

TRADITIONS

A PUBLICATION OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

GREAT AMERICAN PREVIEW

The NRA Foundation Banquet at NRA's third annual Great American Outdoor Show

STATE FUND COMMITTEE HOSTS A SPECIAL GUEST

NRA Secretary John Frazer experiences how Friends of NRA funds become NRA Foundation grants

2016 CORPORATE SPONSORS

Industry supporters make Friends of NRA's nationwide fundraising efforts possible



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Fighting for Freedom, Family and the Future

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A BIG SKY COUNTRY EXPERIENCE: MEETING THE MAKERS OF THE 2016 GUN OF THE YEAR

By Catherine Barsanti

Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator, National Rifle Association

“Where are we?” I was riding alongside *Friends of NRA* Merchandise Manager Kathy Purtell, who had rhetorically asked this as a commentary on how entirely out of place the two of us currently felt. We were driving down a long stretch of road that was eventually engulfed by dense mountains towering over and around us; a stark contrast to the widespread intersections and gleaming high-rise corporate offices that illustrate the daily landscape of our lives in D.C.

In technical terms, we knew exactly where we were—Kalispell, Mont.—headed to Montana Rifle Company to film the promotional video for the *Friends of NRA* 2016 Gun of the Year, the American Legends Rifle. But we had never been in a place quite like this before. When we arrived at the Montana Rifle Company office, we were greeted by VP of Operations Dave Wisher and VP of Sales Jeff Sipe, who now head the company founded by Jeff’s father in 1999.

Jeff’s passion for his work was immediately evident in his bubbling excitement as he welcomed us, and it overflowed when he presented the American Legends Rifle for us to see. We took several minutes to admire the attractive and well-crafted firearm before Jeff proceeded to give us a tour of the manufacturing facilities and demonstrate the processes and techniques that make Montana Rifle firearms unique.

“When we manufacture our rifles,” Jeff explained, “we combine the production rifle market with custom gunsmithing.” He picked up a bolt and a receiver as visual aids, explaining in comprehensive detail the precise procedures Montana Rifle applies to each of its individual products. “We want to make sure when our customers get the rifle, they don’t have to do any extra work to them.”

The tour was invigorating and wildly informative, enhanced entirely by Jeff and Dave’s dedication to the company and its craft. I couldn’t wait to document it all on film. The next morning we were joined by Montana NRA Senior Field Representative Joe Crismore back at Montana Rifle for production. The experience was authentic and exclusive as I zoomed in on employees customizing each rifle with care and swung around to carefully capture delicate angles of the Gun of the Year itself.

After the facility shoot, we spent some time in Glacier National Park to acquire breathtaking shots of the Montana landscape. It was an incredible experience to stand at the peak and overlook the magnificent mountains posed all around us, peppered by fir trees and mountain goats. After we wrapped up production, Kathy and I said our goodbyes and packed up to return to Washington.

In the short time I was in Montana, I grew to admire the rustic landscapes and genuine lifestyles in which I was able to immerse myself. The nature of Big Sky Country rings true with the characteristics of our American heritage—strong, beautiful, and proud—and it was heartening to see the core of these elements packed into the production of the one-of-a-kind American Legends Rifle.

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF NRA GUN OF THE YEAR AT WWW.FRIENDSOFNRA.ORG/MERCHANDISE

FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM,
FAMILY AND THE FUTURE

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By Christina Paladeau

Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,
National Rifle Association

With a particularly important year ahead for *Friends of NRA*, the pressure was on to create a 2016 Standard Merchandise Package to match that significance and continue to inspire the program's fundraising efforts with a new and unique collection. The 29 items composing this year's package include a variety of exclusive and custom pieces as well as pieces that honor icons, values and traditions in American and shooting sports history.

Each year the selection committee, which includes the six Regional Directors of Field Staff, carefully considers numerous ideas submitted by both vendors and NRA staff. It works to create a merchandise package geared towards the live auctions that are the highlight of *Friends of NRA* events, and pieces are chosen based on quality, uniqueness, fundraising potential and compatibility with The NRA Foundation and *Friends of NRA's* ideals. The desire to honor American craftsmanship also plays a major part in the selection process, and nearly two-thirds of the items in this year's collection are made in the USA.

Another notable aspect of the 2016 package is the size of the firearms selection—the number of guns has increased from six in 2015 to eight in 2016—which has something for every shooter.

Not only that, but extra effort went into working with firearm vendors last year to create special limited edition guns exclusivity for *Friends of NRA*.

The 2016 Gun of the Year stands out from that group as the focal piece of the entire package. The Montana Rifle American Legends Rifle embodies the months and sometimes years of behind-the-scenes planning, preparation and production reflected by all the chosen firearms, merchandise, gear and framed décor. Many items represent the combined efforts of multiple contributors brought together in their support for *Friends of NRA*: manufacturers and embellishers, metal casters and wood craftsmen, marksmen, artists and framers, to name a few.

"I worked with Montana Rifle for years," Merchandise Manager Kathy Purtell emphasizes. "It is a small American company that makes top notch rifles, and the American Legends Rifle in the ever-popular .300 Win Mag is exclusive as a first run with *Friends of NRA* this year." Montana Rifle Company created the American Legends Rifle for avid hunters and those who share the bond of appreciation for a handsome hunting rifle. Perfect for outdoorsmen seeking big game adventures, this bolt action rifle provides consistent, reliable performance through an artfully executed design.



A classic matte blued finish, custom laser engraving and embellishment, and NRA serialization add even more uniqueness to this never-before-offered firearm.

The Remington 870 Wingmaster 200th Anniversary Edition and the Dirty Harry Framed Casing Set also represent the involvement and coordination of multiple participants. This year is Remington's 200th anniversary, and *Friends of NRA* was fortunate to work with Remington and Baron Technology, Inc., to create this engraved special anniversary edition of a classic model cherished by millions of owners. "This is a great starter gun, and most people still have their original because of its reliability and heirloom quality," Director of Field Staff Philip Gray explains. "Baron Technology did a great job with the custom engraving on these, and they are sure to be keepsakes that people both use and pass down."

The Dirty Harry Framed Casing Set features a classic image portrayal of Harry Callahan holding the Smith & Wesson Model 29 accompanied by a .44 MAG bullet and casing fired from one of the Model 29s used in the filming of Dirty Harry and Magnum Force. *Friends of NRA* was able to borrow this gun on loan to the National Firearms Museum, and NRA headquarters staff, including General Operations Executive Director Kyle Weaver, fired rounds through "the most powerful handgun in the world" to create this custom collector's set.

"We worked on this project for a couple years, and it is a truly neat piece that can't be found anywhere else," shares Eastern Region Director Bryan Hoover. "Every year we try to create unique pieces by finding someone or something that is a cultural icon that stands out and has a lasting significance. We looked at this one because of the popularity of this revolver and how it plays such a big part in the Dirty Harry movies. That was a natural fit for us. That led to a highly collectible piece unlike anything we've ever used in the past."

Other items inspired by the desire to honor Second Amendment freedoms and designed to provide *Friends of NRA* attendees with a truly one-of-a-kind experience include the Henry Golden Boy Second Amendment Tribute Edition—embellished with engraving and 24k gold plating by Baron Technology to commemorate the NRA's fight for firearms freedom—and NRA Fire Pit.

The fire pit is customized with the NRA logo cut into every side, and it is a great example of how *Friends of NRA* develops ideas and works directly with vendors to make them come to life. "Custom Metal Works LLC sent us one fire pit sample, but in the selection meeting we thought about how to make it work better for our attendees," South Central Region Director Tom Ulik notes. "We quickly sent some sketches and adjustments back and forth, and we went through the complete product development and pricing process in under two hours."

Friends of NRA is proud to share the 2016 Standard Merchandise Package. Attend a *Friends of NRA* event to help fight for freedom, family and the future of America's shooting sports traditions by bidding on these exclusive items!



2016 GUN OF THE YEAR
Montana Rifle American Legends .300 Win Mag Rifle with *Friends of NRA* logo, custom embellishment and NRA serialization*



*Nearly two-thirds of this year's items are made in the USA. Look for the asterisk next to the item name that denotes American-made products!



Learn more about the Gun of the Year and all of the items in the 2016 Standard Merchandise Package by following the QR code to friendsofnra.org/Merchandise

POWERED FOR PRECISION



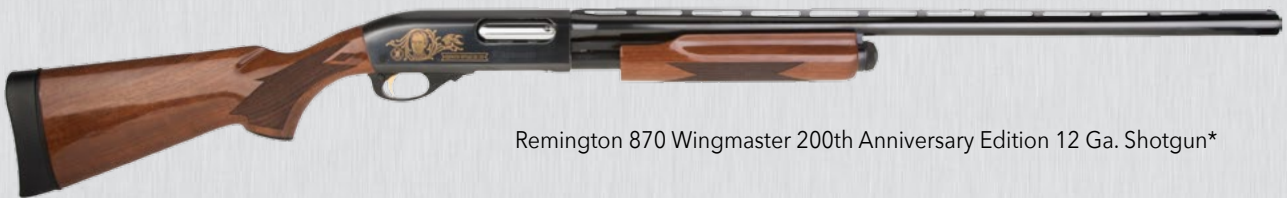
Henry Golden Boy Second Amendment Tribute Edition .22 LR Rifle*



Ruger GP100 Double Action Revolver .357 Mag**



Walther CCP 9mm White Edition with Friends of NRA Logo*



Remington 870 Wingmaster 200th Anniversary Edition 12 Ga. Shotgun*



Century Arms Canik TP9SA 9mm with Logo and Case*



Taurus Curve .380 Carbon Fiber with NRA Logo*



Crickett .22LR Rifle with Pewter NRA Coin*

*Not approved in all 50 states

CRAFTED TO CAPTIVATE



Replica Antique Target Ball Set*



NRA Neon Light

Loon with Chick Life-Size Decoy



Accent Table with Secret Compartment*

.45 Auto Sunburst Jewelry Set*



Friends of NRA Freedom Flyer Scooter



NRA Four Slice Toaster

*Made in the U.S.A.

GEARED TO ENGAGE



Colt .45 Bowie Knife
with NRA Logo



NRA Trolley
Luggage Set



Lucid L5 6-24x50 Rifle Scope
with Custom Logo Reticle



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with Logo*



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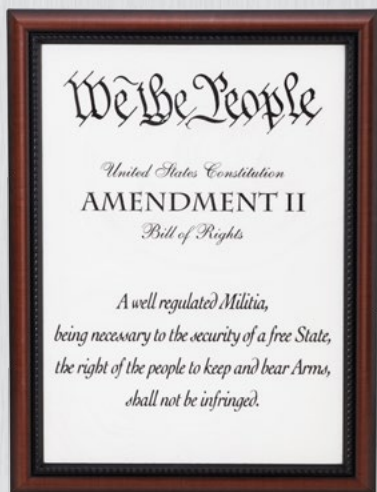
PRESENTED WITH PRIDE



Ronald Reagan
Commemorative Set



Friends of NRA Blanket*



Second Amendment
Framed Art*



Reproduction Wine Decanter
and Glass Set*



Custom Military Cartridge
Board with NRA Logo*



Dirty Harry Model 29
Framed Casing Set*



For God and Country Sign*

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Made in America, Or Not Made At All

CONTRIBUTING CO-SPONSOR:



**CENTURY
ARMS**

THE NRA FOUNDATION BANQUET

AT THE GREAT AMERICAN OUTDOOR SHOW

By Megan McConnell
*Special Events Coordinator,
National Rifle Association*

THE **NRA** FOUNDATION
TEACH FREEDOM



The 2015 Great American Outdoor Show attracted over 200,000 outdoorsmen, Second Amendment supporters, and hunting enthusiasts from all across the United States. The energy in the PA Farm Show Complex was contagious as more than 1,000 exhibitors showcased their hunts, adventures, boating and fishing products, recreational vehicles and, of course, shooting sports gear.

In 2016 attendees can expect the same level of excitement and greatness as 2015, thanks to presenting sponsor Outdoor Channel. The show will again feature over 1,000 exhibitors, an NRA Country concert featuring Justin Moore, LOCASH and Ben Gallaher and the NRA Foundation Banquet and Wall of Guns sponsored by Henry Repeating Arms and Century Arms.

In the same tradition as *Friends of NRA* events held throughout the country, the NRA Foundation Banquet will have an impressive live auction with hunts, firearms and exclusive gear. The silent auction, games and raffles will feature hundreds of opportunities for attendees to win quality merchandise while having fun supporting the shooting sports. To top it all off, attendees will feast on a home-style barbecue dinner with delicious smoked brisket and turkey. The event will take place on the first day of the show, helping to kick off the week with an exciting evening at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 6, in the PA Preferred Ballroom.

The Wall of Guns will make its appearance in the spine of the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex. Starting on Saturday, February 6, and running through Sunday, February 14, participants will have the chance to win their choice of over 40 firearms of different makes and models or

they can select the instant-win \$400 cash prize. Wall of Guns tickets are \$10 each, and only 100 tickets are sold each round. Once 100 tickets are sold a winner is drawn and a new round begins immediately after. Special ticket package options will also be available, so make sure you stop by the Wall of Guns for your chance to win. (Dauphin County, Pa. raffle numbers 539-1 through 539-9).

The Great American Outdoor Show will also feature family-friendly activities like the Family Fun Zone, Pyramid Air Gun Range and the 3 Gun Experience. But whether folks attend the show for the exhibitors, entertainment or a day out with friends and family, all attendees will be supporting America's shooting sports traditions and outdoor heritage. For those who can't attend but still want to join in on the experience, NRA will be showcasing the week's activities on social media with #GAOS2016.

Check out the next two pages for some of the hunts, firearms and games that will be featured at The NRA Foundation Banquet.

The Great American Outdoor Show runs February 6-14 at the Pennsylvania Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg, Pa. Join The NRA Foundation at the show! Buy your tickets for the NRA Foundation Banquet at www.friendsofnra.org/nationalevents. All banquet net proceeds benefit The NRA Foundation, the country's leading charitable organization in support of the shooting sports. Learn more at www.nrafoundation.org.

For more information about the event or to learn about donation and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.friendsofnra.org or contact Megan McConnell at mmcconnell@nrahq.org.



EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



Hunting Trip for 2 or 4 in South Africa

Donated by Numzaan Safaris

Take an unforgettable trip to Limpopo, South Africa, for a hunting experience on the bushveld landscape. The location at the heart of Southern Africa's greatest concentration of game and an abundance of fine trophy animals make this hunt an extraordinary affair. Five-day trip includes accommodations, \$500 trophy fee per hunter, field preparations and a licensed professional guide. Airfare not included. 2016-2017.



Hunting Trip for 1 in Maine

Donated by Patten Hunting Lodge

Located on the north side of Mt. Katahdin, Patten, Maine, is a beautiful and bountiful habitat for moose, bear, deer and small game. Patten Hunting Lodge makes every effort to give you an exciting and memorable hunt. In the heart of the wilderness you will find the experience you've hunted for all your life. Five-day trip includes accommodations. Airfare, fees, preparations and transportation not included.

Bedside Table with Secret Compartment

Donated by Secret Compartment Furniture

Show your NRA pride with this beautiful and functional bedside table that also serves as a convenient and inconspicuous storage place for a handgun. Hand-crafted from solid brown maple wood, this table will make a great addition to your bedside and will complement any décor with its simple and elegant design. Customized for the NRA and made by Amish craftsmen in Homes County, Ohio.



Big Green Egg® The Ultimate Cooking Experience

Donated by Seasonal Firestyles

The Big Green Egg® is the most versatile barbecue or outdoor cooking product on the market, with more capabilities than all other conventional cookers combined. Use the Big Green Egg for everything from appetizers to entrees to desserts. It will be sure to exceed all of your expectations for culinary perfection! Package includes Egg, Nest, side shelves, charcoal, firestarters and ash tool.



All items, games and raffle packs are subject to change



RAFFLES & GAMES

RAFFLE PACKS

\$100

includes:

5 White Tickets
NRA Foundation Hat

\$300

includes:

15 White Tickets, 4 Blue Tickets,
2 Red Tickets and 1 Gold Ticket
NRA Foundation Hat
NRA Foundation Knife

\$500

includes:

25 White Tickets, 8 Blue Tickets,
4 Red Tickets and 2 Gold Tickets
NRA Foundation Hat
Redfield Rebel 8x42mm Roof Prism Binoculars

\$1,000


includes:

50 White Tickets, 10 Blue Tickets,
6 Red Tickets and 3 Gold Tickets
NRA Foundation Hat
Kel-Tec PMR-30

\$2,000

includes:


50 White Tickets, 10 Blue Tickets,
6 Red Tickets and 4 Gold Tickets
NRA Foundation Hat
Kimber Rifle




WALL OF GUNS
A FUNDRAISER OF THE NRA FOUNDATION

RAFFLE*
features
50 DIFFERENT FIREARMS
plus outdoor gear!


100 CHANCES AT \$10 EACH ARE SOLD AT A TIME
The lucky winner gets to pick their prize off the Wall!
All proceeds go directly to The NRA Foundation for the promotion of the shooting sports in the U.S.



CENTURY ARMS



Gaston



HENRY
Made in America. Or Not. Made to Kill.

FEATURED GAME

TABLE OF GUNS

\$20
per entry

Up to **10**
entries at
one table will

EACH WIN A FIREARM!

*Dauphin County, Pa., raffle numbers 539-1 through 539-9

All items, games and raffle packs are subject to change



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THE NATIONAL NRA FOUNDATION BANQUET



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We make it visible.

May 19, 5:00pm
Kentucky International Convention Center
Louisville, Kentucky

VISIT www.nraam.org FOR TICKETS AND MORE INFORMATION!

Fostering the Future of the Shooting Sports

By Christina Paladeau
*Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,
National Rifle Association*



Located just over the Massachusetts border in New Hampshire lies the town of Pelham, home to the most comprehensive facilities of any fish and game organization in the New England region. Founded in 1919, the Pelham Fish & Game Club (PF&G) can now add a growing youth shooting sports program to the list of their accomplishments.

The PF&G Juniors Shooting Sports Program introduces boys and girls in the area to the shooting sports with a focus on safety, good sportsmanship, resource conservation and continuous education. The club provides the program at a minimal fee to any area youth wishing to attend, including non-members. But that fee only covers a portion of the ammunition cost, and the club provides participants with all equipment and training, including firearms and ammunition, eye and hearing protection, cleaning kits, shooting mats and more.

With the support of *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation, several dozen youths from age 10 to 18 were able to enjoy the 16-week program in 2015. Students were taught the NRA rules for safe gun handling along with pistol and rifle parts, operation and cleaning, shooting fundamentals and range rules and had continuous opportunities for skill development.

For a majority of the students, this is their first exposure to firearms, and the club strives to make it the beginning of a long future of involvement in the shooting sports and responsibility in their community. It is a training ground for future club leadership and active supporters of the Second Amendment. That impact extends beyond the time and training of the program itself; in 2014, by the end of the program, several students' parents purchased their child their first rifle or pistol.

John Errico and Co-Chair of the PF&G Junior Shooting Sports Program Barry Mills recognize how the grant support of over \$3,000 in product allowed the program to greatly increase its accessibility to a larger group of youth in 2015. And not only did it reach more youths, but each participant had nearly unlimited opportunities for pistol, rifle and shotgun shooting.

Enrollment and participation increased from 18 youths in 2014 to 62 youths in 2015. The rifles and shotguns received through the grant allowed more shooters on the lines, and youth models were critical for the younger, smaller shooters. The donated ammunition allowed for 16 nights of range time for the youths. Because of the additional resources received, the youths were allowed to shoot a greater amount of rounds than prior years. The increased access allowed them to improve marksmanship and range safety awareness and have a highly positive experience in the shooting sports.

A parent's comments after the final night of the 2015 program sum up the valuable impact of the grant to PF&G. "I just wanted to take a moment to thank you and the dedicated PF&G members for a wonderful junior program this summer," she writes. "Watching my son with the other youth in this fantastic program was a joy. The instructors were top notch in managing the youth, prioritizing safety, teaching a wide range of shooting skills and keeping it fun as well as safe. You are doing such a great service to the sport and I am thankful for all your hard work and dedication." ■

Support youth shooting programs in your area by fundraising with Friends of NRA and applying for an NRA Foundation grant! Apply at www.nrafoundation.org. Learn more about Friends of NRA in New Hampshire at www.friendsofnra.org/NH.



Photos Courtesy Pelham Fish & Game Club





SHELLING



Photo Courtesy Waverly-Shell Rock HS Trapshooting Club

OUT SUCCESS

By Christina Paladeau

Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator, National Rifle Association



A trapshooting club can be much more than just a shooting sports training program. The Waverly-Shell Rock High School Trapshooting Club in northeast Iowa also utilizes the team environment to reinforce the importance of responsibility, integrity and citizenship.

The club officially started in 2012 with a key goal of building character in the young men and women who compete on the team. The certified coaching staff—including parents, grandparents and community members determined to ensure the future success of high school trapshooting at Waverly-Shell Rock—teach about safety with firearms, care of the firearms, responsible shooting skills and good stewardship at the range and in conservation.

In the 2014 season, Waverly-Shell Rock joined the Northeast Iowa conference and traveled to competitions with other area teams. It grew from an unorganized club to a structured program that is now attending approximately twenty meets a season and participates in the State of Iowa and the Iowa SCTP tournaments. It expanded from attending six competitions at the local gun club to traveling and earning eighth place out of 104 high school teams in the electronic league for the State of Iowa.

The club is sponsored by the Waverly-Shell Rock School District, but it receives no funding from the district or the school's booster club; the team is self-funded. Participation in competitions, at each of which at least two rounds of 25 targets are shot, has been supported by NRA Foundation grants. More than \$2,000 in shells and gun cleaning supplies awarded in a 2015 grant was used, and will be used in the future, by the entire team. Each athlete received one case and three boxes of

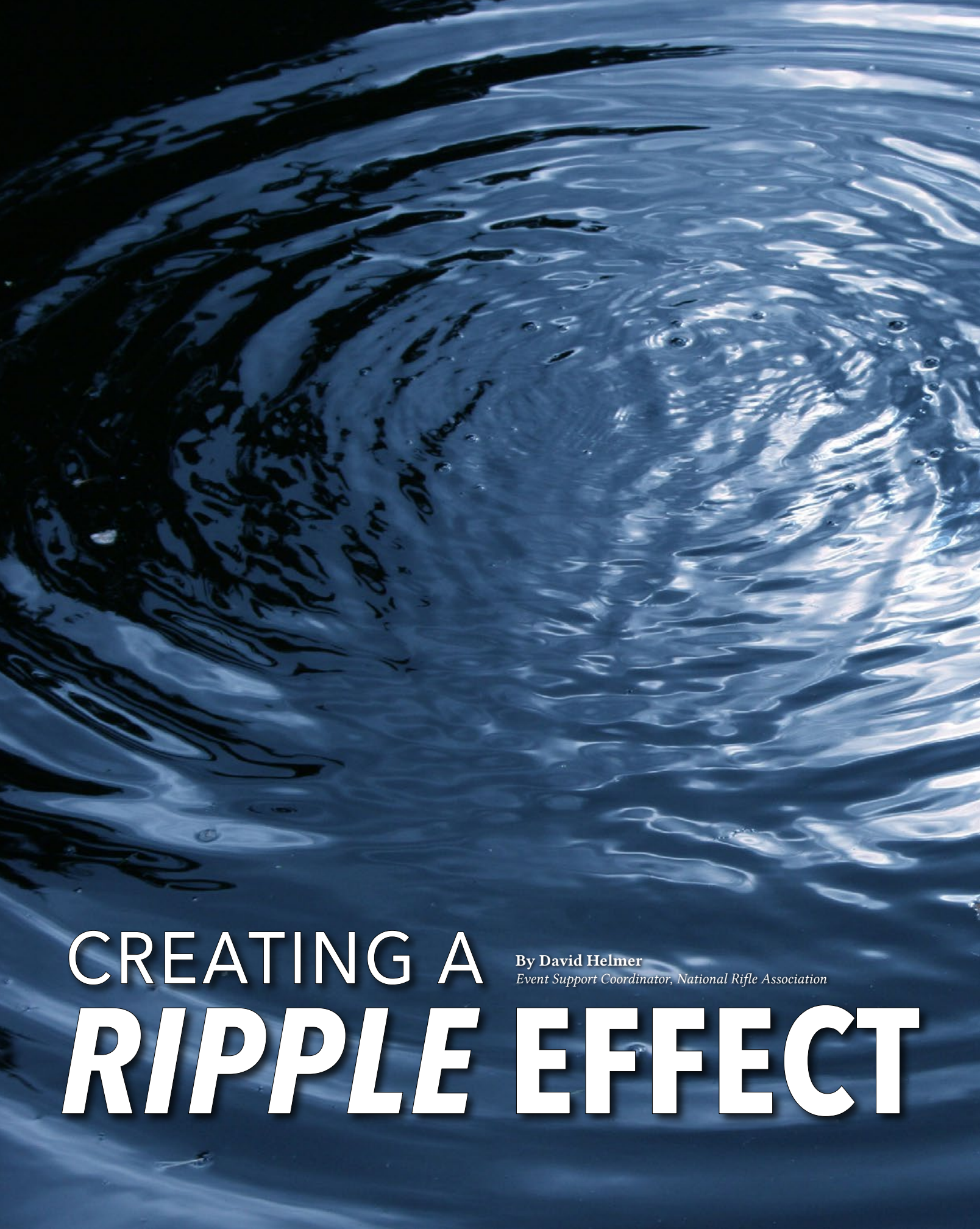
shells, greatly helping each athlete and their families with competition expenses.

The head coach of the Waverly-Shell Rock Trapshooting Club expresses how thankful the club leaders are for the grants that are helping them continue to grow as a club and to provide an opportunity for local boys and girls to participate in trapshooting in a team atmosphere. “Without the generosity of *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation’s continued support of our program at Waverly-Shell Rock,” he writes, “we would not be able to continue to compete with other local Iowa High School Trapshooting teams and to continue teaching our area youth about gun safety, ethics, sportsmanship and respect for others.”

The team shows their gratitude by displaying a large NRA Foundation logo on both sides of its 12-foot enclosed trailer used to haul guns and gear to its meets and practices, all across northeast Iowa. Additionally, numerous athletes, family members and coaches both attended and volunteered at the Cedar Valley *Friends of NRA* event held in Waterloo, Iowa, in March. Their support helped the event reach High Caliber Club status by raising more than \$25,000 in 2015.

Every trapshooting practice and competition provides an opportunity to promote firearm safety, teamwork and leadership. The coaches of the Waverly-Shell Rock team foresee their students passing on to others what they learn through participation in the club, resulting in success for not only this program but also for American shooting sports traditions. ■

*Do you know of an organization that could benefit from an NRA Foundation grant? Apply at www.nrafoundation.org. To learn more about *Friends of NRA in Iowa* go to www.friendsofnra.org/IA.*



CREATING A ***RIPPLE EFFECT***

By David Helmer
Event Support Coordinator, National Rifle Association



Individuals who have been long-involved with The NRA Foundation know that whenever a program with strong values is awarded a grant, the entire community reaps the benefits. This is especially true when considering the Navy JROTC Unit of Nova High School in Davie, Fla. (Nova HS NJROTC), which received over \$10,700 in equipment and training materials in 2015 to establish a marksmanship team.

The objectives of the team are to instill in its participants a sense of responsibility for firearms and range safety while fostering growth in their individual skills and eventually to placing in competition. However, thanks to the program's broader mission—to instill in Nova High School Cadets the values of Citizenship, service to the United States, personal responsibility and a sense of accomplishment—the impact of the grant was able to reach far beyond the team's marksmanship objectives.

Known for their commitment to staying active in community service projects, the Nova High School Cadets jumped at the opportunity to join their local *Friends of NRA* committee in Fort Lauderdale to help youth on the BB-gun range and teach them the importance of gun safety. The cadets were able to impact the lives of many local younger students while helping them to understand the power and responsibility that goes along with handling firearms, and the community is sure to experience long-lasting positive effects.

The Nova HS NJROTC has even started a new service program this year in which the cadets will become certified members of a Civilian Emergency Response Team to help their community in times of natural disaster.

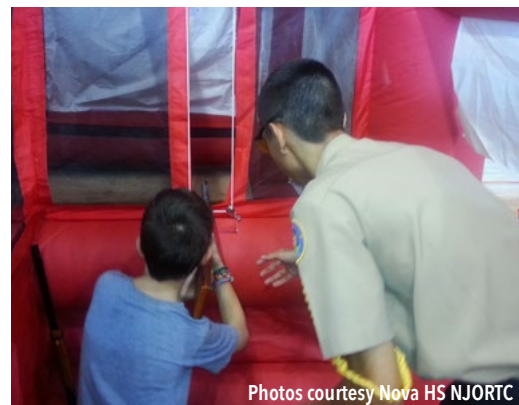
Senior Naval Science Instructor Lt. L. Berley

Rodabaugh believes the cadets gained a new strong sense of pride and togetherness thanks in part to the NRA Foundation grant. The self-discipline involved with shooting increased their confidence and gave them something to work for together as a team. Furthermore, Lt. Rodabaugh observes, "I have seen positives in my cadets' daily lives in the socialization, self-discipline and willingness to put in time and practice to improve their marksmanship scores, and I have even seen an improvement in grades."

The Nova HS NJROTC Battalion of Cadets will also be able to compete in its first ever shoulder-to-shoulder match this school year with the use of the products awarded. As the cadets' coach, Lt. Rodabaugh has witnessed first-hand the benefits of the grant. "My cadets are shooting for the first time ever with the grant equipment we received from The NRA Foundation, and we can't thank you enough for this opportunity," he says "The benefits are being felt here already!"

In fact, the team signed up for the NRA National JROTC Sporter and Precision Air Rifle Postal Match and will compete in the local AREA 7 shoulder-to-shoulder match. Fifteen cadets received CMP numbers after applying and passing the safety exam with 100 percent accuracy. As the cadets continue to grow their program and become more competitive, they plan to continue stressing safety while refining their marksmanship skills and taking necessary steps to positively impact their community. ■

Apply for a grant to fund your local shooting sports programs and projects at www.nrafoundation.org! To learn more about Friends of NRA in Florida, go to www.friendsofnra.org/FL.



Photos courtesy Nova HS NJROTC

RECORD-BREAKING EXPERIENCE

4-H Shooting Sports Youth Bags Record Bull Elk with Rifle at Fort Bayard, N.M., Youth-Only Hunt

By Christina Paladeau
*Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,
National Rifle Association*

The Gila National Forest stretches out from the Arizona border and covers 3.3 million acres of forested hills and mountains in southwest New Mexico. Within this expansive wilderness lies the Fort Bayard Special Management Area, where 12-year-old Xavier Koury of Silver City, N.M., took advantage of the once-in-a-lifetime privilege of drawing a Bull Elk hunt in the Youth-Only hunt.

On the morning of Saturday, October 10, Xavier seized this opportunity by taking a trophy elk on Game Management Unit 24. The young hunter took his time, aimed, stayed cool, calm and collected, and fired his .30-378 Weatherby Magnum rifle to successfully take the huge bull elk.

Size matters in the sport of big game hunting, and this one scored 380. Scoring is done systematically among game hunters and measures the antlers' main beams, spread, and mass from both sides to get a starting point of 200 for most big bulls. Then, the tine lengths are added on. Therefore, Xavier's elk certainly was a prize.



Photo Courtesy Grant County Extension Office

Xavier and his younger brother both participate in Grant County 4-H's shooting sports program which encourages firearm safety and instruction. Funding for the 4-H Shooting Sports program is primarily from The NRA Foundation and supplies hard to find ammunition for shooters to perfect their sport.

In 2015 more than \$22,500 in grant funding and product awarded to Grant County 4-H Shooting Sports helped provide them with enough equipment to handle the increased and steady demand from participants like the Koury brothers. Committed coaches and staff were able to conduct regular practices with sufficient ammo and dependable equipment. The opportunity to experience the shooting sports before committing a great deal of money toward bows, rifles, or shotguns is a tremendous benefit for 4-H youth.

Many serious participants eventually purchase their own equipment, but the supply of ammo—particularly .22 caliber—is invaluable, as it remains difficult and expensive to purchase. Additionally, clays and ammo for shotgun sports presented an opportunity for 4-H youths to explore a new discipline, and a bow press and other archery equipment greatly enhanced that popular program which grew from 43 participants in 2014 to 75 in 2015.

The Grant County 4-H Shooting Sports Program is a collaborative effort between the New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service 4-H Program, Grant County New Mexico, volunteer leaders and 4-H youth. Shooting Sports has become Grant County 4-H's largest project area of interest, with more than 120 youth members enrolled. In the spirit of the 4-H motto "learn by doing" and through the support of The NRA Foundation, the Grant County 4-H Shooting Sports Program is able to accomplish its goal of giving local 4-H youth access to the necessary shooting sports equipment to give them lasting, positive educational experiences. ■

For more information, contact the Grant County Extension Office at (575) 388-1559 or email Director Judy O'Loughlin at judyo@nmsu.edu. Apply for an NRA Foundation grant to fund educational shooting sports programs like this one in your area! Go to www.nrafoundation.org.

**GRANT COUNTY
4-H SHOOTING SPORTS
AWARDED
\$22,500+**

**IN FUNDING AND PRODUCT
INCLUDING:**

BOWS • SHOTGUNS • RIFLES • AMMO
CLAY TARGETS • BOW PRESS • & MORE

2014	43
2015	75


WHICH DIRECTLY INCREASED PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

GROW A CLUB

THE SPORT

By Christina Paladeau
*Event Marketing & Communications Coordinator,
National Rifle Association*





Respect. Appreciation. Passion. Through participation in the shooting sports, young people develop these traits along with many others essential to a fulfilled and productive life. As a result, youth shooting sports programs like the one run by the Buffalo Wildlife Club in North Dakota play an important role in educating and inspiring the next generation of Americans.

In this rural area hunting and shooting are both a way of life and popular sports in which boys and girls take an early interest. The club teaches these youth the safety and enjoyment of competition shooting through BB gun, air rifle and small-bore programs, and participants learn everything from positioning when firing and firearm safety to proper handling of firearms and attitude and sportsmanship at a match. Coaches even go over proper breathing techniques, what to eat before and after a match, and everything in between.

The North Dakota State BB Gun Championship as well as NRA sectional matches are hosted by the club, providing local youth with many opportunities to hone their marksmanship skills in settings beyond just their competitions with other shooters from around the state. Many of these young shooters go on to compete not only on a local level, but also as far up as internationally. However, some have been unable to compete at the level they wish due to the inability to purchase the equipment needed to stay competitive.

Even with a coach volunteering hours of his time and purchasing his own personal equipment to loan out to as many kids as possible, there was still a need for additional resources to provide hopeful participants with adequate support. The club makes focused efforts for fundraising and encourages its shooters to work towards investing in their own equipment so that as much club inventory as possible can go to new recruits. However, it still has had to turn young shooters away from advancing past the BB gun program due to limited equipment and supplies, and the cost for training has kept some away from the sport entirely.

Fortunately, an NRA Foundation grant of nearly \$15,000 in funding and products awarded in 2015 has helped bridge that gap. The club was able to allow three additional shooters to take the next step after the BB gun program and start learning about and taking part in competitive shooting. Additionally, the grant support will allow for many to continue to enjoy the BB gun program, which has hosted as many as 30 kids for the last few years.

With the increased opportunity provided by the granted ammo and equipment, many new young athletes will get their first experience with shooting sports through the club, which continues to grow and expect larger numbers for its air rifle and smallbore programs. Every rifle in the club's inventory will be put to use in the coming year, and it will still need to borrow more to meet the demand of the avid young shooting sports enthusiasts in southern North Dakota.

"We appreciate all that *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation have done to support our club," shares Jim Haag. "It is fun to be part of kids learning to shoot for the first time in our Buffalo Sharpshooters BB gun program. Our coach does a great job with them and about half stay with the club to become air rifle shooters and then smallbore shooters. It has been great to watch my daughter Emily and her friends from the club move up and

on after the BB gun training. Emily is planning to shoot at college starting this fall."

The mission to promote the shooting sports to as many youth as possible can only be achieved with the right equipment. And thanks to the support of *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation, this club, the skill and enthusiasm of the youth it teaches, and the sport of competition shooting as a whole expanded notably in 2015. ■

" With the increased opportunity provided by the granted ammo and equipment, many new young athletes will get their first experience with shooting sports through the club, which continues to grow and expect larger numbers for its programs. "

Learn more about Friends of NRA in North Dakota at www.friendsofnra.org/ND. Apply for an NRA Foundation grant to fund shooting sports programs like this one in your area! Go to www.nrafoundation.org.

CONTINUING A *tradition*

SOUTHERN TULARE COUNTY SPORTSMAN'S ASSOCIATION'S
ANNUAL ROLLIN' FOR RINGNECKS, VETERAN
AND JUNIOR PHEASANT HUNTS

By Megan McConnell
Special Events Coordinator, National Rifle Association



It's the morning of Friday, November 20, and the Southern Tulare County Sportsman's Association's (STCSA) annual Rollin for Ringnecks, Veterans, and Junior Pheasant Hunts are about to begin.

Headquartered in Porterville, Calif., STCSA is one of California's oldest sportsman's associations, and for the past 32 years it has hosted one of the largest junior pheasant hunts in California. Over 200 junior hunters participate in one of four hunting times over the weekend. Along with the junior hunters, STCSA also hosts over 50 hunters for its Rollin for Ringnecks, a wheelchair-accessible pheasant hunt, and a Veterans hunt.

Over the three-day hunting weekend, STCSA hosts hundreds of hunters as well as thousands of volunteers and families. Some junior, disabled, and veteran hunters drive almost four hours to attend STCSA's annual hunts, which provide a great opportunity for friends, families and fellow hunters to enjoy time together shooting, building memories, and making dreams a reality.

Richard Tree, STCSA president, said the hunts are the club's premier events and have been a community tradition dating back to the 1980's, and not a single hunter is ever turned away.

"STCSA is a small sportsman's association, with only 30 active members, but the support we receive from our volunteers, community and The NRA Foundation make these hunts possible."

In 2015, STCSA received more than \$21,000 in grant funding and product from The NRA Foundation to support its activities.

"The NRA Foundation has allowed our club to continue the tradition here in California," Tree explains. "With the financial assistance from the grant program, the Club was able to purchase, raise, and release over 1,000 pheasants and provide ammunition and safety equipment for each of the hunt participants over the weekend."



Photos courtesy STCSA

“The NRA Foundation has allowed our club to continue the tradition here in California. It has been the financial backbone to the Club's activities to promote conservation and the continued presence of wildlife in our local area. Without this help our Club would not have the financial resources to host these events for the junior, disabled, and Veteran hunters.”

"Over the years, The NRA Foundation has been the financial backbone to the Club's activities to promote conservation and the continued presence of wildlife in our local area," he continues. "Without this help our Club would not have the financial resources to host these events for the junior, disabled, and Veteran hunters."

Bill Moench, Rollin For Ringnecks Director, said the hunts have become a staple for local veterans and enthusiasts as the only wheelchair-accessible event of its kind in the area. One Thanksgiving Moench took his cousin, who served in Vietnam and now requires the use of a wheelchair, to the Lake Success Wildlife Area to test out the terrain.

"This all started because my cousin was in a wheelchair," he says. "We took our sons out and we brought him out too and waited to see if it would work." It did.

Five years later Rollin For Ringnecks hosts more than 50 people—a mix of veterans seeking camaraderie and wheelchair users that would otherwise be unable to experience pheasant hunting on their own. Recognizing the impact of this special hunt, the *Friends of NRA TV Series* featured it in an episode in 2012.

Allen Roope damaged his spine in a car accident 36 years ago. As a result he lost the use of his legs and was left with limited mobility in his arms. Participating in his fourth hunt in five years in 2015, he says he is thankful to have the opportunity.

"I love it out here, it's a great thing," he says. "To tell you the truth, I never thought I'd go bird hunting again."

These unique hunts have become a cherished tradition in California, giving those who had seemingly lost the ability or opportunity to hunt the chance to experience again those joys of the outdoors. ■

Learn more about Friends of NRA in California at friendsofnra.org/CA. Apply for an NRA Foundation grant to fund shooting sports programs like this one in your area! Go to www.nrafoundation.org.



LEFT A
LEGACY



SUPPORTED OUR
RIGHTS



SHARED OUR
PASSION



GAVE MY
TIME

FRIENDS OF
We Are NRA Volunteers.

Visit www.FriendsofNRA.org to volunteer with your local Friends of NRA Committee!



Friends of NRA NATIONAL CORPORATE SPONSOR PROGRAM

By Christina Paladeau
*Event Marketing and Communications Coordinator,
National Rifle Association*

The grassroots fundraising efforts organized by *Friends of NRA's* countrywide network of Field Representatives, volunteers, attendees and donors who contribute to the local events would not be possible without the additional support of the program's generous and enthusiastic corporate sponsors. Backed by a group of continuing industry sponsors, *Friends of NRA* is primed to continue achieving greater success and reaching more shooting sports enthusiasts in 2016.

"Industry support and corporate sponsors are vital to what *Friends of NRA* does in fundraising for The NRA Foundation," shares NRA General Operations Director of Industry Partnerships John da Silva. "With their commitment the program continues to flourish, providing exclusive product to its events nationwide and increasing the funding available to firearms training and education programs through the grant program."

The highest level of industry support for *Friends of NRA* is the National Corporate Sponsor Program's exclusive Guardian level. Since 2013 Daniel Defense and *Friends of NRA* have been building a valuable relationship in service to America's shooting sports traditions and enthusiasts, and this year those efforts continue thanks to Daniel Defense signing on for a third year as the Guardian level sponsor.

The relationship began when Daniel Defense started supplying rifles through the Vendor Direct program and has grown stronger each year since as it increased support in 2014, 2015 and now 2016 as National Corporate Sponsor. “We are proud to continue our support of *Friends of NRA*,” says Daniel Defense Director of US Sales Bill Robinson. “This partnership continues to grow and is a great opportunity for Daniel Defense to give back to The NRA [Foundation] and help support their efforts.”

Founder Marty Daniel and his wife are passionate about supporting shooting programs focused on education and training for youth and women in particular, an interest that perfectly connects with The NRA Foundation’s goals to support educational programs that ensure the continuation of America’s proud shooting and hunting heritage for generations to come. But Daniel Defense’s commitment to Second Amendment freedoms extends beyond the *Friends* program as well; in 2015 it signed on for a two-year agreement as the presenting sponsor of the new NRA America’s Rifle Challenge (ARC) and Match programs.

Over the past decade and more, Baron Technology, Inc., has been doing engraving and customization on *Friends of NRA* firearms. It has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in technical and artistic services and is now the program’s main source for engraving on standard package knives and firearms. David Baron is a much-respected leader in the industry with regards to his engraving capabilities and several manufactures use his unique services for enhancing products for special editions. The uniqueness and exclusivity added to *Friends of NRA* merchandise by Baron plays a critical role in creating desirable items for event attendees. “They are an essential part of what we do,” remarks NRA Volunteer Fundraising Merchandise Manager Kathy Purtell. In 2016, Baron continues to support the *Friends* program with donations of its valuable services.

“There has never been a more important time, in the history of this great country, to make serious and meaningful contributions to protecting our rights and freedoms,” emphasizes David Baron, president of Baron Technology, Inc. “I am pleased to donate all of the design and engraving costs of the Remington 870 Wingmaster 200th Anniversary Edition shotgun to the 2016 *Friends of NRA* Standard Merchandise Package.” Baron is proud to support the work of the NRA and *Friends of NRA* as true guardians of Second Amendment rights.

In 2012 GASTON J. GLOCK style LP joined *Friends of NRA*’s efforts as a statewide underwriter in Georgia, home of its U.S. headquarters. In 2014 and 2015 the manufacturer of shooting sports lifestyle gear and accessories widened its reach by becoming a National Corporate Sponsor, and GASTON continues that support in 2016. “By supporting *Friends of NRA* we can reach a large audience of strong shooting and hunting enthusiasts and a lot of young people,” says CEO of GASTON J. GLOCK style USA Beate Arnold. “NRA’s traditions and goals are enduring principles. We hope to create the same legacy with our products and our philosophy to protect our environment.”

Arnold highlights GASTON’s and *Friends of NRA*’s shared interest in preserving the shooting sports lifestyle, a goal which focuses on preserving quality of life and traditions. In addition to its 2016 sponsorship, for the second year GASTON will make and donate Coolmax® shooting shirts with the NRA Logo and ‘Wall of Guns’ text to the NRA Foundation events at the Great American Outdoor Show and NRA Annual Meeting. It will also supply the NRA with Damascus knives made

from the recycled steel of an old American M48 tank barrel. “We are always looking to expand the reach of our shooting and hunting products while supporting NRA and NRA Foundation efforts to provide opportunities for all kinds of firearms training,” Arnold notes.

Henry Repeating Arms’ involvement with The NRA Foundation began years ago with their participation as a reliable vendor for the *Friends of NRA* program. In 2015 the manufacturer of classic rifles “Made in America, or not made at all” expanded on that commitment as a National Corporate Sponsor and sponsor of the Wall of Guns and NRA Foundation Banquets at both the 2015 Great American Outdoor Show (GAOS) and NRA Annual Meetings. Henry also donated a one-of-a-kind Henry Repeating Arms 2015 Ford F-150 Lariat and Henry Big Boy rifle which were auctioned off on GunBroker.com to benefit The NRA Foundation. As a 2016 sponsor of *Friends of NRA* Henry will donate tens of thousands more dollars in monetary support and firearms to the program and once again sponsor the Wall of Guns and NRA Foundation Banquets at both GAOS and NRA Annual Meeting. Henry has also contributed a great deal to other NRA programs through roles including presenting sponsor of NRA Gun Gurus TV, supporting sponsor of NRA All Access, and advertiser for NRA Publications.

“My family has been in the gun business since 1911 with the NRA by our side the whole time—defending our Second Amendment rights, upholding our traditions of hunting and the shooting sports, and tirelessly promoting firearms safety,” says Anthony Imperato, president of Henry Repeating Arms. “It is an honor and privilege to work with the NRA and *Friends of NRA*. Through our sponsorship I’ve become more acquainted with the hard work that goes into *Friends of NRA* events, and I want to say thank you from Henry Repeating Arms. We appreciate it, we recognize it, and we choose to support the NRA to the best of our ability.”

O.F. Mossberg & Sons, Inc., shares that same enthusiasm for preserving America’s shooting sports traditions. Having long supported the NRA with donations to national events, sponsorship of the National NRA Foundation Banquet and television shows, and more, Mossberg also sought to have more involvement with The NRA Foundation by becoming a National Corporate Sponsor of *Friends of NRA* in 2015 and sponsoring games at the 2015 NRA Foundation Banquets at GAOS and NRA Annual Meetings. It will continue that dedication as a 2016 Defender level sponsor of the program.

“For nearly 100 years, Mossberg has been a family-owned, American company with deep manufacturing roots,” explains CEO Iver Mossberg. “When it comes to the future of hunting and the shooting sports, Mossberg puts its trust in *Friends of NRA* and its dedicated volunteers. As I see it, our corporate sponsorship is one of the most important things we do to ensure that the firearm freedoms we enjoy today are passed down, intact, for future generations.”

Numzaan Safaris also joined the national level of NRA Foundation grassroots fundraising efforts in 2015, becoming a Defender level sponsor of the program by donating 50 hunts to be used over two years at local events across the country as well as at the National NRA Foundation Banquet at NRA Annual Meeting. Prior to this commitment, the South African outfitter and Booking Agents Ed and Linda Stevens had already supported *Friends of NRA* fundraising on the local level for several years, and that established relationship has helped to make their national sponsorship a fulfilling experience for all involved. “Having

these donated Numzaan hunts at our events in 2015 has provided a great boost to our fundraising efforts,” says NRA Director of Volunteer Fundraising Sarah Engeset. As of November, Numzaan hunts had raised more than \$320,000 at local *Friends of NRA* events since February 2015 when events began auctioning the trips.

“Working with *Friends of NRA* as a corporate sponsor in 2015 was a true privilege for us here at Numzaan Safaris, and we are proud to continue our corporate sponsorship in 2016 to help ensure that our hunting rights and gun rights are safe for future generations to enjoy,” shares Ed Stevens. “The future of these rights will depend on our young people, and supporting *Friends of NRA* is the best way to help provide opportunities for these young people to be introduced to the shooting sports nationwide due to the state and national grant programs. It is an honor to be a part of that process, and we at Numzaan hope to be an active sponsor for many years to come as our values and goals are very much aligned with *Friends of NRA* and The NRA Foundation.”

Another National Corporate Sponsor continuing its support of *Friends of NRA* for the second year in 2016 is SecureIt Tactical, Inc. In 2015 the company donated 300 Falcon FAST Box gun safes to The NRA Foundation and NRA’s Law Enforcement Division competitions. Those Falcon FAST Boxes were available at select *Friends of NRA* banquets in 2015, generating funds to support local and national shooting sports programs and bringing the SecureIt weapons storage platform to consumers throughout the U.S. For 2016, SecureIt has donated new products—RAPID 6 retrofit modular gun safe conversion kits—to be used by *Friends of NRA* and NRA Law Enforcement.

“The work that The NRA [Foundation] does for this country and the support that they provide us at SecureIt is significantly appreciated,” Owner and President Tom Kubinieć says. “We will continuously support them as a corporate sponsor, as well as provide donations of the latest SecureIt products. Because The NRA Foundation regularly funds NRA programs that train and educate the growing population of firearm owners and shooting sports enthusiasts, it spreads the pertinent knowledge of firearm safety and responsibility that everyone should know. The attention that they bring to this necessary cause is genuinely the best way to prevent superfluous gun-related accidents while keeping the sport of shooting fun, positive, and one that brings people together.”

Friends of NRA also receives support from other programs within the NRA. NRA Outdoors Hunting & Fishing Destinations, which provides hunting and fishing guide services personalized to each client by using strong relationships developed with outfitters, is a Protector level sponsor of the *Friends* program for a second year.

Corporate Sponsors directly impact millions of firearm and outdoor enthusiasts through their relationships with *Friends of NRA* and their contributions of money, services and auction items to the program.

“Our sponsors’ continued support of the *Friends of NRA* program and The NRA Foundation is a testament to their dedicated advocacy for the future of shooting sports in this country,” says Director of Volunteer Fundraising Sarah Engeset. “They are helping fund firearms education and training opportunities to Second Amendment and shooting sports enthusiasts around the nation.” ■

Interested in becoming a Friends of NRA National Corporate Sponsor? Visit friendsofnra.org/corporate-sponsors.aspx or contact Director of Industry Partnerships John da Silva at jdasilva@nrhq.org or 703-267-1356.

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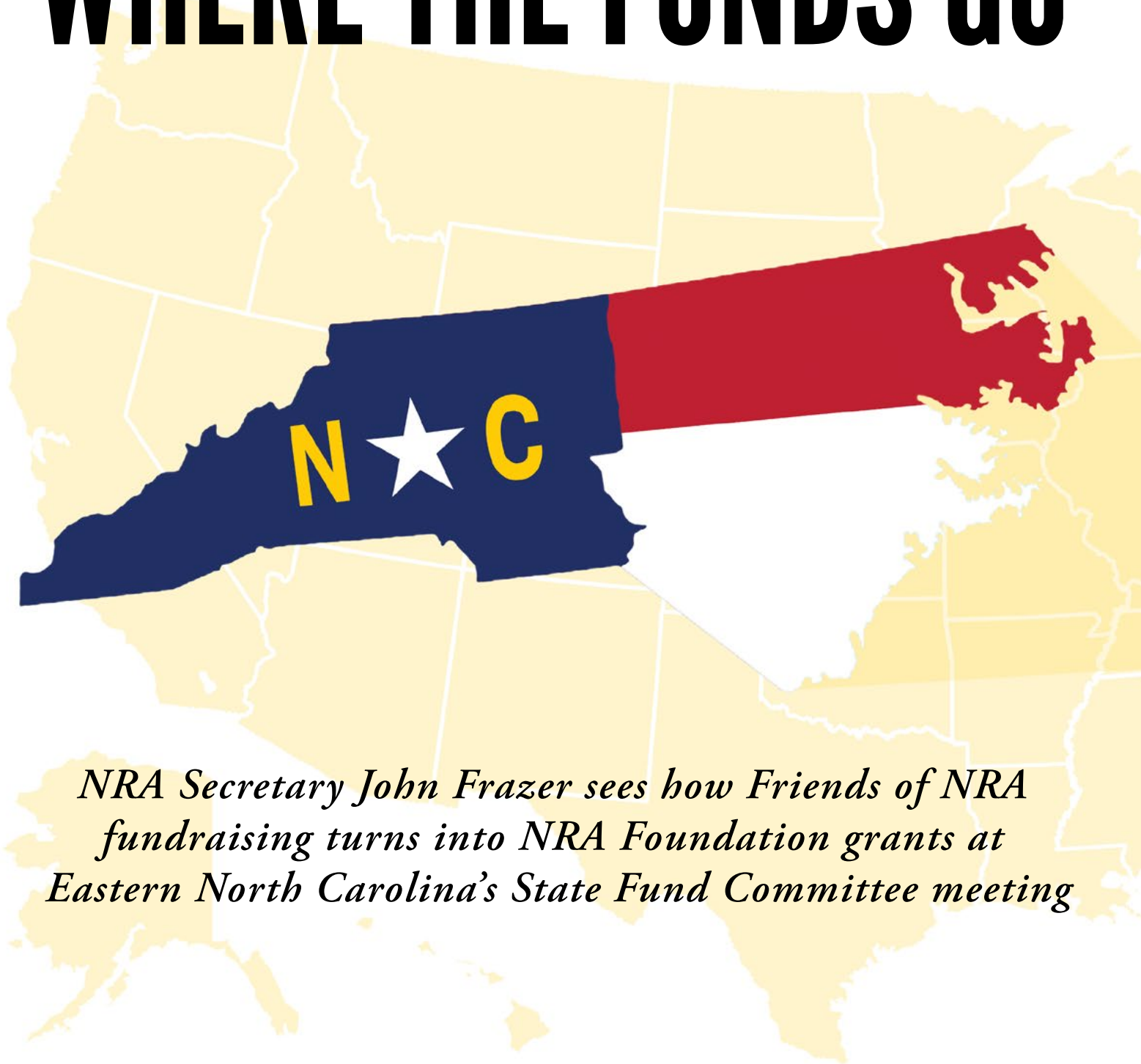
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WHERE THE FUNDS GO



NRA Secretary John Frazer sees how Friends of NRA fundraising turns into NRA Foundation grants at Eastern North Carolina's State Fund Committee meeting

By David Helmer
Event Support Coordinator, National Rifle Association

When *Friends of NRA* events raise money, all net proceeds benefit The NRA Foundation mission to promote the shooting sports. Each year, half of those proceeds are allocated to fund projects locally in the state they were raised and the other half goes to national programs. Passionate *Friends of NRA* committee volunteers are appointed to a State Fund Committee (SFC). The SFC meets once a year to discuss which local grant requests are most deserving and then make recommendations to distribute funds accordingly. To date, The NRA Foundation has funded tens of thousands of programs for youth firearms safety and education; hunter education; range development and improvement; support materials for training classes; women's safety classes; and wildlife conservation efforts. Recognizing that America's young people represent the future of the shooting sports, State Fund Committee grants frequently target youth programs, allocating more than 50 percent of grant monies to this important area.

At the Eastern North Carolina SFC meeting, which took place on Sunday, November 15, 2015, 38 State Fund Delegates and alternates diligently worked from 9 to 11:45 a.m. to successfully recommend \$177,000 in grants to local shooting sports programs. Lloyd Edwards, the NRA Senior Field Representative to Eastern North Carolina, oversaw the meeting and was proud to characterize it as productive and impactful. Delegates worked together to thoroughly review grant requests and appropriately accommodate programs throughout the entire region. At the end of the day, the SFC felt privileged to be able to make such a significant contribution to the local communities of Eastern North Carolina.

This year's meeting was also attended by a special guest—NRA Secretary John Frazer. "It was great to watch the committee in action," Frazer commented. "The committee officers and members really worked together to make decisions about how best to spend the money that all of them had worked so hard to raise. It showed the spirit of the NRA at its very best."

While there, Frazer presented merit awards to certain volunteers and committees for their outstanding work in the field, including the Volunteer of the Year award to Randy Paschal. Randy is the chairman of the Lee County *Friends of NRA* committee and personally brought in over \$6,500 in 2015. He helped his committee reach High Caliber Club status for the first time ever, all while also assisting with four other committees in the area.

The volunteers of *Friends of NRA* in Eastern North Carolina worked hard in 2015 to put on various events, and the State Fund delegates made certain to use the funds to build a better future. ■

To help fund the grants awarded to local and national programs by The NRA Foundation, attend a *Friends of NRA* event near you! Find one at www.friendsofnra.org/Events.



Photos courtesy NRA Foundation



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