

The 2024 Great Lakes Grand

//// by jacque snellenberger



Welcome to the
Michigan
Trapshooters Assoc.

May 21st through 26th held the 36th Great Lakes Grand American in Mason, Michigan. This facility has 10 full banks (four traps for each bank). This club is so big that it holds the USA Clay Target League High School State (June 14-16) and National Tournaments (July 10-14), and Michigan SCTP State Championships are held there as well. At the beginning of the Great Lakes Grand, only two banks were needed, however by the last day, they

were up to using eight banks.

The shoot started with the Howard Township Conservation Club Singles on Tuesday. Raylee Bishop, Carl Chadwell, Alexander New, and Verne Higgs broke the 100 Singles in the 80-degree sunny weather. By the second box in the carry-over Bishop had earned the Champion spot. New dropped to Junior, while Higgs beat out Chadwell in the Sub Veteran category.

In the Reed City Sportsman Club

Handicap, the high score was 96. Andrew Fierke (Senior Veteran), Bruce Burton (Veteran), Charles Gandert (Senior Veteran), James Samolczyk (Senior Veteran), and Trevin Carpenter (Sub Junior) took it to the shoot-off field. Burton and Carpenter were the only ones with 24s to earn their way into a second round. Carpenter came out victorious leaving the rest to drop to their category placements with Fierke victorious in the Senior Veterans.

Raylee Bishop dominated the Birmingham Gun Club Doubles with 194. The closest to her was class B shooter, Jeff Russell with 192.

Wednesday

One word could describe Wednesday's shooting; windy. Thirty-three MPH gusts throughout the day made the scores lower than usual. The events were named to honor last year's champion.



Debbie Ohye-Neilson and Samuel Leiendecker were the only shooters to break the 100 in the Dean Townsend Singles. And it only took Ohye-Neilson two sub-events into the next Singles event to claim Champion dropping Leiendecker to Class AA.

The Carole Carney Handicap had Gianna Perna from Illinois and Adam Preece from Ontario top the field with 96s. They both broke 24s in the first round of shoot-offs. However, Preece broke them all on the second overtime round to win the Champion spot. Don't feel bad, Perna still received the Lady 1 trophy.

Debbie Ohye-Neilson, William Blender, and Kameran Duvall tied for Champion of the Scott Cochran Doubles with 97. After the next event, it was down to Ohye-Neilson and



Blender. Ohye-Neilson was victorious, while Blender ended up with the Junior trophy.

Thursday

Thursday started with the Larry Holmes III Handicap (2023 HAA Champion). David Swigart led the entire field by two with his 97 during the 25mph gusts. Dennis McCarthy had the second-highest score with 95, earning him the Senior Veteran award. Jeff Fanello had to beat out quite a few in the shoot-offs to earn the runner-up spot.

The wind picked up again, just in time for the MTA Singles. Herbert Lewis, Jacque Snellenberger, and David Swigart broke the perfect score. Snellenberger missed her last bird in the next event dropping her to Lady I, while Swigart ran them for the win.

In the Herbert Lewis Handicap (2023 HOA Champion) Senior Veteran, Duane Parker broke a 96 and easily nabbed the Champion spot. Paul Shaw and Brian Mowry were tied with the runner-up score of 95, but since they were category shooters, they took Senior Veteran and Sub Veteran respectively. That meant 94s shot off and Jason Varozza from California won that one.

Friday

The Lake Huron Singles Class Championship started the day on Friday. Thomas Fester, William Wallis, Donald Neilson Jr, Herbert Lewis, Elizabeth Ternes, Kevin Ford, Jared Stork, and David Prope all broke the 100s. This meant that anyone who was a category shooter had to take or fight for their place. Ternes took Lady 1 easily, as did Lewis for AAA, and Stork was the A class winner. The others had to carry over to decide the rest of the 100s in their categories; Neilson won Sub Veteran and Wallis took Senior Veteran.

Xander Wisniewski, a Sub Junior, broke the lone 98 in the Caesar Guerini Preliminary Handicap to win



Champion. Jared Stork forfeited his chance to take runner-up giving Chris Vendel that spot with their 96s.

The Lake Ontario Doubles Class Championship had 5-99s: Chris Vendel (AAA), Herbert Lewis (AAA), Scott Cochran (AAA), Dave Sickmeyer (AA), and Carl Chadwell (Sub Veteran). Because it was class day, Sickmeyer won his class, Chadwell took his category, and Vendel, Lewis, and Cochran had to carry over to decide AAA. After breaking the first 50, Lewis sewed that up with Cochran in runner-up AAA spot.

Saturday

Saturday morning started with 60-degree temps, some clouds, and a few raindrops for the 313 entries in the Browning Singles Championships. Blake Eichhorn and Larry Potter had the only hundreds broken in the morning, but neither of them ended with the high score of 199 at the end of the day. The sun came out and the rain stopped which helped the eight 100s on the back half. Robert Caplinger and Herbert Lewis broke that back half and earned themselves a chance to shoot-off for the Championship. Caplinger broke 125 to earn the title and Lewis fell to runner-up. Michael Spenle, Samuel

Singles Championship

Champion	Robert Caplinger	199
RU	Herbert Lewis	199
AAA	Samuel Leindecker	198
AA	Vincent Guaresimo	197
A	Michael Spenle	198
B	Chloe Anderson	197
C	Connor Childress	193
D	Natalia Guaresimo	191
LD I	Elizabeth Ternes	198
LD II	Mary Thopson	195
Sub Jr	Keagan Ryan	194
Junior	Gary Munson	198
Jr Gold	Thomas Winget	196
Sub Vet	Carl Chadwell	196
Vet	Lloyd Beecraft	198
Sr Vet	Thomas Hamstreet	195

Doubles Championship

Champion	Andrew Suda	98
RU	Curtis Lunsford	98
AAA	Herbert Lewis	97
AA	Michael Blair	97
A	Rodney Johnson	95
B	Vern Stalter	94
C	Michael Ohare	95
D	Alexander Hoffman	90
LI	Raylee Bishop	98
LII	Mary Thompson	91
Sub Jr	Xander Wisniewski	88
Junior	Callum Steinke	96
Jr Gold	Braeden Hirsch	93
Sub Vet	Carl Chadwell	97
Vet	D. Isner	95
Sr Vet	Paul Shaw	92

Handicap Championship

Champion	Cameron Ballou	97
RU	Adam Preece	96
3rd	Jason Haner	95
4th	J Wengerd	95
5th	Joshua Castle	94
6th	Evan Vanauken	94
7th	Herbert Lewis	93
LD I	Brianna Thompson	96
LD II	Debbie Ohye Neilson	90
Sub Jr	Xander Wisniewski	93
Junior	Kevin McConnell	96
Jr Gold	Braeden Hirsch	94
SBVT	Carl Chadwell	93
VT	D. Isner	91
SV	William Wallis	94



Leindecker, Gary Munson, Blake Eichhorn, Lloyd Beecraft (Veteran), Brianna Thompson, and Elizabeth Ternes had 198s. For the Lady I category, it only took one round for Ternes to win it. Junior shooters had to duke it out as well; another category where only one round was needed. Munson came out on top over Eichhorn. Spenle took A class outright, as did Leindecker in AAA, and Beecraft took Veteran.

Following the Singles, the MTA Directors Handicap began. Samuel Leindecker and Herbert Lewis were high with 97. They took it to the shoot-off to decide the outcome and Lewis bested Leindecker by one 23 to 22.

Sunday

The Great Lakes Grand Doubles Championship started with a wonderfully calm 70-degree day for the 199 shooters who competed. Raylee Bishop, Curtis Lunsford, and Andrew Suda broke the high score on the grounds with 98. After being GLG Doubles runner-up and AAA Champion three times each, it only took one round and a 19, but Andrew Suda was declared Great Lakes Grand Doubles Champion. Bishop fell to Lady I, and Lunsford owned the runner-up spot.



There were two hundred and twenty-eight shooters in the Winchester Ammunition Handicap Championship where Cameron Ballou, a Sub Junior from Iowa broke the only 97 to win the title. Kevin McConnell, Adam Preece, and Brianna Thompson were next on the scoreboard with 96s. Thompson took Lady I, McConnell took Junior, leaving Preece to nab the runner-up spot.

Great Lakes Grand High All Around



and High Over All was won by the same man; Herbert Lewis. He won the High Over All over the field by 17 with 1256x1300, and the All Around by just one (389x400), but that was enough to win him another title.

The Great Lakes Grand had another great week of weather, shooting, and getting together with friends. You definitely want to put it on your shoot schedule for next year. ■



High All Around

Champion	Herbert Lewis	389
AAA	J Wengerd	388
AA	Curtis Lunsford	383
A	Adam Preece	381
B	Kevin McConnell	381
C	Brandon Himes	370
D	Gary Smith	359
LD I	Chloe Anderson	383
LD II	Debbie Ohye Neilson	375
Sub Jr	Xander Wisniewski	372
Junior	Colin Hotchkiss	384
Jr Gold	Braeden Hirsch	374
Sub Vet	Carl Chadwell	387
Vet	Dean Townsend	376
Sr Vet	Thomas Hamstreet	375

High Over All

Champion	Herbert Lewis	1256
AAA	Chris Vendel	1237
AA	Carl Chadwell	1228
A	Adam Preece	1221
B	Robert Blackburn	1189
C	Derek Scrimshaw	1203
D	Cameron Ballou	1189
LD I	Elizabeth Ternes	1212
LD II	Debbie Ohye Neilson	1228
Sub Jr	Xander Wisniewski	1200
Junior	Drake Duvall	1213
Jr Gold	Wyatt Baine	1210
Sub Vet	Robert Caplinger	1239
Vet	Tank Lunsford	1223
Sr Vet	William Wallis	1197

