducks! The duck is extremely far out in the pond and for safety we call Dave again to retrieve the duck. I told Evan we must watch out that the resident eagle does not get our duck. Grandson says, "Yah, sure grandpa." Evan thinks it is one of grandpa's hunting tales. Dave comes over to retrieve the duck and just as he is getting in the canoe, one of the resident eagles flies over, swoops down, grabs the duck and flies away. Not the first time someone has lost a duck to the resident eagles. These eagles now have learned that after hearing a bunch of shooting they should go look for ducks.

It started to pour so we went back to camp. My son messages my grandson and says he wants a duck plucked so he can cook it. Evan tells me what his dad wants. I tell Evan I will show him how to do it. Evan not only does one,



wet and cold. We eat like kings. Pulled pork, deep fried potatoes, beans, venison stew and apple pie for dessert.

Back at the cottage, we hang our clothes to dry for the next morning. We get up at 4 a.m. again. We go out to the blind and put out the decoys again. Nothing flying. One duck did fly over the pond; it is a high shot but if Evan hits it, it will fall into open water. Bang! Nothing.

We pack up and head back to Sun Prairie. Evan's girlfriend's family is taking him to the Brewers baseball



game. Must learn how to juggle girlfriend and hunting. I got back to Sun Prairie in time to see my youngest grandson Cam play soccer.

What a FANTASTIC weekend for grandpa. Thank You, Lord!

but two. A custom in camp is to breast the ducks we get and have duck breast cut up in pieces wrapped in bacon.

It stops raining so Evan wants to go out again. Evan is one duck short of his limit because of the eagle taking the last duck. Since I do special hunts and work with many great people in the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, I checked to make sure that Evan could shoot one more duck that day. I texted a warden that has done a lot to help me out on special turkey hunts and now is a friend of mine. I explained what happened. His reply was GREAT. Not part of your limit, you made a reasonable effort to retrieve it but were unsuccessful. The eagle is in violation because it possesses a bird not tagged by the hunter and for larceny of game. Good story. LOVE IT! I messaged him back. Can you arrest a bald eagle? I know where this one lives.

We go out hunting and shortly after getting to the blind it pours and pours. The rain stops so we are going to tough it out. Lee messages that we are going to eat early so come back to camp if we want to eat. Fantastic - I am REALLY



COYOTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES

Indirect and direct approaches

Indirect Management Strategies: Education and Human Behavior Modification

Management programs for urban coyotes should begin with public education and untangling facts from myths. People should become aware of coyote signs and understand the differences between true threats and coexistence. It is important to stress that our relationship with coyotes is directly affected by our behavior — coyotes react to us, and we can foster mutual respect or a lack of respect through cues we send to coyotes.

Some people are enamored with coyotes. They like seeing them near their yards and attempt to entice them by baiting them, or they want to try to “tame” them. Intentional feeding, such as this, should be prohibited, otherwise management solutions will be only temporary at best. People should be discouraged from inadvertent feeding where coyotes are present. This includes leaving pet food outside at night and maintaining large bird feeders that attract multiple species of wildlife.

The Urban Coyote Research Project is led by Dr. Stan Gehrt, chair of McGraw’s wildlife research and a professor with The Ohio State University. For more than 20 years, Dr. Gehrt and his teams have partnered with Ohio State, Cook County Animal Control, and the Forest Preserve District of Cook County. By live-capturing and tracking hundreds of coyotes, McGraw’s researchers have contributed extensively to our knowledge of how coyotes have become the leading mammalian predator in North American cities, and how humans can better co-exist with them. Dr. Gehrt’s work has been featured by some of the world’s most prominent media organizations, including National Geographic and the BBC. To read more about McGraw’s work on coyotes, visit the site.



Education is key - 2013 research team (Craig Reddell, Sarah Nokes, Heidi Garbe, Andy Burmesch, Shane McKenzie)

Direct Management Strategies: Removal, Relocation and Negative Stimuli

Lethal Removal

There are instances where coyote habituation is so severe that the coyote can be considered an immediate threat to people, especially children and pets. This is when removal is often warranted. Lethal removal is accomplished either through trapping/euthanasia or direct shooting. Coyotes are difficult to trap or shoot, and these actions should be undertaken strictly by professionals, especially in urban areas. Removal efforts should observe state and municipal codes.

Because of habituation, nuisance coyotes are often easier to capture than non-habituated individuals. Removal programs designed to target specific nuisance coyotes will be more successful than broad removal programs that have a goal of removing a complete population of coyotes. It is difficult to capture all coyotes residing in an area, and as coyotes are

removed, they are replaced by solitary ones.

Removal, especially lethal removal, is often controversial within communities. This is especially true when the perceived threat by coyotes is somewhat ambiguous to residents. Removal programs can also be expensive, either for residents or municipalities, and traps can occasionally capture pets. For these reasons, as well as ethical reasons, coyote removal is best employed only after education has been attempted or if there is an immediate, and obvious, threat to human safety.



A coyote wandering through a yard during daytime hours can inspire wonder or conflict. This is coyote 434.

Relocation

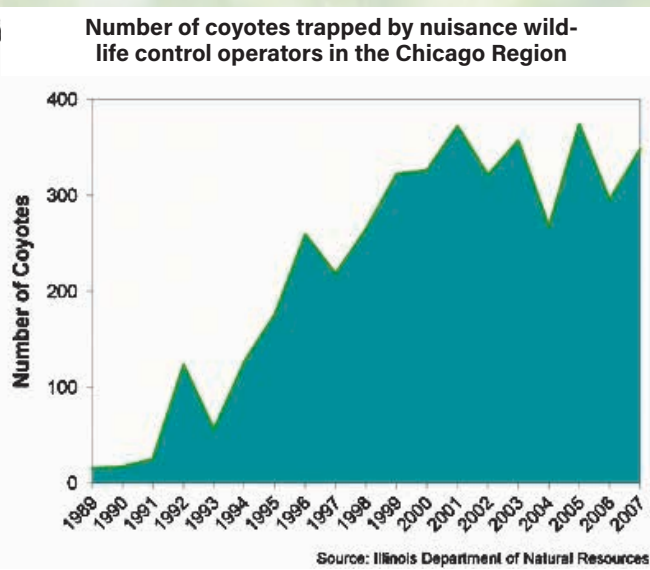
One option used as a compromise in mitigating coyote conflicts is to remove coyotes with live-trapping and then relocate them to a distant site. Although the primary objectives of the Cook County Coyote Project did not involve relocating coyotes, we did monitor 12 relocated nuisance (or rehabilitated) coyotes from the city of Chicago to document their movements and fates. We found that no relocated coyotes remained at their release site despite being located in favorable coyote habitat (usually they were gone within 48 hours or less), and each of them traveled in the general direction of their origin. No coyotes made successful returns, and most were killed by cars or hunters as they left the release site.

Relocation rarely is effective for any species and particularly so for coyotes. However, many removal programs still relocate coyotes with the understanding that it will likely result in the death of that individual because relocation is more palatable to the general public than euthanasia.

Negative Stimuli

People should be encouraged to act aggressively toward coyotes during negative encounters, to re-instill a fear of humans in coyotes. In many cases, this involves shouting, waving, or clapping hands, and looking as tall as possible. Residents in some communities will chase coyotes by banging pots and pans, or throwing balls or rocks at them. However, this should be done within reason so as not to create conflicts that might not otherwise occur by injuring or cornering a coyote that simply wants to escape. If a coyote is not causing conflict, you should not initiate hazing efforts.

Relatively small properties that have coyote visitors may be able to use scare devices for coyotes, such as electronic sirens and lights, although these have not yet been tested thoroughly. We have successfully used game cameras with flashes to repel coyotes from yards



but these may not work in every circumstance.

Managing Nuisance Coyotes

The state of Illinois requires professionals to report summaries of animals they remove during the year. The numbers you see in the chart below come from those reports for the section of northeastern Illinois that is primarily composed of the Chicago metropolitan area. One can see the dramatic increase in the number of coyotes removed each year during the 1990’s. Prior to the 1990’s, the number of coyotes detected and removed was quite small, as the species was relatively rare in the Chicago area.

These numbers are provided here because it is rare to have a systematic reporting system that was in place during the expansion of coyotes throughout a metropolitan area, and it is a nice illustration of the relative level of conflict between people and coyotes that accompanies that expansion. However, while it presents a fascinating story, the numbers should not be taken literally with regard to the number of nuisance coyotes in the area because the numbers are not verified and identifying ‘nuisance’ coyotes is difficult. There was obviously a tremendous increase in the number of coyotes removed each year, but the actual numbers of coyotes

becoming nuisances are unknown.

Problems with the numbers include:

- These totals do not discriminate between coyotes that were actually causing the conflict and others removed during trapping attempts. Because of the difficulties with identifying true ‘nuisance’ coyotes, control operators usually remove multiple coyotes to insure the troublesome coyote is removed.
- These numbers also include general removal programs where coyotes are removed as a general protocol, rather than a response to problem animals. This would include airports and cities with a zero tolerance toward the presence of coyotes.

The Future of Coyote Management

A major finding from this research is the extent to which coyotes and people are living together; more coyotes have been observed using developed areas than expected. People are often unknowingly in close contact with coyotes each day, and in the vast majority of cases, the coyotes are still acting as ghosts of the cities, much as they did on the plains. But coyotes are watching and learning from us; we influence their behavior, and it will be our actions that determine what the future holds for our wildlife neighbors.



Coyotes may pass through yards quickly, often without being seen.

CONFLICTS: A RESEARCH PERSPECTIVE

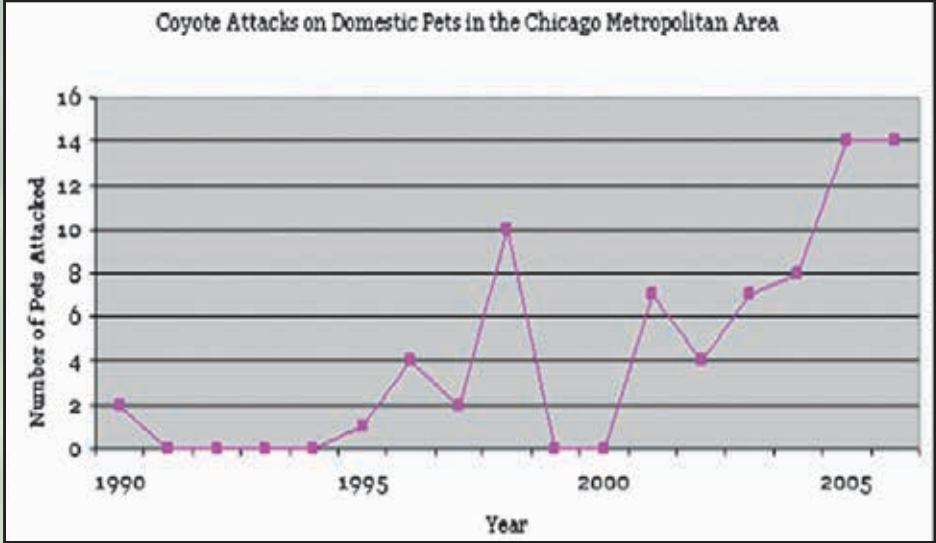
Attacks in the Chicago Metropolitan Area

Coyote Attacks on Pets

One of the worst conflicts between people and coyotes is the occasional attack on a domestic pet by a coyote. In some areas frequented by coyotes, it is not difficult to find an account of a pet attack or missing cat (presumed to have been eaten by a coyote) in the local newspaper. To increase our understanding of coyote attacks on domestic pets, we searched newspaper databases for articles on pet attacks in the Chicago metropolitan area. Through these articles, we found records of 70 attacks on dogs, 10 attacks on cats, and alleged attacks on a duck and pig. Between 1990 and 2004, the number of attacks on pets in the Chicago metropolitan area increased from 0-2 attacks per year to 6-14 reported attacks per year. We also found more accounts of attacks during the late fall, winter, and early spring than during the warmer months of the year. Cities and townships with the most reported attacks were Arlington Heights, Chicago, Geneva, North Shore, and Palatine.

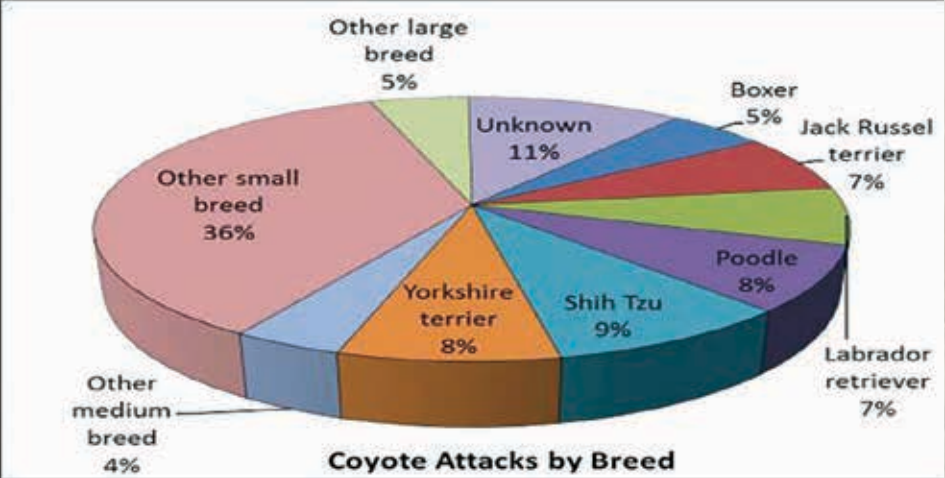
Attacks on Dogs

Almost 30 different breeds of dog were reported to have been attacked by coyotes. Smaller breed dogs were attacked more often than medium and large sized dogs, with 20 small breeds, 3 medium breeds, and 6 large breeds attacked. Although smaller breeds are more commonly attacked, larger breeds,



such as Labrador Retrievers and Golden Retrievers, have also been attacked in the Chicago metropolitan area. Larger breeds of dog were usually attacked by two or more coyotes, often alpha pairs, at a time.

Attacks on smaller dog breeds were more often fatal (although some attacks on larger breeds were fatal as well) and usually the attack involved a single coyote. Yorkshire terriers and Shih Tzus were the breeds most commonly attacked (6 attacks each), followed by Jack Russell terriers and Labrador Retrievers (5 attacks each), and boxers and poodles (4 attacks each). Dogs were more commonly attacked during the winter months than during the spring and summer which corresponds



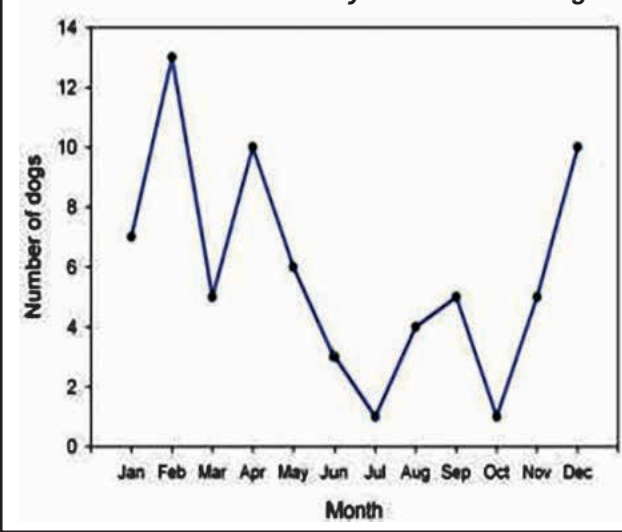
to the breeding season of the coyote. Dogs were attacked while outside in their backyard (both alone and in the presence of their owner) and also while being walked by their owner in a park.

What can you do? If you are aware of coyotes in your neighborhood, it is important to exhibit caution when leaving your dog outdoors (especially if it is a small breed). Fences can help to keep coyotes out of your yard but coyotes have been known to jump over fences. The best fences for keeping out coyotes are at least six feet tall and have a roll bar on top. Also, if you are walking your dog in a park frequented by coyotes, you should always keep your pet on leash and perhaps carry a walking stick, noise maker, or mace to fend off a possible attack. After all, it's not just coyotes that you may encounter; remember that loose domestic dogs pose a much greater risk of attack than coyotes. Be aware of seasonal variations in behavior and most importantly, make sure that no one in your neighborhood is attracting coyotes by leaving food outdoors.

Attacks on Cats

Although coyotes do attack and kill domestic cats in the Chicago area, cat attacks are often more difficult to substantiate than dog attacks. Of the 10 cat attacks reported in the Chicago

Seasonal variations in coyote attacks on dogs



metropolitan area, almost half were lost cats that the owners assumed were eaten by coyotes (but attacks were not confirmed). The best way to ensure that your cat is not attacked by a coyote is to keep it indoors at all times. If you must let your cat outside, it is important not to leave food outside for your cat (or for other cats in the neighborhood). Food left outside may attract coyotes, which may then attack your cat (or dog).

Coyote Attacks on Humans

Attacks on humans by state

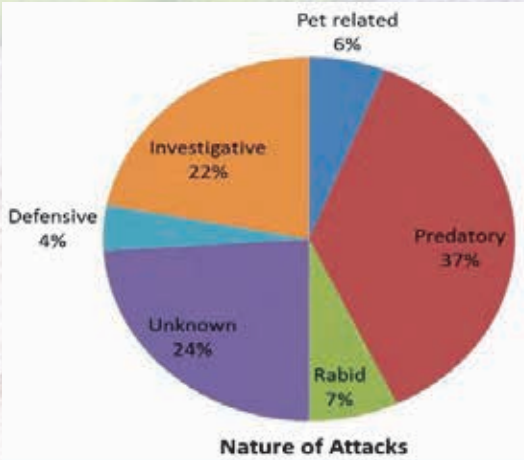
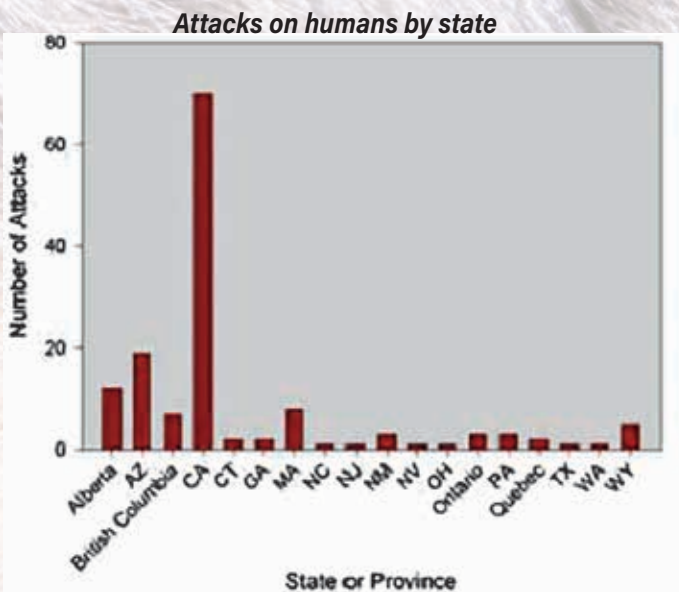
The most extreme form of conflict between humans and coyotes concerns coyote attacks on people. We conducted an analysis of coyote attacks throughout the United States and Canada between 1985 and 2006 in order to investigate the frequency and characteristics of these attacks. Prior to this, an analysis of coyote attacks on people had only been completed for California and other portions of the western U.S. and Canada. We searched newspaper articles and scientific journals for attack accounts, and also contacted representatives from state wildlife agencies to verify

attack details and receive information on additional attacks. In our search, we only included incidents in which humans were bitten by a coyote (this helped to standardize our definition of an attack and decrease the amount of speculation sometimes found in media articles).

We located accounts of 142 coyote attack incidents, resulting in 159 human victims. These attacks took place over a wide geographic area, including 14 states in the U.S. and 4 provinces in Canada. Most attacks, however, occurred in the western U.S., with almost half of the attacks occurring in California and another large portion (14%) occurring in Arizona. We did not find records of any attacks on humans within the Chicago metropolitan area (or even within the state of Illinois).

Attack Demographics

We also investigated the demographics of attack victims. We found



that there was no difference in the frequency of attacks between women and men or between adults and children. However, children were the victims of the most serious attacks.

Nature of Attacks

Attacks generally fell into 5 categories:

1. Defensive (the coyote felt threatened and was defending itself, pups, or a den)
2. Rabid (the coyote was captured, tested, and diagnosed with rabies)
3. Pet-related (the coyote attacked a person who was walking a pet, trying to save a pet from a coyote attack, or was just near a domestic pet at the time of attack)
4. Investigative (the coyote bit a sleeping or resting person, testing it as a possible prey source)
5. Predatory (the coyote directly and aggressively pursued and bit the victim)
6. We classified 37% of attacks as Predatory, 22% as Investigative, 7% as Rabid, 6% as Pet-related, and 4% as Defensive (the other 24% could not be classified due to a lack of details). Predatory attacks resulted in the most serious injuries.

Patterns of Attacks

To determine patterns in the circumstances of attacks, we

analyzed the activities of victims prior to attack. Most victims were doing some sort of recreational activity (such as camping, walking, or biking) when they were attacked. Many victims were also relaxing outside their homes, sitting on porches, grilling out, or sleeping outside. The majority of attacks occurred outside the residence of the victim or in a park.

We also investigated the timing of attack incidents. We found that slightly more attacks occurred during the months of January through April (the breeding season for coyotes) than in other months. We did not find a meaningful difference in the number of attacks occurring during daytime versus nighttime hours.

Outcomes of Attacks

Most victims of coyote attacks were attacked by seemingly healthy coyotes; only 15 victims were bitten by rabid coyotes. Most victims did not suffer serious injuries from the attack. The

majority of attack victims were able to run away or scare off the coyote and stop the attack by yelling or throwing objects at it. Those that did suffer the most serious injuries were children.

Only two fatal coyote attacks in the U.S. and Canada have been recorded in modern history: in 1981, a 3-year old female in California died of injuries sustained from a coyote attack, and most recently in 2009, a 19-year old female was fatally attacked by a group of eastern coyotes while hiking alone in Cape Breton Highlands National Park, Nova Scotia.

In almost a third of the reported attack cases, it was known that coyotes were being fed (either intentionally or accidentally) near the attack site. One victim was bitten while feeding a coyote and another was bitten by a coyote that was being fed by her parents. After speaking to wildlife officials in areas of known coyote attacks on humans, we strongly suspect that wildlife feeding

was occurring in the locations of many of the other attacks, even though this was not documented.

Preventing Coyote Attacks

Although we were able to gather some useful insights from our research of coyote attacks within the United States and Canada, we were limited by the source of our data because records of coyote attacks throughout the U.S. and Canada are often inaccessible and/or unreliable. Some of the accounts that we located contained few details about the coyote attack and we also suspect that additional incidents may have gone unreported or were not reflected in the media.

We feel that a standardized reporting system of coyote attacks throughout North America would be extremely helpful for further informing the details and circumstances of coyote attacks on humans and therefore preventing future attacks.



The presence of coyote pups can elevate negative adult coyote behaviors

coyote, you should yell, wave your arms, and/or throw something at the coyote (do not run away).

4. Repellents or fencing may help

Some repellents may work in keeping coyotes out of small areas such as yards, although these have not been tested thoroughly for coyotes. Repellents may involve remotely activated lights or sound-making devices. Fencing may keep coyotes out of a yard, particularly if it is more than six feet in height with a roll bar across the top. Spray repellents (pepper spray, etc) that you can carry with you have been reported with only moderate to no success.

5. Do not create conflict where it does not exist

If a coyote is acting as a coyote should by avoiding humans and pets, do not seek out opportunities to haze or otherwise aggravate the animal. Embracing communal respect is key.

6. Report aggressive, fear-less coyotes immediately

When a coyote fails to exhibit fear of humans or acts aggressively, the animal should be reported as soon as possible to the appropriate officials. It is recommended that towns have a procedure in place to handle these reports. Signs of aggression are similar to those shown by domestic dogs and include agitated barking (unprovoked), raised hackles, snarling, growling, and lunging. These behaviors are usually preceded by other indications as shown in the chart below, though may change seasonally (see "suggestion 3" above).

Wondering who to call with your coyote concerns? If you are having a

conflict with a coyote, you may need to contact your individual town's animal control or police department to learn about their protocols for handling coyote issues since each municipality and agency may respond differently. You may also contact the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for further guidance. In most instances, removal of a non-dangerous coyote (i.e., one that is simply present but not causing harm) will be the responsibility of the individual homeowner. In this case, you will need to contract with a licensed wildlife trapper. Wildlife handling of any type should always be provided by a professional.

In non-threatening situations, our research indicates that often it is best to leave coyotes where they are since the removal of one animal does not ensure removal of coyotes from your area in general. Most municipalities have adopted this belief.

Because this project is research driven, assisting private homeowners with their individual issues with coyotes is usually not logistically possible. We

are happy, however, to speak with you to offer any guidance we can if you do not find the resources you need online.

When Should I Be Concerned?

A list of signs indicating an increase in threat from coyotes is presented in Figure 1. It is important to note, however, that coyotes are highly variable in their behavior and this sequence may not always be predictive. Still, management programs for urban coyotes should begin with public education and untangling facts from myths. People should understand the differences between true threats and coexistence.

It is important to stress that our relationship with coyotes is directly affected by our behavior — coyotes react to us, and we can foster mutual respect or a lack of respect through cues we send to them. Coyote removal is best employed as a solution only after education has been attempted or if there is an immediate, and obvious, threat to human safety.

Figure 1. Indicator chart of various coyote threat levels

Coyote behavior / activity		Responses
Rarely or occasionally seen at night, more rarely during dusk and dawn	LOW	Limit food sources (garbage, pets feeding, wildlife feeding) Supervise pets and don't let them run free
Occasionally seen during the day Frequently seen at night Free-ranging pets occasionally disappear	CONCERN	Use hazing, negative stimuli (shouting, chasing, throwing objects)
Frequently seen during the day Stalking or attacking pets Fleeing from people		Consider removal program in conjunction with education; prohibit/limit feeding of wildlife; supervise pets; use negative stimuli
Approaching people aggressively Growling, barking when hazed (rather than running) Following children Preying on pets in yards		Initiate removal program in conjunction with education; prohibit/limit feeding of wildlife; supervise pets; use negative stimuli
	HIGH	

HOW TO AVOID CONFLICTS WITH COYOTES

Six Easy Steps to Avoid Conflicts

Although coyotes have been known to attack humans (and pets) and as such are a potential danger to people, especially children, risks are minimal and we feel that the majority of attack incidents could be reduced or prevented through modification of human behavior.

1. Do not feed coyotes

The number one most effective way to prevent coyote attacks in your neighborhood is to eliminate wildlife feeding. Coyotes that are fed in residential neighborhoods can lose their fear of people and may eventually test humans (and pets) as possible prey. Intentional feeding, such as bait stations in yards or parks, should be strictly avoided. However, many people unintentionally feed coyotes by leaving pet food or garbage out at night or having large bird feeders. Coyotes are usually not interested in bird food, but bird feeders often attract rodents, especially squirrels, which then attract coyotes.

If you are seeing an increase in coyotes, you should additionally review your own actions to ensure compost



Although coyotes seem to have a natural inclination to avoid human-related food, this can change when prey populations are low, or if the coyotes are young and haven't yet learned to hunt effectively.

2. Do not let pets run loose

Coyotes probably live nearby, even if you don't know it, so do not let pets run loose. When hiking in parks, keep dogs on leashes. Pets left outside, even with fencing, remain at risk for predation and unnecessary conflict. Do not leave your pets unattended outside, not even for a second. Remember, electric fences may keep your pets contained but do not keep other animals away.

Free-ranging domestic cats and feral cat colonies may also serve to attract

coyotes; it is important that domestic cats be kept indoors and that feral cats be spayed or neutered to control this population. Bringing food inside when outdoor cats are not feeding might alleviate part of this coyote attractant.

3. Do not run from a coyote

When you encounter a coyote, shout or throw something in its direction. Do not run away. Do not play victim if you can help it. If a coyote seems intent on defending a certain area, particularly around pupping season (May), your best bet may be to alter your route to avoid conflict with a normally calm animal; understand that there may be seasonal patterns of behavioral changes and act accordingly (see Coyote 748's story). We recommend if you are out walking that you carry some sort of noise maker with you (some have reported success scaring off coyotes by shaking a can of rocks).

If you see a coyote during the daytime, you should exhibit caution, as that coyote may have become habituated to humans (and may be more likely to attack). If you are approached by a

Whitetail Sanctuary Solutions Tip:
It's late November or December and you are Thinking of Next Hunting Season, Why?

by Michael Murphy

Late season hunts can be the perfect time to harvest trophy bucks! This time of year, the competition from other hunters in the woods can drastically drop off. This allows you to see deer return to more of their "normal behavior."

What is the number one thing on most trophy buck's mind this time of year? FOOD! It is very important for bucks to replenish their lost fat reserves they burned off during the rut. So, when deciding on what stand location on those winter hunts – think food sources!

An often-overlooked food source is the green foliage along the edges of trout streams. Due to the consistent water temperatures from the springs feeding these streams, green foliage (and often watercress) lives along the edges of these streams throughout the hunting season. Look to areas in agricultural fields with low snow depths. These areas give easy access to food sources. Also, oak trees and fruit trees can provide a great early winter food source with their acorns and fruit.

Now you have your stand locations figured out what's next? Weather—Hunt at the right times! Pay attention to barometric pressure changes. Cold fronts that are moving in, and winter storms.

All three of these often result in an increase in deer movement. In addition to watching the weather patterns, pay attention to your walking trails to your stands. If you have frigid temperatures, frozen leaves and/or ice-covered snow on your trails will make you sound like a tank coming through the woods. Remember with most of the foliage gone this time of the year the sound will travel further through the woods.

Now you have your stand locations picked near food sources and you are watching the weather for optimum time for deer movement as well as weather that allows you to travel to stand and back stealthy. The final piece is Dress for the weather!

You must wear layers. Do not over-dress walking to your stand. If you do your chances of leaving early because of being cold, just went up exponentially! Have additional layers in your backpack that you can put on after you cool down from your walk to your stand and you will remain warm all day. Remember if you are fidgeting because you are cold you most likely will be busted by that trophy buck!

And last but not least practice/practice/practice. You need to practice the way you hunt! Do not go out to your stand with never practicing shooting from an elevated platform – an elevated

deck can work great for this! Also, practice with the bulky clothes that you will be wearing when hunting. Don't be the guy/girl that the bow string hits your bulky clothing, and you missed a trophy of a lifetime.

So, if you haven't experienced late season deer hunting – "Give it a try!" It's a great opportunity for you to land that trophy buck!

I would be happy to provide an individualized plan of your property to attract and retain trophy bucks on your property! Happy and safe hunting from your SCI fellow member at whitetail-sanctuariesolutions.com



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SAVE THESE DATES: FEBRUARY 23-25, 2024

Join us, the Northeast
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SCI Hunter's Banquet and Hunter Expo 2024.

Our 3-Day Sport Show is held in conjunction with the
"Wisconsin State Hunting and Fishing Expo". With over 160 vendors,
we will surely be something that will interest you.

After checking out the Outfitters at the Show on Friday, come on over
to Stadium View for our "Friday Night Outfitter's Tailgate Party".

Saturday night we will be hosting our "25th Annual SCI Hunter's Banquet",
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free admission to the Sport Show.

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