

# KENTUCKIANA

# HUNTER



KENTUCKIANA CHAPTER - SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL

SECOND QUARTER 2023

Libby Gear  
Honored  
as  
SCI  
&  
Cabela's  
Young Hunter  
of  
The Year



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# President's Message

By Lowell Stevens Chapter President

[lowell.kysci@gmail.com](mailto:lowell.kysci@gmail.com)



I sure hope everyone enjoyed our wonderful fundraiser this past February. We once again surpassed targets of attendees and dollars raised to support our various projects and initiatives, all to be "First for Hunters." Thank you to all of you who attended and, most importantly,

thank you to our incredible donors and sponsors. I made mention of all the hard work that goes into producing our fundraiser during the event but want to specifically call out those members who went above and beyond in making this valentine themed social special – Alice Monarch, Jared Whitworth, Grace Nonamaker-Priddy, Pam Noble, Nancy Stevens, Sherry Maddox, Alan Kirschenbaum and, of course, Larry Richards, our distinguished Fundraiser Chairman. Please note, Larry has been successfully leading the fundraiser activities for several years now and needs a break - and to that end, we will be looking for someone to step up this year and take charge of this most important event for our Chapter.

I'd be remiss if I did not mention that if you didn't get to attend the SCI Convention in Nashville this year, you really missed an unbelievable event! This was my first convention in the 26 years I've been an SCI member and that was simply because, for the first time, it was close and easy to attend. It was great to see many of our Chapter members and hunt donors in Nashville and all anyone could talk about was, "How can SCI top this next year!" From the awards pre-

sentations to the banquets and live auctions to the exhibit halls and seminars, nearly everything went off seamlessly and Nashville was the perfect host! We even had Chapter Member Alex Simon take the SCI Measurers Class while at the convention. Alex is now our Chapter's newest Certified Measurer! I'm certainly planning on attending the SCI Convention next year and hope to see you there!

Also, it was nice to see good attendance at the Oklahoma Hog Hunt in March, which you can read all about in this newsletter as well as a great piece on the training many of us received during the KYSCI Turkey Clinic regarding turkey hunting and calling. This event was held nearby at "The Farm" outside New Albany. We thank our presenters, Mark Nethery, Mary Free-Phelps and Randy Phelps. Also, a big thank you goes to our Legislative Affairs Committee for combining forces with Backcountry Hunters & Anglers in hosting the Sin Die Shootout celebrating the adjournment of the current Kentucky Legislative Session with State Representative Dan Fister taking home the Herbert Mackey trophy by earning the top spot! I love seeing us work with like-minded organizations and it was great to meet Dan and thank him for all his support.

It is once again Chapter election season and this year we have several key leadership positions open including Vice President, Secretary and Director. Sherry Maddox, Chairman, and the Election Committee have sent out the "call for nominations," so please feel free to nominate yourself or a fellow Chapter member for the opportunity to help operate and steer our Chapter into the future. These are important positions as the next few years are going to be paramount for us as hunters in protecting our freedoms. As I mentioned last summer, our influence as a Chapter in supporting key priorities such as anti-conservation bills, no net loss of access, opposing trophy bans and predator control restrictions, to name a few, are going to be front and center for us. So please step up and help with the fight. If you have any questions or want to discuss what's involved with these positions, please reach out to me at [Lowell.kysci@gmail.com](mailto:Lowell.kysci@gmail.com) or Sherry at [sherrymaddox52757@gmail.com](mailto:sherrymaddox52757@gmail.com). We are looking forward to hearing from you!

**KENTUCKY FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT**  
**KYGUNCO**  
**KYSCA**

**THIS WILL BE THE FIRST TIME AN OUTSIDE ORGANIZATION OTHER THAN THE KENTUCKY FISH & WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT WILL BE HOSTING THE LIVE ELK DRAWING.**

**Kentucky ELK & OUTDOOR FEST**

**MAY 13<sup>TH</sup> 2023**  
401 GLENWOOD DR.  
BARDSTOWN, KY 40004

**APPROX. 18 MIL PEOPLE WITHIN 4 HR DRIVE**

**3-5K ATTENDEES, 50K+ LIVE STREAM VIEWERS DURING LOTTERY, BEER TENTS, FOOD TRUCKS, RAFFLES & GIVEAWAYS, INCLUDING ELK TAGS & OVER 100 FIREARMS!**

**KYGUNCO IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE IT WILL HOST THE FIRST OF MANY KENTUCKY ELK & OUTDOOR FEST!**

## OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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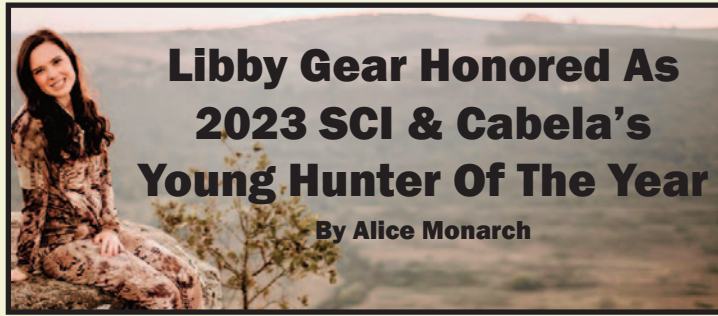
Jared Whitworth - [jared.kysci@gmail.com](mailto:jared.kysci@gmail.com)

## ABOUT THE COVER

Photo of KYSCI's Libby Lorraine Gear was taken in Nashville, TN after she was honored by SCI as this year's SCI & Cabela's Young Hunter of the Year!! Congratulations, Libby!

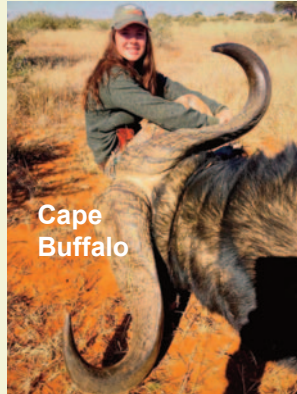
# Libby Gear Honored As 2023 SCI & Cabela's Young Hunter Of The Year

By Alice Monarch



On February 18, 2023, Libby Gear was honored by SCI and Cabela's as the "2023 SCI and Cabela's Young Hunter of the Year" in front of a crowd of over 2,000 people during the Saturday night event at this year's SCI Hunter's Convention in Nashville and several of us were there to cheer her on! Libby is an impassioned representative for KYSCI and SCI! She became a member of our Kentuckiana Chapter three years ago when she was looking for a youth friendly Chapter and found us! You have come to know KYSCI's own Libby Gear of Texas through the heartwarming articles, stunning photos, and creative humanitarian service projects she has shared with us.

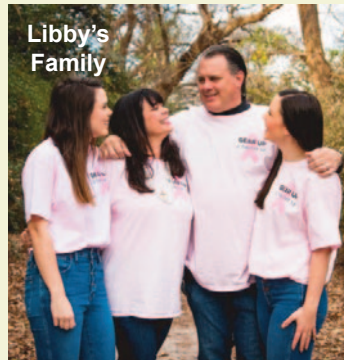
Libby Lorraine Gear of Fort Worth, Texas fell in love with the outdoors at age 4 when she spent the first of many deer seasons in a blind with her dad, Wade Gear! At age 6, her love for hunting was enhanced when she harvested her first-chance animal, a Javelina! Shortly thereafter, Libby's first African Safari sealed her love of hunting when she harvested a Kudu and Warthog. In addition to various North American animals, Libby has taken 15 SCI Record Book Animals including a Gold Medal Cape Buffalo and Gold Medal Vaal Rhebok! Libby, a Life Member of SCI, is an active member of the Kentuckiana Chapter and North Texas Chapter.



Cape Buffalo

Having been confronted by anti-hunters for years because of her love of hunting, Libby is a respectful, uplifting, positive voice for hunting and its role in conservation and the hunting way of life through her numerous published articles and online posts. Libby is incredible! As your editor, I have had the privilege of working with her as she shared her SCI Humanitarian Services projects and hunting adventures with our chapter members through her interesting and informative articles over the years! Libby, also an accomplished photographer, has 3 photographs featured on Kentuckiana Hunter covers.

Sam and I came to know and admire Libby (then age 6), her sister, Katie (then age 8), and her parents, Kathie and Wade Gear of Fort Worth, Texas through our mutual friendship with John, Laurie, Talon and Kye Abraham and Vlam Myburg of Madubula Safaris. Sam and I had fallen in love with Africa and wanted to share it with our grandsons, Tom, (then age 10) and Clay (then age 8) and sharing the young "Gear Girls" photos and accounts of their adventures with our son, Ed, and his wife, Katie, paved the way for Tom and Clay to begin their international hunting adventures. Libby inspired us and other grandparents and parents to take their young sons and daughters on safaris as well as on local hunting trips because of her writings!



Libby's Family

Another impressive fact about Libby is that ever since she was a

little girl, she celebrated her birthdays not by receiving gifts but by giving gifts to people who were in need. Among her Humanitarian Services activities are participating in church sponsored



Ivy, Sherry, Libby, Alice, Lowell

working mission trips to Chicago, Jamaica, and Dominican Republic as well as partnering with John Banovich's Chem-Chem Lion Project



(Age 6) Featured In Madubula Brochure

Record book White Blebok hunted by Libby Gear

and Wheelchair Foundation for African Children; delivering SCI Blue Bags; supporting Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry and KHFH Go-Fund-Me Project and much more! KYSCI Members who hunt abroad ask how they can participate in the SCI Blue Bag Project because they have read Libby's stories! Her promotion and sponsorship of Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry drew KHFH supporters to our Chapter Fundraiser! When Libby read about the flooding in Eastern Kentucky, she initiated, planned and created KYSCI and KHFH Go Fund Me page to help one of our KHFH deer processors who lost everything because of the deadly flooding!

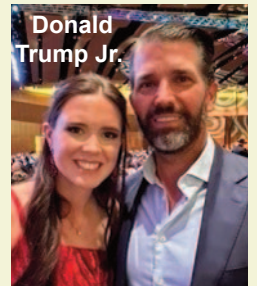


Scimitar Oryx

It is obvious that Libby believes in SCI's Mission Statement that calls upon each of us to be "a leader in protecting the freedom to hunt & in promoting wildlife conservation," as Libby is as an outstanding example for other youth as she is not only a skillful, dedicated hunter and strong promoter of SCI through her many conservation and humanitarian services projects, she is also an outstanding student and gifted athlete. As chapter members, we have come to know and love Libby through her shared stories of her humanitarian service projects and hunting adventures that have been published in The Kentuckiana Hunter as well the beautiful photographs she has shared for its covers.



Mike Rogers Jr.



Donald Trump Jr.

Libby has also been an astonishing university student! Her character is impeccable as is evidenced by her being trusted to work in the President's Office at East Texas Baptist University and she earned an internship working for an East Texas Judge. Libby has been preparing for her LSAT Exams all while working on a 2-year Honor's Research Project for ETBU. Libby, an Honors Senior at ETBU, plans to attend Law School. Libby Lorraine Gear is the perfect example of what SCI touts as symbolizing the true spirit of a Safari Club International Youth! Congratulations, Libby! KYSCI is proud of you!



# Return To Waurika

By Ivan Schell

Several years ago, the Kentuckiana Chapter organized a chapter road trip to the Stuart Ranch for the purpose of shooting prairie dogs and wild boar. At that time, the hogs would venture out at dusk to consume corn at each hunting stand site, triggered by the timed release of grain from the feeders.

A younger Clay Forst, son of the owner and operator of Stuart Ranch, Terry Stuart Forst, headed up the 7-S Stuart Ranch hunter outfitters operations. On that first trip, the Kentuckiana SCI Chapter hunters took over the old ranch house with its kitchen, five bedrooms and one shower. We made our own meals and provided our own camaraderie. Clay and his guides picked us up and dropped us off at the blinds in the late afternoons. Hogs taken were hauled back to the processing shed for skinning and quartering in preparation for the long trip back to Kentucky.

The Stuart/Forst family which owns and operates this ranch are native Americans (Choctaw). They acquired an initial 640 acres in 1868 and subsequently grew their ground near Waurika to 33,000 acres, which is the size of the Waurika Division today. The Stuart Ranch is the oldest continuously owned ranch in Oklahoma.

In this return to Waurika on March 9, 2023, eight members of KYSCI descended on the Stuart Ranch with its brand new lodge which opened in January, by air and auto for a return trip hunting adventure. This year's crew included Alan Kirschenbaum, Shawn Woodward, Chris Grabner, Tom Hebert, Scott, Matt and Colin Ferguson, in addition to myself.

On the agenda once again was hunting wild boar. However, since the first encounter in 2014, the hogs had changed their modus operandi and were now nearly completely nocturnal. This circumstance required a major change in hunting strategy. Clay had organized night hunting for us with the assistance of guides, Aaron Evans and Rusty Mashore. Aaron has turned boar hunting into a serious specialty and uses a pick-up truck equipped with a high rack for two seated hunter shooters and two hunter observers. Most importantly, he supplied four rifles mounted with night vision thermal scopes. Through those scopes the hogs appeared as white bodies, outlined against dark backgrounds. The rifles were all custom made bolt guns, mostly chambered in .22 Creedmoor (plus one in 6mm Creedmoor) with a 1 inch twist per 7 inches of barrel, shooting 75 grain Hornady bullets at about 3400 feet per second.

The casual observer might question the wisdom of using a .22 Creedmoor cartridge on a wild boar. However, experience of these guides has demonstrated that riflemen with suppressed rifles, shooting the animals behind the ear, are quite effective in dropping the hogs in their cloven-toed tracks.

Aaron dedicated the first afternoon to training all of us to utilize these specialized weapons mounted on tri-pods at his personal range. White painted metal pig profiles were the 200-yard targets on which we all had to practice hitting pigs' ears.

Following the intense training session, we all returned to the lodge for a dinner of aged 7-S beef before mounting up for the evening hunt. We then divided our group into two units of four hunters.

The first group of four rode the truck while the second group manned the blinds situated within 100 yards of feeders equipped with green lights to facilitate night shooting.

The first group included myself and my guests, Scott Ferguson and his sons, Mac and Colin. We departed about 5:30 p.m. before it was actually dark and ran across a sounder of 15 animals at a range of 750 yards. Knowing that we could not drive up on the hogs in the open, we dismounted with our rifles and sneaked up behind a short rise in the terrain until we were within 150 yards. Rusty, our second guide, arranged us in a row facing the hogs. He then counted down "3-2-1 fire" and the makeshift firing squad cut loose. Two of the targeted hogs dropped immediately, and two more we hit but managed to escape into the night. We chased the scattering porkers with withering fire expending a total of 15-20 rounds. Without question, this was the most fun any of us could remember having from behind a rifle.

We continued to hunt into the night, taking turns at the elevated shooting benches in the truck bed. Aaron had acquired a remote controlled thermal vision unit mounted above the heads of the shooters on a pole in the truck bed, which allowed him to drive the truck and still spot white outlines of hogs several hundred yards to the front of the rig. Upon spotting an unsuspecting hog, Aaron would stop the vehicle and Rusty would coordinate the mounted shooters in targeting and dispatching hogs. Unfortunately, these hogs knew the drill and many escaped to the safety of the surrounding woods before they could be planted. Others were not so fortunate and fell to the coordinated fire of our hunters.

At the end of the night (about 10:00 p.m.) the body count was six hogs. Two of those Alan Kirschenbaum nailed from his ground blind, with his model T6 Dakota in .280 Remington.

Upon arrival back at the lodge, weary hunters stored their boots and rifles in the mud room before attacking some snacks and adult libation in preparation for hitting the sack.

Saturday morning, we arose to a great breakfast and then hit the road to Duncan, OK, about 20 miles down the road. There we were surprised to find Murphy's Gun Shop, which was supplied with guns, ammunition and gear in greater quantities than one would expect to find in rural southern Oklahoma. Our ability to purchase guns and powder was limited by ATF rules for interstate transfer, but I did manage to arrange



for transport with a group member of three pounds of hard to find re-loading powder.

That afternoon we took up positions around the outdoor firepit, where we could enjoy stogies and stories enhanced in the retelling over the years. This part of the trip was a great enhancement to the entire experience. After another outstanding meal prepared by Clay's kitchen staff, two hunting crews switched places, with the first night's group heading to the ground blinds and the remaining hunters manning the gun stations in the truck bed.

Although the temperatures were mild during the day, the conditions got cold after dark due to the falling temperatures, high wind and exposure to riding high in the truck bed. Most failed to dress

warmly enough for the ride, but no one complained in view of the great fun of this hunt. Ultimately, the hunt netted ten hogs for our eight hunters, including three more on the second night in the pigmobile and one by Scott Ferguson in his blind.

Chris Grabner agreed to help the rest of us by butchering hogs and storing them in the large ice chests for the ride back to Kentucky and Indiana.

Sunday morning we packed our bags and our memories, said our goodbyes, and headed to the highways for the return home. If you wish to get in on the fun of taking boar at night with thermal scopes and .22 Creedmoor Rifles, contact Clay Forst at [Clay@StuartRanch.com](mailto:Clay@StuartRanch.com).

## Kentuckiana SCI Turkey Clinic

By Ivan Schell

Twenty-two turkey hunters gathered at the Sporting Club at the "Farm" west of New Albany on March 25, 2023, to learn more about the art and artifice of attracting wild turkey to the call. Wild turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) come in 5 sub species in North America. Although the numbers were seriously depleted by the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, they have been reintroduced to most of their former range and have established new ones. It is a well-known legend that Ben Franklin favored the Wild Turkey over the Bald Eagle as a candidate for the national symbol of the United States.

The wild turkey mate in the spring around the time that state departments of fish and wildlife set turkey hunting seasons. Gobblers court the hens by puffing out their chests and spreading their fans, attempting to call the hens to them with well broadcast gobbles familiar to every turkey hunter. Hunters try to imitate the calls of the females in an attempt to reverse the normal course of nature by calling in the male as opposed to the male pulling in the hen. The specific details of how to accomplish this musical attraction were the subject of the seminar delivered by Mark Nethery at the Clinic. Mark is the owner of Bluegrass Game Calls, LLC. Mark instructed and demonstrated his calling techniques to a group of all ages from the youngest who had never harvested a bird to old veterans. Using calls of his own design, two sided slates, box calls and mouth calls, Mark imitated the vocabulary of hens in communicating with other turkey

both male and female. One of the most important portions of Mark's demonstration related to the use of mouth calls: how to position them in the mouth and how to lightly move the flow of air under the fabric and reed to create the seductive sounds of a mating hen. See the photo of Mark and the assembled hunters. Calls manufactured by Mark are available for purchase at The Farm's main house.



Randy & Mary Teaching

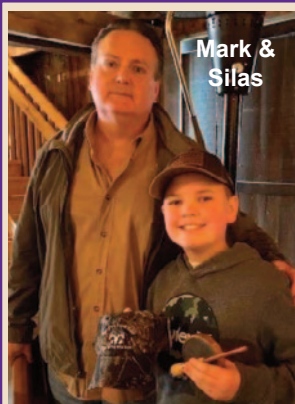
The second portion of the Clinic was conducted by Chapter Members Mary and Randy Phelps. Both Randy and Mary are seasoned, expert turkey hunters who are active in the National Wild Turkey Federation as well as KYSCI. The Phelps double-teamed the presentation with stories of successful hunting techniques for use in the field. They addressed when to call, how much to call, (Mary overcalls according to Randy), what calls to use, and when to cease calling at different stages of a gobbler's approach to the hunter's hide. Also covered was the use of blinds and various kinds of decoys including the use of different decoys for different times during the season. Randy also spoke to the "run and gun" technique now popular on TV hunting shows. A main theme espoused by Randy and Mary was the need to be patient when hunting turkey. Many hunts have been blown by hunters becoming impatient, giving up, and starting to leave their hide, only to flush an incoming bird.

At the completion of the presentations The Farm staff served up a hot lunch to all the participants.

I can attest to the helpfulness of the seminar presentations as I used one of Mark's slate calls to entice the gobbler in the attached photo on the morning second day of the season, close to Taylorsville Lake.



Ivan's Turkey



Mark & Silas

Silas Janisko, grandson of KYSCI Member and KHFH Executive Director Roger LaPointe, purchased this slate call from Keynote Speaker Mark Nethery at the event. He used it and the hat he won during the harvest of this turkey. Silas is already an avid hunter having previously harvested deer, turkey and ducks!



Silas's Turkey



STUART RANCH 7S OUTFITTERS

## KYSCI Oklahoma Duck Hunt

December 11-13, 2023 (Max 12 Hunters)

Chapter Contact: Ivan Schell: [ischell@mcbayerfirm.com](mailto:ischell@mcbayerfirm.com)

Arrive: December 11 - Hunt Mornings: 12 & 13 - Depart: Afternoon 13

Cost: \$525 per day (Total \$1050) Deposit: \$525 Required to Hold a Spot

Information & Registration: <https://stuartranchoutfitters.com/hunts/waterfowl>

# 2023 Fundraiser Report

By Larry Richards  
Past President & Fundraiser Chairman

Once again - our annual fundraiser, by any standard, was a tremendous success! The Kentuckiana Chapter met in full valentine gala mode to celebrate our past success and provide for our future undertakings. Our largest crowd in this old man's memory assembled and a record amount of money was taken in from members, guests and bidders to support our good works and special programs. My heartfelt thanks go out to everyone who participated. New members and old gathered and celebrated our passion for the outdoors and our right to enjoy it!

As with all great outcomes, a tremendous amount of good old-fashioned legwork and late-night oil burning went into putting this all together. Your Fundraiser Committee, Alice Monarch, Jared Whitworth, Jeff McMinn, Nancy and Lowell Stevens, supported by Grace Nonemaker, Pam Noble and Alan Kirschenbaum did a tremendous job in accumulating, choreographing and scripting the evenings events. Our auctioneers, Elizabeth Monarch, Lonnie Gann, and Miller Monarch were absolutely outstanding and were instrumental in keeping our Live Auction on track and on time and keeping the bids coming! We cannot be successful without their guidance and professionalism! Thank you!

Our auction card was by far the best I've ever seen! Hunts from every corner of the world and one-of-a-kind items donated by generous patrons and sponsors made the evening a most memorable event (see the list of donors and sponsors on [www.kentuckianasci.com](http://www.kentuckianasci.com)). They gave us what it takes to be truly outstanding. We are truly blessed by their loyalty and generosity.

We offered more North American hunts to our membership through the hard work of Jared Whitworth reaching out to anyone and everyone in the Who's Who of Hunting in North America and soliciting their donations and more. Thank you, Jared! Alice Monarch, without whose worldwide rolodex of outfitters and guides we would have been sorely at a loss and her complete attention to the smallest of details in the wording of donations cannot be understated. Her help was crucial to everyone having a good understanding of what was being offered and the conditions under which it was given. She coordinated the complete Online Hunting Auction effort, the KYSCI Webpage presentation and the Award-Winning Auction Program spending huge amounts of time making absolutely sure everything was correct. Thank You, Alice!

Nancy and Lowell Stevens once again put on stellar Silent and Super Silent Auctions highlighted by Nancy's hard work and creativity in presentation! Thank you, Nancy and Lowell!! New Member Pat Hayden of KYGUNCO graciously completed all our firearms transactions and his donation to our Silent Auction helped make it a huge success also. Thank you!

Our venue, the Audubon Country Club, again supported us at a level unheard of in today's service environment. An excellent meal, served with great care and attended professionally seems to be their trademark. Thanks to Sherry Haley and Chef Eric for their support and suggestions! We look forward to seeing them next February 10th. Mark your calendars NOW FOR OUR NEXT GREAT FUNDRAISING EVENT!!



James Alex Robards, winner of the Sam Monarch Memorial Scholarship, masterfully delivered a heart-felt "Thank You" speech before a full house and Sam's family.



Alan Kirschenbaum was honored as the "Chapter Member of the Year." Alan was selected for his exceptional work as Membership Chairman and Vice President.



For his past service as President of KYSCI, Bob Edwards was awarded a beautifully crafted custom-made KYSCI commemorative knife.





# KDFWR Summary Data 2022-23 Deer Season

The 2022-23 Kentucky deer hunting season opened on Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022, closed on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023, and saw a total of 144,493 harvested deer reported across the Commonwealth. The season saw the highest harvest since 2019 and the fourth highest harvest in the last decade. Total harvest for the 2022-23 season exceeded the 10-year average by nearly 2,000 deer (Average=142,708).

Forty-five percent (65,332) of the harvest was comprised of females, while 49% was antlered males (71,140). Antlerless male harvest accounted for 6% of the total harvest and

10% of the male harvest. Yearling males (indicated by an antler spread of <11") accounted for 21.4% of the male harvest while mature bucks (≥2.5 years old) made up 68.4%. These breakdowns are consistent with harvests in the last five years.

Strong Modern Gun and Youth seasons resulted in 104,876 deer harvested with a firearm (73%). This was followed by archery equipment (15,667; 11%), crossbows (13,266; 9%), and muzzle-loader (10,684; 7%). This breakdown is identical to last year's season and has remained relatively consistent in the last five years.

Statewide deer permits accounted for 76% of the harvest while landowner tags comprised 17% of deer telechecked. This was followed by Senior/Disabled licenses at 7% of the harvest while in-season Deer Control Tags accounted for 1%. These percentages are identical to the 2021-22 season.

Over the last 10 years, there has been a slight decline in the proportion of deer harvested by residents. Kentucky residents accounted for 114,259 deer harvested in the 2022-23 season (79%), the lowest percentage of resident harvest in the last decade. We also note the highest harvest by non-residents in the last decade with 22,365 deer taken (15%).

Youth/unknown residency had the highest harvest in the last decade, likely due to a stellar Youth Weekend in October where harvest doubled from 2021-22.

The Green River region finished the season with the highest harvest of any region (29%; 41,839), slightly exceeding the Bluegrass (28%; 40,548). These were followed by the Southeast (17%; 23,938), Purchase (15%; 21,494), and Northeast (12%; 16,611) regions.

Christian	3471	Anderson	1931	Barren	1389	Mason	1025	Knox	711	Leslie	473
Hardin	3390	Caldwell	1852	Laurel	1374	Campbell	1014	Edmonson	695	Clinton	466
Shelby	2928	Bullitt	1792	Lewis	1344	Kenton	1001	Hancock	691	Harlan	458
Breckinridge	2863	Spencer	1785	Mercer	1309	Cumberland	981	Trimble	690	Russell	456
Pendleton	2812	Todd	1759	Meade	1298	Whitley	941	Woodford	686	Boyle	449
Crittenden	2707	Calloway	1742	Lincoln	1287	Daviess	933	Perry	664	Montgomery	426
Hart	2699	Grant	1723	Casey	1281	Fleming	932	Knott	632	Jessamine	421
Washington	2697	Bracken	1718	Franklin	1251	Lawrence	924	Morgan	618	Elliott	406
Nelson	2617	Livingston	1713	Carter	1245	McLean	889	Garrard	600	Clark	373
Grayson	2614	Henry	1705	Pike	1239	Boyd	804	Johnson	599	Breathitt	366
Hopkins	2608	Harrison	1599	Jefferson	1233	Oldham	802	Rockcastle	583	Fulton	348
Muhlenberg	2340	Adair	1597	Greenup	1223	Nicholas	793	Estill	576	Wolfe	339
Ohio	2339	Butler	1541	Lyon	1168	Gallatin	776	Ballard	554	Lee	310
Trigg	2315	Allen	1495	Scott	1151	Madison	772	Bell	543	Magoffin	301
Graves	2289	Marion	1490	Union	1125	Bath	768	Simpson	537	Powell	298
Owen	2282	Warren	1486	Monroe	1104	Jackson	762	Letcher	527	Owsley	286
Pulaski	2212	Henderson	1453	Wayne	1099	Robertson	733	Rowan	522	Bourbon	274
Webster	2129	Metcalfe	1432	Marshall	1086	Clay	725	Floyd	516	Martin	273
Green	2065	Taylor	1420	Larue	1035	Carroll	720	McCreary	506	Fayette	246
Logan	1995	Boone	1419	McCracken	1030	Carlisle	714	Hickman	505	Menifee	202

**Table 1.** County-specific harvest totals for the 2022-23 Kentucky deer season. Regions: Bluegrass (Blue), Green River (Green), Purchase (Orange), Southeast (Purple), Northeast (Yellow).

## HABITAT IMPROVEMENT CHECKLIST

By KDFWR

### "Spring Checklist"

- \_\_\_ Prescribe burn in preparation to eradicate fescue
  - \_\_\_ Strip disk to promote bare ground & new forb growth
  - \_\_\_ Sow Clover or lespedeza
  - \_\_\_ Sow cool season grasses
  - \_\_\_ Apply lime & fertilizer per soil test to wildlife food plots
- April-May
- \_\_\_ Begin preparation of dove fields
  - \_\_\_ Plant tree & shrub seedlings
  - \_\_\_ Spray herbicide to eradicate fescue
  - \_\_\_ Conduct timber stand improvement & Create brush piles
  - \_\_\_ Establish wildlife mineral licks

### May-June

- \_\_\_ Plant annual grain food plots/dove fields (Do not plant in same location as last year)
- \_\_\_ Sow warm season grasses & wildflowers
- \_\_\_ Hinge-cut cedar trees for living brush piles

For more information, call KDFWR (800) 858-1549

Fig 1. Harvest Total 2013 - 2022

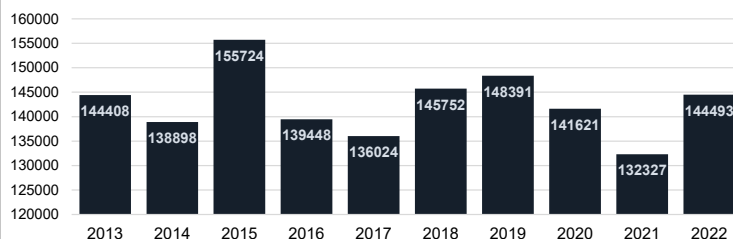
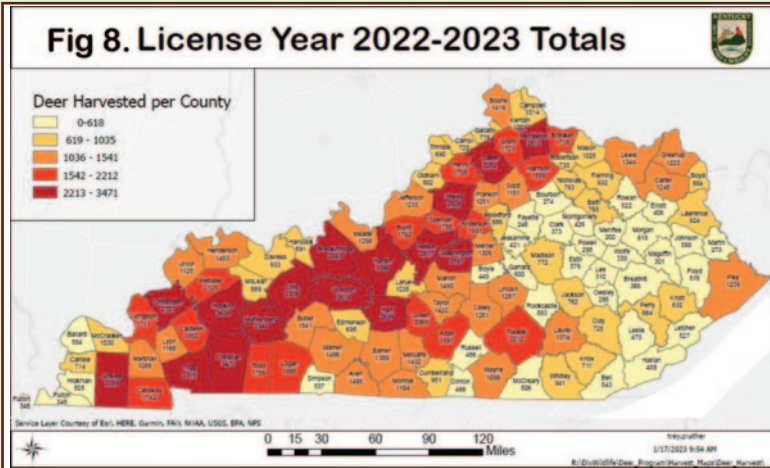


Fig 8. License Year 2022-2023 Totals



# “LEGAL BRIEFS”

By Ivan Schell, Esquire



## FEDERAL NEWS

The Center for Biodiversity has successfully petitioned the US District Court for the District of Columbia to allow the continuation of its suit against the US Fish and Wildlife Service for failing to timely publish 12-month findings on 200 listed species and designations of critical habitat. The Service moved to dismiss the suit as being barred by the six-year statute of limitation. However, the Court found that even though more than six years had run, the obligation to file the reports is ongoing and is therefore not barred by the statute. This is not a decision on the merits of the case, only a decision to allow the suit to continue.

Regular readers may recall that the Center for Biodiversity sued the US Fish and Wildlife Service over the Trump Administration's expansion of hunting opportunities to 147 wildlife refuges. That suit was settled by the Service agreeing to phase out lead ammunition and fishing tackle but not limiting hunter access to the 147 areas. The Service has not complied at this point regarding the lead prohibition regulations and must now respond to the court by June 1, 2023, with its plan for phasing out the use of lead. However, the Service in response to the original suit does now warn hunters who pursue black bears in brown bear areas such as Montana's Swan River National Wildlife Refuge, to carry bear spray. This is intended to reduce the risk of hunters killing grizzly bears in self-defense.

## KENTUCKY NEWS

The KDFWR has expanded night hunting for coyotes with lights and high powered rifles. Now coyotes can be hunted at night all year round on public or private land with bow, crossbow and shotguns, and with lights at night from December 1 thru March 31 and from May 16 thru June 30. On private land, rifles of any caliber (not just .243 and smaller) can now be used at night, along with shotgun slugs and muzzleloaders of .54 caliber or less. As you will notice, the turkey season and most of the deer season is excluded from the use of lights at night. If you are hunting in a county where a deer or elk season is open, additional restrictions apply.

In an effort to reward long-time unsuccessful elk hunt applicants, the KDFWR has initiated a new program (Loyalty Redraw) to allow these hunters to obtain tags which were awarded to other hunters but were never claimed. No reapplication is required for this Kentucky resident-only secondary bonus drawing. KDFWR will notify these hunters who will then have until June 30 to purchase their tag. If these hunters do not purchase the bonus tag the hunters will be reinserted into the regular elk draw queue.

The bear hunting season with firearms is proposed for December 9-11 for Zone 1 and from December 9-13 for Zone 2. Zone 1 is McCreary, Bell, Harlan and Letcher counties. Zone 2 includes 43 other counties listed in the soon-to-be-published hunting guide. Unlike prior years, a hunter can take a bear of either sex and the season does not end when a quota number of harvested females is reached.

## INDIANA NEWS

The only real news in Indiana is that resident hunters at least 18 years old can now become organ donors at the time they purchase a hunting or trapping license online and have that designation on the license.

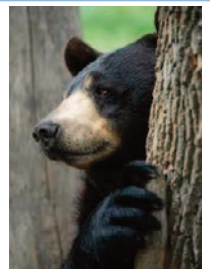
## KYSCI TO HOST MEMBER-GUEST PICNIC

**Kentucky Chapter of SCI Membership Meeting**  
**Audubon Country Club ~ July 15, 2023, 4:00 EDT**

*Bring a Prospective New Member as Our Guest*

*Meet Your New Officers & Directors*

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER: John Hast, PhD, KDFWR Bear & Elk Coordinator**



**The return of Black Bear to Kentucky is a true wildlife success story!**

**FABULOUS DOOR PRIZE:**

**Win a 7-Day South African Plains Game Safari**

**2 Hunters & 2 Observers With Ruan & Gerhard of Deko Safaris**

*([www.dekosafaris.com](http://www.dekosafaris.com)) (Must be present to win!)*

**Please let us know if you're coming so we'll have enough food!!**

**R.S.V.P. by Wednesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> by E-mail to Grace Nonemaker: [admin@kentuckianasci.com](mailto:admin@kentuckianasci.com)**





# Giving Is a Gift We Give Ourselves: The Blue Bag Blessing

By Barbara Miller

As I write this, winter is now in full swing here in Kentucky and I am delighting in days of reflection on the mid-summer “winter” I was blessed to experience in Africa this past July. North of the equator, winter is equated with cold, blowing winds that bring frigid temperatures, snow, and days spent indoors. In contrast, our beautiful African neighbors to the south define their coldest season with cool, crisp mornings capped off with gorgeous sunlit afternoons and sweater-weather evenings. The snowcapped landscapes of rural Breckinridge County are, at times, breathtaking, but the bush, animals, deserts, mountains, sand dunes and coastal regions of Africa are snapshots of unique beauty that make lasting impressions on the human mind. Amazing weather and varying landscapes proved the perfect backdrop for our 14-day photo safari through Zimbabwe, Botswana, and Namibia.

Since returning from this trip, my mind has been locked in focus mode on all the beauties and wonders of Africa, but with those reflections have come long lists of blessings and things I need to be more thankful for on a daily basis. I am thankful that food is plentiful on my daily table, that my “hut” is warmed and cooled with seasonal regularity, that electricity is always one flip of the switch away, that work is plentiful, that transportation is available, that school is required and not just available to only those who can provide their supplies and pay their way. I offer a heart of gratitude for being afforded the opportunity to travel and witness first-hand the splendor of other places, yet still board the plane for home knowing how truly blessed I really am when compared with much of the world’s population.

This 16-day African journey was experienced with my husband, Joe, and the beautiful St. Clair family: Sherry, Eric, and their fabulous teenage children, Ava and Roman. Most of the trip was planned and coordinated by Sherry. Joe and I were more than blessed to be invited to travel with this young, energetic, and compassionate family. The St. Clair family had experienced Africa 4-years earlier but longed to see more. I had been to Kenya on a mission trip in 1986. Joe had travels in Africa still on his bucket list when it became a reality. Our two families met often as we outlined what we desired our trip to look like. Both families agreed that one big feature of our trip must contain a “Giving Back” component. We wanted to be on mission as we encountered folks in need while on this journey. Each of our families set aside funds to finance this project. Additionally, I sent a request to the Kentuckiana Chapter of SCI telling them of our plans and asking them for their assistance. Not only did we receive a \$250 matching grant from this generous organization and an introduction to their BLUE BAG service project, we received generous personal donations from two of their leaders: Alice Monarch and Sherry Maddox.

Since Sherry St.Clair and I are both educators, our first plan of action was to work through a school in the Victoria Falls area, supplying school necessities for the children. We understood that children commonly could not attend school without basic school supplies that they had to furnish themselves. In addition to supplying individual learners with basic supplies, we desired to enhance the school’s

supply of library books, maps, visual resource materials, and sports equipment. After several inquiries and research, we were told that this particular school no longer needed the type of assistance we were able to offer, but asked for financial help targeted to paying the salary of a teacher. Knowing this was not within our financial realm, and having a strong desire to directly impact individual needs, we made the decision to target basic necessities like adequate food, hygiene, developmental toys, and learning supplies for the general population.

Our first afternoon in Victoria Falls, we asked our tour host, Jaco



Van Der Merwe owner of Panache Photographic Safaris, if he would take us to a local market so the six of us could experience shopping for items to place in our SCI Blue Bag and distribute at the well-known craft market where the local folks gathered to sell their handmade crafts. He gladly supported our project and took us to OK-Mart, Zimbabwe’s version of Wal-Mart. We stuffed the bag with milk, hygiene products, protein bars, balls, trucks, dolls, juice drink mix and candy for the children of the community. The distribution at times resembled a mob scene as the adults begged for soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and “treats” for their families. Some of the locals



stepped in with crowd control as they convinced their people we were there to share with them and chaos would not be tolerated. It was a humbling experience to see both adults and children with outstretched hands pleading for items that we deem so ordinary. It was heartwarming to witness community leaders attempt to control their own people for the betterment of all. We passed out \$225.64 worth of supplies; we left with what seemed like 225 million dollars’ worth of smiles and thank you’s!



Our next mission experience took place on Sunday morning while staying at Chobe River Camp. We had discussed with Jaco our desire to go shopping again and make purchases of items to distribute to the villages that we saw on our way into the resort the previous day. He asked one of the workers at breakfast, a sweet young gal named Christina, if she could give us directions to a place nearby where we could purchase some basic items for our project. She immediately replied that she would like to go with us and could help us select appropriate items. She lived in one of the nearby villages and knew exactly where we could go and what we needed to purchase to best help the folks who would be our next recipients. Next thing we knew, she was donning a million-dollar smile, putting on her coat, and climbing into the front seat of Jaco’s

van. She was a pure gift to our mission endeavor! Christina directed us over the 30-minute long, pothole ridden, road to an area that contained three or four small places of business. We entered the Lutabile Trading Center to find only a few items of each kind on the four long wooden shelves that they deemed a grocery store. She was invaluable in guiding our purchases while showing such deep compassion for her people and expressing to us her thankfulness for our desire to help them. We were so moved by the experience; we could have purchased the entire stock of the store yet feared that draining their supply could cause problems for others who came to shop and found the stock depleted. With Christina’s help, we were led to overcome that worry. We purchased sugar, salt, flour, maize, non-refrigerated milk, bread, rice, porridge, and oil. She suggested we add some flavored drink concentrates that the children would be thrilled to have to put in their water as a special treat. Her eyes lit up when she saw

some rolls of brightly-colored wrapping paper that the children would be so excited to put around their books to protect them as school was starting the next day in their village. Feeling then that other school supplies would be needed, she directed us to a second store where we were able to purchase pencils, pens, sharpeners, erasers, reams of paper, and soap. Christina mentioned that the children would need candles and matches to provide proper lighting to do their schoolwork at night. That one was a heartstopper as we left feeling so privileged and blessed as we reflected on our environments for learning and the educational systems that Sherry and I had both worked in as teachers and instructional supervisors back home. We picked up a few sweet treats for the children... hoping to evoke some big smiles to help dry away our tears from the emotions of the morning. We concluded our shopping with purchases of paper products and hygiene items that Christina hinted were so badly needed. Our hearts were filled; our van was packed to overflowing, and we were off to distribute some love from KYSCI, some of its generous leaders, and our two families!



Christina led the way as Jaco drove us to five different villages to distribute our gifts. As we entered each village, Christina would get out first, approach the village leader, explain the "Big Blue Bag" mission, organize the children and their parents, and escort them to our van for our distribution process. Often the children would sing or dance for us with faces aglow... what they did not do was push, shove, or act greedy in anyway. Whatever they received, seemed to be a gift straight from heaven. We had a very special Sunday "doing" church as we prepared children from five villages to be nourished, encouraged, and prepared to have a great start to a hopefully life-altering institution called school. Our entire van load of goods cost us a whopping \$150.00. We could purchase so much in the African economy, we were beginning to fear that we would never be able to purchase enough to deplete our designated fund pool. That did not end

up being a problem.

On the way from Hakusembe Lodge to Etosha National Okukauja Camp, which was about a six hour drive, we stopped in the town of Gfontein for lunch. Sherry, Ava, and I made use of our lunch time by shopping at a K n-Pay and loading up once again supplies to distribute to the many walls we encountered along the road. We spent \$85 and enjoyed seeing the surprised faces of the people when we handed them unexpected treats and gifts of nourishment. In addition, we gave some of these purchases to families who lived and worked on the grounds where we stayed.

The last act of our "Blue Bag" project was to donate money to the Gondwana Care Trust who sponsors a Back-to-School project through their chain of hotel and lodges. Every Gondwana facility where we stayed offered us an opportunity to partner with them to purchase prepared kits of basic school supplies, something special at Christmas for each learner, and a sweet treat or two to reward these learners for their performance. We spent \$234 to purchase 15 of these kits where we resided at the Zambezi Mubala Lodge and the Delight Hotel in Swakopmund, Namibia.

We left Africa feeling exhilarated! We had experienced all the beauty that a continent could contain. We saw nature at its finest with animals galore. We traveled for 14-days enthralled with breathtaking experiences including Ava's bungee jump off the Zambezi River Bridge and the St. Clair's thrills hiking and 4-wheeling on some of the world's largest sand dunes. We had all been afforded a trip of a lifetime. We received in abundance from the folks that call Africa home; we were more than blessed to have spent part of this fabulous journey blessing others along the way!

Sincere thanks to KYSCI, Alice Monarch, and Sherry Maddox for partnering with us financially as we put heart into the project and on the ground as ambassadors for yet one more addition to the "Blue Bag" blessing for others!



Flood Relief Efforts  
In Hazard

## KHFH Best Year Yet!

By Tom Hebert

*Kentucky Hunters for the Hungry* had its best year ever with a total of 2,316 deer donated during the combined 2022 deer seasons for a total of 94,054 pounds of nutritious ground venison. Using the USDA formula of 4 meal servings per pound that equates to 376,216 individual meal servings! The 2,316 deer represents an increase of 405 donated deer over the 2021 deer seasons and 208 more than our previous best year of 2,108 for the 2019 deer seasons. Thanks to all who made deer and/or monetary donations to help further the KHFH mission of alleviating hunger in Kentucky.



## Super Easy, Stove Top Stuffing Meatloaf (Really Yummy)

By Joyce Cook

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 Pounds Ground Beef
- 2 Eggs
- 6 Oz. Stovetop Stuffing Mix  
(any flavor)
- 1 Cup Beef Broth
- 1/4 Teaspoon Salt
- 1/2 Cup ketchup
- 1/4 Cup Brown Sugar



**DIRECTIONS:** Put the hamburger meat, eggs, stuffing mix, ketchup, and salt in a large mixing bowl and mix well. Place the mixture in a well-greased bread loaf pan. Bake at 350° for 60 to 70 minutes until done. During the last 15 minutes of cooking time, spread the ketchup/brown sugar mixture on top of the meatloaf. ENJOY!!

# Calling All Chapter Members – Please Step Up

By Sherry Maddox

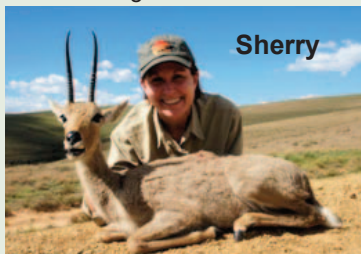
The Kentuckiana Chapter Election Committee is asking for nominations to fill open positions for the 2023-2024 Chapter Board. Now is the time to think about your willingness to step up and put your name on the ballot!

Members who volunteer to serve on the Kentuckiana Chapter SCI Board will find the chapter is dedicated to our mission to be First for Hunters. With a strong history of successful projects and programs with a focus on youth education and hunter advocacy, the chapter has received many awards and recognition from local and national organizations.

From a personal perspective, I have been part of this chapter's leadership for many years. Some may ask why I continue to serve? It is because I have a passion for preserving our freedom to hunt and fish and pass that along to the next generation. I think there are many who feel as strongly as I that we cannot allow those freedoms to be taken away. Serving as a chapter board member gives you a sense of pride that you were part of the decisions made that make the chapter a success.

Nominations are open for the following positions: Vice-President, Secretary and Director. Each elected position term is two years beginning on July 1, 2023.

The Vice President serves as an elected Officer of the chapter and will assist the President in chapter leadership. Should the President be unable to attend an event or meeting, the Vice President may be requested to attend in his/her place. This elected position will also



serve on the Chapter Executive Committee.

Chapter Secretary serves as an elected Officer and is responsible for attending and taking minutes to record the business of the chapter board. In addition, the secretary may volunteer to serve on a chapter committee(s) at the request of the President or Committee Chairman.

Chapter Directors serve as voting members of the board to conduct chapter business. Directors may be asked to chair or serve on chapter committees and attend events to represent the chapter board. Board meetings are typically held monthly and remote participation by Zoom is available if one is unable to attend in person.

A chapter member may nominate himself/herself to be placed on the election ballot for any position above, or if you know a fellow chapter member whom you would like to nominate, please submit their name. Simply email [admin@kysci.com](mailto:admin@kysci.com) with your name and position you would like to nominate to appear on the election ballot.

If you have questions or want to discuss further reach out to Sherry Maddox at [sherrymaddox52757@gmail.com](mailto:sherrymaddox52757@gmail.com) or by phone (502) 235-0918. All nominations must be received by May 5, 2023.

Not ready to step up as a board member? Please consider volunteering to serve on a chapter committee. This is a great way to become acquainted with board and chapter members contributing to the ongoing success of the Kentuckiana Chapter.

Chapter committees include the following: Membership and Chapter Development, Awards and Recognition, Fundraising, Communications and Publications, Scholarship and Legislative Affairs.

Simply email [admin@kysci.com](mailto:admin@kysci.com) with your name and committee you are interested in joining. The committee chair or a member of the board will reach out to you with more information.

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

### KYSCI MEMBER-GUEST PICNIC • JULY 15, 2023 DEKO SAFARIS 7-DAY AFRICAN PLAINS SAFARI DOOR PRIZE

#### May 5, 2023 – Call for KYSCI Nominations Deadline

KYSCI, P.O. Box 486, Goshen, KY 40026

OR [admin@kentuckianasci.com](mailto:admin@kentuckianasci.com)

#### May 13, 2023 – Elk & Outdoor Festival

401 Glenwood Drive, Bardstown, KY

Contact Bob Edwards: [bob.kysci@gmail.com](mailto:bob.kysci@gmail.com)

#### May 15, 2023 – KYSCI Ballot Email/Mailed

KYSCI, P.O. Box 486, Goshen, KY 40026

OR [admin@kentuckianasci.com](mailto:admin@kentuckianasci.com)

Contact: Sherry Maddox: [sherrymaddox52757@gmail.com](mailto:sherrymaddox52757@gmail.com)

#### May 16, 2023 – KYSCI Board Meeting

Louisville Boat Club at 6:30 EDT

Contact: Lowell Stevens: [Lowell.kysci@gmail.com](mailto:Lowell.kysci@gmail.com)

#### June 10, 2023 – KYSCI Ballots Due

KYSCI, P.O. Box 486, Goshen, KY 40026

OR [admin@kentuckianasci.com](mailto:admin@kentuckianasci.com)

Contact: Sherry Maddox: [sherrymaddox52757@gmail.com](mailto:sherrymaddox52757@gmail.com)

#### June 17, 2023 – Ladies Annie Oakley Range Day

Fern Creek Sportsman's Club

<http://app.fw.ky.gov/eventregistration/startpage.aspx?REGID=364>

#### July 1, 2023 – New Officers & Directors Terms Begin

Contact: Sherry Maddox: [sherrymaddox52757@gmail.com](mailto:sherrymaddox52757@gmail.com)

#### July 15, 2023 – KYSCI Summer Picnic & Meeting

Audubon Country Club, Louisville, KY

Register: Grace Nonemaker: [admin@kentuckianasci.com](mailto:admin@kentuckianasci.com)

Contact: Bob Edwards: [bob.kysci@gmail.com](mailto:bob.kysci@gmail.com)

#### August 12, 2023 – Dove Warm Up

“The Farm” New Albany, IN

Contact: Ivan Schell: [ischell@mcbayerfirm.com](mailto:ischell@mcbayerfirm.com)

#### September 2023 – Chapter Dove Shoot

TBA - Contact: Ivan Schell: [ischell@mcbayerfirm.com](mailto:ischell@mcbayerfirm.com)

#### October 2023 – Whitetail Rifle Sight-In

TBA - [admin@kentuckianasci.com](mailto:admin@kentuckianasci.com)

#### December 11-13, 2023 KYSCI Oklahoma Duck Hunt

Stewart Ranch Outfitters, OK

Register:

<https://stuartranchoutfitters.com/hunts/waterfowl>

Contact: Ivan Schell: [ischell@mcbayerfirm.com](mailto:ischell@mcbayerfirm.com)

#### January 31-February 3, 2024 – SCI Convention

Nashville, TN

Contact: [www.safariclub.org](http://www.safariclub.org)

#### February 10, 2024 – KYSCI Fundraising Banquet

Audubon Country Club, Louisville, KY

[admin@kentuckianasci.com](mailto:admin@kentuckianasci.com)

**JOIN/RENEW YOUR KYSCI, SCI & NRA MEMBERSHIPS TODAY!**

[mysafariclub.org](http://mysafariclub.org) • [home.nra.org](http://home.nra.org) • [www.kentuckianasci.com](http://www.kentuckianasci.com)

SCI YOUTH MEMBERSHIPS ARE NOW AVAILABLE