

A publication of the
Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt

February 2026

Welcome to the GOBBLER

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A NEW YEAR FULL OF POSSIBILITIES!



Here we are, into February already, and we are in the thick of things as we prepare for the upcoming Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt event in April.

There are numerous moving parts to organizing an event of this size, with so many people involved. The Board of Directors plays a major role in planning and organizing. That is why we seek individuals who are willing and able to contribute their time and resources to make this event a success.

To give you an idea of the number of people involved (these numbers are always evolving):

- 70-80 Invitations sent to possible hunters
- 50+ Hunters (to include youth and American Heroes)
- 50+ Volunteer Guides
- 100+ Volunteer Landowners
- 75+ Sponsors
- 30+ Community volunteers

The KOSTH is grateful!

***Where tradition, community, and conservation
come together!***



CONGRATULATIONS TO DAVE ADAMS (COOKIE MAN) ON RECENT AWARD

Dave Adams attends the Grand National Waterfowl Hunt in Maryland every year. He has hunted and has gone as a guest/sponsor.

This year, Dave was surprised to win the Dr. Russell P Smith Award for his exemplary service to the GNWA.

"I was just taking a drink when this award was announced, and I heard my name. It was all I could do not to spew my drink across the table. I was so surprised. It is a great honor."

Below is the wood carving by Richard Drescher (hunted in the Governor's Hunt for several years) that was presented to Dave at their banquet activities. Congratulations Dave!

DAN MEERS NAMED KEY NOTE SPEAKER FOR STRUTTERS BANQUET

After 35 amazing years as the man behind the Kansas City Chiefs "KC Wolf" mascot, Dan Meers has a passion for encouraging, inspiring, and connecting with audiences throughout the United States. Mr. Meers shares stories and life lessons from both inside and outside the fur as a motivational speaker to audiences of all ages. He delivers a high-energy, uplifting presentation sparking laughter, motivation, and real connection. The Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt is delighted to partner with Dan Meers as our keynote speaker for the 2026 Strutters Banquet.





UPCOMING GUIDES GET TOGETHER - MARCH 11

On March 11 at 6:30 PM, KOSTH will host an event to express our gratitude to the guides who volunteer their time for the hunt.

This event will be a great opportunity for guides to bring their families, meet new guides, and enjoy the company of familiar faces. Additionally, we must collect the landowner forms by this meeting.

We intend to have thank-you gifts for the landowners available for the guides to take home, thanks to Walton's.

New guides will have a meeting immediately following the event to review the guidelines and responsibilities.

The event will be held at the Butler County Community Building (4-H) located at 206 N Griffith, El Dorado.

Did you know the guides all volunteer their time to the hunt? The event could not happen without them.

A NEW LOOK...

After the 2025 hunt, members of the board spoke to having a united voice when talking to donors and prospective hunters. With the creative work of Kelsey Puryear (board member) and her team at Murray Road Agency, a marketing packet was created. We are excited to share the content at the National Wild Turkey Federation Convention and have already presented to the El Dorado City Commission and Butler County Commission.



EXPANDING THE NUMBER OF VENDORS ON FRIDAY & SATURDAY

In 2025, the hunt invited several local organizations to set up booths at the Butler County Community Building during the weigh-in and luncheons. This year, the event is expanding to include the south end of the building. Stay tuned for more information about the vendors who will be present.



2026 Schedule of Events

April 16, 2026

- 10:00 am Hunter Initial Check-In at Host Hotel (Holiday Inn Express-3100 El Dorado Ave-El Dorado KS)
Hunters receive special bags and the famous peanut butter cookies by Dave Adams
- 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Youth and American Heroes pick up their guns at our FFL Dealer & sight their gun at the range
- YOUTH MEET AT THE CIVIC CENTER BY 5 PM
- 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm OPENING CEREMONIES: El Dorado Civic Center, 201 E. Central
For Hunters, Guides, Sponsors and community dignitaries - CASH BAR
Guides & Hunter Check In - Receive camo, shells, complete any paperwork-KS Dept of Wildlife and Parks will be available.

April 17, 2026

- 4:00 am - 5:00 pm Gobbler's Breakfast & Turkey Weigh-In - Butler County Community Building, 206 N Griffith
Breakfast begins at 4 am - PICK UP FIELD LUNCHESES PROVIDED BY GOODCENTS
Last weigh-in is 5 pm - Guides and hunters should plan for travel time back to the weigh-in.
- 11:00 am - 1:30 pm Longbeard Luncheon - Butler County Community Building - COMMUNITY EVENT (Open to Public)
Meals prepared by BASE (Bluestem Assoc. for Student Education) as a fundraiser
- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm VENDOR BOOTHS - Educational and community booths. SILENT AUCTION - Auction items to further the mission of the KOSTH.
- 6:30 pm - 7:00 pm ALUMNI CLUB MEETING-Members plus all Hunters, Guides & Landowners - Learn about the Alumni Club & provide valuable input into the hunt, conservation, habitat, and the overall hunting industry.
- 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm The ROOST Social - Butler County Community Building (4-H) - A Social for Hunters, Guides, Landowners, Sponsors and their guests. Heavy appetizers will be served and cash wine and beer bar.



2026 Schedule of Events-Continued

April 18, 2026

- 4:00 am - 5:00 pm Gobbler's Breakfast & Turkey Weigh-In - Butler County Community Building, 206 N Griffith
Breakfast begins at 4 am - PICK UP FIELD LUNCHESES PROVIDED BY GOODCENTS
Last weigh-in is 5 pm - Guides and hunters should plan for travel time back to the weigh-in.
- 11:00 am - 1:30 pm Longbeard Luncheon - Butler County Community Building - COMMUNITY EVENT (Open to Public)
Meals prepared by BASE (Bluestem Assoc. for Student Education) as a fundraiser
- 9:00 am - 3:00 pm VENDOR BOOTHS - Educational and community booths. SILENT AUCTION - Auction items to further the mission of the KOSTH.
- 6:00 pm - 10:00 pm STRUTTERS BANQUET - Butler Community College Hubbard Welcome Center, Clifford Stone Rm
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - Live & Silent Auction, Entertainment, Dinner, and Cash Bar

The KOSTH Board of Directors encourages you to attend these planned events and participate, build relationships, and support the efforts of KOSTH and everyone who works diligently to put these together.

All proceeds from auctions go toward future hunts, programs, and the Marvin L McCown Scholarship.

MARVIN L MCCOWN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

Many of you may not know who Marv McCown was or the impact he made on the turkey hunt in Kansas, so here is a little back story.

He earned 27 medals and ribbons, including the Bronze Star with Combat V, while serving in Vietnam with the Naval Intelligence community. Marv retired from the Navy in 1975. He then went on to own a resort-restaurant at Lake McConaughy in Nebraska, called Admiral's Cove.

Marv arrived in El Dorado, Kansas, in 1986, where he was recruited to serve as the Executive Vice President of the El Dorado Chamber of Commerce.

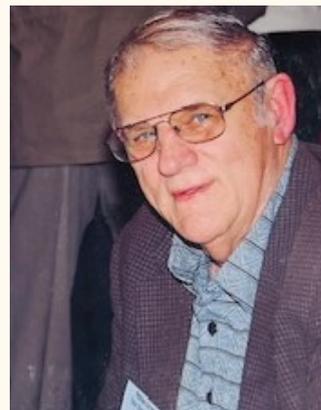
Governor Mike Hayden approached him about the idea of hosting a wild turkey hunt in El Dorado, inviting "celebrities" to participate. This was when the Kansas Governor's One Shot Turkey Hunt was born. Marv retired from the hunt in 2009,

and the Governor's Hunt dissolved in 2022. From that legacy, the Kansas One Shot Turkey Hunt began with their first hunt in 2023.

In 2024, the Hunt raised \$13,000 to support the scholarship, and the first recipient was named in 2025.

There will be opportunities at the auction during the hunt to benefit students pursuing careers in outdoor management or business.

You can also visit our website to make a contribution to the scholarship.





WHAT IS THE KOSTH ALUMNI CLUB?

In 2024, the KOSTH Board of Directors established the Alumni Club to invite hunters, guides, landowners, and volunteers to become members. Membership allows hunters to return for future hunts (registration fees apply) and gives members a voice to provide the Board with information regarding issues, challenges, and opportunities that align with the mission of KOSTH. If you have not joined the Alumni Club, visit our website to become a member. www.kansasoneshotturkeyhunt.org

With over 60 members, the Alumni Club will hold a brief meeting on Friday, April 17th, before the hunt's Roost Social at the Butler County Community Building (4-H).

ALUMNI CLUB MEMBERS

Dave Adams-Volunteer/Board
Steve Adams-Guide
Jennifer Anderson-Hunter
Brian Arterburn-Hunter
Garrett Bader-Hunter
Gus Bader-Hunter/Founding Sponsor
Ryan Bader-Hunter
Phil Benedict-Volunteer
John Berndt-Hunter
Patricia Berndt-Hunter
Robert Boles-Guide
John Britt-Guide/Board
Jordan Bursell-Guide
Dave Cornish-Guide
Lonnie Currier-Guide
Chris Degnar-Hunter
Pat Do-Hunter

Mark Elliott-Hunter
Davin Epperson-Guide
Mike Fagg-Hunter
Gerald Fitzner-Hunter
Christie Foulston-Landowner
Brittany French-Hunter
Tyler Gentry-Guide
Dan Gonzales-Guide
Kim Gonzales-Guide/Board
Andy Hall-Guide
Mike Hayden-Hunter/Board/Founder
Scott Heinen-Hunter
Chris Hodgdon-Hunter
Joel Hodgdon-Hunter
Thomas Humphries-Guide
Darren Jackson-Guide/Board
DJ Jackson-Guide
Jeremy Jackson-Guide
Phyllis Jackson-Landowner
Ron Jolly-Hunter
Tes Jolly-Guide
Rob Keck-Hunter
Tim Keenan-Hunter
Kris Kobach-Hunter
Brian Lewellen-Guide
Bryan Lewis-Hunter/Board/Founding Sponsor
Leonard Moore-Guide/Board
Kevin Moss-Hunter
Marc Murrell-Volunteer/Board
Jarrod Nichols-Guide/Board
Trent Payne-Hunter
Michael Pearce-Hunter
Kelsey Puryear-Hunter/Board
Matt Ray-Hunter
Warren Rensner-Guide/Founding Sponsor
Bob Ruch-Hunter
Richard Ruch-Hunter
Joe Ruch-Hunter
Steve Seymour-Guide/Board/Founder
Gunnar Sullivan-Guide/Board
Cape Taylor-Hunter
Bebbe Thomas-Landowner/Volunteer
Tim Thomas-Guide
Beverly Tipton-Landowner
Rodney Turner-Hunter
Griffin Turner-Hunter
Chris Tymeson-Hunter
Craig Wall-Hunter
Frank Williams-Guide
Becky Wolfe-Hunt Coordinator