



Hello Members!

Fall is here and what that means for me is that I am in my final year of being the President of the Lake Superior Chapter. Officially, my term will end next August, but as I start the final year as President, I have done a bit of reflecting on my time not only as the President of our great chapter, but also over the past twenty of years of my involvement in Safari Club International. I hope you find the nostalgia interesting...

You see it all started 20 years ago when my soon to be husband came home from the Minnesota Chapter's Annual Banquet and proudly announced that we would be going to South Africa on our honeymoon. Yea, imagine my surprise, I was dreaming of beaches, drinks with umbrellas and relaxation – not Africa – there are bugs and snakes and do they even have lights all of the time, not to mention what on earth would I eat? Truly he was as crazy as my parents thought he was!

I will never, ever forget the first time we landed in Johannesburg, watching the city come into view as we made our descent – well this looks more developed than I thought... Maybe it will be ok, and of course I had packed my nine hour candles and a big jar of peanut butter – yup, I was going to be ok. A very long story made short, we had planned to be on a “once in a lifetime safari” for 17 days, but we “filled our bucket-list” early and my conservative husband and I decided it was best if we changed our flights and went home seven days early. Knowing what I know now, what I wouldn't do for those seven days back. Well that was back in 2000 and fast forward 17 years and seven more trips to South Africa, I have learned it is less expensive to stay seven more days than it is to fly back – lesson learned the hard way!

What is the connection? Well, without SCI, neither my husband nor I would have ever considered “going to South Africa on our honeymoon”! The friends we made during our early years as members have remained lifelong friends and the friends we have made over the years are some of our most treasured friendships. We all have “mixed groups” of friends, some hunters, some non-hunters and some who don't understand, but there is nothing like having friends who really get us. Our friends in SCI are those friends, who understand what drives us, what motivates us and most importantly WHY we are motivated by hunting and conservation, words need not be spoken. It goes without saying, SCI members are some of the most loyal individuals we all have in our lives.

Well our “once in a lifetime trip” was anything but and Bob and I find ourselves longing for more and more time in Africa. Much like the friends we have made in SCI, we have made lifelong friends in Africa and each time we return, it feels like we are coming home. Ernest Hemingway said, “I never knew of a morning in Africa when I woke up and was not happy.” Past Central MN SCI Chapter President Doug Brown commented on my Facebook post of this quote – “What about the day you leave?” I did pause at that for a moment, trying to figure out

how to spin it into something positive (I do that a lot) and then realized that I am still happy on the day I have to leave, happy for the time I have spent, happy for the family and friends I will be returning to and happy because I know I will be back, as I know the hold that Africa has on me is EVEN stronger on my husband.

Everyone has their own passions and their own reasons for being a part of the Lake Superior Chapter and SCI, but I believe if we pause a moment or two to consider what the Lake Superior Chapter and SCI means to each of us, I suspect of the top five reasons members join our Chapter and SCI, it has to do with friends and the friendships that bring us all together. Of course SCI and the Lake Superior Chapter is SO much more than that, it ALL starts with a solid foundation built on relationships – relationships with members, outfitters, guides and others we encounter, near and far and a relationship with the outdoors – at our core it is who we all are and why we can come together for the common good of so much!

Fall brings forth so much hunting for so many, many members are hitting the road in pursuit of their own passions – take a moment during the busy hunting season and reflect on what SCI and the Lake Superior Chapter means to you and your hunting heritage, share it with others and invite them to join us, invite them to become friends with so many others, invite them to share their passions with others – I know I am forever grateful to those early friends who invited us into “the group” and I know my life has forever been changed because my crazy husband figured out a way to hunt on our honeymoon, thank god he did!

Be well, travel safe and hunt even safer!

Your President

Cyndy Boyce
President Lake Superior Chapter

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cyndy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name "Cyndy Boyce".