One Globe. Two Years. 24 Hunting Adventures.

Summer 2026 Update

A remarkably full summer of hunting and adventure began with a coastal black bear hunt on Vancouver Island. Joining Kisha and me on this adventure were Gene and Emma Draganosky and Steve and Sue Skold. Kisha and Emma did not hunt, so four hunters made up the hunting crew.

The weather was warm, and the bears were sluggish and less than cooperative. But persistence paid off for most of the hunters.

Gene got things started on the second day, taking an excellent bear along a timber road. I was fortunate to take a beach bear after spotting him from a distance, crossing an inlet, and making a memorable stalk. Sue took the brute of the trip, a giant male bear that turned into an all-day adventure as we worked to recover him from a steep mountainside. Unfortunately, Steve was unable to fill his tag.

We returned to the East Coast for a week before heading to Wyoming and South Dakota for spring turkey. That hunt proved to be the toughest of the year. Four days of pursuing gobblers ended without success, and both Kisha and I returned home with unfilled tags. We saw them, heard them, called to them, circled them, and tried nearly every tactic imaginable, but we could not bring one within shotgun range. That is hunting, and it is one of the reasons I enjoy pursuing these birds year after year. Often, they win.

Back home, I had another opportunity to chase Eastern turkeys on our farm. On the second day, I managed to call in a very nice old tom. It was a late-season bird and, in some ways, provided a bit of redemption after the difficult days in Wyoming and South Dakota.

June was intentionally left open on the hunting calendar. Instead, we spent some much-appreciated time with our new grandson, Elijah Graham. He is grandson number three, so it looks like we will have a full hunting camp in the years ahead!

Five Weeks in Africa

July brought a five-week adventure to Africa, with ten days in Mozambique and the remainder of the trip in South Africa.

Our time in Mozambique began with a hunt for Nile crocodile on Lake Cahora Bassa, known as one of the great crocodile destinations in the world. On the third day, I was presented with an opportunity at a sizeable reptile. An 80-yard shot sealed the deal on a magnificent 14-foot, 8-inch crocodile. This was a particularly meaningful animal for me because it completed my SCI

African 29, following two previous unsuccessful attempts to take a crocodile in Zambia and Tanzania. Some things are worth waiting for.

I also had success with a red duiker, completing my SCI Tiny Ten, as well as a Livingstone's suni. Kisha picked up the rifle and took a fantastic bush pig and a common bush duiker.

Our time in South Africa gave us an opportunity to visit with friends for several days, including our first visit to Kruger National Park and an opportunity to pursue a Limpopo bushbuck. The bushbuck won that challenge, however, and remains on the list for a future visit.

We also traveled south to Cape Town, where Gene and Emma Draganosky joined us for several days of sightseeing before we headed to the Eastern Cape for a seven-day buffalo hunt, with Kisha as the hunter.

That hunt proved to be quite an adventure. While I was solely an observer, I was reminded firsthand just how exhilarating hunting Cape buffalo can be and why hunters return time and again to pursue these cantankerous beasts. Kisha came away with a fantastic bull and a solid collection of plains game.

An Unexpected Detour

On our return trip to the United States, I noticed an uncomfortable itch around my ankle. A close inspection after arriving home revealed significant inflammation and infection, most likely the result of numerous tick bites.

I started antibiotics immediately, but within a few days the infection became serious enough to require hospitalization. I will spare you all the details, but after four days in the hospital, I was finally released and began a slow recovery.

Rickettsia, cellulitis, and a host of other bacteria converged to wreak havoc on my right leg. The side effects of the medications continue to challenge me, but I was able to keep my right foot! Thankfully, I am now on the road to recovery and hopeful that everything will straighten out in time for the fall hunting season.

Why Hunting Matters

I did manage to find enough strength to speak at a large Rotary Club in early September. My presentation, titled **"Why Hunting Matters,"** was warmly received by a large audience. I was encouraged by the number of people who expressed appreciation for the message and for the importance of hunting as a primary tool for wildlife conservation.

If you would like to watch the presentation, it is available on YouTube:

Watch “Why Hunting Matters” on YouTube

Looking Ahead to Fall

And speaking of fall, the adventure continues.

My plans have me heading to Alaska in pursuit of Alaska-Yukon moose, a species that has eluded me many times before. From there, I will travel to Portugal for a red-legged partridge hunt, followed by a trip to Mallorca, Spain, in pursuit of Balearic goat.

November will take me to Oregon for Roosevelt elk, followed by deer hunts in Pennsylvania and Iowa. Yes, I finally drew an Iowa tag!

I hope to close out the season in Mexico in December, pursuing whitetail.

Thank You for Following the Journey

Thank you for joining me on this remarkable journey. Every adventure brings new places, new people, new challenges, and new memories.

There is simply no better place to be than in the wilderness!