Taxidermy Funds Conservation At Michigan Ranch

Proceeds from the auction of John Wolfe's taxidermy will fund The Wildlife Center programs, including educational tours, youth hunts and special events for veterans. The Wildlife Center at Legends Ranch is located in Bitely, Michigan.

In a heartwarming act of benevolence and passion for wildlife conservation, Charlotte Wolfe of Tennessee has chosen to honor her late husband, John Wolfe, by donating his elaborate taxidermy collection to The Wildlife Center at Legends Ranch.

With over 100 specimens, the collection found a new purpose at the fall auction held by Circle M Auctions of Iowa, renowned for taxidermy sales, amassing over $26,000 to aid the Wildlife Center in its vital conservation and education missions.

John Wolfe, a keen hunter, shared successful hunts at Legends Ranch, located in the natural splendor of Michigan's Newaygo County. His passing in 2020 left a void in the hearts of those who knew him and the hunting community where his legacy thrived. Charlotte and their son Mark desired to see John's passion for hunting and conservation live on, prompting the generous donation.

Tony Grimard, Education Director at The Wildlife Center at Legends Ranch, describes the donation as a perfect reflection of what John would have wished for his valued collection.

"The Wildlife Center thrives on such generosity and shared vision, emphasizing the sustainability of our treasured Youth Challenge Hunt and Purple Heart Veterans Hunt," Grimard said.

This charitable act culminated in a significant $26,000 donation to The Wildlife Center. The proceeds are set to enhance and sustain the multifaceted programs conducted by The Wildlife Center, including educational tours, youth hunts and special events for veterans.

To celebrate and honor the Wolfe family's contribution, The Wildlife Center will proudly display a commemorative plaque within its state-of-the-art 24,000-square-foot facility, housing over 3,100 taxidermied animals and serving as a cornerstone of conservation education.

Ranch Director Robert Sergi anticipates the upcoming visit from Charlotte and Mark Wolfe.

"It will be a special moment where they will witness firsthand the profound impact John Wolfe's collection is set to have on educational and conservation efforts moving forward."

In light of this substantial contribution, The Wildlife Center continues to encourage the empathetic public to consider its Planned Giving program.

Through taxidermy donations, supporters can play a pivotal role in advancing the sanctuary's altruistic endeavors, just as a Muskegon family has undertaken, with their pledged taxidermy collection poised for auction in 2024.

Boddington: The End Of The Earth

⇦ *Continued from page 8*

ice. Honors went to Mountain Monarchs' only lady hunter this season, Frankie Hutchinson, hunting with her dad, Mike. She did it in style with a 10-foot-plus boar.

Sadly, it's not going to be a 100% season, and not every bear taken can be a giant. This spring, with such a slow start, is not possible. As I write this, a couple of days of the season remain. I have high hopes for hunters still in the field. The last day is as good as the first. This spring, it's better, with the big boars out and cruising.

Keep hunting until the last possible moment. Then, it will be time to start planning for the fall 2025 season. I won't be out there. I've most likely done my last brown bear hunt, but I'm not sure I'm done with the unforgiving Alaska Peninsula.

Col. Craig Boddington is an author, hunter and longtime SCI member. He is Past President of the Los Angeles Chapter, a decorated Marine and C.J. McElroy Award winner.

Dave Leonard, Boddington and Jordan Wallace at David River Bear Camp on the wind-swept Alaska Peninsula. Established by Dick Gunlogson 55 years ago, it is still a great place for big Alaskan brown bears.

Special Opportunity For Female Hunters

Women Go Hunting Awards Challenge Kicks Off This Month

By Barbara Crown
SCI Hunter Information Service

President of SCIF Brian Welker and Chair of SCI's Women Go Hunting Denise Welker seen here hunting in Mongolia. The WGH Hunting Awards Challenge kicks off this month and is open to female members of any age. It is the perfect opportunity for women to get involved in SCI's Record Book and win prizes while documenting their hunting achievements and contributions to wildlife conservation.

Former chairman of the Record Book Committee and President of SCIF Brian Welker has issued a challenge to double the entries in SCI's World Hunting Award Program.

He says the fastest way to do that is for every male member of SCI to encourage the hunting women in their lives to enter trophies in the next Women Go Hunting Awards Challenge (formerly the 100 Woman

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