



FRIDAY NEWS

2026 SAFARI CLUB INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

» SECTION A - FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026



Country Vibe

Good Times at Goodnight Nashville

SECTION B



Welcoming The People Of SCI

SCI Members Swarm the convention floor
Page 14A



Dream Hunt Sweepstakes

Visit SCIF
Booth 3301
Page 13A



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JAN DAMS WINS WEATHERBY AWARD

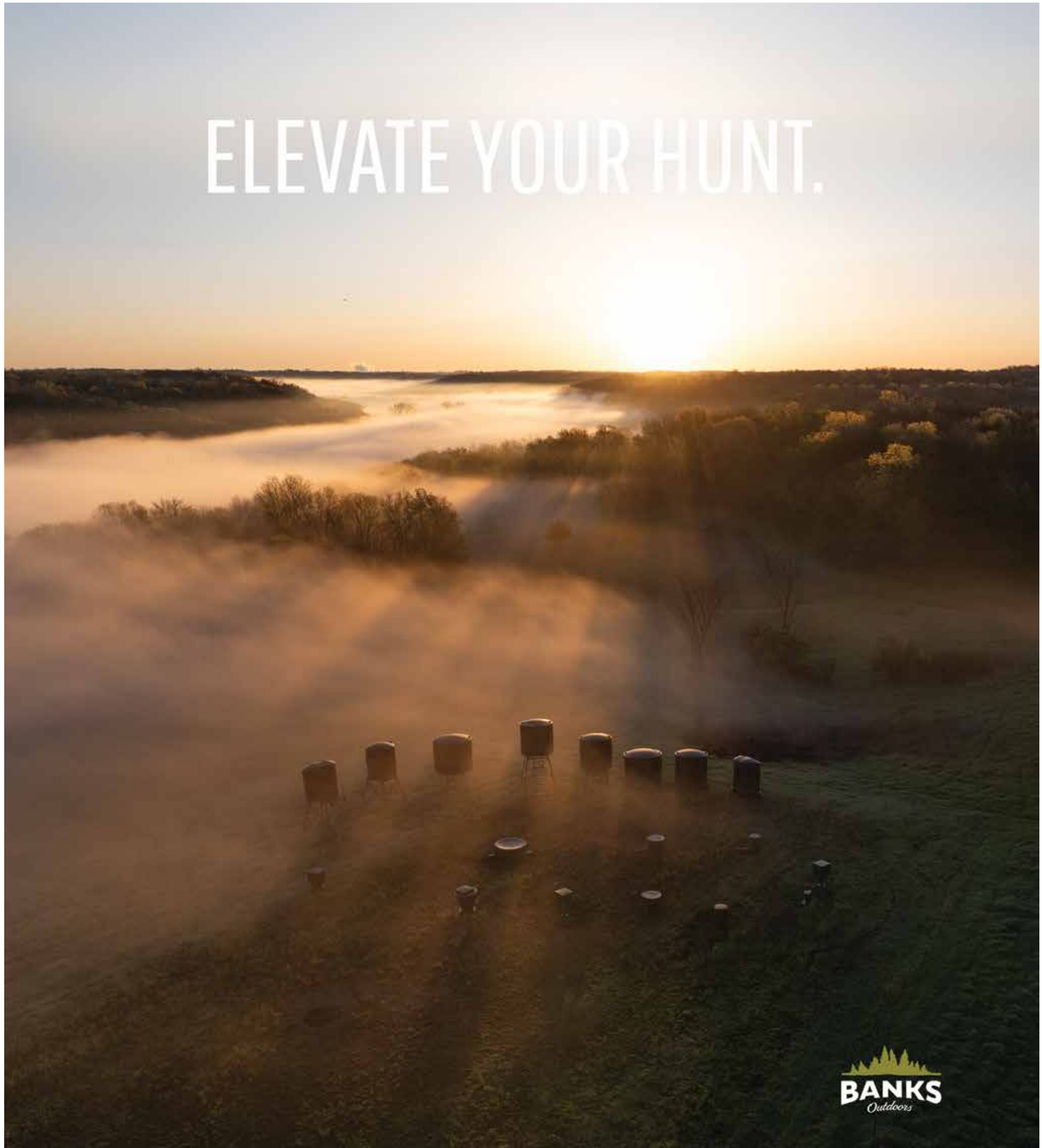
2025 Weatherby Hunting & Conservation Award Honors Lifelong Commitment And Accomplishments

CONTINUE PAGE A3



Dr. Miguel Estade, President of the SCI Europe Committee and SCI Hall of Fame Award winner, left, pins Jan Dams, 2025 Weatherby Hunting & Conservation Award winner, during formal presentation ceremonies Wednesday evening.

ELEVATE YOUR HUNT.



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Red Berets Cap Weatherby Awards

Jan Dams Wins 2025 Weatherby Hunting & Conservation Award



Aclaimed international hunter Jan Dams was presented the prestigious Weatherby Foundation Hunting & Conservation Award on Wednesday night during the 68th Weatherby Foundation International Gala at the Music City Center Ballroom.

Dams was recognized for his exemplary sportsmanship, unparalleled achievements in hunting across five continents and his dedication to conservation through the years.

Dams was born in Herentals, Belgium, in 1954, and began hunting after his grandfather gave him a .22 rifle when he was 7 years old.

Since then, Dams has dedicated most of his life to hunting and conservation, traveling to five continents and hunting more than 2,000 big game animals, including more than 30 from the African Big Five.

Also honored at the gala, were the five finalists for the Award. They were Jeff Demaske, Jay Link, Deron Millman, Gervasio Negrete and Andrey Zaika.

Weatherby Award winner Jan Dams, right, joins Dr. Miguel Estade next to the physical Weatherby Award on stage during formal presentation ceremonies.



Tom Riles served as Master of Ceremonies for the Weatherby Award gala.



Dr. Miguel Estade served as the presenter of the 2025 Award.



Fausti Shotgun Auctioned

Shown here, from left, Giovanna and Barbara Fausti show the side-by-side shotgun they donated for this year's SCI Convention. The gun was auctioned off last night.



Swarovski Optik, Nightforce and Leupold scope packages are available from Arrowhead. A key highlight at SCI is its turnkey rifle-and-optic packages — professionally mounted, leveled and field-ready.

Arrowhead Rifles Brings New Precision Muzzleloader To Convention

Arrowhead Rifles is showcasing its patented muzzleloader technology, precision custom rifles and premium optics packages at booth 805.

"We're excited to be exhibiting at SCI for the first time," said Luke Horak, owner of Arrowhead Rifles. "SCI brings together some of the most dedicated hunters in the world, and we look forward to connecting with members who value precision, innovation and personal service."

Arrowhead is advancing the muzzleloader market with its patented Gen2 ignition system, designed to enhance reliability, consistency and ease of maintenance. Muzzleloader packages start at \$5,500.

Its performance-focused muzzleloaders are engineered for 500-yard and beyond capability, delivering extend-


ed-range precision while remaining capable of running smokeless powder (in approved configurations) or Blackhorn 209.

Founded in 2011 and based in Phoenix, Arizona, Arrowhead Rifles has also built a national reputation for designing and manufacturing high-performance custom hunting rifles engineered for demanding Western big game pursuits.

Specializing in modern long-range cartridges such as 7 PRC and .300 PRC, each rifle is purpose-built for accuracy, durability and real-world field performance. Every build reflects meticulous attention to detail and a commitment to delivering confidence when the moment of truth arrives.

For more information, visit booth 805 or arrowheadrifles.com.

40 Years experience.



Visit Booth #2025



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- Reduced cost: **\$9,900.00USD** plus tax and license.
- Dates available are from mid March to mid April 2026.
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Visit our Website ameri-cana.com for details.

**Call or text us in our booth now.
Nick: 780-777-6070 or Dan: 780-777-5777**



The Hogue Knives' new Mysto Wood everyday-carry drop point is a quality field-dressing and skinning knife at a competitive price.

Hogue Debuts Mysto Wood Knife

Hogue Knives' new Mysto Wood features a Maple Valley Richlite frame, with a laser-engraved topographic pattern inspired by the geographic origin of Hogue Inc. on the Central Coast of California.

The everyday-carry knife is made to be a precision-built folder while remaining competitively priced. A 3.4-inch drop point CPM MagnaCut steel blade sports an all-new black stonewash finish and boasts premium cutting power.

At 2.5 ounces, the Mysto maintains an

extremely light weight without compromising strength, culminating in the ideal EDC.

Also at its booth, Hogue is displaying its Flex Fillet knife. The exceedingly thin, curved blade profile allows the knife to glide freely through scales and skin, minimizing waste and maximizing flavor.

Hogue knives are made in the USA with domestic materials and are backed by three generations of manufacturing expertise.

Visit booth 3209 or hogueknives.com.



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BE RELENTLESS.

Everything You Need To Know About The SCI Convention

Welcome To The Safari Club International Convention.

SCI is the global leader in defending the freedom to hunt and promoting sustainable use wildlife conservation. Its annual Convention is a cornerstone event for the hunting and outdoor industry, featuring more than 900 exhibitors, live and silent auctions, educational workshops and major networking opportunities.

In its 54th year, this promises to be the benchmark in the industry for all hunters, collectors of fine firearms and art for any outdoors enthusiast. The SCI Convention is the place to find just about anything a hunting family could ever dream of having.



For 2026, the SCI Convention is embracing even more of the city of Nashville, extending past the Music City Center to explore the heart of the downtown scene. These moments of exploration in famed buildings like the Ryman Auditorium will create a once-in-a-lifetime memory for all attendees.

The SCI Convention is truly a place where all hunters are welcomed, embraced and celebrated as true conservationists. Nearly 18,000 attendees are expected.

See old friends and meet new ones. Reminisce about past adventures and plan some more for the future. Welcome. Enjoy.

SHOW DATES

February 18-21, 2026
Music City Center
201 Rep. John Lewis Way S,
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

REGISTRATION HOURS

10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 17
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 19
8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Friday, Feb. 20
8 a.m. to 3 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21

SHOW HOURS

9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Feb. 18-21
The world's finest professional hunters, outfitters, gunmakers and artists feature nearly 1,000 extraordinary exhibits over 182,400 square feet of space at the annual Convention. It's truly the Ultimate Sportsman's Marketplace.

NIGHT EVENTS

Tuesday

SCI Foundation Conservation
Leadership Award Gala sponsored by Beretta,
Omni Hotel,
Broadway Ballroom
6-10:30 p.m.
A black-tie gala

Wednesday

Boots, Beer & Broadway at
Jelly Roll's Goodnight Nashville
6:30-9:30 p.m.
Nashville "Night Out" attire

Thursday

Night at the Ryman at the
Legendary Ryman Auditorium
VIP entry, 5 p.m. General admission, 5:30 p.m.
Attire is Music City cocktail

Friday

Dinner, Auction & Entertainment
at the Music City Center Grand Ballroom, Level 4
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
Evening elegance attire

Saturday

Dinner, Auction & Entertainment
at the Music City Center Grand Ballroom, Level 4
Doors open at 6 p.m.
Black tie gala

Sunday

Grand Slam Club/
Ovis Dinner Awards Banquet
at the Music City Center Grand Ballroom, Level 4
at 6 p.m.
Music City cocktail or gala

TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING

For parking at Music City Center, there is a garage located at 701 Demonbreun Street. Primary access is through P3 at the intersection of 7th Ave. and Demonbreun Street, with auxiliary access — P1 and P2 — along 6th Ave. The lots charge from \$25 for parking up to five hours. Overnight charge is \$45. No trailers are allowed at this parking site.

SCOOTER RENTAL

Pick up scooters at the Level 1 Foyer near Room 101A in the Music City Center

Hours of operation, 12-5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Wednesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

Visit scootaround.com/en/safariclub for more information.

EVENT & REGISTRATION FAQS

Q: How do I get my tickets?

A: You can pick up your tickets at the registration counter on Level 2 or skip past the lines and use one of our kiosks. For kiosks: Just scan the barcode that you received by email on Feb. 9, and your tickets will print in seconds. If you still need to buy tickets, go to convention.safariclub.org, where you will also see options to purchase evening events as well. Please note that dinner tickets are required for evening event entry.

Q: Can I bring a guest?

A: Yes, each active member may bring only one guest. Guests don't need to be members but must have a paid registration.

Q: Do I need to be a member to attend?

A: Yes, the SCI Convention is a members-only event. You must have an active SCI membership to attend. Those who want to join SCI can sign up at the convention center.

Q: What if I lose or forget my badge?

A: Lost or forgotten badges are subject to a \$75 replacement fee per badge. Lanyards will be available at the registration counter on Level 3 and elsewhere around the Convention.

SEMINARS

Check convention.safariclub.org or the app to see the many free seminars taking place all four days.

GOING, GOING... AUCTIONS!

This year's lineup includes:

- Live Auction at Goodnight Nashville on Wednesday
- Signature auction night at the historic Ryman Auditorium on Thursday
- Advocacy Night with special guests and live Yacht Rock on Friday
- Evening Gala featuring Little Big Town on Saturday. Details of evening events and tickets are at convention.safariclub.org

While auctions are going on in person in Nashville, you can also go online to bid on the same items. Visit onlinehuntingauctions.com/Safari-Club-International_ae1906 or scan the QR code below to register and see what's on the auction block.

Proceeds from all events directly support SCI and SCI Foundation mission programs in hunting advocacy, wildlife conservation and humanitarian services.

Scan for online auction registration.



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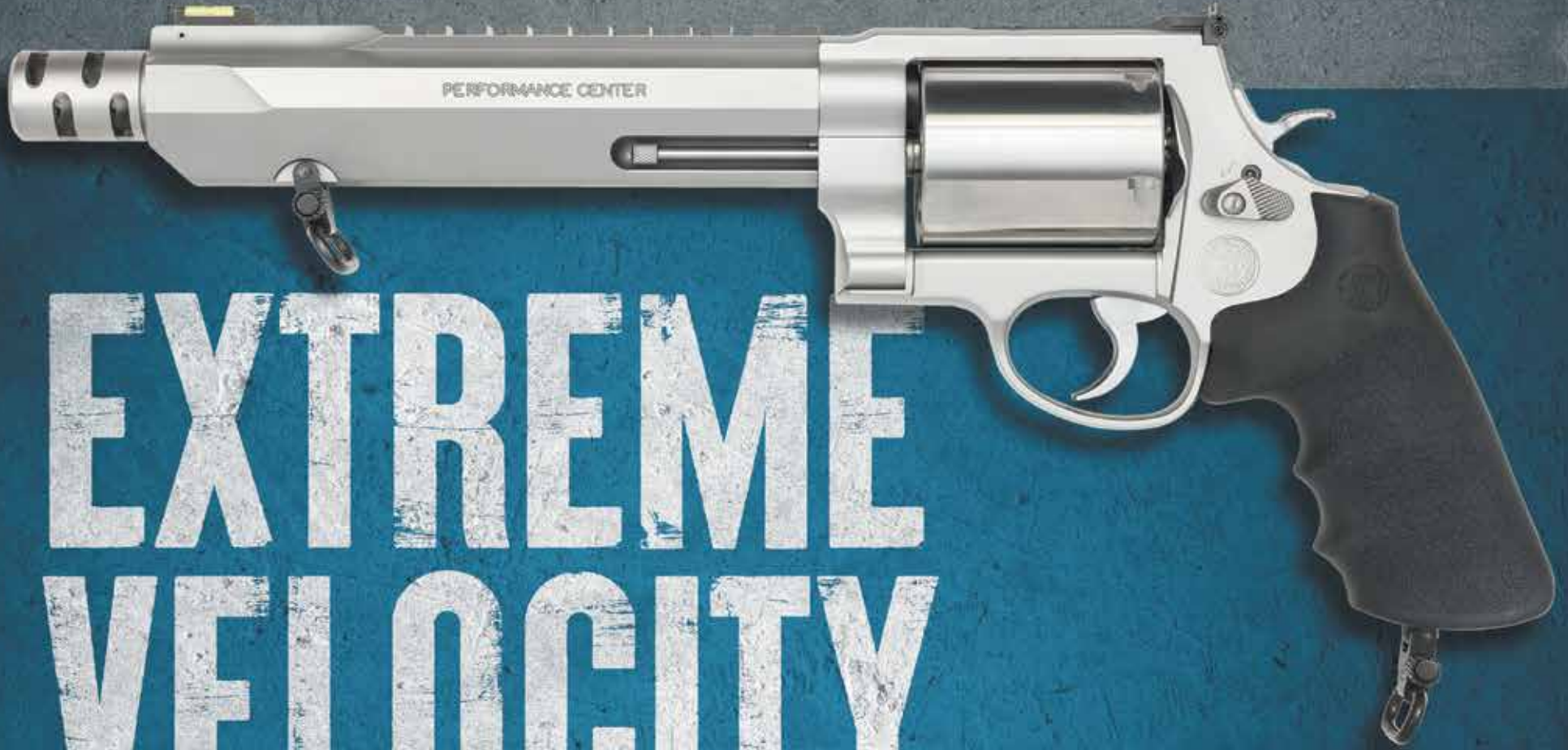
Make things a breeze by downloading the SCI Convention 2026 app on your smart phone or device by going to the App Store or Google Play.



More information is available at convention.safariclub.org or download the 2026 SCI Convention app from App Store or Google Play for the latest updates and events.



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Sables Brunch Brings The Fun To Convention

Join us for the Sables Brunch today at 8:30 a.m. at the Omni Hotel, where “Denim, Diamonds and Divas” set the stage for a morning of fantastic auction items, great food, lively entertainment and unforgettable fun.

Celebrate with fellow supporters who share a passion for education, conservation, and the future of hunting. Proceeds raised from this event go toward supporting SCIF Education Programs.

Tickets are still available and can be purchased online and at the SCIF-Sables Education Booth 3341.



Don't miss a morning full of fun during the Sables Brunch today at the Omni Hotel.



Don't miss the story of collaboration, recovery and sustainable wildlife management during the screening of the film “From the Brink: Louisiana’s Black Bear Recovery.”

See New Film Of Louisiana’s Black Bear Recovery

Join us for a powerful 30-minute film documenting the extraordinary recovery of the Louisiana black bear today from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in room 202A at Music City Center.

Once federally listed and on the brink of extinction, this subspecies has become a true conservation success — and a regulated game animal.

Hosted by Kristy Titus and SCIF’s Maria Davidson, the film explores what real conservation success looks like and how hunters, private landowners and science based management made it possible.

This is a must see story of collaboration, recovery and sustainable wildlife management.

Veterans Breakfast Honors Those Who Served Our Nation



Trijicon will be the sponsor of this year’s Veterans Breakfast at 8 a.m. at the Omni Hotel.

SCI is pleased to honor the men and women who have served our country at the Veterans Breakfast. This special event begins at 8 a.m. at the Omni Hotel.

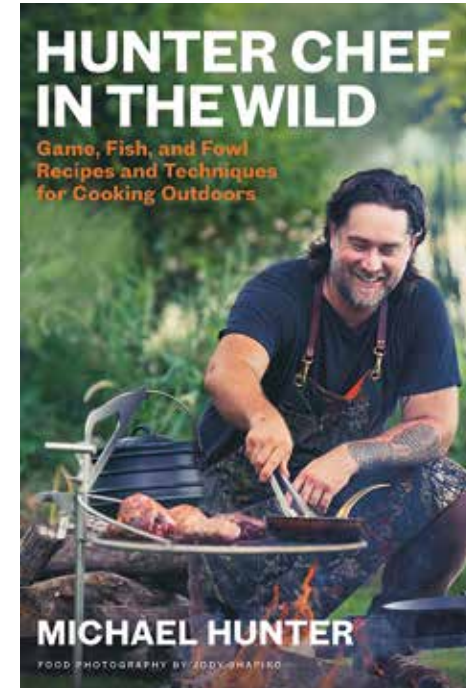
Veterans are invited to enjoy complimentary admission and breakfast, with all members welcome to attend.

Tickets are available online and at the Veterans Breakfast. This event was made

possible through the generous support of Trijicon.

Each year, SCI Foundation and the SCIF Veterans Committee recognize chapters that have gone above and beyond in sponsoring activities for veterans and their families.

These awards are proudly presented during the Veterans Breakfast at the SCI Convention.



Get your taste buds going during a live cooking demonstration with Michael Hunter today on the showroom floor main stage.

Cook With The Hunter Chef

Join Michael Hunter “The Hunter Chef” from 1-2 p.m. today on the showroom floor main stage for a live cooking demonstration featuring Bear Ragù with Smoked Cheddar Polenta, inspired by his new book *Hunter Chef in the Wild*.

Following the demo, SCIF’s Large Carnivore Manager Maria Davidson and TV and Podcast Host Kristy Titus will join Michael for a taste test and an engaging conversation about bear conservation, hunting and wild-game cooking.



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SEE THE UNSEEN

Women Hunters Find Success At Legends Ranch

Fourteen women were sponsored by SCI's Women Go Hunting Program to deer hunt this past December at the Legends Ranch in Michigan.

Many of them hunted for the first time ever. Others had hunted before but never harvested a deer. All 14 women took deer over the four-day event, which is part of the Legends Ranch Learn to Hunt Program.

The experience included conservation education at the Wildlife Center at Legends Ranch, firearms training at the on-site shooting range, two days of guided hunting on the 2,000-acre deer preserve and demonstrations on preparing and cooking venison.

Six of the participants won the hunt at the SCI Convention in Nashville, Tennessee, last January through the free Women Go Hunting Sweepstakes. The others were SCI employees who wanted to experience the thrill and passion for hunting enjoyed by the nearly 50,000 SCI members they serve every day.

Stop by the Women Go Hunting booth 3306 for information on new sweepstakes and other events and opportunities. The program's annual Ladies Mix & Mingle event is at 10 a.m., Saturday at the Nashville Omni Hotel.

For more information on WGH, contact Barbara Crown at bcrown@scifirstforhunters.org.

SCI Events Project Manager Augie Nobile participated through the scholarship program. Nobile had never been hunting before and had never been exposed to the hunting ethos until she came to work for SCI in 2022.

"When I was offered the opportunity to hunt at Legends Ranch with Women Go Hunting, I knew I couldn't pass it up," she said. "I had often felt like an imposter, working for a hunting organization without being a hunter myself, and this felt like a turning point."



SCI Sales Account Manager Lisa Neely took her first deer at the Legends Ranch at the end of last year. "Women Go Hunting is a perfect place to make friends, get support or learn to hunt," she said.

Nobile said accepting the invitation was her way of fully stepping into the experience and gaining a firsthand understanding about hunting.

"I saw it as an opportunity to truly connect with the mission and purpose of SCI at its core," she said.

Lisa Neely, SCI Sales Account Manager, said she always admired hunters but felt she wasn't fully connected SCI corporate sponsors, members and advertisers because she did not have any hunting experience of her own.

She started looking into beginner hunting options, but couldn't connect with something that felt like she fit in. That changed when WGH sponsored her trip to Legends Ranch.

"This is a perfect hunt learning experience for a woman," she said after tak-

ing her very first deer. "You not only get to learn how to hunt, but you learn all about deer, how to field dress and even how to cook your harvest. WGH is a perfect place to make friends, get support or learn to hunt."

Legends Ranch owner Robert Sergi is a strong proponent of conservation education, having provided more than 13,000 children with tours of the Wildlife Center at the Legends Ranch. He has also generously supported WGH, committing to donating another six slots to the Learn to Hunt Program for the upcoming WGH Sweepstakes to be held at the Convention.

"Women are important to the future of hunting," said Sergi. "At Legends Ranch, we want to help more women know the joys of hunting and become lifelong hunters."



Federal's Custom Shop Turkey Loads are handloaded and are now offered with TSS payloads.

6 New Federal Custom Shop Turkey Loads

Federal's Custom Shop Turkey Loads are handloaded shotshells built to order and offered in various Tungsten Super Shot payloads.

The company is now offering new loads: 3-inch, 12-gauge 2 1/2, ounces in No. 7 and 9 shot; 2 3/4-inch, 12-gauge 2 1/4 ounces in No. 7 and 9 shot; and 3-inch, 28-gauge, 1 11/16 ounces in No. 7 and 9 shot.

Check them out at booth 2914.



Nick Hoffman picks out a lucky ticket during last year's Dream Hunt Sweepstakes.

Bring Your Questions To The State Wildlife Leader Forum

Hunters on Friday can speak with wildlife authorities from six U.S. states and two Canadian provinces at the State Wildlife Agency Directors and Commissioners Forum.

During the event, a panel of state agency directors and commissioners will answer questions about key wildlife management issues and hunting challenges.

This is a unique opportunity to have frank discussions with state wildlife agency directors or commissioners.

Get a nationwide view of how states are managing wildlife, conserving habitat and providing hunting opportunities, while balancing the many opinions of stakeholder groups, including federal and tribal governments.

Panelists include:

- Ben Mulligan – Alaska Department of Fish and Game Deputy Commissioner
- Tom Finley – Arizona Game and Fish Department Director
- Riley Peck – Utah Division of Wildlife Resources Director

- Jason Sumners – Missouri Department of Conservation Director
 - Shannon Lott – Michigan Department of Natural Resources Deputy Director
 - Jason Maxedon – Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Executive Director
 - Todd Loewen – Alberta Minister for Forestry and Parks
 - Wade Istchenko – Yukon Territory Minister for Environment
- The forum is 2:30 to 4 p.m. in Room 202B of the Music City Center.

Dream Hunt Sweepstakes

Be sure to stop by the SCI Foundation booth before Saturday afternoon and sign-up as a monthly donor for a chance to win the annual \$100,000 Dream Hunt Sweepstakes.

At the SCIF booth 3301 at 3 p.m. on Saturday, TV host and Country music star Nick Hoffman will draw the winner.

By signing up as a monthly donor during the event, you'll also be automatically entered into our daily Tricer Bipod giveaway.

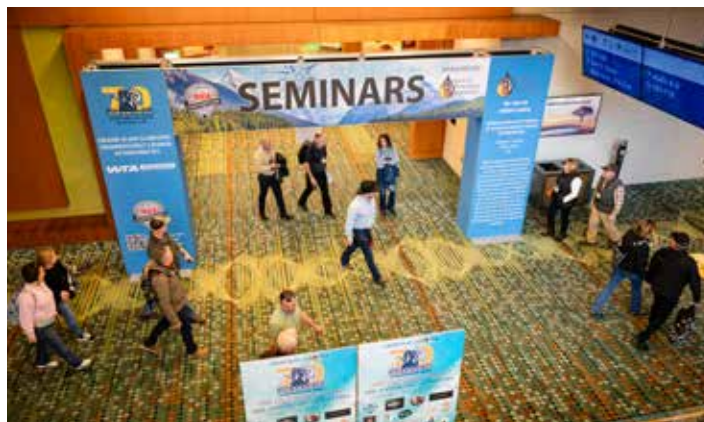
Stop by SCI Foundation booth 3301 and sign-up to win.

Scene Around Convention

The Exhibition Hall Came Alive On Day 1 Of Convention



Hundreds of exhibitors were busy in their booths at this year's SCI convention when it opened on Wednesday. Exhibitors displayed amazing taxidermy, offers for world travel, hunts and gear — like double rifles and bespoke shotguns — that cannot be found anywhere else in the world, all in one massive room. The Convention continues through Saturday. Exhibitors are ready and eager to talk about their opportunities and implements to make you a better hunter and contribute to the mission of SCI: to promote hunters' rights and promote wildlife conservation.



Chapter Accomplishments On Center Stage

Awards Highlight Contribution To Defending Hunters' Rights And Wildlife Conservation

By Stephanie Spika Hickey
SCI Vice President, Chapter Awards Chair

The SCI Chapter awards program aims to shine a spotlight on the remarkable accomplishments of Chapters across the globe. These Chapters are not just local organizations; they are champions of the freedom to hunt, advocating for policies that support sustainable practices, habitat protection and the continuation of our time-honored traditions. Through their dedication, they strengthen the bonds that tie us together as a global hunting community.

More Chapters applied for awards this year than in recent memory, which made the judging that much more competitive. It is important to note that a Chapter may win multiple awards; however, the Diamond Conservation Award winner and the Top Gun Award winner are not eligible to win any other awards. A Chapter may win the same award in consecutive years.

The 2025 Chapter award winners will be honored on stage during the Friday evening banquet. Each winning Chapter also will receive an item, such as a firearm or SCI Life Membership, that

Chapter Seminar On Saturday

Chapter members who are interested in learning more about Chapter awards are invited to attend the seminar — “Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About SCI Awards: Lifetime Achievement Awards and Chapter Awards” — on Saturday from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in room 202 BC.

can be used at their next fundraiser.

Below are the 2025 Chapter awards winners, with brief descriptions of each category.

**Diamond Conservation Award:
Greater Dacotah Chapter**

This award is given to the Chapter demonstrating the most outstanding conservation efforts.

**Top Gun Award:
West Texas Chapter**

This award is given to the Chapter demonstrating the greatest success across every category.

**Chapter of the Year Award
(Under 250 Members):
Teddy Roosevelt Chapter**

**Chapter of the Year Award
(Over 250 Members):
San Angelo Chapter**

This award is given to the Chapter demonstrating the greatest success overall, broken into two categories based on the membership size of the Chapter.

**Community Impact Award:
California Sierra Chapter**

This award is given to the Chapter demonstrating the largest impact in its local community.

**Digital Presence Award:
Phoenix Chapter**

This award is given to the Chapter demonstrating excellent digital presence, including website and social media.

Publications Award:

Northeast Wisconsin Chapter

This award is given to the Chapter with the best publication, regardless of medium. This category includes magazines (both print and digital) and newsletters (both print and digital).

**Revenue Growth Award:
Wine Country Chapter**

This award is given to the Chapter whose 30% contribution grew the most over the previous year, as a percentage.

**Membership Growth Award:
Garden State Chapter**

This award is given to the Chapter whose membership has grown the most, as a percentage increase.

Congratulations to these Chapters for their accomplishments, and congratulations to all Chapters that applied for awards!

Chapters are judged on activities from the preceding fiscal year (July 1-June 30). All chapters are encouraged to apply for Chapter awards annually. Applications become available in July and are due by Sept. 15 each year, so mark your calendar and be sure to check in with your Chapter Service Specialist to receive an application.

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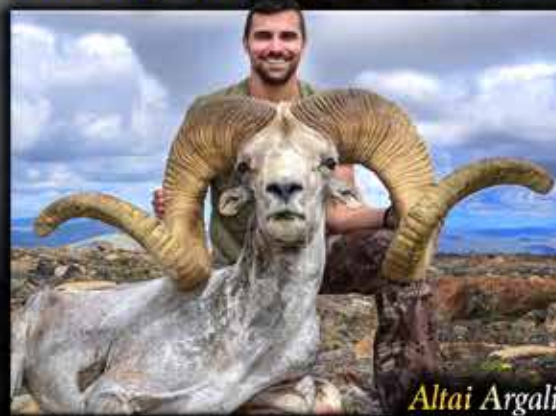
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