

Iowa On Target

the official newsletter of



SHOOTING SPORTS

www.IowaDNR.gov

About Iowa DNR Shooting Sports

The focus of the Iowa DNR Shooting Sports Program is to provide Iowans with opportunities to participate in the target shooting sports. By providing programs and facilities, the DNR will help ensure the future of shooting, hunting and outdoor conservation for generations to come. Target shooting is a lifetime sport that families can enjoy together and is one of the safest activities available today. In addition, target shooting teaches the fundamental marksmanship skills required for hunting and provides multiple avenues for families to get involved in hunting and other outdoor pursuits.

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Young Archers Take Aim at Inaugural Event

Johnston, IA - March 30 was a historic day in Iowa. On this day 88 young archers from 7 different schools took aim at the first ever National Archery in the Schools Program state exhibition shoot. The event originally scheduled for March 3rd at the Iowa Deer Classic in Des Moines had to be moved to Johnston due to the snowstorm that crippled the state for three days.

Archers at this event are participants in the growing National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP), which has introduced over 1.4 million kids nationwide to the sport of archery as part of an in-school program. The program uses standardized equipment and is typically conducted as part of the physical education curriculum for grades 4-12. The DNR offers training for Iowa teachers at zero cost and can assist in ordering equipment for schools. Equipment funding typically comes from local wildlife conservation chapters or through grants offered by the Iowa Archery in the Schools Foundation.

The first official state NASP shoot will be back at the Iowa Deer Classic in Des Moines on Saturday March 1, 2008 where an expected 200 archers will take aim.

For more NASP information and complete shoot results visit:

<http://www.iowadnr.com/law/shootingsports/ais.html>



Photos Courtesy of Des Moines Register

Coordinator's Notes

It's hard to believe 2007 is over half gone and fall hunting seasons will soon be upon us! Hopefully by now you have been 'brushing up' on your skills at the local range or perhaps have been competing in local, state, or national target shooting matches all summer long. Whatever your reason for shooting, it is our goal to provide you with safe, quality shooting programs and facilities in the great state of Iowa.



The DNR Shooting Sports program started just last October as a way to recruit more hunters and shooters in the state. After only eight months it may be too early to tell if things are working based on license sales alone. I have however personally witnessed many evolutions of target shooters to hunters and can also tell you that demand for the youth shooting sports programs is incredible! The National Archery in the Schools Program and the Scholastic Clay Target Program are perhaps two of the best youth shooting sports programs ever invented. Why? The biggest reason is due to the volunteer coaches and instructors who continue to dedicate thousands of hours of time for the betterment of Iowa's youth. Another reason is due to the fact these programs engage youth for a period of time (i.e. weeks or a season of shooting) rather than a one-time event. Yet another reason is due to the fact these programs 'look like' other youth ball-sport programs since there is a coach, regular practices, local events, state events and sometimes national events.

Programs of course are not possible without facilities, and we are working hard on that end as well. Physical range improvements and range information projects have been completed or are in the works all across the state. It is my intention to use this quarterly publication as a way to keep Iowans updated on shooting sports opportunities in the state.

Until Next Time - Good Shooting!

Ben Berka, Iowa DNR Shooting Sports Coordinator

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Iowa NASP Reaches 200 Certified Instructors

Qualified instructors are the lifeblood of any youth shooting sports program. The National Archery in the Schools Program in Iowa will reach a milestone of 200 certified instructors by the end of 2007. There are three levels of certification in the program starting with a one-day training geared for teachers (Basic Archery Instructor, or BAI). The next level of certification is the Basic Archery Instructor Trainer (BAIT), or instructors who 'teach the teachers'. The DNR is prioritizing certification of county conservation board naturalists at the BAIT level. Naturalists are in almost every county and are already teaching outdoor skills in Iowa schools. As BAIT instructors, CCB Naturalists can schedule NASP workshops through the DNR at times and locations that are convenient to teachers in their specific county. For more information on becoming a certified NASP instructor and a current instructor course list, visit <http://www.iowadnr.com/law/shootingsports/ais.html>

DNR Basic Shotgun Coach's Training Under Development

A training curriculum is being developed primarily for Scholastic Clay Target Program and High School Clay Shooting coaches with the first training courses being offered this fall. Courses will be one day, low-cost courses specific to trap, skeet or sporting clays and will be part classroom and part hands-on with live fire. The course is being designed to meet the needs of teacher/coaches as well as volunteer instructors. Courses will contain information on safety/risk management, fundamentals, season logistics, school-based programs, and rules. Tentative trapshooting dates are September 15 at Harlan and October 6 at Ames. Course size will be limited to 10 participants at each course for this fall.



Certified volunteer coaches are key for the growth of the Scholastic Clay Target Program

DNR Sponsors State Scholastic Clay Target Program Events

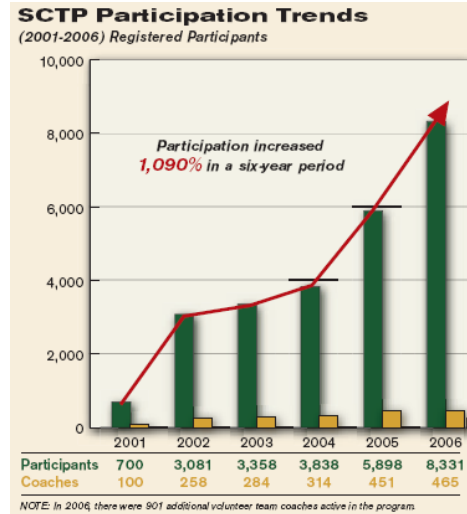
Shotguns are not just for the fall anymore. This spring, over 200 young Iowans participated in the state Scholastic Clay Target Program (SCTP) events and many more participated in practices and at local events. Though the National Shooting Sports Foundation's Scholastic Clay Target Program, nearly 13,000 boys and girls nationwide are enjoying the camaraderie and friendly competition of team-based trap, skeet and sporting clays shooting.

Since its inception, the SCTP has seen exponential growth and shows no signs of slowing. One reason for the success of the program is that the program is team-based so friends can participate together. Other reasons include the fact that the teams are led by a certified coach and there is a season for shooting (spring in Iowa). Just like all other sports in school, regular practice is required before competing. This ensures that all team members are safe and understand the fundamentals of shooting.

Although year round shooting is encouraged, the bulk of the activity in Iowa happens between the months of March and June. At the high-school level, there is an electronic league where local teams compete and scores are sent into the DNR and posted on the DNR's website. After the league, teams participate in the SCTP State Championship events to finish the season, with some shooters attending national events. Teams and individuals completing the league and the SCTP state shoot are eligible for all-state team honors. The top boy and top girl high school trapshooters for 2007 were named captains of the all-state team and received the DNR Iowa Cup Trophies. This season's winners were Zach Davis of Mason City and Calleen Anderson of Ogden.

This year marks the first year the DNR has been involved in hosting all three SCTP state shoot events. All shoot attendees received a participation pin and a free, 50 target DNR 'fun-shoot' was popular at the skeet and sporting clays events.

For complete shoot and league results or to learn more about the Scholastic Clay Target Program, please visit the DNR website at: <http://www.iowadnr.com/law/shootingsports/sctp.html>



Photos, left to right:
 Zach Davis, Mason City, DNR Iowa Cup Boys Winner,
 Calleen Anderson, Ogden, DNR Iowa Cup Girls Winner
 and Des Moines Area Clay Crushers: Ryan Francois,
 Brendan Appel and Chad Gleason, skeet and sporting clays team representing Iowa at SCTP Nationals in Texas

2007 DNR Shooting Range Improvements

As target shooting continues to be a popular, growing sport in the state of Iowa safe, quality facilities are an absolute must. Iowa DNR ranges provide opportunity for thousands of recreational shooters and provide venues for shooting sports programs. Of the twelve DNR managed shooting areas and ranges, the following ranges have either received, or are scheduled to receive updates and improvements. Be sure to check out all twelve of the DNR ranges at www.iowadnr.gov/law/shootingsports/ranges.html

Banner Range (Warren County)

Banner shooting range re-opened in November 2006 following a major renovation project. What once was a shooting area known for crime and littering is now a first class facility that welcomes all shooters including youth and families. The two phase project included the addition of covered firing points, removal of concrete shooting tubes, addition of range office and improvements to the shotgun range. The range is currently managed and operated by DNR staff, however long-term plans include hiring of a 3rd party range management partner. An electronic brochure is available at www.iowadnr.gov/law/shootingsports/files/bannerrange.pdf

Olofson Range (Polk County)

Despite a small fire on the 100 yard rifle range in May, things are business as usual at Olofson Shooting Range near Polk City. In addition to the already diverse amenities at the range, Olofson will be receiving a new archery area near the trap and skeet fields. The new archery range will feature field point targets at various distances, youth targets, 3D targets and seasonal broadhead targets. When finished shooting, customers can relax on one of the newly refurbished picnic tables - a project donated by the ranges' 4H Shooting Sports Club. Visit the website at www.olofsonrange.com

Princeton Range (Scott County)

The shooting range at the Princeton wildlife area continues to be one of the most popular DNR owned ranges in the state. The range received six new ambidextrous shooting benches and improved signage in the spring. Target stands will be constructed prior to the busy fall shooting season. In addition, the DNR is now providing a part-time range monitor during peak times to assist shooters and ensure range safety.

Hawkeye Range (Johnson County)

Hawkeye range is frequented by shooters from around the Iowa City Area. Tentative plans for Hawkeye include additions of targets/stands and fencing on the rifle/handgun range, installation of a new archery range and improved range signage.



Top to Bottom: Improvements at Banner Shooting Range include removal of the old concrete 'shooting tubes' and installation of new clay target traps. 5-stand sporting clays is also available periodically

Quick Shots - Shooting News Around Iowa

2008 Scholastic Clay Target Program State Shoot Dates Scheduled

Mark your calendars now. The SCTP and High School state skeet and sporting clays shoot will be May 9/10 at the New Pioneer Gun Club in Waukee. The SCTP and High School State Trap shoot will be the following weekend, May 17 at the Iowa State Trapshooting Association Homegrounds in Cedar Falls. All teams participating in the SCTP events must be signed up with the SCTP and must conduct the minimum number of practices prior to attending.

Archery In the Schools Scholarships Up For Grabs at 2008 State Shoot

The Iowa State Archery Association will be donating \$2,000 to the 2008 National Archery In the Schools Program State Shoot on March 1 at the Iowa Deer Classic in Des Moines. The money will be divided as two, \$1,000 scholarships - one for the top senior girl and one for the top senior boy archers. In addition, the Iowa Bowhunters Association and Iowa-based Delta Industries have each donated \$1,000 in support of this event. The 2008 shoot will have a capacity of about 200 archers so be sure to register early for this event.

Iowa Shooting Range Directory Available Fall 2008

DNR Shooting Sports is working to create the first ever 'Iowa Shooting Range

Directory', a comprehensive guide on where-to-shoot in the state of Iowa. The directory will be comprised of range inventory data from a variety of sources and will include map information as well as range facility data. Contact information and directions will also be provided for many ranges to allow shooters to be well informed before heading out for a 'day on the range'. Look for the range directory in print version wherever DNR literature is available and online at www.iowaDNR.gov under the shooting sports section.

DNR Shooting Sports to Attend IAHPERD Conference

DNR Shooting Sports will be one of many DNR groups attending the annual, Iowa Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance convention. This year's convention will be held November 10 and 11 at the Hoover/Meredith Complex in Des Moines. The conference is well attended by physical education instructors, athletic directors and school administrators from around Iowa. Other DNR attendees will include Fish Iowa, Boating Safety Education and Recreational Safety Education.

Iowa Archery In the Schools Foundation Continues Support Through Grant Programs

The Iowa Archery in the Schools Foundation has been extremely instrumental in promoting the National Archery in the Schools Program in the state of Iowa by

providing funding for NASP 'kits' through the Foundation's grant program. Some of the groups funded so far in 2007 include Spencer Schools, Robert Blue Middle School, Urbana Center Point Middle School, SE Polk schools, Benton County Conservation, Wahlert High School, Pottawattamie County Conservation and West Bend Mallard schools. The Foundation is an IRS certified 501c3 charitable organization and all donations are tax deductible. For more information on the foundation or how to donate, contact John Carlson at 641-592-1991 or johnarch@wctatel.net Grant information is available at www.iowaDNR.gov

Iowa State Skeet Association Supports Youth Shooting and the SCTP

The Iowa State Skeet Association has demonstrated its commitment to the future of skeet shooting in Iowa by providing a \$1,500 travel stipend to the top SCTP team at the state SCTP skeet shoot. The stipend was used by the Des Moines Area Clay Crushers (top SCTP Jr. Varsity team) to go to San Antonio, TX to compete with nearly 300 other top SCTP participants from around the country. "These kids are the future of our sport, and we are glad to support them" said Kurt Lehman, Vice President of the ISSA. The ISSA has allocated an additional \$3,000 for 2008.

Send Us Your Iowa Shooting News News releases should be no more than a paragraph long and may contain contact information and/or web links on where to find more information. Send to Ben.Berka@dnr.state.ia.us by email or via fax at 515-281-6794

Iowa Youth Hunter Education Challenge

Iowa YHEC (Youth Hunter Education Challenge) is a weekend-long event that takes place each June at the 4-H Education and Natural Resources Center in Madrid, Iowa. Youth from all over Iowa come to compete in eight events, learn about the outdoors, and have fun with other youth and adults that have similar interests. The events include four shooting events: archery, muzzleloading rifle, shotgun, and small-bore rifle. There are also four non-shooting events: wildlife identification, orienteering, hunter safety trail, and written exam. There are two age categories to compete in, Junior (ages 12-14) and Senior (15-18). Most youth compete as part of a team of five from their area, but youth can register as individuals as well. All participants must compete in all eight events. To get a copy of the event rules and registration materials, please contact the Iowa DNR Recreational Safety Officer (RSO) in your area. Additional information and results from the 2007 event are available online at <http://www.iowadnr.com/law/yhec/index.html>. Next year's event will take place on June 6-8.



A YHEC participant works his way through the Hunter Safety Trail, one of eight events at the Iowa Youth Hunter Education Challenge

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