



Western Montana's FIVE VALLEYS CHAPTER Safari Club International

2010 BANQUET

The **Five Valleys Chapter Annual Banquet** will be held **Friday, December 3, 2010** at the Hilton Garden Inn (3720 North Reserve St) in Missoula, Montana. We have an exciting evening planned with a cash bar, great dinner, and incredible auction and raffle items. This is our main fundraiser for the year and all proceeds go to fund our conservation, education and humanitarian efforts. Displays will also be available so don't miss out - order your tickets today!

How do you get tickets? Tickets are \$40.00 per person or \$75.00 for two and are available online (www.fivevalleyschaptersci.org/banquet.html) OR you can order by contacting one of our committee persons:

Van Dorothy, Plains (406.826.5684)
Bonita Smith, Phillipsburg (406.859.3948)
Matt Ulberg, Lolo (406.531.1142)
Gary Wardell, Kalispell (406.261.0731)
Jack Wemple, Victor (406.642.6118)
Jon Wemple, Victor (406.369.1771)

You can also contact Chapter Secretary Traci Ulberg, toll-free at 866.633.8110.

Heritage Partners. Each year, banquet attendees can choose to join the Heritage Partnership. Participants are recognized with a plaque or a button to place on their existing plaque. Monies from Heritage Partners are combined with other banquet proceeds to fund our many conservation, education and outreach efforts. For every five individuals that join Heritage Partners (new or returning supporters), we raffle a new rifle. Hence, while it is a great fundraising avenue for the chapter, it also rewards members with great odds on an exceptional rifle.

If purchased before the banquet, you can be entered into a raffle and receive dinner for only \$280.00 (with two dinners \$310.00). Contact Jon Wemple (406.369.1771) to become a partner today!

- continued on page 3

President's Message

I hope this message finds everyone well, and spending time in the field this season! It is once again an honor to sit as president of the Western Montana Five Valley's Chapter of Safari Club International. It seems like both yesterday and once upon a time ago, we started this chapter. My gratitude goes out to all that have kept this rolling!



After coming off of a sensational banquet last year, we have gained great momentum by substantially increasing our membership to an all-time high this year. Such numbers and an active board have put us at the fore-front in the local challenges we face as hunters. At the top of the list.....wolves.

We are presently focusing on an "outreach" effort to align with other sportsman and conservation organizations to create the numbers necessary to effectively influence our elected officials. Our event sponsored this month on the gray wolf issue included speakers from Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks as well as Congressman Denny Rehberg. With a packed house, our educational format revealed the challenges we face in light of Judge Molloy's decision this summer, as well as our options moving forward.

This fight is not about any one organization taking the glory of headlines. This fight is about results; collectively saving our ungulate populations, stopping our agricultural losses and curving the economic catastrophes associated with this unbelievable mess.

Our position is clear; anything short of a TOTAL DELISTING of the gray wolf will continue to allow sound science and common sense to be replaced with litigious interpretations and political games of these anti-hunting, left wing radical groups and their legal teams. We strongly support the Edwards/Rehberg H.R. 6028 bill, and ask

- continued on page 2



About Safari Club International

SCI is committed to:

- Providing value to members by shaping policies and legislation that protect the freedom to hunt locally, nationally and internationally.
- Keeping members informed regarding issues that impact hunting while educating and entertaining members with engaging articles about the rich heritage of hunting in all forms of media.
- Providing a community for hunters worldwide where camaraderie is enjoyed and expert information is exchanged, and where members are able to participate in a market for quality hunting goods and services.

The **Five Valleys Chapter of Safari Club International** is a non-profit organization dedicated to conserving wildlife and preserving hunting. As a 501 (c)(4) organization that works at the state and local level, as well as nationally through its parent organization (SCI), we support issues that protect the right to hunt and we partner with other pro-hunter organizations that support wildlife conservation. SCI is first in the field with pro-hunting legislation, litigation against anti-hunting initiatives and international advocacy for hunting. We are "SCI-FIRST FOR HUNTERS".

2010 Chapter Officers are as follows:

Chapter President - Jon Wemple, Victor
Chapter Vice-President - Matt Ulberg, Lolo
Treasurer - Bonita Smith, Phillipsburg
Secretary - Traci Ulberg, Lolo

Directors:

Gary Burdett, Victor
Van Dorathy, Plains
Gary Wardell, Kalispell
Jack Wemple, Victor

Become Involved...

Consider joining the Five Valleys Chapter of SCI and become involved today in helping to further our hunting, conservation and education initiatives. If you are already a member and wish to join one of our many committees, you can contact us at info@fivevalleyschaptersci.org or phone Five Valleys Chapter President, Jon Wemple at (406.369.1771).

We welcome your involvement and look forward to getting to know you better!

continued from front page...

that you contact both the Baucus and Tester offices to tell them anything other than bringing management of wolves back to the individual states is unacceptable!

We can get this important legislation passed as soon as next month. Taking the time to voice your opinions, join our chapter, other organizations, or both will pay off huge. Please help us fight this fight. Groups like Defenders of Wildlife are well organized and well funded. They are also on the wrong side of this issue. They favor ignoring sound science that has proven wolves have been genetically diverse in breeding since 2004. They also favor moving the goal posts of the game with every legal loophole they can find to delay the issue in courts perpetually. It's time for this nonsense to stop!

OK, so now I'm all fired up again!

My family has lived in Western Montana for five generations. We have made a living farming, ranching, outfitting and in the timber industries. Our heritage of hunting and enjoying what Montana has to offer is on the verge of never being the same again. Montana wildlife management does not need to have policies set by federal agencies, special interest groups, and by litigious loop-holes created by poorly written laws.

I guess I have a right to be fired up....

Let me close by saying this, we need you, we need your friends, and we need your circles to join together and collectively defend our rights as hunters, sportsmen and as Americans.

If you are not currently a member of our chapter, please take the time to join. Also, please spread the word about our important participation in this issue, as well as other projects here in Western Montana we are involved in. We are looking forward to another extra special banquet on December 3rd, and I hope to see another packed house!

Remember, over 70% of our funds raised will stay right here in Western Montana, funding projects our members bring to us.

Blessings and Good Hunting!

Jon Wemple, Chapter President

Banquet information continued from front page...

Sleeping Rooms. For those attendees coming in from out of town, we have negotiated a special group rate at the Hilton of \$89.00 plus tax. This includes a full hot-cooked made to order breakfast. Rooms will be available on a first-come/first-served basis - call (406.523.5300) to make your reservation. Remember to ask for SCI Banquet.

Displays. In addition to brochure tables with hunt, gear, etc. information, attendees can learn about the SCIF Sables (SCI's educational arm) or view taxidermy. Other displays are in the works; see the below pictures from the 2009 Banquet and check our website frequently - we look forward to seeing you on December 3rd!

Pictures from the 2009 Banquet - see all the fun you don't want to miss!



The view greeting attendees at the 2009 Five Valleys Chapter SCI Banquet.



Magnum TV and Painted Skulls by Jana on a display table.



30 posters provided attendees with additional information about live auction items.



Hunting Corner...

Five Valleys Chapter SCI Vice President, Matt Ulberg took his son, Gunnar, antelope hunting for the second time this year. At eight years old, Gunnar is looking forward to the day that he can pull the trigger!



Gunnar and I were able to antelope hunt with Dad in our usual sweet spot this year. Expectations were high, but the antelope were not cooperating! Dad wanted to shoot his doe with his 45-70 Sharps, and as such, range was a limitation. Usually this area has lots of pronghorn, and reasonably good terrain for sneaks to within 200 yards. We hunted together first thing on Saturday morning, and about a mile from the truck, Dad decided to haul his shooting iron back to the truck (heavy).



Gunnar and I kept working our way through the ridges, expecting to see antelope in every draw. The last draw held none, so we headed out toward the end of the last main ridge. Rounding some pines near the top, we spotted a group of 5 bucks headed up into the draws from the flat below. Two small, two of average size, and one thin but freaky horned buck. I declined the shot, as Gunnar couldn't see very well. We backed off and circled ahead of

them, using a ridge to keep us hidden. When we crept over they were gone! I looked farther up the draw and could just see horn tips walking away.

We hurried and made another loop farther up the draw, staying behind another ridge, and when we crept over a rocky point, they were 150 yards below us. I got Gunnar set up to see everything, and I layed out to take a close look. Gunnar wanted me to shoot, and talked me into taking the odd-ball buck as he turned broadside, coaching me along the way in a whispered voice...."Shoot! He is broadside...shoot!"

One prong turns out, and the other looks like a can-opener. He had almost no black cheek patches to speak of, and real odd long, crooked teeth. Gunnar was stoked! He kept up extremely well, and is turning out to be a great hunting partner. At 8 years old, he is doing great and loves it. He will be ready to roll at 12, for sure!

We looked for does the rest of the day, and ended up seeing only 2 more bucks on a neighboring ranch, and ZERO does. The foothills pronghorn were pretty thin in numbers. Feed was unbelievable, and we saw more seeps, springs, water and wet boggy areas that we have ever seen meaning that the traditional water hole locations had no antelope tracks. It completely changed the patterns of the antelope in this particular area.



Submit an article or hunting story!

Consider submitting an article or hunting story for publication in the Five Valleys Chapter Newsletter! Articles or stories must be no more than three pages in length and must contain contact information for the author. Graphics and photos are welcome!

Email submissions to **editor@fivevalleyschaptersci.org**.

After second-guessing shooting this animal, I feel fortunate Gunnar was there encouraging me to shoot, or else I would likely have nothing in the freezer.

Sunday, we found lots of does in some winter wheat, and put some sneaks on them, but were unable to get it done. We left Dad to hunt another day or two, and headed home. He called last night, and has yet to connect, though he is getting some opportunities.



The meat is in the freezer, and now we are back at work/school. I told Gunnar we can clean the skull and hang it in his room, which he is excited about.

Congratulations Mikey!

Mikey Wilke collected this fine buck, his first big game trophy, during the early youth season hunt on Thursday, October 21, 2010. His family accompanied him on the hunt.

This hunt was a tune-up trip in preparation for his elk hunt in November. The owners and staff of the C.B. Ranch, in conjunction with the Five Valleys Chapter board, are making the elk hunt possible.

We will follow-up with photos of the results next month on our website.



WEB PHOTO GALLERY You have to check this out!

<http://www.fivevalleyschaptersci.org/photos.html> - This has been rated the best page on this website! Why? Because it showcases why we do what we do - why we work to increase habitat, protect access and encourage conservation - why we hunt!

Get a picture posted! Would you like to have a picture posted to this page? If so, email us your name, the photo (jpeg format preferred) along with a brief one to two sentence description of the hunt. Email us at **photos@fivevalleyschaptersci.org**.

In the news...



The Flathead Director for Five Valleys SCI, Gary Wardell, represented the Chapter at Congressman Rehberg's Open Form Discussion in Kalsipell on October 6, 2010. He provided the following summary to the Board.

October 6, 2010. On Wednesday, Congressman Rehberg hosted an open forum discussing the issues surrounding Judge Molloy's decision to relist the gray wolf on the Federal Endangered Species Act. While Molloy's decision was largely due to Wyoming's refusal to develop a comprehensive wolf management program, the problems the wolf is causing here in Western Montana were the subject of much debate.

As a panel participant, we each were given up to four minutes to state our opinions and/or voice our concerns. I was able to point out that by politicizing the wolf issue the public was missing the point and stalling the action necessary to resolve the dilemma.

The radicals on both sides want to find fault and place blame on the opposition rather than develop a supportable solution.

As in government bidding, the general rule is to throw out both the high and low bid and thoroughly analyze the remaining proposals to determine which one has the best solution for the price. This is the direction we need to be going with this whole issue. Forget whose supporting studies or computer models are flawed and concentrate on the bigger picture, that of wild game management.

When you cut through all the rhetoric and use a little common sense the facts become clear. The consensus of opinion is that there are roughly 1,700 wolves in the five states including Oregon and Washington. Conservatively, each wolf will kill one animal per month. To simplify further, let us say they all kill 10 months out of the year just to survive, which is 17,000 animals, wild game or domestic. That is the question, can our individual or collective ecosystems withstand the kind of predation. I believe the answer is a resounding, no. Something has to be done and done now.

Approximately 150 people attended the forum at FHCC. 30 to 40 individuals took the opportunity to express their opinions. Fortunately, cool heads prevailed and my estimate was similar to what the polls show - 70% voiced concern over the relisting and continued predation. 30% were split between radical love and hate. Love for the wolf and hate for anyone, especially hunters, who support the delisting and subsequent control of the gray wolf.

The wolf lover's only constructive complaint was to challenge the studies or their claims about the lack thereof to determine the recovered status, i.e. 300 breeding pairs or 500 wolves, both figures were bantered around. While we can spend years challenging these studies or lack of same, the bottom line is we have the facts on the big game trends and the reported domestic animal killing. Our goal should be to do whatever we can to get the control back in the hands of the individual states game departments who review the statistics, issue the big game and wolf quotas on an annual basis from facts not theory.

Congressman Rehberg made significant and irrefutable points by pointing out the facts surrounding Al Gore and his global warming theory. Science on both sides is diametrically opposed and will continue to justify their findings. Meanwhile, nothing will be accomplished. The same is true with this issue, two or three more years of stalemated non-action could push our big game resources back to where they were in the 30's, wiping out all work done since 1941 to restore and reestablish healthy viable big game throughout Montana.

We need to get behind the State Fish, Wildlife and Parks and get beyond the junk science that is stalling the resolution to this problem.

Gary Wardell, Kalispell Director

Educating the Next Generation...

Through the SCIF Sables, the Five Valleys Chapter has placed, and continues to place, Safari-in-a-Box Educational tools.

Safari-in-a-Box is a K–12 educational kit designed to provide exciting, hands-on learning. It gives teachers and others who work with young people resources and ideas to introduce youth to important concepts of habitat, wildlife management, and impacts resulting from human and wildlife interactions.

The kit is suitable for use by teachers at any level, environmental educators in local, state and federal parks, 4-H and Scout leaders, wildlife conservation educators in State and Federal fish and wildlife agencies, community nature centers, and hunting, fishing or trapping organizations who do wildlife education programs in their community. Safari-in-a-Box is even being used in the children's wing of a hospital.



Spring 2010. Woodman School District 18 kindergarten through 2nd graders are shown at the completion of their Montana wildlife unit utilizing the Safari-in-a-Box donated by SCIF Sables.

Safari-in-a-Box offers children and adults a hands-on wildlife experience in an urban, suburban, or rural setting, in or out of doors. For many, the kit is the gateway to appreciation of the outdoor world and provides their only contact with a wild animal. Safari-in-a-Box helps adults and young people in our increasingly urban environment re-establish their connection with our land and their link to the natural world.

What's in the Box? To provide a real wildlife encounter, Safari-in-a-Box has some parts or products from real wildlife that were accidentally killed on highways, or legally harvested by hunters and trappers. The kit provides many items that aren't easily obtainable through traditional educational sources but are vital to this type of hands-on educational experience.

The kit contains real or plastic replica skulls, pelts, rubber tracks, and rubber scat (feces) for common animals such as beaver, skunk, bobcat, coyote, raccoon, mink, muskrat, and deer. These items can be used in learning activities such as comparing animal adaptations for different habitats and differences in animal diet, or in fun activities such as making T-shirts with animal and predator tracks.

Lesson plans, activity suggestions, teacher's guides and posters are also included. The video, *Habitat Earth-Wildlife*, demonstrates the importance of habitat to all animals. *Habitat Earth-H2O* takes viewers on a journey that shows how humans contribute to impaired water quality.

The Five Valleys Chapter also continues to support the SCI Foundation's American Wilderness Leadership Schools by sponsoring local teachers to attend this enriching educational program. The program introduces participants to the complexity of environmental and wildlife management issues, and the shooting sports (rifle, pistol, trap, muzzle loader, and box) with an emphasis on firearm safety and use. College education units are provided. If you are interested in learning more about Sables, please contact Bonita Smith at 406.589.3948.



Five Valleys Chapter SCI

PO Box 16142

Missoula, MT 59808

Look for **2010 Annual Banquet** information inside. Auction and raffle items to include artwork, knives, optics, guns, bow packages, fishing trips, hunting safaris, and more.

Something for every budget just in time for Christmas!

Join Safari Club International!

You get a 1 year membership in BOTH the Five Valleys Chapter (\$20.00 annually) and Safari Club International (\$55.00 annually) for only \$75.00. Annual members receive six issues of SAFARI magazine and 12 issues of Safari Times newspaper annually. To learn more or to apply visit http://www.fivevalleyschaptersci.org/assets/downloads/sci_fvc_member_app.pdf.

