A flagpole with a flag on it

Description automatically generated with low confidence**38th Annual Conesus Lake Open**

The Maple Leaf flew proudly along with the Stars and Stripes June 3-5,2022, as we welcomed our Canadian friends back to Conesus Lake for our 38th Conesus Lake Open.

Clear blue skies dominated the weekend weather, as did Canadian Brad McRae, who escaped back across the border with both the HOA and HAA titles!

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Description automatically generatedIn the HOA, Mathew Kelley finished as runner-up. That big guy known as “Little Charlie” Parks, of Ohio, finished first in AA, with Dave Sobiegray (A), BJ Jensen (B), Marc Bennett (C), and John Yackiw (D) rounding out the class winners.

Ricky Laurito finished one target shy of McRae to take HAA RU, while Jeff Ventry (AA), Kody Hoth (A), Doug Paddock (B), Ron Casella (C), and Owen Cooley (D) emerged victorious in the classes.

Friday’s festivities got off to a raucous start as two of New York’s perennial “big dogs” went head-to-head to see who would take the doubles championship. Ricky Laurito emerged as victor after the shoot-off of 98’s. David Cooley was RU. Congrats to Kody Hoth (AA), Dave Sobiegray (A), Doug Paddock (B), Glen Safford (C) and John Yackiw (D) for taking their classes!

At the CLO, we shoot the 12 gauge first, and work our way to the little gun. Saturday was a bit breezy, and David Cooley tackled the conditions with the lone 99. Brad McRae outdistanced John Boone (A) and BJ Jensen (B) for RU. John and BJ settled for their class victories. Terry Prem (C), Marc Bennett (D) and Victor Stirpe (E) rounded out the class champs. We want to thank our sponsor, Steve Morsch, of Morsch Pipeline and Excavation for his support of this event!

In Similar fashion, Rochester native Colin Smingler shot the lone 99 in the 20 gauge to emerge as champion. A 3-way shoot-off between McRae (AA), Laurito, and Jim Johnson (A) resulted in Laurito prevailing as RU. Chad Seelbinder eked out a 1-target margin over Mike Haff to win B honors, and Jim Reilly outdistanced the pack in C class. Junior shooter Owen Cooley triumphed in the D class shoot-off.

Saturday also includes an optional event- The 20-gauge Red Hot. In this event, a shooter’s 20-gauge score is handicapped, and all shooters compete head-to-head for a 4-way split of the money. In the shoot-off, participants receive ½ of their original handicap. Scott Van Etten finished fourth, Ricky Laurito third, and Marc Bennett second. Junior shooter Owen Cooley hung on to beat the old guys for the win! This is not the last you’ll hear of Owen.

Saturday night festivities included a fine chicken barbecue for participants and their “supporting staff”.

On Sunday, the 99’s continued with Kelley, McRae and Laurito all gathering to shoot-off for top dog. Brad McRae kept it clean to win, with Kelley taking RU and Laurito winning B class. Congrats to Dave Sobiegray (A), Cynthia Johnson (C) and John Yackiw (D) for their class victories.

The President and the Vice President of the New York State Skeet Shooting Association faced off to determine the 410 champion. Both Jeff Ventry (President) and Mathew Kelley (VP) shot solid 97’s to “get to the dance”. Matthew smoked the pair to win and was promptly delegated the responsibility of handing out awards every night at the NY State Shoot by President Jeff! Class winners were McRae (AA), Sobiegray (A), Michael Haff (B), Dr. Kristen Harshman (C), and John Quealy (D).

There were some dominant performances in the concurrent events. Owen Cooley swept the Junior concurrent while Jack Mutchler stole all the Senior Veteran titles.

John Boone won all 6 Military Vet Championships with Dave Cook finishing RU for them all.

Kristen Harshman was our Lady CH in the HOA, HAA, 20 and 410. Cynthia Johnson grabbed the 12 and 28. The same two great lady shooters split the RU’s- Johnson the HOA, 20 and 410, Harshman the 12 and 28.

Mathew Kelley captured Sub Sub Senior CH to keep Brad McRae from the sweep. RU’s included Kelley (HOA, HAA, 20, 28), BJ Jensen (12), and McRae (410).

Veteran awards went to Pennsylvanian Ron Johnson (HOA CH, HAA CH, 28 CH, 410 CH), Doug Goodman (12 CH, 20 CH, HOA RU, HAA RU), Glen Safford (12 RU, 20 RU) and John Quealy (410 RU). Canadian Dan Duhamel captured the 28 RU with some nice shooting, eh?

In Triple Sub, Kody Hoth was champ in the HOA, HAA, and 12. Clay Tietjen won the 20, and Peter Bogdon the two smaller guns. RU’s were Bogdon (HOA, 20, 410), Tietjen (HAA 28), and Zach Jacot (12).

Sub Senior was a battle between six great shooters. Champs included Scott Van Etten (HOA, 410), Dave Cooley (HAA, 12), Jim Johnson (20), and Don Lewandowski (28). The RU’s went to Mike Haff (HOA), Van Etten (HAA), Brian Milanese (12), Cooley (20), Haff (28), and Lewandowski (410).

Dave Sobiegray captured three Senior titles (HOA CH, 28 RU, 410 RU), Ricky Laurito four (HAA CH, 28 CH, HOA RU, 20 RU), and Jeff Ventry two (410 CH, HAA RU). Single winners included John Boone (12 CH), Colin Smingler (20 CH), and Mike Ferchaw (12 RU).

This leaves one story yet untold. We are thankful to have Pete Hamann of Pete’s Stockworks (<https://petesstockworks.com/>) sponsor a unique event that mirrors the NCAA Basketball March Madness. This is a FREE event where all 4-gun shooters are assigned to one of four brackets based on their 4-gun average. They shoot head-to-head in each gauge using a handicapped score (handicap is 70% of difference between average and 100, max 100). Any ties are shot-off each night.

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After shooting all four guns, four shooters remain. They go to the shoot-off field for their chance at $500. When the dust settled late Sunday afternoon, Mike Haff, Ron Casella, John Boone, and Owen Cooley became the representatives of their respective brackets and took to the field to see who would be crowned the Pete’s Knockdown Round Champion. Now, I’m not here to tell you that youthful exuberance, great eyesight, cat-like reflexes, and great training from a storied doubles shooter/coach/father had anything to do with it, but junior shooter Owen Cooley “schooled” the field. Nice job Owen!

Since its inception, the Conesus Lake Open has been a regular member of the “Top 100” shoots in the NSSA. We take great pride in hosting the event and welcoming our shooting community to our facility! See you in 2023!