

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

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April 2025, 2nd Quarter Newsletter

Gateway Area Chapter

Of Safari Club International

Note from our President - Tom Williams

Thank You All!!

I want to thank all our Volunteers, Board members and Officers, Donors, Vendors, and Table Sponsors for your support and commitment to the Gateway Area Chapter SCI. This was our 20th Banquet and "Oh What a Night". There is a saying that organizations live by "Resist change and you cease to exist". Our Banquet this year had many changes.

We had a Theme "What's Your Next Adventure?", new game of "Guess the Brass", Vendors to visit with, Sponsor tables (sponsor tables cost most, however each person at the table received special gifts). Our menu was upgraded, we had more guns, hunts, and the star of the show was a registered Brittany puppy that went home with the winning bidder.

Preparing for our Banquet at times is like playing Darts in the dark. We try to figure out what will interest our members. That is not an easy task.

We need your help. Please share with us the items you would like to see at next year's Banquet (type of hunts, type of guns, etc.). Email us at gateway@gatewaysci.org

The money we raise permits our Chapter to conduct our annual events, and more importantly, it funds the programs and legislation that protects our freedom to hunt and support Conservation of Wildlife in the United States and Internationally.

We want our Chapter to be the premiere Conservation and Hunting Organization in St. Louis.

I think we can do just that with a little help from our friends.

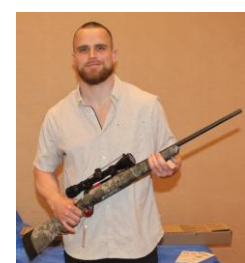
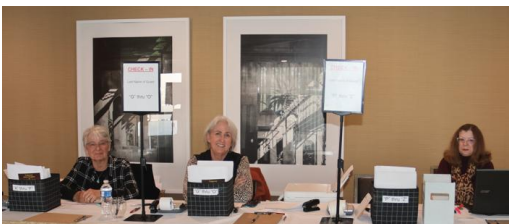
Next year's Banquet date will be announced soon, watch for it and mark your calendar so as not to miss our Fundraising Event. We promise to keep elevating our event with new things each year. Come and enjoy with us!!

Thank you again for your support. We are looking forward to seeing you at our next event.

Tom Williams

20th Annual Banquet Recap

In pictures





BANQUET RECAP

Thank you to those who attended our 20th Annual Banquet to support our chapter and join in the fun of the evening. Many went home with great items from the auction and games/raffles. There were items for everyone!

We hope to see you next year at our 21st Annual Banquet. Date will be announced soon for you to mark your calendar to join us.

Vendors Booths



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MASTER TAXIDERMIST:

Jim Guist

I have worked my whole life in the taxidermy field. I have done thousands of taxidermy projects, from a child's first deer to that once in a lifetime dream trophy. Whether you have an idea or just want me to have free-reign I will create that perfect display of your trophy. Let me immortalize your hunt!

Quality Craftsmanship

The understanding of animal's anatomy allows me to create realistic gestures, suspend an action, or capture subtle expressions in the animal's face. It's the details that bring your trophy to life. Quality and craftsmanship go into every mount, from a spike buck to a grizzly bear, each is treated with the highest level of detail.

For Gateway Area Chapter Members:

For members of the Gateway Area Chapter of SCI, I would like to offer the following discounts good for one year from this Banquet (3-22-25) to March of 2026.

10% discount on all standard "shoulder mounts" of Africa, North America, Asian and Exotics trophies. No discounts on Elephant, Hippo, Rhino, Cape Buffalo, Giraffe and Moose along with pedestals and wall pedestals. These will remain at normal price.

12% discount on 16 or more “standard shoulder mounts”. Hunters can combine their trophies to get to the 16 number discount.

Hunter to contact me if combining trophies as some trophies from Africa can come in at different times. On a combined order no discounts will be given until all trophies and deposits are received for taxidermy work for all 16 shoulder mounts. This is to assure I am doing all 16 trophies from several hunters. All trophies must be received within two months of each other and not stretched out past that time period of two months or discount will not be honored. Contact me in advance if combining trophies from several hunter’s safaris. I can provide details and discount will be subtracted at final billing.

All rugs, full mounts, ½ mounts, pedestals, wall pedestals, skull (euro) mount DO NOT count towards the “16 standard shoulder mounts” and will be at normal price.

Preparation for your Hunt

I can provide laminated tags for any hunter’s trophies going overseas to hunt that includes their information, importer’s information, tannery’s information and Totally Awesome Taxidermy information. Please allow several weeks to get them to you. They are plastic laminate.

I currently have clients use D&L Brokers for clearing trophies coming into USA, but there are other import brokers. Please indicate if you prefer another importer you like to use.

My tannery also has a receiving station in Wasilla, Alaska if you need to have them do additional skinning, fleshing, salting and shipping of your trophy to the tannery. They can ship your trophy direct to the tannery when prep work is completed (you pay their fee to them as this is NOT a part of my taxidermy charge).

Please contact me for further details:

Totally Awesome Taxidermy

380 Little Rd

Billings, MO 65610

(417) 576-5355



MONARCH RIVERS IS A FULLY GUIDED WHITETAIL, WATERFOWL, AND TURKEY HUNTING OUTFITTER IN KAMPSVILLE, IL.

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AS FIRM BELIEVERS IN SUPPLEMENTARY FEEDING, WE PLANT A WIDE VARIETY OF FOOD PLOTS FOR EACH PHASE OF THE HUNTING SEASON. WE DO WHAT IT TAKES TO PROVIDE RICH, YEAR-ROUND NUTRITION FOR THE POPULATIONS WE MANAGE.

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WE WORK HARD TO MAINTAIN PREMIUM PROPERTY, OFFER HIGH-QUALITY FACILITIES, AND PROVIDE EXPERT HUNTING GUIDANCE. WE TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN THE HUNTING EXPERIENCE WE HAVE CURATED AT MONARCH RIVERS.

OUR GOAL IS FOR YOU TO ENJOY THE HUNT OF A LIFETIME AND HAVE A GREAT TIME DOING IT.

Awards Presented

Hunter of the Year Award – Mike Issak



I am writing to you to submit my husband as a candidate for the Gateway Chapter of SCI Hunter of the Year Award. My husband is Mike Isaak, SCI life member #20324522 and a member of the Gateway chapter of SCI.

My husband is a life member of SCI and has worked diligently towards his first Pinnacle of Achievement award, which he can now submit. He already has several animals listed in the record book and continues to submit entries. He works countless hours of overtime at his job in order to allow him the opportunity to experience the hunts he's always dreamed of.

This past year he made his second trip to South Africa in search of small predators for his Predators of the World award. He went alone knowing that he would be spending the nights out hunting and assumed he would be sleeping during the daylight hours. As he arrived and discussed his objectives with his PH, it soon became apparent that the thought of sleeping through the daylight hours was going to be very slim. The PH had already made plans and arrangements for Mike to hunt the daylight hours in search of some species of plains game as well as setting bait sights and checking previously established bait sights. His primary objective and dream, was to harvest a spotted hyena. The outfitter and PH had already warned him not to get his hopes too high due to the difficulty in obtaining such an animal in South Africa was very slim. Other animals on his wish list were the honey badger, African wildcat, jackal, civet cat and genet cat. As his journey began to unfold, he found himself sitting for countless hours through the day and night. He said that he was hunting approximately 20 hours a day and sleeping about 3-4 hours before doing it again. He said he would eat breakfast at 7am and they would head out with their lunch bag in hand. He would sit the mornings in search of quality plains game then in the afternoons begin preparing blinds and bait sights for the night predators. He was able to harvest a high gold class Nyala, a baboon

and two impalas with a bow during his stay. His night hunts were spent sitting countless hours in the cold nights in makeshift blinds overlooking previously set bait. His first night predator that he was able to acquire was an old mature honey badger. Knowing the scarcity of that quarry he was quite pleased with the results; however, his mind was still focused on that hyena. This continued on for 10 days straight. He would call home when he would get back to the lodge and tell me that his supper was sitting in his room waiting on him, usually items that were less than tasty when cold. As the days went on, I could tell he was getting more and more tired. He kept pushing himself for that hyena with no regard to any quality sleep. On about day seven while driving through some potato fields at night in search of a bushbuck to use for a drag for the hyena he was fortunate enough to come across an African wildcat roaming down one of the isles. He used the outfitters thermal equipped rifle to make a lethal shot on the wildcat. Continuing to march forward he was becoming slightly discouraged over the time and effort that was put into finding a hyena. Their cunningness was overwhelming. On the night of day 10, his last night there, they finally spotted 2 hyenas that were several hundred yards out that were locked down and not progressing towards the bait. The calls were futile as well. The hyenas were not convinced that it was safe to move any closer. The decision was made, they would try to stalk closer to them. They knew they had a slim chance of closing the gap without them scurrying off, but they were down to the last minute of the last hour of this 10-day hunt. They began cascading down the rocky mountain top where they were perched overlooking the bait. The trip down the mountain became very treacherous without the use of any lights on the moonless night. Once they reached the bottom. They gathered their bearings and began ever so slightly making progress in the direction they last saw the hyenas staged. They would stop every 10 yards and glass the area ahead of them with the use of a handheld thermal monocular. I remember him telling me after looking through the monocular for a brief period of time that he was blinded in that eye for at least 10 minutes as his eye readjusted to the extreme differences in light. They could still pick out the images of the hyenas still staged in their same location. After a slow and lengthy stalk, the decision was made that if there was ever a chance of harvesting one of these animals the time was now. Mike raised the thermal equipped 308 to his shoulder and waited for one of them to move into a shootable position. It was brief, but one of the wild dogs moved just enough that Mike took the shot and dropped the hyena where he stood. They quickly closed the gap on the downed hyena to ensure that he didn't get back up. As they approached the downed hyena, he swiftly turned his head towards them and chomped down on a nearby large piece of wood which disintegrated in his jaws. I recall him telling me the feeling that rushed thru him at that point. The power in his jaws was devastating. The hyena then was trying to get up when the PH handed Mike his 9mm pistol. Mike had to place 3 or 4 more additional 9mm rounds into the vitals of the hyena to finally dispatch him. The time was near midnight and the hunt had finally concluded. His journey was complete but not without an exhausting week of cold and sleepless nights.

All three of his harvested night predators measured gold class per SCI record book standards.

I have included pictures of his hunt along with the completed application. I would greatly appreciate your consideration for awarding him the Gateway Chapter Hunter of the Year award. I know he would be extremely proud and would make the board proud to have presented to him.

Thank you for your consideration,

Jackie Isaak,



Female Youth Hunter – Mackenzie Stokes



Mackenzie is 14-years-old and has been going hunting and fishing with her Dad and Grandpa since she was about 4. About 3 years ago Mackenzie decided that she actually wanted to hunt for her own deer and not just go along. Once her decision was made, her Dad acquired a hunt through a Missouri Conservation youth program up at Table Rock Lake. Mackenzie had an opportunity to shoot at a nice doe but just couldn't pull the trigger. Next year same thing, had an opportunity at a doe but could not pull the trigger. It wasn't her time; she was not quite ready.

This year Mackenzie was determined to take her shot. It was a cold snowy day during youth season that she was able to take that shot and harvest her first deer. That was a day to remember for both Mackenzie and her Dad! I bet the 30-06 rifle she used will remain her favorite gun for quite some time.



Male Youth Hunter – Reagan Thebeau



Reagan began his hunting career this year. Going hunting for the first time he was successful in getting a boar hog in Tennessee. This hunt took place at Wilderness Hunting Lodge and was a hunting trip purchased thru last year's chapter banquet.

That wasn't it for Reagan's hunting last year, he also took two whitetail deer in Jefferson County.

Reagan has been practicing archery, shotgun and rifle for the last 3 years, but felt comfortable with a rifle to go hunting this year at 10 years old. Reagan continues to practice his bow to feel comfortable making ethical shots. This year he used a suppressed 223 AR platform rifle for his deer as it allows him to adjust the stock to feel comfortable.



Bragging Post



We would like to see some of your hunting pictures and start a Gateway Area Chapter Bragging Board. Since many of you will be turkey hunting in the next few weeks, send us pictures of your trophies to:

gateway@gatewaysci.org

Upcoming Events

Stay tuned as we finalized our next chapter event.

SAVE THE DATE

CONVENTION 2026

**FEBRUARY 18-21, 2026
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

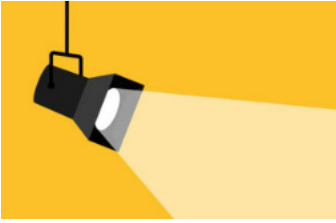
54th Annual SCI Convention will be held February 18-21, 2026 in Nashville, TN

At Safari Club International, conservation is at the heart of everything we do. By attending the 2026 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 2026 SCI Convention! Together, we're ensuring a thriving future for wildlife and wild places.





Spotlight on your Officers & Board Members

Director – Sheldon Alver



My interest in hunting and trapping was sparked by squirrel hunting with my father when I was six or seven years old. I was too young to shoot but I still vividly remember the sweet smell of burnt powder from those .22 hulls. The spark grew into a fire and by the time I was a senior in high school I was able to put away a significant amount of money for college by selling the pelts of my game animals including nearly 800 coyotes.

College was a bit of a lull in my hunting career as I focused on earning my degree, working, and shooting some skeet on the college team. Hunting was, however, never very far from my mind and after graduation I began refining my hunting plans as I paid down my student loans. Applying for draw tags out West and taking those first few trips abroad laid the foundation that I have built on ever since. To date I have hunted North America (US & Canada), South America, Europe, Asia, and Africa. I have taken three of Africa's Big Five, three of the four sheep in the Grand Slam of North American Wild Sheep, and 16 or 17 of the 29 animals in the Super Slam of North American Big Game (the majority on self-guided hunts). Beyond big game I am passionate about bird hunting. I run English Springer Spaniels

and in a typical year will hunt dove, quail, pheasant, several species of grouse, geese, and sometimes chukar and Sandhill Cranes.

I recently retired after 33 years with a multi-national corporation and launched a small business that buys and sells guns, ammo, reloading and hunting gear along with performing some minor gunsmithing. My son is a national champion trap shooter that excels in skeet and sporting clays as well so I spend quite a bit of time supporting him as he heads off to college on a shooting scholarship. Hunting will always remain a passion of mine and the time spent with family, friends, warm campfires, accurate rifles, fine shotguns, and great dogs is about as good as it gets!



Chuckle of the day

