

Protecting Our Rights  
Preserving Our Heritage  
Promoting Our Future  
Supporting Our Youth



SCI, Leader in defending the  
freedom to hunt and promoting  
wildlife conservation worldwide

*Officers: Dave Stokes, President  
Mark Johnson, Vice President  
Susan Nelson, Secretary  
Jody Wilkerson, Treasurer*

*Board Members: Neal Feazel, Director  
John Wilkerson, Director  
Dr. Steven Crawford, Director  
Tom Williams, Director  
Anthony Thebeau, Director*

## **April 2024, 2nd Quarter Newsletter**

### **Note from our President - Dave Stokes**

**As we go into the fourth month of this year we have already been busy hosting several events for our chapter. As you can see in the recaps that follow, the year has started out on both a busy and a positive note. We hope you will continue to take part in our events and become active with our chapter.**

### **Note from our Membership Director - Tom Williams**

**During our 19<sup>th</sup> annual banquet, we had 8 new members sign-up for membership. Our current membership now stands at 135. Our goal is to reach 200. One of the best ways to reach that goal is through you, our existing membership. You are our best Ambassadors for our chapter. I challenge each of you to go out and find 1 or 2 people that you would recommend to be a part of our great chapter. We have a lot to offer. Every year we have one or two bird hunts and several special events in addition to our Annual Banquet and Auction.**

**As a reminder we are now using "Calling Posts" to inform our membership of upcoming events and other important information. Calls will be coming from an Oklahoma number with an area code of (405). Texts will come from 24251.**

**Following are brief recaps of our events held during the first quarter of 2024 as well as our next upcoming events:**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Chapter Events – Recap



*On January 27<sup>th</sup> we hosted an Upland Game Bird Hunt. This event was held at the 73 Pointers Ranch in Jonesburg, Missouri. Thirty-two hunters joined the fun for the morning and afternoon shoots. A special thanks to Rick Berck and Carla Fryer for hosting our group for lunch in their new facilities. The menu consisted of four flavors of chili, soup and sandwiches which were prepared by the Gateway Area Chapter Board. Weather cooperated and a good time was had by all. Let's do it again next year!!*





# **52<sup>nd</sup> Annual SCI Convention**



***January 31<sup>st</sup> – February 3<sup>rd</sup> SCI held its 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Hunter’s Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. The event boasted thousands of visitors from 114 countries.***

***More than 800 exhibitors set up booths in the convention hall, providing attendees with unparalleled options and opportunities to book hunting trip across the U.S. and worldwide.***

***Seminars took place each day of the convention including educational and information sessions about hunting, fishing, shooting, and various additional outdoor activities.***

***Each evening, SCI held record-breaking dinners and live auctions that featured gourmet wild game meat meals (both Friday & Saturday night being sold out) raising more than \$20 million for SCI advocacy and conservation efforts. Following these functions entertainers including***

***Foreigner, Big & Rich, 38 Special, and Jason Aldean performed for enthused audiences every night.***



***Our Board hosted a "Happy Hour" on Friday during the Convention.***





• • •  
Save the Date  
• • •

***SCI is excited to announce the 2025 Convention will again be held in Nashville, Tennessee from January 22 – 25, 2025. You won't want to miss it. Start your planning now!***



***Wilnor Outdoors Annual Upland Hunt  
February 10th 2024***

On Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup>, we had 24 shooters attend our event. Three groups participated in the morning and 4 groups in the afternoon. The option to bring your own dogs was taken advantage of by three groups. Everyone left with an attendance prize. Lunch of quail and rice, hot dogs, venison chili, chips and cookies provided by Wil-Nor was enjoyed by those participating. See below for some snapshots of the day.



# ***OUR BIGGEST CHAPTER EVENT OF THE YEAR***

## ***19<sup>th</sup> Annual Gateway Area Chapter Banquet & Auction***

***March 16, 2024***

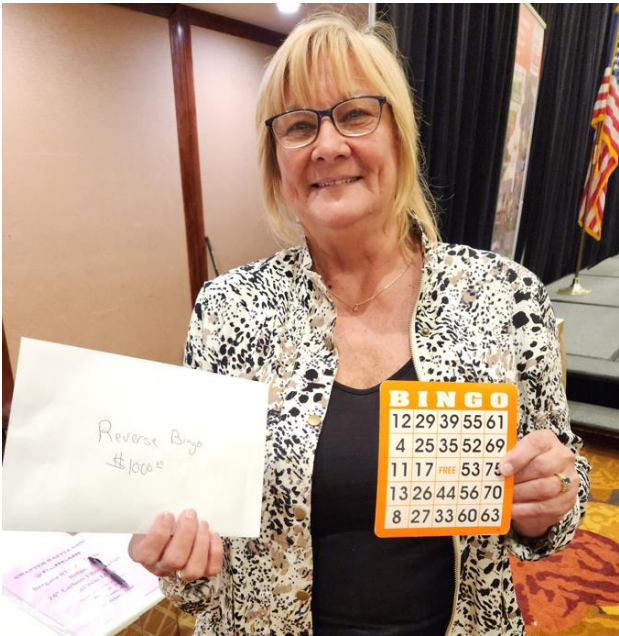
***Double Tree Hotel, Chesterfield, MO***



On March 16<sup>th</sup>, our Chapter hosted its 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Gateway Area Chapter Annual Banquet & Auction. It was a great turnout with 180 attendees taking their chances on winning great prizes which included guns, hunting gear, hunting trips, vacation trips, jewelry, decorative item, cash and much more. This is our biggest chapter event each year and we want to thank everyone that supported this year's turnout. This includes donations from vendors, Board members and volunteers working the event, DoubleTree staff, and especially the attendees. It is a great time to come together each year and have some fun. Below is a sampling of some of the winners:







REVERSE  
B I N G O



*Elaine Williams*



Guess the Score of the Whitetail Deer



**I SCORED!!**



*Gary Fitzjarrell*



## ***Poker Chip***



**WINNER**

**James Button**



**Of the Gift Card & Lottery Board**



**&**



**Katie Thompson**

## **NEXT EVENT!!**



**Where do I start? What should I plant? When do I plant?**

**Food Plot Presentation – April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**6:00 – 8:00 PM**

**680 Craig Rd**

**St. Louis, MO, 63141**

**First Floor Meeting Room**

**Join us to find the answers to these questions.**

John Gibbs will be our speaker. John has harvested many trophy bucks including several Boone and Crockett. He manages several hundred acres of property of his own with a vast knowledge of what works.

If you are interested in attending this informative presentation you can email Tom Williams at [Tfwob@yahoo.com](mailto:Tfwob@yahoo.com) or call 314-556-9079. Please invite family and friends to attend as well.

*In June . . .*

# *Strathalbyn Farms Club*

552 Wolfrum Rd.

Saint Charles, MO 63304

## ***Sporting Clays Shoot***

***June 29, 2024***



Please join the Gateway SCI Chapter for our private event of a Sporting Clays Shoot which includes a round of sporting clays (100 birds), shells and an indoor served, all you can eat chicken buffet lunch with adult beverages. All of this for \$200 per person. Guest that would like to attend but do not shoot, may join you for lunch at a reduced rate.

Registration will begin at 9:30 AM and the shooting event will begin at approximately 10:30 AM. To RSVP for this exclusive event, you can email Tom Williams at [Tfwob@yahoo.com](mailto:Tfwob@yahoo.com) or call 314-556-9079. Please invite your friends for this special event!

<i>Upcoming Events</i>	
April 16 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Food Plot Management
June 29 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Strathalbyn Farms Sporting Clay Shoot
July 18 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Pub Night - Trivia
August 24 <sup>th</sup> , 2024	Measuring Event
September 28, 2024	Shoot For the Vets
October Date TBD	Busch Conservation Skeet, Pistol, Rifle and Archery
December 3, 2024	Holiday Party

**Stay tuned for further details on these events**

# Spring Turkey Season



MDC sets deer and turkey hunting dates for upcoming seasons

***Get more information at [mdc.mo.gov](http://mdc.mo.gov) and search by game species.***

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) recently set turkey and deer hunting dates for the 2024-2025 seasons. The hunting dates were approved by the Missouri Conservation Commission at its Dec. 8 open meeting in Jefferson City.

## **2024 Spring and Fall Turkey Hunting Dates**

- Spring Youth Portion: April 6-7
- Regular Spring Turkey Season: April 15 through May 5
- Fall Firearms Turkey Season: Oct. 1 - 31

## **2024 – 2025 Archery Deer and Turkey Hunting Dates**

- **Sept. 15** through Nov. 15 and Nov. 27 through Jan. 15, 2025

## **2024 - 2025 Firearms Deer Hunting Dates**

- Firearms Early Antlerless Portion: Oct. 11-13 (in open counties)
- Firearms Early Youth Portion: Nov. 2-3
- Firearms November Portion: Nov. 16-26
- Firearms CWD Portion: Nov. 27 – Dec. 1 (in open counties)

- Firearms Late Youth Portion: Nov. 29 – Dec. 1
- Firearms Late Antlerless Portion: Dec. 7-15 (in open counties)
- Firearms Alternative Methods Portion: Dec. 28 - Jan. 7, 2025

Detailed information on the upcoming seasons and portions will be included in the MDC *2024 Spring Turkey Hunting and Regulations* booklet and the MDC *2024 Fall Deer & Turkey Regulations and Information* booklet, available closer to the seasons. The booklets will be available where permits are sold and online at [mdc.mo.gov](https://mdc.mo.gov).

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## **MDC changes turkey regulations for spring hunting and proposes changes for fall hunting**

*Changes include new all-day spring shooting hours on private land and proposed changes for fall archery and firearms hunting.*

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) announces changes to turkey hunting regulations for the spring season and has proposed regulation changes for the fall seasons. The Missouri Conservation Commission approved the changes for the spring season at its Dec. 8 open meeting in Jefferson City and also gave initial approval on proposed regulation changes to fall turkey hunting.

**Spring shooting hours for private land only will be extended from a half-hour before sunrise to sunset Shooting hours on public land will remain a half-hour before sunrise to 1 p.m. These changes will be effective for the Spring 2024 turkey season.**

**Proposed changes to fall turkey hunting would require both fall firearms turkey hunters and fall archery turkey hunters to purchase a fall turkey-hunting permit. Turkeys would no longer be included in the archery-deer permit. The bag limit would be reduced from four to two birds. These proposed changes will be open for public comment from Feb. 2 through March 2, 2024, under Public Commenting Opportunities at [mdc.mo.gov/contact-engage/public-commenting-opportunities](https://mdc.mo.gov/contact-engage/public-commenting-opportunities).**

According to MDC, the primary motivation for the regulation changes is to increase opportunities during the spring season for youth hunters and

hunters who work during the day and to reduce the fall harvest while maintaining as much opportunity for hunters as possible.

MDC noted that 93% of land in Missouri is privately owned and 88% of Missouri's annual spring turkey harvest is done on private land. MDC added that maintaining shooting hours ending at 1 p.m. on conservation areas and other public lands would continue to support multiple afternoon activities by a variety of users on these areas.

"Hunter participation and recruitment has been on the decline in Missouri for several years," said MDC Turkey Biologist Nick Oakley. "When surveyed on why hunters aren't participating, the most common answer is that school or work interferes with getting out into the field. By extending shooting hours, a barrier to participation will be removed for those unable to hunt during the morning."

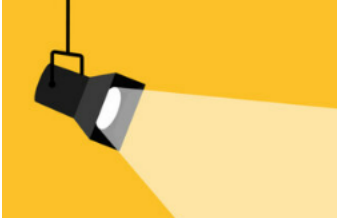
Oakley added that the 1 p.m. closure during the spring season was originally seen decades ago as a way to help Missouri's turkey population rebound from a few thousand birds to the several hundred thousand wild turkeys we have today.

"Almost every other state in the Midwest and Southeast moved away from an early afternoon closing time after their turkey populations were restored," Oakley said. "Those states have seen increases in hunter participation, sustainable increases in harvest, and stable hunter satisfaction after moving to an all-day season."

The current fall turkey season allows hunters to harvest up to four birds of either sex without a beard requirement. The proposed changes will reduce the number to two birds of either sex.

"While hen harvest is contentious in Missouri, our hen-harvest-rate is low enough that it is not having a negative impact on turkey numbers on a statewide scale," Oakley explained "That said, at the property level, hen harvest may have some impact on future production."





## Spotlight on your Officers & Board Members

### President, Dave Stokes.



I was born and raised on a farm in Northwest Iowa and moved into town around 10 years of age. In a small Iowa town, I never really got too far away from farm life. I started hunting, fishing and trapping while I was still in high school. Most of my hunting in those early years was pheasants, ducks and geese. During my military years, college years and early family years I did not have a lot of opportunities to hunt and fish, but around 35 years of age the bug caught back up with me and I started hunting and fishing a lot.

I like fishing as much as hunting. I have fished both freshwater and saltwater fisheries, but I like freshwater fishing more. I progressed to a level of fishing that I fished a lot of competitive team bass fishing tournaments; winning a couple of bass tournaments and coming in second and third in a couple others. My current project now is to learn to fly fish.

I started hunting and fishing again when I was around 40 years of age. I have been to Canada fishing and just recently I went to Lake Erie for some walleye fishing. Great trip. I have hunted in Wyoming around 20 times

shooting elk, mule deer and lots of antelope. I have hunted in Iowa, Texas, Kansas and South Africa. I would like to get to South Africa or Namibia at least one more time before I get too old to hunt.

My wife has really been a good sport about my hunting and fishing passion. She has accompanied me on most of my hunting and fishing adventures. I have a son, daughter and 5 grandchildren (4 granddaughters and 1 grandson). My grandson and 2 granddaughters have all shot their first deer when they were around 11 years of age. They have been going hunting with me and their father since they were around 6 years of age. I enjoy watching them shoot their deer as much as me shooting mine.

I got involved with SCI around 2004 and became Chapter President in 2012. What I enjoy with SCI is meeting people who enjoy the same things that I enjoy. It seems that the conversations I have with other SCI members always gets around to talking about hunting and fishing. I also believe in what SCI is doing to protect our hunting and fishing rights.



## Membership Activity

### Hunts Upcoming or Past - - “Connect with Others”

#### **Bull Bison Hunt: Submitted by Tom Williams**

Earlier this year I had an opportunity to take my son and grandson on a trophy Bull Bison Hunt. We decided to go to the Choctaw Hunting Lodge located in Pittsburgh Oklahoma. We hunted hogs there prior and had a great hunt. The lodge is extremely comfortable with private bathrooms in each bedroom. Plenty of room for 6 hunters and they can accommodate up to 20 people. We arrived at the lodge early Wednesday morning and decided to harvest our Bull Bison that morning. While we were out scouting for our bison we saw several hogs, deer, rams and an eland. We harvested our Bison a few hours later. That gave us plenty of time to have it butchered and ready for our return home on Saturday. All of our meals were provided and both my grandson Elliott and son Thomas had a great time. I would strongly recommend the Choctaw Hunting Lodge. We will be back there soon.





## Recipes

# Venison Supreme

- 1 pound venison tenderloin or loin
- 2 cans Campbell's golden mushroom soup
- 1 hand beaten egg
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup milk
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup of flour
- $\frac{1}{2}$  stick butter
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup olive oil
- $\frac{1}{4}$  cup water

After removing all fat and tendons, cut venison into  $\frac{1}{2}$ " slices (across grain) and soak in several rinses of fresh water.

Drain venison and place (or dip) in mixture of milk, egg, garlic salt, and pepper for 15-20 minutes. Heat butter and oil in a large skillet.

Drain venison (but do not wash) and place in bag with flour. Shake to coat venison and fry pieces in skillet to a golden brown coating on both sides. Preheat oven to 375 ° F.

Place venison pieces flat (one layer thick) in a glass oven pan. Mix soup with pan drippings and cover venison. Add water, cover and bake 1 hour. Serve with mashed potatoes or rice.