

COVER STORY

ROOFING STORIES AND EVENTS THAT ARE MAKING HEADLINES

ROOFERS
HOST
USA'S
2ND ANNUAL

Twin Cities Sporting Clays Shoot



Good friends, the great outdoors, guns, prizes, food and drink? Sounds like a recipe for one of Union Sportsmen's Alliance's many sporting clays events held across the country, throughout the year.

This September will mark the second event that the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers has sponsored. The 2nd Annual Roofers International Twin Cities Sporting Clays Shoot takes place September 15 at Wild Marsh Sporting Clays in Clear Lake, MN, and if last year's event is any indication, this will be the most-attended shoot in the country for Union Roofers.

Roofers sponsored eight teams of shooters in Clear Lake in 2011. The Roofers Union has been a huge supporter—and is one of the original charter unions—of the USA since its inception in 2007. International President Kinsey Robinson has been instrumental in persuading other unions to back the fledgling organization.

Now the USA looks ahead to its 5th anniversary, and looks back at all it has achieved in these early years. We'd like to highlight just a few of those achievements.

More Than a Good Time

Aside from fun and games (and cool raffle prizes), participating in a USA shooting event means you are contributing to a good cause. By bringing together union members, retirees, contractors, families and outdoor enthusiasts for a fun-filled day of recreation, the shoots help raise imperative funding to support the USA's conservation mission and programs such as Boots on the Ground.

Boots on the Ground connects skilled union volunteers with fish and wildlife agencies and other organizations to tackle conservation projects that improve and enhance public access, wildlife habitat and outdoor recreational opportunities across North America.

The program recently announced that it was holding four Take Kids Fishing Day events this summer. These free events will help promote the importance of educating a future generation of American anglers from various communities and backgrounds.

Last year Boots on the Ground teamed up with 50 volunteers from the Bricklayers Union to offer nearly 30 youth with varying physical and intellectual disabilities the

opportunity to hunt whitetail in Ohio. Union volunteers in the Boots on the Ground program have begun or completed 14 projects in 12 states since its inception in 2011—this is clearly just the beginning of what it can accomplish.

Giving Back to Union Sportsmen

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance's union-dedicated hunting and fishing TV show, Brotherhood Outdoors, is a unique outdoor series that rewards deserving, blue-collar union members with a guided hunting or fishing trip in North America or the opportunity to show off their skills by taking host Tom Ackerman to their own honey holes.

The show took home a 2011 Sportsman Choice Award for Best Combination Show during the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade (SHOT) show in January.

“Brotherhood Outdoors has the potential to help shape the American public's understanding and positive impression of unions,” said USA Executive Director Fred Myers. “This was a very competitive category and winning clearly demonstrates that America's sportsmen and women are engaged and respect the dedicated volunteers and conservation heroes prevalent in the union community.”

The show is currently in its second season, and members of the Roofers Union are encouraged to apply for a coveted spot on the program (see page 35 for details).

What's Next for the USA? You Are!

The Union Sportsmen's Alliance will soon celebrate its 5th anniversary. Conserving the nation's land for hunting and fishing is no small task, so there is plenty left to do on USA's plate. But the organization is only as strong as its membership.

As a member of the United Union of Roofers, Waterproofers and Allied Workers, you are eligible to join the Union Sportsmen's Alliance at no cost. All you need to do is sign up to activate your free membership and start receiving benefits. Visit www.JointheUSA.com or call 877-872-2211 and provide basic information to instantly sign up.

Then decide how you want to take advantage of all the amazing benefits the USA has to offer. Get discounts on American-made sporting goods. Swap ideas with other enthusiasts on the members-only section of the USA website. Participate in one of the sporting clays shoots with a team of fellow union members. Best yet, volunteer to participate in one of USA's Boots on the Ground conservation projects.

Just as with your union, the more people who join together under the USA, the bigger its voice. With an expanding membership, USA can secure more benefits, influence conservation policy to a greater degree and offer more activities to its union brothers and sisters than ever before. Be sure to join today. ■

