

# Michael Waddell's

As a country boy from south Georgia, Michael Waddell only dreamed of having the opportunity to hunt for a living. Growing up hunting and fishing with his father, Waddell quickly developed a knack for turkey calling and never looked back, unless they gobbled, of course. Given his love of Turkey hunting his appointment in 2008 to spokesperson for the National Wild Turkey Federation was one of the pinnacles of his career.

"I started competing in local competitions as a teenager," said Waddell. "It was those competitions that eventually opened the door for me. After I won the Realtree Grand America Turkey Calling Contest, the next thing I knew I had a camera in my hand and a check coming in from Realtree. And that was cool."

Since joining Team Realtree in 1994, Waddell has gone from cameraman to producer to host of "Realtree Road Trips and most recently became co-host of "Bone Collector", both can be seen on The Outdoor Channel all year long. Waddell's work ethic and knack for absorbing information has earned him the reputation as one of the most successful hunters and outdoorsmen in the industry, not mention, one of the most entertaining.

"I love having fun and I love being in the woods," said Waddell. "I just want to show people that you don't have to change who you are in order to successful; you just have to be you."

Waddell lives in Fortson, Ga., with his wife, Ashley, and his sons, Mason, Meyer and Macoy and daughter Addie. Waddell practices what he preaches with his family by taking them outdoors when he isn't hunting. He is an independent contractor for Realtree, and will continue to host "Realtree Road Trips" for the next several years as well as co-host "Bone Collector" on the Outdoor Channel.

## BONE COLLECTOR

