DSC Members To Serve On Conservation Council for Dept. of Interior

Recently, the Dept. of the Interior appointed the members to its newly-formed International Wildlife Conservation Council.

Demonstrating the depth and commitment of DSC to conservation, education and hunter advocacy, eight of the 16 council appointees are DSC Life Members: Paul Babaz, Bill Brewster, Ivan Carter, Peter Horn, Chris Hudson, Mike Ingram, John Jackson, and Denise Welker.

DSC wishes to congratulate and thank them for their commitment to the DSC mission and the important support of conservation and the international hunting community.

This council will provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary, and will focus on increased public awareness domestically regarding conservation, wildlife law enforcement, and economic benefits that result from U.S. citizens traveling abroad to hunt.

Secretary Zinke said, “The conservation and long-term health of big game crosses international boundaries. This council will provide important insight into the ways that American
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It’s April and time for the new board to step up and take the wheel. Due to schedule demands and unforeseen circumstances, Rod Wooley has stepped aside as President for FY2018-19. The Board subsequently elected to have me serve again because of my experience as President and Interim Executive Director. I am honored and humbled, and will do my best.

With the hiring of our new dynamic Executive Director, Corey Mason, we have been on an upward trajectory since last fall – a steep one at that! There is a lot of work to accomplish, and a lot of work that will be generated by the goals we have set for DSC. You will hear more about those goals in future articles from me.

In the meantime, Corey will represent DSC for an important meeting when he travels to Madrid where the International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC) will convene in May. That same weekend, the NRA convention will be held in Dallas, May 4-6, and we encourage all of our members to attend. The NRA is now a partner with DSC (see page 18 for details). This stronger relationship is going to be important for hunters nationwide, and will help DSC fulfill its mission worldwide.

DSC has never been in such an advantageous spot before and I know great things are about to happen! If you haven’t been participating in events and activities, I personally invite you to a monthly meeting or one of the spring events coming up. I would love to meet you!

Karl Evans, DSC President

Deadlines for Publications

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NOTE: Editorial submissions received by the due date for a specific issue may run in a later issue, depending on publishing needs at that time. Unsolicited submissions in digital format (article, photos and caption list) are welcome at any time via email. Queries and pitches are also accepted, and are best submitted via email. ALL submissions must be in digital format, unless otherwise specified. For more editorial guidelines, or further information, contact Editor in Chief, editor@biggame.org.
CONTINUED FROM COVER

sportsmen and women benefit international conservation from boosting economies and creating hundreds of jobs to enhancing wildlife conservation."

The Council will advise the Secretary of the Interior on the benefits that international recreational hunting has on foreign wildlife and habitat conservation, anti-poaching and illegal wildlife trafficking programs, and other ways in which international hunting benefits human populations in these areas.

The duties of the Council will be solely advisory and will include, but not be limited to:

- Develop a plan for public engagement and education on the benefits of international hunting,
- Review and make recommendations for changes, when needed, on all Federal programs, and/or regulations, to ensure support of hunting as:
  - An enhancement to foreign wildlife conservation and survival;
  - An effective tool to combat illegal trafficking and poaching;
  - An economic engine and job-creating force for local communities.
- Develop strategies to benefit the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s permit office in receiving timely country data and information so as to remove barriers that impact consulting with range states.
- Recommend removal of barriers to the importation into the United States of legally hunted wildlife.
- Ongoing review of import suspension/bans and provide recommendations that seek to resume the legal trade of those items, where appropriate.
- Review seizure and forfeiture actions/practices and provide recommendations to regulations that will lead to a reduction of unwarranted actions.
- Review the Endangered Species Act’s foreign listed species and interaction with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna, with the goal of eliminating regulatory duplications.
- Recommend streamlining/expedite process of import permits.
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The call came in over the two-way that evening as we were sitting around the mopane wood campfire enjoying a few sundowners. After a long, hot day hanging leopard baits, and being around the stinking gut bucket, the cold beers tasted pretty good. We were camped along the Zambezi River in the Sapi concession of Zimbabwe. In the distance, I could hear a pod of hippos – bellowing, honking and splashing somewhere off in the inky black waters of the mighty river. After a somewhat animated discussion over the radio, Andrew Dawson, part owner of Chifuti Safaris and my PH for this safari, returned to the comfort of the fire and announced that we have a Problem Animal Control (PAC) situation that needed sorting out.

I’ve read a few accounts of visiting hunters pressed into service to assist on PAC hunts, so my mind started racing. Was it a rogue elephant raiding the crops of the locals that lived along the edge of the concession? Perhaps a pride of lions harassing the eco-tourists at the photography camp in nearby Mana Pools. Or maybe a wounded buffalo that National Parks decided might become a danger. Nope. Nothing so dramatic or dangerous. Rather, it was a pesky troop of baboons that had become a nuisance at Chifuti’s Fish Camp, located a few miles downriver from our camp.

Regardless of the rather inglorious quarry we were to pursue, Andrew was very insistent that we take care of this PAC situation first thing in the morning. In fact, he seemed to relish the thought of shooting baboons – nuisance or otherwise. Then I recalled that Andrew hated baboons as much as an anti-hunter hates the true facts of hunting as a conservation tool. When we first met a few days prior at the dirt airstrip along the Zambezi River, Andrew instructed, “You have 10 baboons on quota, and you will shoot every one of them.” He went on to say that there are few things in the African bush more destructive to wildlife than a troop of baboons. They will eat just about anything including reptiles, amphibians, bird eggs and small or young mammals. They apparently consume virtually all the wildlife they can lay their hands on in an area before moving on to another location.

The next morning found us talking with the camp manager at Fish Camp learning about the modus operandi of the criminal baboon troop. It seems that the nefarious troop had learned that the camp staff always take a siesta right after lunch. A single large male baboon (apparently the alpha male of the troop and mastermind of this crime spree) and his mate would appear every day a few minutes prior to siesta time in a clearing below a hillside across a large ravine on the back side of Fish Camp, just opposite the kitchen. You could set your watch by their appearance. Interestingly, the pair would sit with their backs to the kitchen picking fleas off one another, in a very casual “nothing to see here – don’t mind us” manner. Every few minutes, the male would crane his head backwards over his shoulder to see if the kitchen staff had departed. Once the staff left, he would bark a command, and the entire troop would come down the hill and cross the ravine to raid the kitchen. They had even figured out how to open the refrigerator. And in addition to eating...
all the food they could find, they also left a nasty mess of their feces behind. The camp manager also explained that the troop had become increasingly daring and aggressive in pulling off this daily caper and that the camp staff was no longer able to scare them away once they took up residence in the kitchen.

Andrew guessed that if we shot the alpha male, the remainder of the troop would more than likely give up their kitchen raiding ways and return to their natural life in the bush. So we decided to make a small blind a few dozen yards from the kitchen where we could see the clearing where we expected the male and his mate to appear. We rested my rifle on an upside-down trash can and a pillow from one of the guest rooms. Then we retired to the veranda for an early lunch and listened to wonderfully exaggerated stories of tiger fishing because everyone knows that fishermen lie more extravagantly than hunters.

It wasn’t long before the camp cook alerted us that our quarry had arrived right on time. We crept back to the blind and watched the antics of the pair for a while to make sure we had the right suspects in our sights. Sure enough, the male was definitely casing the joint in preparation for the day’s caper. Andrew gave the go-ahead, so I got a bead on the felon in my scope and let him have it. Judge, jury and executioner! At the sound of my shot, the entire hill side erupted with howling, shrieking and barking from the baboon gang. This went on for quite some time before finally quieting down. As Andrew and I prepared to cross the ravine to find the baboon, our game scout appeared out of nowhere with his rusty AK47 and insisted on accompanying us. I guess he thought we might need some protection since the baboon gang had an aggressive reputation, or perhaps he just hated baboons as much as Andrew does. When we arrived at the clearing, we followed the blood trail into the bush and within a few minutes found the dead baboon. Suddenly, the game scout had spotted a few baboon in a tree up the hill side and opened up on them just to be sure there were properly scared away. I must admit, I was surprised that his scarred and antiquated firearm would still function, especially in full-auto mode.

When I saw Andrew at DSC Convention a few months later, he was happy to report that the baboon gang’s Fish Camp crime spree had come to an end. I guess the thieves weren’t quite so bold once their boss got rubbed out. CT
No Sale! That was the message nearly two dozen willing online sellers of illegal wildlife resources received from Texas game wardens, along with citations, during a Wild Web crackdown conducted in the Metroplex during late February.

Texas game wardens made multiple criminal cases against individuals attempting to make online sales of various threatened and protected wildlife species, as well as state and federally regulated natural resources.

Navigating through internet forums and online marketplaces where trade in both live wildlife and wildlife parts are known to occur, wardens were able to negotiate undercover transactions with willing sellers to purchase things like a taxidermied great blue heron, raptor talons, American alligator heads and live box turtles.

“The illegal sale and exploitation of wildlife resources is a global problem that has a direct negative effect on the State of Texas and could lead to the loss of Texas native species, either through the harvest of native species or introduction of non-indigenous invasive species,” said Col. Grahame Jones, Law Enforcement Director with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

During the operation, game wardens conducted 20 cases using online searches and mobile apps to uncover illegal items for sale. The investigations netted numerous seizures of wildlife resources, and resulted in issuance of 18 citations and 18 warnings.

Citations included charges for sale and possession of threatened and or protected species, sale of migratory duck parts, sale of American alligator parts (no retail dealer permit), commercial exotic snake permit violations, Illegal sale of game fish, no fish dealer’s license, and failure to possess a non-game dealer permit. All citations issued were class C misdemeanor violations punishable by fine from $25 to $500.
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It seems odd that a large animal like an elephant would be afraid of a group of tiny bees.

But a team of researchers in Africa are deterring 80 percent of elephants away from farmland because of that strong fear. Elephants forage crops in the night and destroy livelihoods when they wildly trudge through villages, causing physical and financial harm to the people nearby.

Aggressive African bees have learned to target the tough-skinned elephants in sensitive areas such as the trunk and eyes, causing harm to the large animal.

Researchers took these two situations and found that one way to keep elephants out of an area is by placing hives every 20 meters. The majority of elephants will not pass into human-dwelling areas past those points, greatly reducing elephant-human conflict based on natural relationships that already exist. This could be the new universal tactic since other solutions have proven to be too difficult or expensive to maintain, as was the case with electric fences.

A new study hopes to bring this same protection to elephants in Asia. However, the result is not expected to be as effective there since Asian bees are not as aggressive. Check out more on this phenomenon in the recent New York Times article. CT

Sources: New York Times and Science Daily
South Africa’s Recent Events

Recent developments in South Africa have raised concerns for some U.S. hunters. This statement from the Professional Hunters’ Association of South Africa addresses those concerns. As is the case of any hunting excursion, DSC suggests that those with scheduled trips maintain contact with their outfitter to stay up to date on travel advisories and conditions.

PHASA Statement

“Expropriation of Land in South Africa”

Concerns have been raised by our members and the broader international hunting community regarding the issue of “land expropriation without compensation” in South Africa. The Professional Hunters’ Association of South Africa (PHASA) wishes to clarify this issue. PHASA would like to assure the public that although talks of “expropriation without compensation” is a concern, there are numerous constitutional procedures and implementation requirements that first need to be addressed prior to this policy coming to fruition.

South Africa has one of the best constitutions in the world and the bill that was passed in parliament, will first have to be investigated and go through a constitutional review committee process. The committee will have to hold public hearings, where South Africans can give suggestions and inputs. Once completed the committee will report back to the National Assembly where their findings will then, once more be voted for in parliament. A two-thirds majority vote is required for the committee’s recommendations to be accepted.

The President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa has urged people not to panic and outlined the critical importance for South Africans to engage to come up with meaningful proposals and recommendations concerning the land issue. It is paramount for the broader community to realise that specific constraint were put in place that this process may not undermine the:

1. Economy,
2. Agricultural production and
3. Food security.

PHASA will heed the President’s request and be involved in finding amicable solutions for the wildlife and hunting industries by highlighting the invaluable contribution hunting makes to the green economy. Members of the PHASA Executive Committee were in Parliament on the same day as the land decision was made. PHASA was involved in finding ways of unlocking the socio-economic potential of South Africa’s biodiversity assets through sustainable use of wildlife resources.

According to the President of South Africa, land expropriation would not be a “smash and grab” attempt, and much consultation would take place to ensure the process would not harm food production, jobs and the economy as a whole.

South Africa remains one of the best destinations of choice for international tourists and as an Association we would like to assure the general public that South Africa remains a safe and preferred destination for hunters.

END

For any further information individuals or Associations are welcome to contact the president, our PHASA office or any member of EXCO.

Dries van Coller, PHASA president, president@phasa.co.za or Marianna Louwrens at info@phasa.co.za and Tersia Du Plooy at phasa@phasa.co.za
The National Park Service (NPS) is proposing to allow sportsmen to transport unarmed bows and crossbows through NPS-administered areas without a permit. Under current NPS regulations, individuals may only carry unarmed bows and crossbows without a permit within motor vehicles and other forms of mechanical transport. The proposed updates would extend the same access to individuals transporting bows and crossbows on foot or horseback when accessing otherwise inaccessible lands or waters contiguous to a park area when other means of access are otherwise impracticable or impossible.

In some national parks, sportsmen wishing to access private property may need to park vehicles in privately-owned parking lots but then must cross a road maintained by NPS to get to the private property. Currently, the individual would need to obtain a permit from the park to lawfully cross the street with a bow and crossbow. The proposed updated regulations would no longer require the sportsmen to obtain a permit in these and other circumstances covered by the proposed rule.

“This is a commonsense approach to providing access to responsible sportsmen without changing long standing legal regulations regarding hunting in national park areas,” said NPS Deputy Director Dan Smith. “This rule removes an unnecessary requirement and cost for individuals seeking to safely access remote land and waters.”

The updated regulations would have no impact on hunting regulations within a given national park. Possessing bows and crossbows in this manner would be subject to applicable state laws and would not be allowed if the individual is otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a bow or crossbow.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed rule at regulations.gov and search for the regulation identifier number (RIN) “1024-AE44” from March 2, 2018 until May 1, 2018.
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- Leather Loops $220

C-1 Murray Rifle Shell Holder
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- Short - 243 length $70
- Medium - 30.06, 300 Winchester, etc. $70
- Long - 375 H & H, 300 Weatherby, 300 Jarrett, etc. $70
- W size - 378, 460 Weatherby, 416 Rigby, 300 Rem Ultra etc. $70
- Winchester Short Mag $70

C-3CRP Murray Buttstock Shell Holder
New for this year, designed for no movement on recoil with a 2-inch width nylon strap over the recoil pad. Available in cartridge sizes from 270 through 577 Nitro.

Shotgun model with 5 leather loops.

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A-1 Murray Quick Set Sling $75
Try it and you'll want one for all your rifles. Made from one continuous cut of saddle leather with a uniquely designed blued metal friction slide, it can be instantly set to any length and secured. No hooks or laces to adjust. A three-way latigo knot secures the slide and swivels eliminating any screws that could mar your stock. Lightweight, strong, and no bulk. Comes ready to use with US made swivels installed. Available with either blue, stainless steel, or "mil-spec" swivels.

Black add $10
With US mil spec swivels add $10
Long Model for rifles with barrel band swivels add $10

A1-AR15 Quick Set Sling $90
(For rifles with fixed swivels)

C-3 Murray Rifle Shell Holder
Belt type with full leather enclosure, 7 round capacity with heavy duty elastic retention loops, rattle proof, soft point protection, fits one row of cartridges flat against your belt. Fully nylon stitched, available in most cartridge sizes. Some African calibers are limited to 6 rounds.

$85

S-10 Murray Takedown Rifle or Shotgun Case
Designed for your double rifle or shotgun, featuring two side by side compartments. Constructed of heavy duty saddle skirting leather and lined with our exclusive man-made fleece. This unit can be shipped inside your duffel. Full length brass zippers, Gorilla proof hinged leather carrying handles in rich oiled saddle tan finish.

- Up to 28" barrel length $850
- Up to 30" barrel length $875
- Up to 32" barrel length $900
- Two barrel model $1295
- Two gun model $1395

Other lengths available, price on request

S-2 Murray Ultimate Saddle Scabbard
Designed for maximum protection of your big game rifle, this case is made from the very finest saddle leather and completely encases the gun. Lined with an exclusive man-made sheepskin that is breathable and non-reactive to gun oil, it will protect the gun blue as well as the stock finish. This scabbard will conveniently fit inside most hard cases for travel. A detachable leather grip enables this scabbard to be used as a rugged year-round gun case.

S-2 designed for scoped (up to 44 mm) rifles $695
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Providing experiences and memories for family are goals we all hope to achieve. Shared ownership makes it possible by removing the work, so that the time spent at the ranch can be used to connect meaningfully with family – an investment that will provide a legacy of familial wealth for generations.

Think You Know About Mammals?

There’s deer and dogs.
Rhinos and rats.
Bears and bats.
But can you name all 6,495 of current and recently extinct species?
This statistic comes from the new Mammal Diversity Database (MDD), which was presented in a recent study in the Journal of Mammalogy. It shows roughly a 20% increase in overall mammal diversity since 2005.
New species that are “discovered” tend to be small frogs in hidden habitats of the rainforest or insects that live under interesting conditions. Scientists subconsciously figured that mammals were already well-known.

However, over 1,200 species have been recognized since 2005’s Mammal Species of the World documentation series.
The good news is that there are more mammal species than scientists have thought.
To create the new database, researchers reviewed over 1,000 publications to stay up to date on the necessary information to name and decipher species from each other. Some of the changes that were made a decade ago are only now making it into practice. They aim to have up-to-date databases similar to ones that exist for amphibians, reptiles and birds.
The new database is available at mammaldiversity.org.
Sources: EurekAlert! The Global Source for Science News
Ray Sasser, Outdoor Editor, Dies at 69
FROM LONE STAR OUTDOOR NEWS

Ray Sasser was the longtime outdoor editor for The Dallas Morning News and the voice of sportsmen and conservationists for 34 years. Sasser also contributed stories to Lone Star Outdoor News and other publications. He also authored 11 books including Texas Quail. He died on February 21, 2018.

“I could always count on Ray to have good insight on a controversial story and would call him to get his opinion frequently,” said David J. Sams, founder of Lone Star Outdoor News.

Ron Gard of Dallas knew and fished with the two DMN outdoor editors before Sasser, Hank Stowers and Andy Anderson. Sasser made several trips to Gard’s East Texas ranch to fish.

“He helped me edit photos for an exhibit at the Museum of Natural History,” Gard said.

Gard said he was most impressed with Sasser’s honesty.

“And I’ve never seen a better fisherman,” Gard said. “He could really catch the bass — and he loved it — his favorite thing to do was fish or hunt with his wife, Emilie.”

Gard remained in contact with Sasser during his illness that spanned over several years. This year, he had to hunt dove and deer “from a walker,” he said. “He still shot a nice buck and several hogs.”

While a student at Stephen F. Austin State University, Sasser began working at a Lufkin newspaper, and was allowed to write columns about hunting and fishing. He then joined the Port Arthur News to write about the outdoors. A decade later, in 1983, he joined the Dallas Times Herald and later, The Dallas Morning News. His last column appeared in the Jan. 21 issue.

In 2016, Sasser was inducted into the Texas Freshwater Fishing Hall of Fame in Athens. In 2009, he received the T. Boone Pickens Lifetime Sportsman Award from Park Cities Quail.

“Ray Sasser was not just one of the greatest outdoor writers in Texas, he was one of the most respected outdoor writers in the country,” Pickens said. “His success and following were rooted in the fact he didn’t just cover the outdoors, he loved all that it meant to hunters, fishermen and conservation as a whole. To me he was much more than a talented writer who cared about the outdoors; he was a good friend whom I will miss. We should all have such a passion for life and our chosen professions.”

Save The Date – Come Visit the DSC Booth at EARTHx

Join DSC and other big names in conservation at the 2018 EARTHx event at Fair Park in Dallas on April 20-22, 2018.

DSC has been invited as one of several groups representing a new awareness that sustainable use is an important part of the whole picture of conservation.

In addition to having a booth, DSC will participate in discussions with other VIPs in conservation and local advocates for wise use.

EARTHx, formerly Earth Day Texas, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on environmental education and awareness. As the world’s largest annual forum, EARTHx showcases the latest initiatives, discoveries, research, innovations, policies and corporate practices that are reshaping the future.

Founded in 2011 by Dallas-based environmentalist, philanthropist and businessman Trammell S. Crow, EARTHx’s mission is connecting a global community to create a sustainable world for all life and future generations.
$500 Certificate for Custom Boots or Shoes by Russell Moccasin Co.

This $500 prize may be applied to the winner’s choice of custom made pair of boots or shoes by W.C. Russell Moccasin Co. Choose anything from Sheepskin Loungers to Pull On Snake Boots to Calfskin Dress Oxfords. For a full list of options, visit russellmoccasin.com.

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NRA in Dallas

The 147th NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits will take place May 3-6 in Dallas. Join over 80,000 patriots and 800+ exhibitors for the biggest Annual Meeting yet, featuring a jam-packed schedule of seminars, workshops and special events.

The NRA Annual Meetings are about celebrating our firearms freedom and renewing our commitment to the Second Amendment. This family-friendly event is free to NRA members, young and old alike, with something for everyone.

A variety of seminars and workshops are presented by best-in-class instructors on topics ranging from Methods of Concealed Carry, to Working with Hunting Dogs, to Refuse to Be a Victim. Some highlights from last year include “The Truth About Guns,” focused on the latest research on gun ownership and crime rates; “NRA-ILA Collegiate Leadership Conference,” an informational panel on building a regional Second Amendment activism plan; and “Guns of the Mediterranean,” where history came alive.

There is a long list of special events that take place in conjunction with the NRA Annual Meetings & Exhibits, including the annual Saturday Evening Celebration. This year’s Saturday Evening Celebration will be a sell-out show that celebrates our freedoms with an amazing night of traditional country music as we honor the great patriot, Charlie Daniels. Travis Tritt and other special guests will perform before Mr. Daniels take the stage.

Another attendee favorite is the NRA-ILA Forum, one of the most politically significant and popular events in the country, featuring our nation’s top Second Amendment leaders in government, the media, and the entertainment industry.

The NRA Women's Leadership Forum Luncheon & Auction is the marquee women’s event of the year, and will take place at the Dallas Omni Hotel on Friday, May 4. This year's featured speaker is Tucker Carlson, and the live and silent auctions will feature unique, one-of-a-kind items.

To learn more, purchase special events tickets or register, visit www.nraam.org or call 877-672-7632.

Babaz for NRA Board

Paul Babaz, a new Life Member, is the current SCI President, and is running for the NRA Board. His ultimate goal is to assure a bright future for both hunting and firearms ownership. He urges any NRA voting member to select him for this position.

Babaz, a lifelong hunter and shooter, understands the importance of linking all facets of the shooting sports to expand the overall base and to counter the efforts of those who would deny the right to keep and bear arms and the freedom to hunt.

“I believe in forming strong alliances with other like-minded organizations as there is strength in numbers,” Babaz said. “We have to stand together on the issues that are important to us in order to combat the anti-hunting movement as well as the anti-gun movement.”

For more information, visit nra.com. NRA Members will have received proxy materials in regular mail.
A Shared Responsibility
BY RICHARD CHEATHAM, DSC FOUNDATION PRESIDENT

A few weeks ago, when discussing the National Rifle Association’s upcoming convention in Dallas with a friend (who is not a member of DSC), I mentioned that the DSC Foundation is a big supporter of the NRA. The puzzled look I got in return made me wonder why that might come as a surprise to anyone, and further, whether DSC membership is aware of that support and the reasons for it.

First, let’s flesh out DSC/DSC Foundation’s support. DSC has funded NRA initiatives for years. DSC Foundation picked up that support a few years ago. DSC Foundation has made grants to the NRA Foundation for the NRA’s Youth Hunter Education Challenge and the NRA’s Hunters’ Leadership Forum. The Youth Hunter Education Challenge is a program developed by the NRA in 1985 with the stated, simple goal of passing America’s hunting and shooting heritage on to the next generation. The program has served over 1.2 million youth since its inception. The Hunters’ Leadership Forum is an NRA initiative to promote, protect and preserve America’s great hunting heritage – a goal shared by DSC and DSC Foundation, and one made much easier with the backing, support and reach of the NRA.

Second, the NRA is among the oldest, if not the oldest, hunting organizations in the United States. Its interest in hunting long predates the creation of the Hunters’ Leadership Forum. Its magazine, American Hunter, has been known to many of you for decades. In these turbulent and often challenging times for hunters, the NRA has been a strong and consistent voice – and will continue to be. Yes, we know that the Second Amendment has nothing to do with hunting, despite the frequent claims from some Second Amendment opponents that “you don’t need that gun for hunting,” but the connection between what we do and the inherent and inalienable right to keep and bear arms is undeniable.

For all of these reasons, DSC and DSC Foundation support the National Rifle Association. Details about the upcoming Convention can be found at left. We hope you come to the Convention and if you do, please stop by the DSC Hospitality Room in the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center.

CT
A Round of Applause for DSC 100 Volunteers

DSC celebrated our DSC 100 volunteers March 1 at Mudhen Meat and Greens. DSC is grateful for more than 500 volunteers annually who make the Greatest Hunters’ Convention on the Planet™ a reality. Thanks to African Sporting Creations and Sports Afield Magazine for generously donating door prizes!
Grizzly Hunt Proposed in Wyoming After 40 Years

In early March, anti-hunters protested immediately when Wyoming Game and Fish Department announced plans to open grizzly hunting after over 40 years.

In 1975, the grizzly bear population of Greater Yellowstone's Ecosystem was put on the endangered species list when numbers dwindled down to 136 bears. In June 2017, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service declared the population had recovered enough to be taken off the list.

The anti-hunters fail to recognize the decades of research and management plans that led to the current draft for hunting regulations.

Wildlife officials closely monitor the only designated suitable grizzly habitat area in the state, estimating a population of over 700 grizzlies in 2017. The proposed hunting quota for that area is 12 bears, or only 1.7 percent of the total population.

The other remaining 12 permits are designated for bears that have moved into inhabitable, conflict-prone spaces such as cornfields or the open plains.

An education course, a satellite-communicated report from the field and a Game and Fish office check will all be required for each harvest. Public comment is now open and a final decision will be made in May.

The delisting of the grizzly in that area also affects Idaho and Montana since animal populations do not abide by state boundaries. While Idaho continues to consider a hunting season, Montana wildlife commissioners postponed the hunt indefinitely in February.

But, the grizzly bear hunt is not the only bear making headlines.

In Connecticut, a black bear hunt has been proposed yet again. State Rep. Bill Buckbee brought bill HB 5358 to the House in March. Although Sen. Craig Minor presented a similar bill there last year, it evolved on the Senate floor and eventually became "Cecil's Bill" to prevent the import of elephants, lions, leopards, or rhinoceroses.

The majority present at the public hearing on March 2 brought opposition statements, including an eight year old representing her whole class and an organization called Friends of Animals. The next steps are pending by the Joint Committee on Environment.

In the U.S., the bear hunt tends to be one of the most controversial hunts. News around the states this month exemplifies the social and political battles that continue year after year. CT

Sources: The Wildlife Society and Star Tribune (Wyoming), CT News Junkie
If a shooter or hunter were ever to look for a caliber that are little known and greatly neglected, it would be the 6.5 mm group of cartridges – usually European and in all shapes and sizes.

Remington came out with a 6.5 Remington Magnum a number of years ago in their Model 600 but it only had a 18-1/2-inch barrel, which pretty much killed a potentially good cartridge. Winchester came out the with the .264 Winchester Magnum labeled as their “Westerner” with a 26-inch barrel on a Pre ’64 M 70 action, which was a lot better.

Reloading is a necessity for the 6.5 Remington Magnum, as Remington has discontinued ammunition for it, but the .264 Winchester is still loaded by both Winchester and Nosler for the time being.

If you check in Hornady’s Reloading Manual, you will note that they have listed loads for the 6.5 Remington Magnum using a 24-inch barrel and this changes everything. Even though the 6.5 Remington Magnum has a short little case – 2.170” compared to the .264 Winchester Magnum with a 2.500” case, it is very efficient. When using the 6.5 Remington Magnum with a 24-inch barrel, Hornady lists loads as high as 3,000 fps with a 129-grain bullet and one load of 3,000 with a 140-grain bullet, but mostly 2,900 fps.

For most deer, antelope and similar size game, the 6.5 Remington Magnum would be just great with either the 129 or 140 grain Hornady bullets.

The .264 Winchester Magnum does very well too, if you “use enough barrel.” Using a 24-inch barrel, Hornady shows one load as high as 3,300 fps with a 129-grain bullet and one load of 3,200 fps with 140 grain bullets. The Nosler Book is a bit more conservative showing one load at 3,088 fps with a 140-grain bullet.

The standard .270 Winchester is really so close to the 6.5 Remington in performance that there is no reason to build or buy one, although an old original Pre-64 M70 Winchester in a .264 Winchester Magnum Westerner would still trip my trigger. If we look at the numbers, we will see that the .270 Winchester with a 130-grain bullet at 3,060 fps will have 1,565 foot-pounds of energy at 300 yards. The .264 Winchester Magnum pushing a 129-grain bullet at 3200 fps will have 1880 ft. lbs. at 300 yards, and that is a 20% advantage. If you really want to tweak out the last bit of velocity, barrel in the .264 Winchester, you just have to go with a 26-inch barrel.

Going one step farther is the .260 Nosler – a full-length case designed for long Magnum actions that does not have a “belt.” This caliber just burns a whole lot of powder and pushes 130 grain bullets at 3,400 fps.

The .260 Remington is my favorite 6.5 caliber. It is another wildcat that has gone legitimate, as it is a necked-down .308 Winchester (NATO) case. It is very useful in the short actions, and the ballistics are quite impressive.

Standard loads are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grain</th>
<th>FPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>3,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>120</td>
<td>2,960</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>129</td>
<td>2,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>140</td>
<td>2,700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is a wonderful deer or antelope cartridge with low recoil and respectable trajectory. Both Alliant and Hodgdon have data out for it, and it should not be too difficult to make shoot well.
There are several 6.5 mm (.264 diameter bullets) cartridges that are not well known here in the U.S. One of the best, and most popular, is the 6.5x55 mm Swedish Mauser for which Winchester and Howa have chambered rifles. Winchester makes one 140-grain Power Point factory load for it. The sad thing is, that they only have it loaded to 2,550 fps, but I assume that is because there are so many old military rifles out there that someone is surely to use it in. Hornady now has factory loads for it as well as does Federal.

If they had to contend with customers only using it in modern rifles, I’m sure they would have loaded it a lot hotter, as Nosler lists reloading data of up to 2,790 fps with the 140-grain bullet, and 2,990 fps with a 125-grain bullet. This puts it right on the heels of the .270 Winchester and .280 Remington.

There is also a host of 6.5 wildcats out there for the reloader to enjoy experimentation. A simple one to make is the 6.5 x 57 mm, which is simply a 7 x 57 mm Mauser case necked down to 6.5 mm or a .257 Roberts case necked up to 6.5 mm. It gives virtually identical performance as the above mentioned .260 Remington.

Another very handy and easy to make caliber, is the 6.5 mm-06. It is just like the .25-06 Remington in that all you do is neck down a .30-06 Springfield case to take .264 bullets. This one gives almost the same ballistics as a .270 Winchester.

With the great Hornady 129-grain Spire Point doing a nice 3,000 fps in the 6.5mm-06, the deer we have used this on showed it to be very effective.

Now it seems the 6.5 Creedmoor, 6.5 Grendel, and 6.5 PRC cartridges taking the world by storm, as it seems everybody wants one or the other, and the rifle manufacturers are in hot pursuit of the market share.

The “new kid on the block” is now a 6.5-300 Weatherby factory rifle and ammo. They show a 140-grain Swift A-Frame at 3,395 fps.

Can the 6.5mm ever get as popular as the 7mm is? I doubt if it will ever happen, but the 6.5s are certainly worth a look.

CT

Feel free to contact Terry at tblauwkamp@superior-sales.com for any assistance.
As a service to DSC members, we are happy to offer the Member Bulletin Board. DEADLINE: the 1st day of the month prior to the issue date. Example: April 1 is the deadline for the May Camp Talk. Please keep your information brief and send via email or an attachment to ads@biggame.org. No placements by phone. All ads will run for three months at no charge to DSC members. If you wish to continue the ad, please send your request to ads@biggame.org. No commercial ads. Buy and sell at your own risk. All sales should be conducted in compliance with federal, state and local laws. Thanks! ~DSC Staff

FIREARMS & AMMO FOR SALE

Rifle for Sale. Jarrett barreled Remington 700 in 25-06, 24 inch custom SS Barrel. Bell and Carlson stock. Barrel is marked “Barreled by Jarrett”. $2175 OBO. Contact Jeff at 214-739-0534 or turcis1@twc.com. April

Browning Belgium Bars: Beautiful guns made in Belgium, owned by my uncle. 30.06 in extremely good condition. $900; 338 in like new condition, reportedly fired about 10 times. $900. Both have rings. Animals etched on side. Beautiful stocks. Contact Blake at 817-691-7308 or blakeallen100@gmail.com. April

Chapuis Dbl. Rifle for sale. 9.3 X 74R Chapuis Dbl rifle for sale. Near mint, fired 4 times. Regulated to 100 yards. With original factory box, leather mounted hand case & papers. Two boxes of ammo. $9500. Health reasons negate trip. Call 210-488-6818. March

Custom Encore Pro Hunter Rifle for Sale. Chambered 500 S&W. Scope is Nikon 3 - 12 x 44. Barrel is 26 in. Custom muzzle break and paint job. One box of ammo included. Built in 2013 and only shoot 20 rounds. $2000, non-negotiable. Contact Alex at 405-609-9319 for picture and vin number. March

Personal Collection Firearms for Sale: Perfect rifle for all of North America and Africa up to the big five. 338 Win. Magnum custom-made by Les Webernick of Rifles, Inc. Remington 700 action, 24” barrel, adjustable trigger; lightweight in black synthetic stock w/ recoil reducing pad. Topped with Burris 3x9 4plex scope with electro-dot feature for low light shooting. Extremely accurate; a pleasure to shoot, like-new condition. Rifle new with like scope valued apx. $5000; selling for $3275. Please call Bob 972-235-9619 or e-mail hunters@outdoorvisions.com. January/February

Collectors Gun for Sale: 12-gauge L.C. Smith “ideal grade” double barrel shotgun; 30’ barrels bored Mod & Full. Made in 1906-08; Excellent condition; engraved action with rich case hardened colors. Lightweight and perfect balance; great pheasant, duck, quail gun. Shoots all modern shells. $1750. Please call Bob 972-235-9619 or e-mail hunters@outdoorvisions.com. January/February

Remington Model 11: 16-gauge, bored modified. Mirror image of Browning’s sweet 16. 28” barrel. Great shape. Great gun for loaner or extra at ranch or cabin. Bargain at $350. Please call Bob 972-235-9619 or e-mail hunters@outdoorvisions.com. January/February

VEHICLES, EQUIPMENT AND GEAR

Zeiss Diascope 65T*FL with 15-45x eyepiece. Slight scratch on barrel exterior. $1250, DSC Life Member Art Knowles, abknowles6613@gmail.com, 940-664-3131. April

Long Range Shooting Zeiss Binos 12x56T, like new condition. $1250, DSC Life Member Art Knowles, 940-664-3131, abknowles6613@gmail.com. April

REAL ESTATE

FOR SALE: 300+ ac in Jack Co., TX: Beautiful, hunting ranch with private grass airstrip and an aircraft hangar. Updated, brick home (3/2/2 cc), metal guest cabin, outbuildings, stocked ponds & equipment to manage the pristine land. Visit www.cfrland.com or call Boone Campbell, Broker at 940-282-5500. April

Beautiful SE OK Ranch for sale: Approx. 830 ac. w/ custom 4 bdrm, 4 bath log home w/ trophy room, cathedral ceilings, wrap-around porches, 7 ac lake and views. Deer, turkey, feral hogs. Less than 2 hrs north of Dallas, 2-1/2 hrs south of OKC. Call Life Member Katie Strief for more info (214-502-8679. March

MISCELLANEOUS

Exotic Mounts For Sale. Includes sika, impala and various other African animals. All new as shoulder mounts or ready to mount. Also have back hides of several different species includes sable, giraffe, blesbok, nyala, Fallow deer, sika deer, $4000 for everything or call for individual pricing and dimensions. Reach Alex at 405-609-9319. Need to sell ASAP. Serious inquiries only. March


Dallas Gun Club Membership For Sale. $15,000; buyer pays transfer fee. Contact Leonard len@softwaremethods.com January/February

Note: New member list will return next month.
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References furnished

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www.GulfBreezeFirearms.com  info@GBFirearms.com
MEMBER EVENTS

April 19  Monthly Meeting  
Annual Trophy and Photo Awards  
Omni Hotel Park West  
1590 LBJ Fwy, Dallas, TX 75234

May 12  CS Crawfish Fest  
Tailwaters Fly Fishing Co.  
1933 E Levee St, Dallas, TX 75207

May 17  Monthly Meeting  
DoubleTree Near the Galleria  
4099 Valley View Ln, Farmers Branch, TX 75244

May 19  11th Annual Big Bore Shoot  
Wilmer, TX

June 21  Monthly Meeting  
Royal Oaks Country Club  
7915 Greenville Ave, Dallas, TX 75231

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