

VERMONT FALL FOLIAGE OPEN

By Peggy Meunier

The changing of leaves arrived a little early this year, providing a beautiful background for the Underhill Rod and Gun Club's annual Fall Foliage Open held September 15-17. We had shooters representing five states and two Canadian provinces.

The weather was wonderful with abundant sunshine and warm temperatures resulting in high scores including one new shooter's first 100! Young Marc-Andre Jodoin from Quebec re-gained the HOA title with an impressive 397. He had won it five years in a row until last year, when local Gordon Adams wrested it away, so he says he's starting a new string! Zane Emerson from Maine, who had his hat shot last year at this shoot, took HOA runner-up.

Vermont's Dean King won the doubles with a 98, followed closely by Marc-Andre with a 97. The scores stayed in the 90s down through Class C. Dean's daughter, Jessica, from Massachusetts now, took A1 and lady champ with a 97.

The 12 gauge produced three 100s and one hat shot up! Josh Martin, a new shooter from Waterbury, Vt., coolly broke his first 100. He shot off with Jodoin and Adams and still remained calm (outwardly, anyway!). Adams emerged as champ with Martin runner-up and Jodoin AA1. Although Josh apparently just started shooting skeet, he remembered that when he was around 12, he found his way to the Waterbury club where past state champion, Ed Severance, got him started. He says he owes his rapid success to Ed and the Underhill shooters who have helped him.



12 ga. event—Josh Martin RU, Gordon Adams CH & Marc Andre Jodoin AA1.

Vermont's Nils Englund had the only 100 in 20 gauge. A slew of 99s took to the shoot-off field. Steve Livingston from claimed runner-up, following a long battle. Jodoin and Emerson took AA1 and AA2 respectively, Bill Weed A1, and the rest settled for a "thanks for coming"!

A similar situation in the 28 gauge occurred, but this time there were no 100s so all the 99s were shooting off for positions. They wound up going into a second box before everything was settled. New Hampshire's Marcel Vaillancourt (CH) outlasted Jodoin (RU) while Ontario's Andy Spooner and Vermont's Mike Lavallee claimed AA and A1.

More excellent scores were posted in the .410 with scores in the 90s prevailing through Class D and 99s shooting off for champ and runner-up. Marc-Andre finally won a gun championship, defeating Livingston (RU). In the concurrents, Matt Smith won the junior awards; Duane Salloum from Ontario senior veteran; Jessica King, Brenda Bangert and Peggy Meunier won lady titles; Fred Golish and Ed Mewett took veteran; Darold Tukey, Nils Englund, and Dave Dulong senior.

Underhill is known for its excellent food (thanks Lavalles!), so it was quite noticeable when three Maine shooters didn't stay for Saturday night's turkey feast. The reason was obvious the next day as they sported their new Hooter's shirts! No Hooter's in Maine, guys?

The club would like to thank all those who chipped in to help referee and load machines.



Nils Englund - 20 ga CH & Marcel Vaillancourt - 28 ga CH.