

ATA article for October 2019

Greetings from Ontario, Canada.

As I write this article it is late August and our shooting year is all but completed.

Ontario hosted its 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary trap championships in Hamilton this past summer. Ontario shooters have had some remarkable achievements this past year – in fact, so many that I could never do justice in one short article. Nor is it possible to identify more than just a few of our marksmen and ladies. But here are a few:

Dan Gris is a well-known name, particularly in the Eastern Zone. Dan obliterated the entire competition at our Provincials winning all but one of the Championship events. He shot off for top singles honours at our Eastern Zone shoot and settled with high sub-vet. He won numerous sub-vet awards at the Grand and elsewhere throughout the year. Shooters be aware – Dan is a contender in all three disciplines.

Lloyd Beecraft was our Ontario inductee to our Hall of Fame. He too is a sub-veteran and has won not only sub-vet but championship events regularly. In the upcoming target year Lloyd will chronologically advance in category – so, Veterans beware.

The Tsementzis family. Father Peter has always (and continues to be) a tenacious and fierce competitor in all three disciplines. If he could attend more point shoots he would almost certainly be All American – first team. But his legacy must be shared with son Chris and daughter Anna who have both followed in his footprints.

Chris has often commented that he would like nothing better than to “beat my dad” and guess what – he has. Chris captured the Junior champion title in the Grand American Handicap event with a 98. (Old dad could only muster 96).

Anna is one of the best female ATA shooters Ontario has ever had – and she is just getting better with time. She has been in the junior gold category. Anna attends Guelph University in Ontario. She has described to me an organization called Canadian University Shooting Federation in which she has been actively involved. Currently there are 10 member clubs and 18 are in the process of forming. There are over 300 student members, over 50 of which shoot in CUSF tournaments. There are 21 CUSF volunteers that run three programs: Trap, Skeet and Target Rifle. The CUSF has seven sponsors and 19 partners. The trap scores are registered.

Anna helped organize the Southern Ontario shoot at the Hamilton Gun Club and is in the process of setting up a club at Guelph University (Guelph’s trap team won both the individual and team scores for trap).

For those who may not know, introducing firearm sports in any Ontario education facility is tough, tough, tough. Anna has the smarts, the skillset and the will to crack this barrier and we wish her the best.

There are other Ontario shooters of all ages and genders that have made Ontario proud. Time will permit me to mention only one more – Lorenzo Bonaiuto, Jr.

Father Frank is a frequent winner in Ontario circles and beyond. Brother Vincent is also a great shot. Both boys are top flight hockey players and maybe someday will be pros. But like the Tsementzis family, the three Bonaiutos can all enjoy trapshooting together.

Lorenzo's number was called at the Kolar shoot-off at the Eastern Zone shoot at Elysburg, Pennsylvania. Over 100 shooters went to the line. After three rounds, Lorenzo was one of only three left standing. He finally missed in his fourth round. I heard comments that this young fellow probably "couldn't stand the pressure". No so. Lorenzo was probably doing too much thinking, like:

- Wow, if I win this Kolar it must be very valuable
- Will I have to pay income tax on it?
- I wonder how much?
- With a U.S./Canadian dollar conversion rate of about 35%, I'll bet I will have to pay about \$7,000 Canadian.
- Where is a kid going to come up with that kind of money?
  - Lost -

Have a great new shooting year.

Paul Shaw,  
Ontario Delegate