

Professional Hunter Award

The SCI Outstanding Professional Hunter Awards honor professional hunters who are acknowledged by both peers and clients to be tops in their field. Until 1993, only one professional hunter per year was presented the award. Starting that year, the award was split into two divisions: North American and International, with award winners selected from nominations submitted by members of the SCI Board of Directors and chapter presidents.



**Outstanding International Professional Hunter
of the Year Award**

Kaan KaraKaya

Kaan KaraKaya was born in Isparta, Turkey, in 1970. He learned hunting and wildlife protection from his father and opened Turkey to hunting in 1980.

Kaan established Shikar Safaris in 1996 and opened new hunting destinations such as Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan. Kaan has helped protect endangered Sulaiman markhor, Kashmir markhor, Astor markhor, Blandford urial, Punjab urial, Afghan urial, Sind ibex, Anatolian (bezoar) ibex, Anatolian chamois, Anatolian wild sheep, several argali species, and many more.

Kaan has educated more than 100 professional hunters and guides, and established programs that grant up to 80 percent of fees from hunting to go to local communities.

Kaan has hosted thousands of guests in Asia and Europe. He has personally guided many Weatherby Award winners. Over 30 trophies taken under his personal guidance were ranked in the Top Ten in SCI's Record Book. More than 80 of Shikar Safaris' trophies are Top Ten.

Kaan continues community conservation programs for the Mongolian argali, Gobi hangai, and Altay argalis, recently endangered; and he aims to bring High Altay argali back to a sustainable population. Kaan is a father of two girls, Pamir and Talya, and lives with his wife Nurgul Kokturk Karakaya in World's Heaven.




**Outstanding North American Professional Hunter
of the Year Award**

Jack Cassidy


Jack Cassidy is a longtime Colorado outfitter and owner and manager of Jack Cassidy Colorado Hunts in Loma, Colorado. Jack has been in the big game outfitting business for 35 years, hunting antelope, bear, elk, deer and sheep, in western Colorado at the Packrat camp, on the rim of the Black Canyon of Gunnison, and in eastern Colorado for trophy white-tailed deer and mule deer. Jack has been a longtime supporter of SCI at the international and local chapter level for many years, and was involved in the first SCI Sensory Safari, which led to a lifetime commitment to the program. Jack's business is a family operation where he works with his wife of 55 years, Carol, sons and grandsons. Jack is a former president and director of the Colorado Outfitters Association and has served on many Colorado Division of Wildlife task forces and steering committees, which has kept Jack busy and in contact with outfitting profession. He is the founder of Colorado's first state-certified guide school, which has trained many individuals now employed in the hunting industry. Jack's service on the SCI Outfitters Advisory Committee enabled SCI and State Associations to work closely together to benefit all hunters. "I am very proud to be selected as the North American Professional Hunter of the Year by SCI," remarks Cassidy. "I look forward to continuing working with SCI as we build and improve our organization for the betterment of our members and all hunters."

**PROFESSIONAL HUNTER
AWARD RECIPIENTS**

- Cotton Gordon, ZMB, TZA, NA (1980)
 Jan Oelofse, Namibia (1981)
 Gerry Poitras, NA (1982)
 Gary Powell, NA (1983)
 Jose Simoes, Sudan (1984)
 Lynn Castle, NA (1985)
 Award rescinded (1986)
 Nassos Roussos, Ethiopia (1987)
 Phil Driver, NA (1988)
 Rick Martin, NA (1989)
 Dick Gunlogson, NA (1990)
 Fred Webb, NA (1991)
 Gary Joll, New Zealand (1992)
 Fernando Saiz, Spain (1993)
 Marion & Mary Scott, NA (1993)
 Award rescinded (1994)
 Sam Fejes, NA (1994)
 Volker Grellmann, Namibia (1995)
 Keith Johnson, NA (1995)
 Kevin 'Mick' McCormick, Aust. (1996)
 Gary Vince, NA (1996)
 Joe Klutsch, NA (1997)
 Gerard Pasanisi, Tanzania (1997)
 Wayne Long, NA (1998)
 Jeffrey Lynn Rann, Botswana (1998)
 Miles Bradford, NA (1999)
 Doug Scandrol, NA (1999)
 Peter Swanepoel, Zambia (1999)
 Gary Butch King Jr., NA (2000)
 Ronnie Sparrow, Zimbabwe (2000)
 Jimmie C. Rosenbruch, NA (2001)
 Mike Hodder, New Zealand (2001)
 Louis Albert Schreiner, II, NA (2002)
 Adya Tundev, Mongolia (2002)
 Dave Wiens, NA (2003)
 Jim Hunter, New Zealand (2003)
 Eugene W.C. YAP, NA (2004)
 Marcelo Sodiro, Argentina (2004)
 Laurent Delagrang, NA (2005)
 Terry Wilkenson, NA (2006)
 Gary Herbert, New Zealand (2006)
 Kirk Kelso, NA (2007)
 John Abraham, South Africa (2007)
 Alisha Rosenbruch-Decker, NA (2008)
 Dirk de Bod, Namibia (2008)
 Jim Shockey, NA (2009)
 Giuseppe Carrizosa, Spain (2009)
 Eric Mikkelson, NA (2010)
 Eduardo F. De Araoz, Spain (2010)
 Ray Collingwood, NA (2011)
 Jason Roussos, Africa (2011)
 James Torivio, Jr., NA (2012)
 Pierre Guerrini, Africa (2012)
 Devlin Oestreich, NA (2013)
 Antonio Reguera, Africa (2013)
 Federico Gellini (2014)
 Drake Dawson (2014)
 Kaan KaraKaya (2015)
 Jack Cassidy (2015)



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