



2023 Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt Hunter Bios

Gus Bader – TriStar: Gus launched American Arms in the 1980's. When he sold the company, he thought he would get out of the firearms business for a while. In 2003, former AA employees approached him to run their business TriStar Arms. Bader took over part ownership of TriStar Arms in 2005 and is currently President. Gus is a founding sponsor and Board Member for the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt and provides the Top Gun for the winning hunter.

Joe Bisogno – Goodcents and Timber Hills: Joe Bisogno (pronounce bezone) founded Goodcents Deli Fresh Subs in 1989 after many years with the McDonald's Corporation. There are now over 70 franchised locations across the country. He began the Goodcents Foundation and supports several other organizations. Joe is a founding sponsor and Board Member for the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt.

Laura Burgess – Vista Outdoor: Laura comes to this hunt as the Senior Director of Human Resources for Vista Outdoor.

Katelynn Childers – YOUTH PROGRAM: Katelynn comes from Toronto Kansas and has a deep respect for all things outdoors. She enjoys hunting, fishing, riding bikes and kayaking. She also enjoys painting, belonging to Art Club. Other activities include Reading Club and Kays Club.

Elizabeth Christensen – Federal - Vista Outdoor: Elizabeth is a Minnesota native and is the Director of Human Resources of Federal Ammunition and HEVI-Shot. She is an eager new hunter and mom of two amazing kids.

Mike Christensen – Pass It On Outdoor Mentors: Mike was hired by Big Brothers Big Sisters as the director of the outdoor mentoring program in 2002. By 2006, this program spun off into a 501c3 organization called Pass It On, recruiting mentors to spend time with youth hunting and fishing. Mike grew up in Western Kansas and now he and his wife make their home in Wichita, Kansas.

Jarod Ford – YOUTH PROGRAM: Jarod comes from Great Bend, Kansas and is very involved in hunting and probably enjoys the waterfowl season the best with turkey and upland close behind. He is very involved in school activities such as football, baseball, jag program and hopes to be in the golf program. He spends some free time helping with a guide service around the Great Bend, Kansas area.

Tom Goldsmith – Infinity from Marvin: Tom is the Senior Director of Sales and Marketing of Infinity from Marvin, a premium window replacement and experience out of Minnesota. Tom comes to Kansas as an invite from the Kansas Dept of Commerce.



George Hanson – Stueve Seigel Hanson LLP: Knowledge of the wage and hour laws, George has been named lead or co-lead for many federal and state cases across the country. He also presents on wage and hour law for seminars and continuing legal education programs. George spends his free time on his property in Greenwood County.

Gracie Herman – NWTF Calling Contest: Gracie is a Nebraska native and is a national turkey caller and participated in the National calling contest at the NWTF Convention in February. Her name was drawn to have a slot in the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt. Gracie is also a very avid and known high school softball player.

Will Ireland – TrueTimber Camo: Will Ireland is a Communications Manager with the Murray Road Agency based out of Charleston, South Carolina. In this position, Will has worked closely with the TrueTimber brand for nearly four years, playing an integral role in leading marketing and public relations efforts as well as developing and maintaining strategic partnerships. Will graduated from Salisbury University where he earned a degree in Communications and Marketing Management. A Mid-Atlantic native, he grew up hunting waterfowl on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Will lives in Charleston, SC, where he spends his off time in the outdoors chasing a variety of fish and game. He is a lifelong hunter, shooter, and outdoorsman.

Brian Johnson – Integrity Windows-Marvin: Brian is the Director of Operations of Integrity Windows and Doors as well as Infinity Windows, both Marvin Companies. Brian holds degrees in Industrial Engineering and Manufacturing and recently received an executive MBA. Brian comes to this hunt as an invite from the Kansas Dept of Commerce.

Rob Keck - Rob Keck has been a driving force in conservation for more than three decades, and during that time built one the most successful conservation organizations in the nation. His leadership, for almost three decades, as the CEO of the National Wild Turkey Federation, fueled the return of the wild turkey in North America. He influenced conservation and natural resource policy issues, having been appointed and served on the Sporting Conservation Council under President George W. Bush, advising both the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture on conservation matters.

Kris Kobach – KS Attorney General: Kris clerked for the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and shortly thereafter became a professor of constitutional law at the University of Missouri – Kansas City School of Law. Kobach received a White House Fellowship from President George W. Bush. He served in the United States Department of Justice under Attorney General John Ashcroft as Counsel to the Attorney General. Kris also served as the Kansas Secretary of State from 2011 to 2019. Kris is also an avid hunter.

J Brian Lewis – Bryan Lewis Law: From Nashville, TN, Bryan Lewis, Esq. has been practicing civil and criminal law throughout Tennessee for more than 30 years. He understands that the practice of law is a learning experience and requires constant study which he does with enthusiasm. Bryan is a founding sponsor of the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt and is sponsoring the Strutter Banquet event for 2023.



Brad Loveless – Secretary Kansas Dept of Wildlife and Parks: Brad was appointed by Governor Laura Kelly to the Secretary position in 2019. He brings a background of environmental work from Westar Energy and Wolf Creek Nuclear. In these positions, he worked with KDWP on many occasions. Brad is most known for his work with Westar’s Green Team, working with employees and retirees on habitat improvement, environmental access and improvement and enhancement of sensitive species for over 30 years.

Peyton Madden – YOUTH PROGRAM: Peyton is from El Dorado, Kansas. Peyton has a love for the outdoors and hunting. He and his family dealt with Peyton having a rare skin disease called Xeroderma Pigmentosum (XP). While there is no cure, Peyton is able to modify his clothing and such to be able to enjoy the outdoors. Peyton and his parents have worked hard on legislation to help Peyton and others with this disease. Peyton is excited to be a part of the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt this year.

Shawn McWilliams – National Wild Turkey Federation: As National Director of Product Development and Supply Chain, Shawn “Successfully navigates under the daily demands of providing customer delight.”

Tyson Neilson – El Dorado USD 490 Police Chief – AMERICAN HEROES PROGRAM: Tyson is a from El Dorado, Kansas where he lives with his wife for 20 years. They have 2 daughters. He states his passions are hunting, fishing, woodworking and coaching competitive softball. Tyson began his career in law enforcement with the Kansas Dept of Wildlife & Parks as a Park Ranger then on to Game Warden. Tyson loves mentoring, leading, and guiding the student in the school district as Chief.

Julia Niccoli – YOUTH PROGRAM: From Overland Park, Kansas, Julia enjoys club volleyball and is excited to be a part of the youth program of the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt.

Jarrold Nichols – Bushnell-Vista Outdoor: Jarrod is an avid hunter and supporter of events throughout the country in his role as Director-Connected Products/Mobility Solutions of Bushnell, and Outdoor Vista Company. Jarrod serves on the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt Board of Directors and was instrumental in coordination of this year’s hunt.

Jake Ramsey – Ramsey Heating & Cooling: Jake is the Project Director of Jacksonville Heating Contractors Inc in Jacksonville NC. This company has been in business for more than 50 years.

Matt Ray – Ray Properties: Matt comes from Jacksonville NC and owns Ray Properties, a commercial and residential company with a “benchmark reputation based on client relationships”.

Mat Raymond – Sanders Ford: Mat is co-owner of Sanders Ford in Jacksonville NC. He loves to come to Kansas to turkey hunt and a little antique shopping. Mat is a founding sponsor of the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt.



Dick Remaly – Dick comes to Kansas from Phoenix AZ. He is a hunter and fisherman.

Col. Robert (Bob) Ruch – Executive VP Federal Programs Pond & Company: Bob is retired US Army Colonel, he oversees Pond’s support to the Army, Navy, Air Force and National Guard. Pond is a technology-driven full-service engineering, architecture, planning, and construction firm providing design solutions to defense, government, corporate and private clients worldwide.

Chad Russell – Fire Chief, Andover Fire & Rescue: As Fire Chief in the City of Andover, Chad leads his team daily. On April 29, 2022, that leadership played a major role in the Andover community as a tornado devastated over 176 building/homes in the Andover community, including the YMCA. A tremendous amount of patience, understanding and empathy had to take place. Chad and his team have been instrumental in the recovery and clean up after this devastating event.

Parker Schmale – YOUTH PROGRAM: From Cheney, Kansas, Parker loves being outdoors, fishing, bowfishing. He also loves to play his banjo and is a member of Boyscout Troop 776.

Robert Skipper – Coffey County (Kansas) Economic Development – Robert (Bobby) Skipper is the Director of the Coffey County Economic Development, which provides services to new and existing businesses, as well as tourism in Coffey County Kansas

Matt Stewart – National Wild Turkey Federation: Matt is the Editor of the “Turkey Call” Magazine, a publication of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Matt was also instrumental in working with the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt for the participant of the National Turkey Calling Contestant to come to the hunt.

Chuck Sykes – Director, Wildlife & Freshwater Fisheries, Alabama: Chuck has served in this position with Alabama Dept of Conservation and Natural Resources since December 2012. Chuck created “The Management Advantage” television program that aired on the Outdoor Channel for 11 years. This was the first program solely dedicated to wildlife management and habitat restoration.

Gerry (Gigi) Martin-Sykes: Gigi was born in Meridian MS and grew up in a small town in Choctaw County Alabama. After high school, she obtained her BS & MA degree in English and taught high school in Alabama for 28 ½ years. She has a passion for the outdoors and spent time with her father, at an early age, chasing white tail deer in the river bottoms of west Alabama. Gigi has now found turkey hunting a great experience and travels. Recently she has hunted in 8 states in 2022.



Kevin Tate – PR Consultant, Confluence Group: Kevin is a longtime outdoor communicator, television producer and freelance writer. His work has aired on Outdoor Channel, ESPN2, The Golf Channel, Pursuit Network, Spike TV and the original TNN. He is past chairman of the Professional Outdoor Media Association and current chairman of the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association. He was a dedicated newspaper journalist in a former life and continues his recovery through the kindness of the Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal, for which he has produced an outdoors page every Friday for the past 12 years.

Cape Taylor: Cape has hunted in Kansas for many years and comes to Kansas from Cumberland City, Tennessee.

Jon Tremblay – Media Manager-Walton’s Inc: Jon is the Media Manager of Waltons Inc – “Everything but the Meat”. Jon is featured on their blog – how to’s, FAQ’s and more.

Rodney Turner – President CEO Layer 3 Communications: Rodney Turner is the President CEO of Layer 3 Communications, co-founding the company in 1998. He grown to be a significant regional systems integrator with over 100 employees and offices throughout the southeast and Texas.

Griffin Turner – Territory Sales Rep Layer 3 Communications: Griffin is employed as the Territory Sales Representative for Layer 3 Communications, a company out of Atlanta, Georgia.

Craig Wall – Director of Sales Layer 3 Communications: Craig joined Layer 3 Communications in 2004 and founded the Western Region. As Vice President and General Manager of the Western Region, Craig is responsible for executing the mission of Layer 3 Communications in the Western Region and contributes in developing our company wide goals, objectives and mission.

Brett Walton – President CEO Waltons Inc.: Brett joined the business in 1996, when it was known as Mid-Western Research and Supply (founded by his dad, Don Walton) then expanded with the purchase of Holly Harned’s. In 2009, Don Walton retired after 20 years in the industry and in 2010 Brett became President & CEO. The name was officially changed to Walton’s in 2012. This company is a family-owned business with several family members in the business. They sell “Everything but the Meat”.

Macy Watkins – If you are in the hunting and fishing industry or are an enthusiast, you have probably seen or heard of Macy Watkins. She has hit the social media by storm, highlighting her many hunting and fishing adventures.