

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:**

Tom Williams, President  
Susan Nelson, Vice President  
Vacant, Secretary  
Dave Stokes, Treasurer

**Board Members:**

Jody Wilkerson, Director  
John Wilkerson, Director  
Mark Johnson, Director  
Sheldon Alver, Director  
Neal Feazel, Director

***January 2025, 1st Quarter Newsletter***  
**Gateway Area Chapter**  
**Of Safari Club International**



## ***Note from our President - Tom Williams***

As we step into 2025, I want to reinforce the eight key elements needed to make our Chapter strong and how these will help us to make our chapter the best for our members.

- **Relevance**
- **Membership**
- **Engagement**
- **Participation**
- **Growth**
- **Communication**
- **Support**
- **Camaraderie**

Safari Club International is the largest Conservation and Hunter Advocacy Organization in the WORLD!

If you are a hunter and/ or you are interested in wildlife conservation, there is no greater organization than SCI. You should be proud to support this Organization and the Gateway Chapter. We need more people like yourselves in our Chapter. I encourage you to look around and find some friends, family and colleagues that can become Chapter Members.

I also want to welcome our newest Board Member Sheldon Alver. The Board voted Sheldon into our Chapter at our December board meeting. Additionally, I want to thank our newest volunteers Karla Stephenson, Lannie Rossi and Todd Smith. They have participated in our Board meetings and have provided valuable input. If you were at our Holiday Party, you saw Karla and Kathy's presentation on their First Africa hunt, as well as their trip to She Hunts Skills Camp.

We encourage you to contact any of our Board Members if you are interested in becoming a Volunteer.

As I stated earlier, we are committed to providing events that will be fun to participate in, communication to our Chapter on an ongoing basis, becoming more

relevant in the St Louis area and build a group of people that enjoy our time together.

***We have been using the Call Posts service to communicate with members on upcoming events. You may have noticed when receiving these calls, it showed an Oklahoma number. We have recently changed this and going forward when you receive a call it will be coming from my cell phone number which is (314) 556-9079. Take this time to put this number in your contacts as Gateway SCI so you don't miss my call.***

During our Christmas Party, one of the highlights was our presentation to “Camp Hope” of a check in the amount of \$7,782.07. This check represented the proceeds raised at our “Shoot for the Vets” event held in September at Nilo Farms.

That’s Relevant!

Our Board would like to thank you for your support during this past year and we look forward to you continuing to support and participate in our chapter throughout 2025! We are already hard at work planning events to put on your calendar. We wish you a Happy New Year to you, your family and friends.

*Tom Williams*

## ***Upcoming Events***

We already have several events on our calendar for your participation. Some are local such as our Banquet/Auction, which is our biggest event of the year. The National SCI Convention will be held in Nashville, Tennessee. See details below on what is planned. Watch for our newsletters and emails and listen to our calling posts for more to come. We hope you are enthused to participate in these events and to get to know your fellow members on a first name basis.

Some events are better planned when we know the number of participants; therefore, you may see the ask for an RSVP. Please comply for better accuracy of planning the event.



# 20TH ANNUAL BANQUET

SATURDAY, MARCH 22ND, 2025 | 5:00 PM

DOUBLETREE HOTEL  
16625 SWINGLEY RIDGE RD | CHESTERFIELD, MO

## WHAT IS YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE?

YOU AND YOUR GUESTS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US FOR AN EXCITING EVENING THAT WILL INCLUDE DINNER, GAMES, RAFFLES, SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS!

WE HAVE WORKED DILIGENTLY TO OBTAIN INCREDIBLE ITEMS THAT YOU'LL WANT TO BRING WITH YOU ON YOUR NEXT ADVENTURE! AUCTION ITEMS INCLUDE HUNTS, GUNS, HUNTING APPAREL + ACCESSORIES, ARTWORK AND LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT PACKAGES.

**SINGLE TICKET: \$75 EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**

**\$80 STARTING JAN. 31ST**

**TABLE: \$600 - 8 SEATS**

**SPONSOR TABLE: \$1,000 - 8 SEATS**

**SPONSOR TABLE: \$1,250 - 10 SEATS**

**\*SPONSOR ATTENDEES EACH RECEIVE \$50 KUIU GIFT CARD AND PREFERRED SEATING\***

### THREE WAYS TO PURCHASE TICKETS:

1. VISIT [GATEWAYSCI.ORG](https://gatewaysci.org) AND FOLLOW LINK
2. VISIT [PURPLEPASS.COM/2025GACAUTION](https://purplepass.com/2025gacauction)
3. CONTACT DAVE STOKES @ 314-882-6199 OR [STOKESD50@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:STOKESD50@OUTLOOK.COM)

IF YOU REQUIRE OVERNIGHT ACCOMODATIONS, THE DISCOUNTED ROOM RATE IS \$139.  
BOOK HERE: [HTTPS://GROUP.DOUBLETREE.COM/631YNN](https://group.doubletree.com/631YNN)

MONEY RAISED FROM OUR AUCTION GOES TO SUPPORT OUTDOOR EDUCATION, CONSERVATION AND HUMANITARIAN INITIATIVES ALONG WITH LOCAL SHOOTS AND HUNTING EVENTS.  
COME SUPPORT THESE WORTHY CAUSES!



GATEWAY AREA CHAPTER WEBSITE



TICKET PURCHASE - PURPLE PASS

# Ticket Order Form

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual Tickets @ \$75 (before January 31st)

\_\_\_\_\_ Table (8) @ \$600

\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Table (8) @ \$1,000

\_\_\_\_\_ Sponsor Table (10) @ \$1,250

Total Due: \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Visa: \_\_\_\_\_ Mastercard: \_\_\_\_\_ AmEx: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Confirmation will be emailed to above email address and will act as your proof of purchase.

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**\*\*\*If paying by check, please make check payable to Gateway Chapter, Safari Club International and mail to Dave Stokes - 4816 Bankfield Court, St. Louis, MO 63128.\*\*\***

## YOUR GUEST LIST

TABLE HOST: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST #4: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST #1: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST #5: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST #2: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST #6: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST #3: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST #7: \_\_\_\_\_

GUEST #8: \_\_\_\_\_ GUEST #9: \_\_\_\_\_

*Watch for previews of feature items that will be available at our Banquet in March. First one we would like to introduce you to is below – Only 24 limited edition shotguns available!!*

*Gold*  
**SHOTGUN  
OF THE  
YEAR**  
SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL  
**2025**



**FAUSTI 20 GAUGE  
SIDE BY SIDE**

only 24 limited edition shotguns available

- DEA Color Case version
- English stock, long trigger guard, splinter forend
- Engraved SCI logo inlay in gold on the bottom of the frame
- Automatic Ejector
- Scaled frame, single selective trigger
- With 5 interchangeable chokes
- Pistol grip, laser wood finished
- Black rubber recoil pad
- Includes hard gun case and velvet socks



## Upland Bird Hunting



314-518-8290/314-712-1986  
rickandearla@73pointers.com

### Gateway Area Chapter of SCI 73 Pointers Ranch Upland Hunt Saturday, January 11, 2025

73 Pointers Ranch, 105 Hwy NN, Jonesburg, MO 63351

The Gateway Area Chapter of SCI invites its members and guests to a fun day of upland game bird hunting at 73 Pointers Ranch in Jonesburg, Missouri. Birds, lunch, door prizes and a whole lot of fun will be included in the cost of the hunt.

You and your guests can select either a morning or afternoon hunt. Groups should be no more than 4-5 hunters. Arrive at 73 Pointers Ranch 30 minutes prior to your hunt start time.

#### Schedule:

Morning Group Hunt Starts: 830AM

Lunch: 1130AM-1230PM

Afternoon Group Hunt Starts: 100PM

#### Cost:

**\$150/hunter** includes birds, lunch and door prizes. Check or cash. Checks are made payable to: Gateway Area Chapter of Safari Club International.

If your group needs a guide and dog, that is a separate fee of \$100 per group. **Plus, tip your guide directly. A \$15-\$20 tip per gun is an acceptable tip.** If you wish to have your birds cleaned by club staff, that is a separate fee you pay directly. \$2/bird for quail and chuckar and \$3 for pheasants.

**Bird packages are either: 4-Pheasants, 6-Chuckar or 8-Quail.**

\*Each hunter in group can select from one of the three bird packages. i.e. Hunter's 1 and 2 each want 4 pheasants, Hunter 3 wants 6 chuckar and Hunter 4 wants 8 quail. That's 22 birds for that group.

Each team captain must email Mark Johnson at [MDJSportsman@gmail.com](mailto:MDJSportsman@gmail.com) with name, email address, phone number and bird package for each hunter in their group. **RSVPs with bird packages must be received no later than Friday, January 3rd, 12PM.** If inclement weather, Mark will email everyone no later than 630AM on Saturday morning.

**Questions, call or email Mark Johnson at 314-737-8123 or [MDJSportsman@gmail.com](mailto:MDJSportsman@gmail.com)**



## Gateway Area Chapter of SCI

### Wilnor Outdoors Annual Upland Hunt

Saturday, February 15th, 2025

**Wil-Nor Outdoors-9298 State Road WW, Dittmer, MO 63023**

The Gateway Area Chapter of SCI invites its members and guests to a fun day of upland game bird hunting at Wil-Nor Outdoors in Dittmer, Missouri. Birds, lunch, door prizes and a whole lot of fun will be included in the cost of the hunt.

You and your guests can select either a morning or afternoon hunt. Groups should be no more than 4-5 hunters. Arrive at Wil-Nor 30 minutes prior to your hunt start time.

#### Schedule:

**Morning Group Hunt Starts: 830AM**

**Lunch: 1130AM-1230PM**

**Afternoon Group Hunt Starts: 100PM**

#### Cost:

**\$150/hunter** includes birds, lunch and door prizes. Check or cash. Checks are made payable to: Gateway Area Chapter of Safari Club International.

If your group needs a guide and dog, that is a separate fee of \$65 per group of 1-2 hunters, \$100 for groups of 3 or more hunters. **Plus, tip your guide directly. \$15-\$20 per gun is an acceptable tip for a good hunt.**

**Bird packages are either: 4-Pheasants, 6-Chuckar or 9-Quail.**

\*Each hunter in group can select from one of the three bird packages. i.e. Hunter's 1 and 2 each want 4 pheasants, Hunter 3 wants 6 chuckar and Hunter 4 wants 9 quail. That's 23 birds for that group.

Each team captain must email Mark Johnson at [MDJSportsman@gmail.com](mailto:MDJSportsman@gmail.com) with name, email address, phone number and bird package for each hunter in their group. **RSVPs with bird packages must be received no later than Friday, February 7th, 12PM.** If inclement weather, Mark will email everyone no later than 630AM on the Saturday morning of the hunt.

**Questions, call or email Mark Johnson at 314-737-8123 or [MDJSportsman@gmail.com](mailto:MDJSportsman@gmail.com)**



The following two awards will be given at our annual banquet. If you have any applicants you would like to submit for either "Hunter of the Year" or "Youth Hunter of the Year" please complete the appropriate form below and submit by February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.

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## Gateway Area Chapter SCI Application

### Hunter of the Year



The Gateway Area Chapter of SCI would like to encourage its members to submit an application for "Hunter of the Year. An award will be given out at our annual banquet this year (March 22, 2025) for Hunter of the Year. See details below for application completion.

Please send completed hunting application along with pictures or any questions to [huntingisfood@gmail.com](mailto:huntingisfood@gmail.com)

All submitted applications will go before the board for a vote and awards handed out at our annual banquet. Winner will be selected considering all factors such as weapon, difficulty of hunt, and trophy quality. Application deadline is Feb 1st of each year. Winners must be active members of the Gateway Chapter of SCI. Any board members with submitted applications will not be allowed to vote on applications.

Name of Hunter \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Animal(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Harvest \_\_\_\_\_ Method of Harvest \_\_\_\_\_

Place Taken \_\_\_\_\_ Free range or Fenced (size of area) \_\_\_\_\_

Guide and Outfitter \_\_\_\_\_

Comments about Hunt \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## Gateway Area Chapter SCI Application

### For Youth Hunter of the Year



The Gateway Area Chapter of SCI would like to encourage its members to submit an application for "Youth Hunter" of the year. Many of you know young hunters who would be under the age of 16 at time of application that are interested in learning and participating in the sport of hunting. We need to encourage them and one way we would like to do this is to give an award at our banquet this year (March 22, 2025) for Youth Hunter of the Year. See details below for application completion.

Please send completed hunting application along with pictures or any questions to [huntingisfood@gmail.com](mailto:huntingisfood@gmail.com)

All submitted applications will go before the board for a vote and award handed out at our annual banquet. Winner will be selected considering all factors such as weapon used, difficulty of hunt, and trophy quality. Application deadline is Feb 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Winners must be close friends or family of active members of the Gateway Chapter of SCI. Winners must be under the age of 16 at time of application. Any board members with submitted applications or related to the applicants will not be allowed to vote on applications.

Hunter \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Animal(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Harvest \_\_\_\_\_ Method of Harvest \_\_\_\_\_

Place Taken \_\_\_\_\_

Free range or Fenced (size of area) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments about Hunt \_\_\_\_\_

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Visit [www.safariclub.org](http://www.safariclub.org) for more details

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At Safari Club International, conservation is at the heart of everything we do. By attending the 2025 SCI Convention, you'll join a community of passionate hunters, outdoorsmen, and conservationists dedicated to protecting wildlife and preserving our hunting heritage for future generations.

Your attendance makes a difference. A portion of the proceeds supports SCI's conservation and advocacy efforts.

Celebrate conservation, explore the outdoors, and make an impact—all at the 2025 SCI Convention!

Together, we're ensuring a thriving future for wildlife and wild places.



## *Keep up with what is current*



### **MDC sets deer and turkey hunting dates for 2025 – 2026 seasons**

Detailed information on the upcoming seasons and portions will be included in the MDC 2025 Spring Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet and the MDC 2025 Fall Deer & Turkey Hunting Regulations and Information booklet available closer to the seasons. Booklets will be available where permits are sold.

#### 2025 Spring and Fall Turkey Hunting Dates:

- Spring Youth Portion: April 12 – 13
- Regular Spring Turkey season: April 21 through May 11
- Fall Archery Turkey Portion: Sept 15 – Nov 14 and Nov 26 thru Jan 15, 2026
- Fall Firearms Turkey Portion: Oct 1 – 31 (in open counties)

#### 2025 – 2026 Archery Deer Hunting Dates

- Sept 15 through Nov 14 and Nov 26 through Jan 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026

2025 – 2026 Firearms Deer Hunting Dates:

Firearms Early Antlerless Portion: Oct 10 – 12 (in open counties)

Firearms Early Youth Portion: Nov 1 – 2

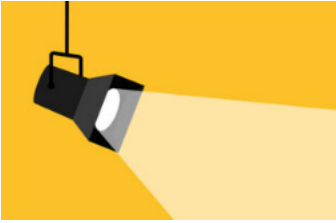
Firearms November Portion: Nov 15 – 25

Firearms CWD Portion: Nov 26 – 30 (in open counties)

Firearms Late Youth Portion: Nov 28 – 30

Firearms Late Antlerless Portion: Dec 6 – 14 (in open counties)

Firearms Alternative Methods Portion: Dec 27 – Jan 6, 2026



## **Spotlight on your Officers & Board Members**

### **Director – John Wilkerson**

I was born in St. Louis, Missouri and have lived in the city all of my life. My wife, Jody, and I have 2 daughters and 4 grandchildren. Our older daughter, Kate, is getting married in September 2025. Our younger daughter, Megan, lives in Moberly, Missouri with her husband, Beau, and the 4 grandchildren. Prior to retirement I worked for Laclede Gas, now Spire. I was in the construction and maintenance department for 37 years; mostly as a pipe line welder.

My mom grew up on a farm between Washington, Missouri and New Haven where Newport Church Road and the Bluff Road meet Highway 100 in Franklin County – The Home Place.

As a child I would visit the farm on weekends from time to time. We played in the barn, helped stack hay, fished in the pond, gathered eggs, picked corn, shoveled sawdust until I was old and big enough to carry off slab wood from their saw mill and watched as my grandfather and uncles cut calves and many other things a city kid would never be exposed to.

Some of my first shooting was done with a single shot .22, a Sears Ranger, which I still have. My first hunting was small game; rabbits, squirrels, quail and frogs. One memorable dove hunt with my brother, a cousin and myself involved 7 ½ boxes of shells with a bag of 17 birds.

My first deer was harvested in 1972 with a 12- gauge slug at a distance of about 20 feet. He tried to slip around a line of men trying to drive deer. My white tail buck was a 9-pointer with a 4" drop tine. He gross scored at 147". I was warned at the time that I could hunt the rest of my life and not shoot a better deer. Here I am, 53 years later and, so far, they have been right.

My hunting and fishing have expanded since then. I have been fortunate to have hunted in 8 states, the Northwest Territories once, British Columbia twice and 2 trips to Africa.

My fishing has seen me on many Missouri ponds, rivers, streams and lakes. In addition, that includes Colorado, Ontario, the Northwest Territories in Canada and off the coast of Alaska.

From here, I would have to move to my bucket list, which has not been finalized.

My involvement with SCI started 21 years ago when my brother-in-law gifted me an annual membership. I am now a lifetime member. Shortly after that I attended the meeting that reestablished a chapter in St. Louis. I have been active with the chapter since that first meeting. I have served as a director for many years. My wife, Jody, and I have taken on many roles with the chapter events and annual banquet. Jody served as chapter treasurer for several years.

My respect for conservation and hunting started early. I once heard that wildlife is not a commodity that can be put on a shelf to be saved. Through science-based research and regulated hunting, wildlife can be with us forever.

Missouri hunters now harvest more deer on Opening day than were taken during the entire season in 1972.

I know SCI has the best interest of hunters in the United States and the rest of the world as their top priority. They work for everyone whether your interest is upland game, white tail deer, elk or The Big Five.

I would like to encourage anyone reading this to become active with the Gateway Area Chapter of SCI in one form or another. We can use and would appreciate the help.

I also encourage everyone to sometime attend the National Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. It is going to be held there through 2029. Think of it as Toys R Us for hunters!



