



On Target



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New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Newsletter

The 1st New York State 4-H State Shoot is a Great Success

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Special points of Interest

- ☐ NYS 4-H Shooting Sports Banquet & Auction

April 24, 2004

- ☐ National Instructor Workshop to be held in PA - May 16—21, 2004

The 1st NYS 4-H State Shoot was held in Washington County at the Hudson Falls Fish and Game Club on July 26, 2003. A total of twenty-six youth participated in one of four disciplines (archery, air rifle, muzzleloader, and shotgun) during the day-long event.

These youth came from as far away as Oswego County to participate in what will hopefully be the first in a long line of annual events.

Will Gedney of Washington County was the top shooter in the shotgun event, which consisted of 4 rounds of skeet. Thomas Plude was top shooter in the open class (unlimited) of archery, while Sam Perkins from Saratoga County was the top shooter in the beginner class of archery. The top air rifle shooter was John Parker from Oswego County in the open class. Kyle Baskin from

Saratoga took top shooting honors in muzzleloading.

The next most impressive highlight to you participants was the large numbers of volunteers. Fifteen instructors and number of junior instructors helped out where ever they were needed, as did the parents of many of the youth, helping with whatever tasks they were asked to perform.

Likewise, lunch was volunteer prepared. What a lunch they put on! Potato, pasta, and tossed salad, came with your choice of

fresh from the grill burgers and hot dogs. No one left this event hungry.

Overall, the day was a great success. The youth displayed true 4-H spirit as they offered to help one another with advice or high-five support throughout the day. Safe shooting practices were displayed and followed by all of the youth. These kids are all champions!

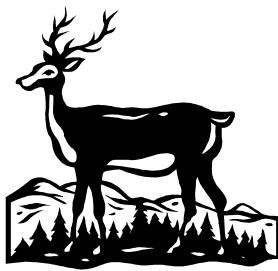


On Line with Us:

Don't forget to check our website at www.nys4hshootingssports.org for current information on the program, the newsletter and photos of workshops and other events or activities. Email us photos that you would like to see—subject matter appropriate—on this site in .jpg. format.

**17th Annual
Sportsman Education Workshop
January 24, 2004**

The *17th Annual Sportsman Education Workshop* will be held on January 24 at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Office in Ballston Spa. This event annually attracts over 250 participants, speakers and facilitators. It provides an interactive forum between volunteers from DEC and the Sportsman Education administrators and key DEC staff. The day-long program includes lunch, "goodie bags" and the chance to meet or renew acquaintances with volunteers from over 40 counties. All instructors should have received a program flier and invitation. If you are interested in attending and do not have a flier, contact Saratoga County Cornell Cooperative Extension through my email at wms4@cornell.edu.



**5th Annual
New York State
4-H Recognition Banquet
and Auction
April 24, 2004**

The date is set and the location confirmed for the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs. The event has grown to 180 participants last year and it is expected that it will continue to grow. Few places are large enough to host the event with all the space needed for the many items in the live and silent auctions. See the website for details and, again, you probably should have received an invitation to the event in a recent mailing. The planning committee is seeking items for the auction. New or finely used, the auction features everything from antique chairs to prints, from fine knives to throws and "Buck Buckets," "Duck Buckets" and Trappers' Baskets" to fine dining and outdoor activities including golf outings.

Activity Event 2004

Plans are being made for another statewide Activity Event in the summer of 2004. The location is expected to be nearer the center of the state, and will be a single day featuring activities and educational opportunities to test the skills youthful participants. Keep your eyes on the website for details.

Community Service Project Supporting the Troops

A thought and action plan to show support for our military personnel in Iraq can be combined into a great community service project. One of our local members of the Board of Supervisors is coordinating the delivery of "disposable" items that are in high demand by our service men and women. These include: *Eye Drops, AT&T Phone cards, Chap Stick, Magazines, Wet Naps, Shaving Cream, Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Disinfectant Soap, Hard Candy, Baby Wipes, Hand Cream Kool-Aid Powder, Ice Tea Powder, Lip Gloss, Snacks but no chocolates, Peanut Butter & Jelly/Jam in plastic containers, Spaghettios, Pringles, Raisins, Noodle Soup, Ramen Noodles, individual size cereal and Crackers*. This program is being undertaken by many groups as there is tremendous need for these items. One of the major costs is that of shipping. Our contact indicates that he has access to no cost shipping. As part of the 2004 Sportsman Education Workshop we are asking participants, local 4-H groups and anyone else who would like to participate to bring items to the workshop. We will continue to collect items until the end of President's week in February before having the items sent to Iraq. Better yet, start a local program or partner with others on this or another community service project.

National Workshop to be held

National Workshop, May 16 – 21 at Camp Lutherlyn near Prospect, Pennsylvania in the Northeast Region.

This is the first time that the national workshop has returned to the Northeast in many years. New York will be sending two instructor teams and one advanced shotgun candidate. To make the selection process "fair", applications will be available for prospective candidates to complete. The criteria for selection will include:

- ? 2 candidates per discipline
- ? Priority to first time attendees
- ? Regional preference – to distribute the instructor base more equitably across the state
- ? Representation of the New York 4-H Program
- ? Demonstrated experience in youth development programs
- ? Commitment to the future

The registration cost is expected to be \$75 for the program. The National 4-H Shooting Sports Committee is providing the bulk of the support for this workshop. Selection will be made by March 1, 2004.

2003 What a Year!!!

2003 was quite a year! From the looks of 2004, the new year will be even better. Last year we had our first "State Shoot". Enrollment was up at our workshops. We received interest from additional counties. The auction was our best ever and will be a tough act to follow!

Given the start of 2004 I think we will see even more growth and participation. We're sure going to need your help to do it. Response has been outstanding from all of you.

Here is a challenge or two for all of us:

If each of us could.....

- | | |
|---|--|
| ? introduce one new family to the 4-H shooting sports program | ? find a new instructor |
| ? find an instructor that might replace us one day | ? bring a new club into the county |
| ? involve a new rod and gun club in our county in the program | ? sell five donation tickets |
| ? come up with a good item for the auction | ? take someone new hunting or shooting |
| ? find a program sponsor | |

You get the idea. If each of us could.... so far you have done a lot, if you don't think so, just look at last year. Now is the time to work on 2004. Just think....

Friendship and Beyond

There will be an opportunity to go to the Spring Muzzleloading Shoot in Friendship, Indiana. This is an opportunity for instructors as well as for youngsters. For more information contact Kenyon Simpson at (518) 885-8995 or email krs36@cornell.edu

There might also be opportunities for young shooters at the National matches at Camp Perry. Please contact Kenyon Simpson if you are interested.

As our program is expanding we are looking for more opportunities for the youngsters to participate beyond the entry level. There is an increasing interest in shotgunning. Perhaps we will see some of our shooters involved in the scholastic trap program.

If you or your club has a discipline specific interest, we are always looking for folks to lead the way.

Speaking of which, last year's State Shoot was a dandy beginning. This year we need more participation.

Last, but not least, PLEASE!!! Report your numbers and programs. We need to have a good reporting system in order to have all of this work. Let us know what you are doing and report your program accurately.

See you on the range...

Quality Deer Management...Changing with the Times

Just as the face of shooting sports has changed over the years, so has the management of wildlife. Deer harvest quotas have long been decided by a state biologist and influenced by political groups for many years. Those trends have begun to change as a new movement has started to become popular in many parts of New York. The movement is known as "quality deer management."

Quality deer management allows some local influence over regional harvest numbers. Through agreements with landowners, farmers, and hunters, many areas have now set more restrictive regulations on the local harvest of deer. For example, a group of landowners might allow a person to hunt on their property, but the hunter is not allowed to harvest a buck until AFTER the hunter has taken a doe. Or a hunter might have to wait to harvest a buck of a certain minimum size.

Farmers have become very interested in these groups because they focus on legally harvesting does to reduce deer densities that have become unnaturally high. This trend goes in the opposite direction of the long established social norm to take any legal buck. QDM is a management tool that landowners, hunters, and farmers can use to bring a greater sense of conservation and involvement to their activities.

To learn more about quality deer management attend a QDM training: Friday APRIL 9, 2004 – Grow 'Em Right with author Neil Dougherty will be presented by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Washington County. Call 1-800-548-0881 for more information. To find your local CCE office, go to: www.cce.cornell.edu.

Fall 2004 Instructor Workshop At the Arnot

The response was so positive about the recent workshop at the Arnot that the last weekend in September in 2004 has been reserved. (It was the only weekend available this year.) Plan your calendar now for a great training program at a great location. There is a promise that the cook staff will try to out do their great meals of 2003!

Spring Instructor Workshop to be held April 16th, 17th and 18th At Wyomoco 4-H Camp

The spring workshop will be offered in Wyoming County providing that we have at least five candidates signed up for a particular discipline. This will be an opportunity for cross training your current instructors, expanding your program, and a chance to introduce some new instructors.

What a great chance for parents and youngsters to train together. Extension staff are encouraged to attend.

Information is on the web site or call Saratoga County CCE.

2003 New York State 4-H Shooting Sports Final Report

The report is done and it can be found on the website. We are not sending copies to every instructor but copies will be available at different events and counties will receive copies for their instructors.

We're on the web!
www.nys4hshootingports.org



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