



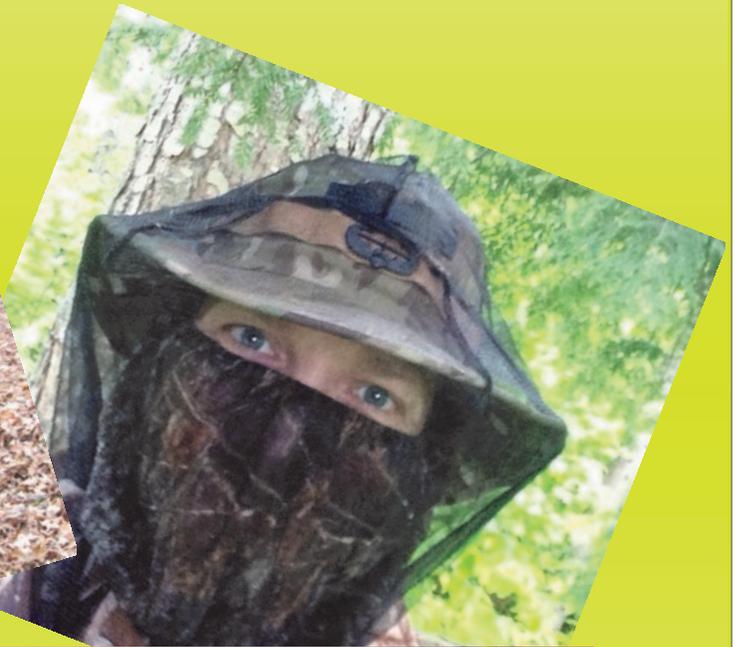
# Adirondack-Catskill Chapter Safari Club International News

*"Dedicated to our children, the future hunters  
and outdoorspeople of America"*

www.adirondackcatskillsci.com VOLUME 8 | Issue 5 Sept/Oct/Nov/Dec 2015



## A-C SCI Humanitarian Program Issue SafariCare "Blue Bag" Hunts for Wounded Soldiers Youth Safari Wish Program



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*The Adirondack - Catskill Chapter SCI  
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Submit your  
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Submissions received by  
the 10th of an even month will be  
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*A Message from  
Larry Steiner  
Chapter President*

As you all know hunters have been under attack by the “antis” once again with the “Cecil the Lion” issue and the proposed “Cecil Law Bill” heading for New York State legislators to pass this next session. We have an uphill battle to fight, but fight we will to protect our right to hunt. Contact your legislators and defeat those persons who strive to take our freedoms away.

This newsletter is dedicated to two of our great wounded combat Veterans SGT Arthur Mayer and SGT James Garrison and SFC, US Army (ret) Paul G Downing. The Adirondack-Catskill Chapter has provided hunts for several wounded veterans over the past several years and Paul Downing of Bear Tracks Guide Service in Maine has been a gracious host for our veterans the past two years. I hope you will enjoy reading the writings of Arthur, James and Paul, they come straight from their hearts. My life has been enhanced just knowing these fine men.



## Bear Tracks Guide Service

470 Peter Dana Point Rd  
Indian Township, ME 04668  
207-356-1062

Beartracks08@Gmail.com  
www.beartracksguideservice.com

*“ Providing Quality Hunts Never Quantity! “*

Dear Larry and the SCI,

I wanted to take a second and thank you and your Organization for the opportunity to guide two outstanding Soldiers for the spring bear hunt. This being the second year, I am happy both had shots on some really nice bears.

As things can happen, SGT Garrison got a shot on a really huge boar. Keep in mind he was about 25 yards from the boar, estimated weight is 350 to 400 lbs. in a pop up ground blind. The adrenaline was pumping a little hard and being his first encounter with a black bear he blew the shot. He drew blood, but proved to be a non-fatal strike and the bear never broke stride. SGT Meyers was a shot in the perfect spot and the bear took ½ step and expired. It was an awesome culmination of 2 years efforts on both SGT Meyers part as well as ours! He did a fantastic job and while started as a client has become a friend and will always be a brother for life.

I really cannot thank you enough for what you do for our veterans, and in this case, you actually helped both myself and my son. I know my son, Keith, has a significant PTSD issues but does not want to acknowledge it. Having Arthur and James help him through the process of acknowledgement of the condition and how to treat it, was worth its weight in gold times ten. I sat there and watched my son come out of his shell with their guidance, and put his feet on the healing path. Despite 22 years in the Army, I could not reach my son, they did so on his level and for that I am indebted to both of them and the SCI. My wife and I sat and cried together, filled with a relief only a parent watching their child battle an unseen fight can fathom, as he slowly walked out of the darkness. Sorry getting a little emotional so I am going to end it there. I am honored for the opportunity to provide these hunts, Larry. I sincerely believe this therapy beats the hell out of the pills and other coping measures for our deserving troops who need to re-learn how to live life. I hope your outstanding organization continues to send us wounded warriors, I am going keep taking them and thank you again for helping our family get our own feet on the healing path.

Very Respectfully  
Paul G Downing  
SFC, US Army(ret)

# A Story Book Start to an *AMAZING HUNT!*

*By Sgt. W. Arthur Meyer*

I am Army Infantry Sgt. W. Arthur Meyer. I was severely wounded in Afghanistan during combat operations in 2010 serving with the 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division and since have been medically retired. My struggles are many but my attitude has always stayed positive. I can't do too much these days, but I'm always up for hunting! I stay proactive in getting other veterans to hunt as much as possible. I believe it helps change attitudes on your personal disabilities. Connecting with nature has been a powerful part of my psychological recovery and a motivator to my physical recovery.

When Richard Hazard from the Adirondack Catskill S.C.I. Chapter contacted me about going on a weeklong black bear hunting trip in Maine back in 2014, I was in! We met up in late May at the Passamaquoddy Tribal land with Bear Tracks Guide service. These are topnotch guys with an amazing set up for a peaceful stay. The weather was cold and rainy all but one day of the hunt. On that day I had my most amazing experience in the woods to date! I was circled by a big bear, roaring repeatedly to ward off a second bear that was trying to move in. When she finally presented a shot for me, I took aim but then I heard tiny roars not far behind her. Then I looked closely at the bear and saw that she was a wet sow. So I let her go, and watched her eat then retreat back in to the woods. I went home content



and amazed at all I had experienced that year.

Then in 2015, Larry Steiner from the Adirondack-Catskill S.C.I. Chapter called me up. I couldn't believe my ears as he offered to send me back to Maine with Bear Tracks Guide Service for another shot! Not only that, but they were sending me with my fellow Machine Gunner, Wounded Veteran, and best friend James Garrison. James and I were in the same unit in Afghanistan in 2010.

This year we headed up in early June, and Paul (guide and owner) put me in the same stand I was in last year. I couldn't be more excited! My hands were freezing so I put them in my coat pockets to warm up. I'm relaxed and soaking in all of Mother Nature's glory when a beautiful bear walks in to the bait barrel 50 yards away as quiet as a ghost. Excitement starts to build! Then 25 yards from my stand this big black silhouette comes into view. My heart starts to pound! As she looks right at me, I'm grateful my hands were in my pockets as they started to tremble uncontrollably from the adrenalin that started to



flow. Her belly doesn't seem to stop, my view all the way to the ground is black! Then it separates, now two cubs from last year and Mom, who looks the size of a woolly mammoth. Out of the blue, one of the young ones trips on a log at the bait barrel and scares Mom and the other young bear off. Only a moment goes by before one of the yearlings comes back out to the barrel. Now the other one comes out, then a third one. She had Triplets last year! My spirit soars and my heart fills with gratitude for having done the right thing last year!

I spend the next two hours just watching the bear cubs eat and play in front of me. What a Story Book Start!

The rest of the hunt goes by, and I wasn't fortunate enough to have another shot opportunity. Although I did see the BIGGEST BEAR I could've imagined! I couldn't be happier with the outcome. It was such an awesome week with James in the woods, hunting and hanging out! We were so blessed to have this time and adventure, so we head home... A few days go by, then I can't believe my ears again! I'm speechless and boiling over with excitement! Larry Steiner called me, James and I are going back to Maine! Paul Downing of Bear Tracks Guide Service called Larry and asked if he would send us back, bear are moving! What an inspiring act of kindness and devotion to making someone else's dream come true! I find myself without words. James and I hit the road not but a few days later. We reach our rally point and head straight to the hunting lands. We change into our hunting clothes in the field as I continually howl aloud in excitement! I can feel the positive energy vibrating in the air! My guide puts me in a new set that I haven't been to yet. I place a piece of my secret weapon (Mom's blueberry pie) out on the barrel and slip into the trees. My



hunt starts out as quiet as it has ever been out here. I'm enjoying the peace, but my body is breaking down. My pain level increases to the point of no control. The long drive, added to the long sit has now come to claim its price. I grab my phone to message the guide a 911 to pick me up. Then my character kicks in and refuses to do such a thing. I relax to the best of my ability and refocus my energy to the positive. I say my prayers, and God was listening. With zero hesitation two bear come sprinting in to the barrel running up and down the path. Each of these bears is bigger than the 40 gallon bait bucket, and I can hear a third bear clicking and popping it's jaws as they circle my stand. Her first circle she's out of sight, her second circle she's on the tree line so I get time to gauge her. She's beautiful and large for a sow. So I commit to harvesting her if she presents the opportunity. She circles a third time, now at only 20 yards. I choose my shooting window and pause for the opportunity to get behind my sights. She moves behind a tree and I draw up and focus on my breathing control, she steps out and I send it! Clean hit! She drops a mere 10 feet away, having taken only one stride! One of the other bear runs up a tree behind the barrel as the third one runs up the tree right in front of me about ten feet away! The bear ten feet away looks at me with the fear that he's next, I smile at

him as I lean over the rail and make sure my bear stays down! The two bear race away and the adrenaline kicks in! I start to shake as I feel it coursing its way through my body. Then I let out a huge gasp of relief, no more pain! I pull my victory dance out, a gold label Macanudo cigar. I replay the events over and over as I enjoy my cigar! The guide shows up and we walk the long 20 yards to my bear. It was a perfect vitals shot! She is gorgeous, with long, smooth black hair, six plus feet tall, and heavy! Her paws are over 5 inches wide and she takes up the entire stretcher. We carry her out and take her straight to the butcher. Wow! What an experience!

Thank you from the bottom of my heart once again to all who were involved in making this happen. My physical and emotional battles take a toll that most will never comprehend. My body is no longer made for hunting, as I get shooting nerve pain all over, chronic headaches that are blinding, my back locks up in different spots, not to mention a chronic cough that has ruined many of my hunting attempts. But my spirit, my spirit soars when I'm hunting! My mind is at peace and I'm not thinking of my next hospital visit or image results and lab reports. Doing this, hunting, fishing, being outdoors, it makes me feel like me again. For the moment I'm just another man being present for nature and all its gifts. I don't feel disabled when I can have these experiences, I feel enabled. I don't care about the pain. I only care about the peace! Besides, the woods smell so much better than the hospital! Having the Adirondack Catskill S.C.I. Chapter do this for me means more than words can possibly say! Get involved with your local S.C.I. chapter today and help them make more soldiers dreams come true! It's so heart warming to know that there are still people out there willing to do for others! After all, that is a soldier's way: others before self.

SGT. W. Arthur Meyer, U.S. Army, 10<sup>th</sup> Mountain Division, 1/87 Infantry Battalion, B. Company (Black Sheep) Retired

# Stanley's Buffalo Hunt

By Bill Mayer

At the September Chapter meeting it was decided that we would take 14 year old Stanley Kocyba on another hunt. Once again, Wild West Trophy Hunts in West Edmeston NY that is owned by Cody and Cindy Mikalunas agreed to host this youth hunt. After talking with Cody about what would be the best hunt for Stanley, we

decided to give him the choice of either another ram hunt or a buffalo hunt. Well, when I spoke with Stanley about the hunt, it didn't take him more than a second to decide and tell me that he wanted a buffalo.

On Saturday October 24<sup>th</sup>, ACSCI members Larry Steiner, Don DuBois, Harry Beninati, Lynn Mayer and I met Stanley, his father Stan and Uncle Chris at Wild West Trophy Hunts. It was a crisp, cool morning – a great day for a hunt. Cody took us all on a ride through the preserve so Stanley could see all the animals. During the ride we briefly saw some of the Stags, Elk and Fallow deer as they ran through the woods. Then it was back to the lodge for coffee, hot chocolate and homemade apple pie ... and to warm up before the hunt. Stanley got ready for his hunt.



We found the buffalo that Cody had picked out for Stanley, it was a nice 3 year old bull.

The only problem was it didn't want to cooperate. Every time the bull got in the clear the rest of the group would come and surround him before Stanley could get set up for a shot. We went through this several times until another bull, a 4 year old, left the herd and decided to walk towards Stanley to see what was going on. That proved to be a big mistake. Cody said, "Change of plans. We're taking that one." Well, Stanley made good with his shots and got his Buffalo. Now it was time for hand-



shakes, smiles and plenty of photos. Then it was back to the lodge for Cindy's Buffalo stew (a special request made to Cindy by Stanley) and more pie while Cody skinned the Buffalo. (We were nice and did leave some stew for Cody.)

Special thanks to Cody and Cindy for all they do to help with the chapter's Youth Safari Wish program and for the upgrade on Stanley's Buffalo!! It will make a great trophy for Stanley. Thanks also to the ACSCI members who supported Stanley during his hunt and to the members who donate and purchase raffle tickets so we can sponsor hunts for deserving youth.

# Adirondack-Catskill SCI Blue Bag Program



October of 2015 Larry Steiner, President of Adirondack Catskill SCI Chapter and Vincent Migilori, Membership Director of the chapter traveled to South Africa on safari and while there made a trip to Bob Minola Drop-In Center, which is a orphanage in Mogalakwena, Northern Province. They brought with them two SCI Humanitarian Blue Bags filled with t-shirts for 96 kids sized and

styled to fit each boy or girl. Also included in the bags were soccer balls, school supplies and sweets. The children were very much in need of these items and were very happy to receive them.

The pictures below are from a trip A-C member Frank Zitz took to Central Africa. Frank is also a member of the Tri-State SCI Chapter who sponsored the two bags with Frank..



# Youth Hunt - Teamwork!

By Ron Meek

George Franke covered our Youth Turkey Hunts from a Operational Standpoint and did it quite well! I'm going to cover it from an other point of view.

Teamwork begins with Family! The Youth Hunter that Craig Huntley and myself mentored



came from a family where the father DID NOT HUNT! The mother is from a family who DID/DOES Hunt! Their son, Houston evidently wanted to be exposed to shooting and hunting so as a eleven/ twelve year old they sent him to DEC Camp where the team of instructors give a Hunter Safety course. Now it so happens another team was involved with his going to DEC Camp. This is the team of Sportsmen/Deer Hunters that gather deer hides for the purpose of earning funds to help send youths like Houston to camp for free. The Chenango Federation of Sportsmen Club along with a NRA Grant have been very successful with this for a number of years.

Next we have the Team of mentors and support people that the Chenango County ECO's Brett and Aaron put together. I believe this is the *Most Enthusiastic Team* of all! I think I speak for ALL when I say there is nothing that beats introducing a novice be it youth or whatever to our sport! I'm not going to try and include all who participated but it takes a

*Big Team* to pull this off. Including willing family transportation, qualified mentors , someone to feed the throng, banner production, call and hunting essential providers and general support base from local sportsmen clubs! So as you can see - It takes Teamwork to pull this off!

## THE HUNT!

Craig and I talked the night before and decided that we would team up with Houston at 4:30 AM in an agreed upon spot! My camp "Gobbler's Roost" would be our first hunting spot. Houston's parents were onboard with the plan after a talk with them about who and what we were about. Seems my wife was know by them as a math teacher and Houston's father had been a football coach for our son back in the '90's! It was good to see that they would check us out before leaving their son in our charge!

The morning broke COLD!!!! 19 degrees!!!! We were hunting from a blind and I brought along a wool blanket for Houston to wrap up in! We heard 4 gobblers and were treated to a hen taking a “Dust Bath” but nothing responded to our pleading calls! So off to the cabin for a warm-up cup of coffee and chocolate! Second stop was a favorite spot to *Walk’n Talk* turkey. Only thing we did was to BUMP a Gobbler and get exercise! Next it was time to drive around and scout out places for the next day! It so happened we drove by the field of the morning set-up and there was a gobbler about 50 yards from our blind! Houston was READY to Go Get Him! We told him that he would have to wait till the AM and we would be there dark and early! Houston was game! Back to Iroquois Gun Club and the stories of success from four youths and their mentors! Houston was stoked and so were we!

Next morning 4:30 AM came and the team was ready to go! We got set-up in the blind and a gobbler sounded off to our east at 5:08! Then 4 more sounded off behind us! WE WERE IN THEM!

Houston asked, “When Can I Shoot?” Not for another 30 minutes or so is what we said! We let the birds gobble for a bit and then sent out a call or two on a box call! A bird behind us sounded like he was on the ground so a change to a Copper Pot call was made! HE IS COMING IN TOO FAST! So we slowed down a bit as this bird would be on us before LEGAL Shooting! We got Houston positioned and told him what we hoped the gobbler would do! By now the gobbler was 10 yards behind us and seemed to have “Read the Same Book” as we have, about the path he was going to take! A quick glance at the time and we tell Houston it’s legal! I tell him to level his gun to the southeast and take off the safety, when I tell him to, and let the bird walk right into his sightline! SIMPLE! Well, I spot the beard out to my left and r the safety and be ready! Houston was steady as a rock and this bird walked right into his sight line and was downed with one shot! We spoiled Houston, forever!



A call was made to his family and the celebration was on! His father came to the Iroquois Club and further education was provided by us on care for the gobbler after the hunt! We provided a Tail mount for the youth and told them how to preserve the beard, spurs and wings!

Best part was yet to come! I showed them how to dress the bird and Houston’s dad was standing there backing up a step or two as I proceeded. Then he said to his son, “Houston, when you were born I NEVER thought I would have a hunter for a son! Are you GOOD with this?” Houston answered, “YES I AM!”

**TEAMWORK PAID OFF!**

ADIRONDACK-CATSKILL  
CHAPTER SCI  
**BIG BUCK CONTEST RULES**

- 1) The deer entered in the contest must be taken in New York State.
- 2) The deer must be legally taken and tagged.
- 3) The tag must remain with the antlers.
- 4) To enter your deer, you must be an Adirondack-Catskill member prior to the hunting season.
- 5) Existing members must have their dues paid in full prior to hunting season.
- 6) The contest ends at the December meeting. Deer taken after that date are not eligible for the contest.
- 7) The highest score, using the SCI scoring rules, will determine the winner.
- 8) The winner of the BIG BUCK CONTEST, gets a shoulder mount of the deer by one of the taxidermists who belongs to ACSCI.

*Adirondack-Catskill SCI  
Welcomes Our New Member*



**Richard Cudlipp**

*SCI National Membership Dues are \$35.00 per year. Adirondack-Catskill Chapter Dues remain at the low price of \$20 a year.*

*Support the grassroots of SCI!  
Contact Vinny Migliori  
Membership Director today!  
315-827-4239*



*Make sure  
you have  
at least one  
of these on  
your bulletin  
board!*

*Two numbers  
per TICKET!*

**SCI** ADIRONDACK-CATSKILL Chapter of SCI  
**FIRST FOR HUNTERS**

**ANNUAL RAFFLE**  
**JANUARY 1-31, 2016**  
Donation: \$25.00 per ticket  
Proceeds for ACSCI Hunts for Wounded Veterans and Youth Programs

Winner based on NYS three digit evening lottery numbers. Two chances to win per ticket. Limited to 500 ticket holders. Prizes for each day are listed on the back of this ticket. Prizes to be claimed within 45 days of end of raffle. Prizes subject to change based on availability. Substitutes will be of equal value.

All guns awarded in accordance with Federal, State and Local firearms laws and background checks. Failure to pass NICS background check will result in forfeiture of prize.

Winning numbers contact:  
Daryll Labaron 607-972-4304  
Bill Mayer 518-284-2953  
Larry Steiner 607-988-6334

NO. 048

NO. 548

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
State/Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

NO. 048

**RAFFLE DAILY PRIZES**  
**JANUARY 2016**

- 1 Ruger 10-22
- 2 Motorola TalkAbout Two-Way Radios
- 3 \$180 CASH
- 4 Mossberg Grand Slam Turkey 12 Ga
- 5 Bushnell Bone Collector Range Finder
- 6 Lead Sled Plus
- 7 Barska Spotting Scope
- 8 Barnett Brotherhood Crossbow
- 9 \$180 CASH
- 10 Deluxe Gun Cleaning Kit
- 11 Pro Max Double Rifle Case
- 12 Weatherby Vanguard Series 2 240wby
- 13 Bushnell Trophy XLT 10x42 Binoculars
- 14 Outdoor Edge Game Processor
- 15 Remington Express Synthetic 12 Ga
- 16 Primos Truth Cam 35 Trail Camera
- 17 \$180 CASH
- 18 Savage Axis II XP 243 w/Scope 3-9x40
- 19 Triumph Bone Collector Muzzleloader 50 cal
- 20 VestaBlind Turkey Vest
- 21 \$180 CASH
- 22 Hogue 308 Win
- 23 Leupold VX-1 3-9x40 Rifle Scope
- 24 Ruger American 7mm-08
- 25 Primo Club Ground Blind
- 26 TC Venture 22-250
- 27 \$180 CASH
- 28 Henry Golden Boy 22 cal
- 29 Lansky Deluxe Sharpening System
- 30 Browning A Bolt III 7mm
- 31 Savage Axis 25-06 w/Scope 3-9x40

*Pick Up Your Tickets from DARYLL LABARON, BILL MAYER,  
JEFF HAZARD, RICHARD HAZARD or LARRY STEINER*

# *A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words. . . .*



Patrick Lewis,  
Nassau, NY



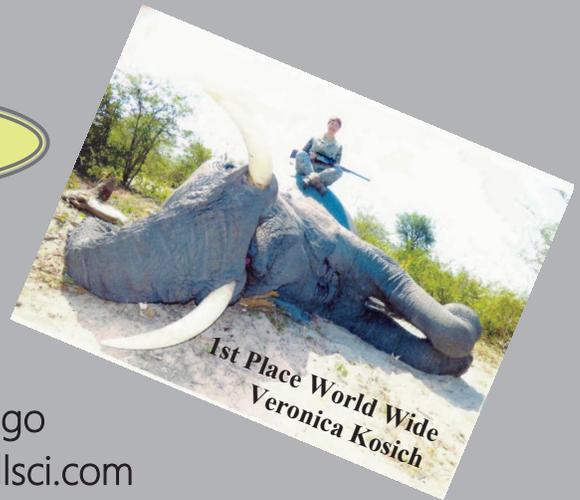
Holle Jones of South Folk Mt. Lodge & Outfitters, Buffalo WY. Wayne & Holle have been A-C SCI Hunt contributors for several years.

## Adirondack-Catskill SCI Member Chapter Trophy Award Forms Deadline December 1st



1st Place North America  
Ken Svenningsen

2015 Winners



1st Place World Wide  
Veronica Kosich

For Applications go  
[www.adirondackcatskillsci.com](http://www.adirondackcatskillsci.com)  
or  
contact Jim Digristina at  
318-735-1775

## *Upcoming Chapter Meetings & Events*

**November 19, 2015** 7pm **ACSCI Chapter Meeting, Christopher's, Oneonta, NY.** Speaker for the evening will be Don Schelling on his Montana elk hunt.

**December 8, 2015** 5:30pm **Banquet Committee Meeting.** Larry Steiner's, bring a dish to pass.

**December 17, 2015** 7pm **ACSCI Chapter Meeting at American Legion, Cold Brook, NY. NYS BIG BUCK CONTEST** and voting for **TROPHY of the YEAR.** Speaker for the evening will be Fran Krazewski an Adirondack Shed Hunter.

**No January 2016 Chapter Meeting**

**February 3-6, 2016 Safari Club International Convention, Las Vegas Nevada.**

**February 13, 2016 Rockdale Rod & Gun Club - ACSCI Youth Day, Rockdale, NY**  
9am-2pm Free event including lunch for all and prizes for all youth 17 and under.  
Contact Ron Meek at 607-371-1974

**February 18, 2016** 7pm **ACSCI Chapter Meeting at Christopher's, Oneonta, NY.** 5:30pm Board of Directors Meeting. Speaker for the evening will be Stan & Wendy Swears on their hunt in Ireland.

**March 17, 2016** 7pm **ACSCI Chapter Meeting at American Legion, Cold Brook, NY.** Vinny Migliori will speak on his African hunt.

**April 9th, 2016 Adirondack-Catskill SCI  
Fundraiser Banquet  
Holiday Inn, Oneonta, NY.  
Watch the mail for your invitation or go on line**



Guests are always welcome at the monthly chapter meetings. We encourage members to bring hunting partners and potential new members to our meetings and events. Bring your spouse, son, daughter or other youth to a meeting or event. Keep informed about chapter activities and guest speaker schedule by visiting

<http://www.AdirondackCatskillSCI.com>

*Support A-C SCI  
Meetings and  
Events! Bring a  
friend, neighbor, or hunting  
buddy to the next meeting!*

