A publication of the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt

October 2025

Welcome to the GOBBLER

Written by Becky Wolfe



KANSAS ONE SHOT TURKEY HUNT WELCOMES BRANDY MITCHELL



Please join the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt Board of Directors in welcoming Brandy Mitchell as the new Hunt Coordinator for the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt.

Brandy took on this role in mid-August and has been working diligently to learn the various aspects of the organization. The Board of Directors is thrilled to have her on board to help elevate the event to new heights.

With a strong non-profit background, she has served on many non-profit boards in a leadership capacity. She also brings a knowledge of finance and customer service to the table.

You can find Brandy in the hunt office Monday through Wednesday and Friday from 8:30 am until 1:30 pm. There are many appointments outside the office, so calling for an appointment is advised. You can reach her at brandy@kansasoneshotturkeyhunt.org or by phone at 316-251-9352.

WELCOME BRANDY!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
KANSAS ONE SHOT TURKEY HUNT SPRING EVENTS ARE:
APRIL 16-18, 2026



ORAL HISTORY - GREAT STORIES OVER 38 YEARS

In 2024, former Governor Mike Hayden asked a group of people to recount their experiences with the hunt, and they are being recorded on video. To date, over 30 videos have been completed and are available on the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt's YouTube Channel <u>eKansasOneShotTurkeyHunt</u>

The Kansas Governor's One Shot Turkey Hunt started in 1987 and ended as an organization in 2023, holding its last event in 2022. The Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt established a new organization in 2022 due to an outpouring of hunters, guides, and sponsors eager to see the tradition continue. The KOSTH will be hosting its 4th year in 2026.

Over the years, countless relationships, unique hunting stories, and many great people have been shared through these videos. The KOSTH Board is currently working with the Butler County Historical Museum to preserve these stories, and a grant has been submitted to help fund a portion of the costs.

A special thank you to these individuals and organizations who have helped fund this project to date.

Former Kansas Governor Mike Hayden Bryan Lewis Jarrod Nichols Kansas Wildscape Foundation Becky Wolfe

To keep this project ongoing, if you would like to share your story or contribute to the cost of videography, contact Brandy at the Hunt office.

brandy@kansasoneshotturkeyhunt.org

NEW MISSION AND VISION STATEMENTS FOR KANSAS ONE SHOT TURKEY HUNT

In January 2025, the Board of Directors of the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt held a Strategic Planning Session facilitated by Mr. Phil Benedict, a former board member.

Phil guided the board through several processes, including determining the organization's future direction. To do this, the board also needed to reassess their mission and vision for the organization. Board members had to understand that this is a multifaceted organization, not just the spring event in April.

The Board of Directors is pleased to share its mission and vision...

MISSION: The Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt promotes conservation and mentorship while celebrating hunting heritage, engaging youth, veterans, and first responders by bringing together outdoor enthusiasts, community leaders, and first-time hunters at a premier hunting event in Kansas.

VISION: To inspire future generations of hunters and conservationists by fostering a lasting legacy of stewardship, education, and community through the tradition of turkey hunting in Kansas.







High priority guestions our team gims to answer:

- How are hen and nest survival affected by things such as habitat availability, predator occurrence, and weather?
 What is the availability and quality of forage used by hens and poults in Kansas?
 Is the use and availability of potential roost trees a limiting factor for wild turkeys in Kansas?

ICH IN COOPERATION WITH KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE AND PARKS

2024 Results

Initial Capture Effort

- nales, 57 males Toxicology
- 297 total hens fitted
 with GPS transmitters
 (219 adults, 78 juveniles)
 9 183 on private land 297 total hens fitted
 - 183 on private land
 114 on public land

Disease and



Kansas National Wild Turkey Support USGS 2024 Project Update Kansas Wild Turk

Waterpoin WMA

- Phenology

 - First attempt peak: 04/11 to 04/23
- Hens in the central region initiated one week before the western and

Propensity and success

- Propensity and success
 Awarage nest attempts per hen: 124
 Ist attempt success: 17%
 Znd attempt success: 15%
 Znd attempt success: 15%
 Overall success: 16%
 Nest success was double in western
 Kansas (21%) than eastern (11%)
 Is hens (7%) that survived the full season
 did not attempt to nest

Nest habitat

54% of nests were in grassland Hens used dense grasses and avoided woody (shrubs, small trees) dominant cover for nest placement

2024 Results

- 329 nests located and monitored for
- 203 first attempt nests
- 99 second attempt nests
 27 third attempt nests
 213 nests surveyed for habitat selection

Broods • 44 broods monitored for success

- 10 broods in eastern region
 15 broods in central region
 19 broods in western region
 220 brood habitat surveys conducted

Hen and Poult Nutrition

246 hen fecal samples collected from hens and poults for diet analysis

- Roost Habitat

 204 adult roost trees surveyed

 60 poult roost trees surveyed

 711 available forestry surveys completed

Statewide Resource Selection

- 578 wild turkey habitat surveys completed
 Year-round data collection ongoing

Turkey Predator Camera Surveys

- More than 260 cameras deployed for assessing predator occurrence across private and public lands in Kansas More cameras will be deployed for winter 2024-2025

Going Forward

Please note that these results are preliminary. We will conduct our second and final year of data collection in 2025, and look forward to sharing more results relative to all research objectives following this.

Hen Survival

Feb - July 2024 Survival

- Survival greater for eastern hens that survival, and Western: 60% survival)

Poults and Broods

- Brood Phenology
 First hatched brood: \$7\text{272024}
 Last hatched brood: 7\text{7287024}
 Brood success does not appear dependent on time of hatch

Brood Survival
 48% of broods had at least one poult reach 28 days
 Brood survival was similar among study regions

Hen and Poult Nutrition

Butterfly and moth larvae

Roost Trees

- Hen and Poult Roost Trees

 Most common hen roost: Cott
- Mean hen roost diameter: 53 cm
 Most common poult roost: Black walnut
 Mean poult roost diameter: 44 cm

Thank you

So far, we have contacted over 350 Kansas landowners. Thank you to those who have allowed us to collect data on your property. Your knowledge and patience are greatly appreciated. By granting access to your property for research, you are helping power the future of wild turkey management and the education of K-State

KOSTH HELPS IN K-STATE RESEARCH

It has been with great pleasure that the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt is involved in the research of the wild turkey here in Kansas.

This is a collaborative effort among the K-State Kansas Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, the National Wild Turkey Federation, and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

In 2024 and 2025, samples were taken from birds harvested at the Hunt event.

At the 2025 Friday night event, a student from K-State provided statistics on their findings from the research in 2024, and you can see from the flyer what those statistics are.

More stats should be forthcoming from the results of the 2025 birds in the near future.

2025 Board of Directors

John Britt – Parks Motors – BOARD CHAIR Darren Jackson - County Commissioner - CHAIR-

Gunnar Sullivan - Outdoor Mentors - Secretary **Becky Wolfe** - Advance Innovations - Treasurer

Jarrod Nichols – TAG Sports – Past Chair Steve Seymour - Founder

Mike Hayden - Former KS Governor - Founder

Dave Adams - Retired Officer - Board Member

Gus Bader - TriStar - Board Member

Kim Gonzales - USD 259 - Board Member

Bryan Lewis - Lawyer - Board Member

Leonard Moore - Greenwood Co Sheriff's Officer -Board Member

Marc Murrell - KS Wildscape Foundation - Board

Kelsey Puryear - Murray Road Agency - Board

Jennifer Yarbrough – Board Member

KOSTH LOOKS INTO CREATING POLLINATOR PLOTS

Members of the Board of Directors have been researching the thought of creating pollinator plots around the El Dorado area and possibly into Greenwood County.

Members of the Habitat/Conservation Committee of the hunt have met to determine the best locations and the best course of action to make this happen. Several areas are being discussed and seeking permission.



The KOSTH has a great group of volunteers through our board and community (Butler County) - If you would like to volunteer for this event, please contact Brandy at the Hunt office. There are many ways to be a part of the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt.



GUIDES AND LANDOWNERS

The KOSTH is dedicated to recognizing the essential contributions of our guides and landowners, who significantly impact the success of the hunt each year.

- Guides generously offer their time to partner with hunters participating in the event.
- They collaborate with landowners and scout for birds, ensuring a memorable experience for all hunters visiting El Dorado.
- Some guides develop such strong bonds with their hunters that they wish to stay matched with them yearly.
- Others thrive on the thrill of meeting new individuals and enjoy changing their pairing each season.

The committee aims to accommodate both preferences.

Most landowners are secured through the guides, who have fostered these relationships, and KOSTH is committed to preserving them.

The KOSTH sincerely appreciates the guides and landowners for their invaluable support and dedication.

Are you a member of the KOSTH Alumni Club?

Hunters who are lifetime members will be guaranteed an invitation.

Hunter: \$250 Guides: \$25 Landowners: \$10

You can join by contacting the Hunt office or through the website at www.kansasoneshotturkeyhunt.org - on the front page to the bottom.

MARVIN L MCCOWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

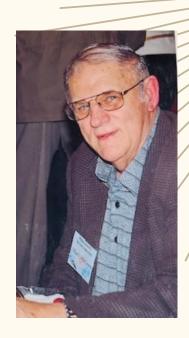
In 2024, the KOSTH successfully raised \$13,000 to establish a Memorial Scholarship in honor of Marv McCown, cofounder of the Kansas Governor's Hunt. Without Marv's hard work and dedication, the current hunt would not be the success it is today.

This week marks the second anniversary of Marv's passing. Along with his wonderful wife, Judy, he managed the Governor's Hunt for over 20 years, collaborating with numerous volunteers, guides, landowners, and hunters who continue to participate today.

Although Marv was not a hunter himself, he shared the vision of then–Governor Mike Hayden, and together they created a lasting legacy. The KOSTH Board is proud to honor Marv with this memorial scholarship in partnership with Butler Community College.

The KOSTH awarded a \$1000 scholarship to Ashton Sell of Goddard, Kansas who attends Butler and will transfer to a Kansas institution to study wildlife biology and he wants to become a game warden.





Help the KOSTH continue to honor Marv's memory and the legacy he worked so diligently to achieve by donating to the scholarship fund. There will be ways during the auction at the Saturday Banquet.

Another \$1000 will be awarded to a student at the 2026 Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt Strutters Banquet on April 18th.

Donations can be made through the website at www.kansasoneshotturkeyhunt.org or by contacting Brandy at the hunt office. Also, monthly payment plans are available upon request.

Non-resident applications open mid January and will go to mid February. The KOSTH will be mailing/emailing hunter invitations in early December. If you are a member of the Alumni Club, you are guaranteed an invitation but the Hunt can't guarantee you will be drawn for a permit.

The Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt is a nonprofit, public charitable organization.

Stay tuned for more work on habitat and conservation in the months to come.

Visit our website at www.kansasoneshotturkeyhunt.org

Our address has changed! We no longer have the PO Box. Please mail to:

Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt

210 W Central Ave

El Dorado, KS 67042