



Bob Felber, Mitchel Loveless II, Paul Shaw, Rob Taylor to be inducted into Hall of Fame



Bob Felber, Mitchel Loveless II, Paul Shaw and Rob M. Taylor will be enshrined into the Trapshooting Hall of Fame on Tuesday, Aug. 4 during the 2026 Grand American. Tickets can be purchased through the Hall of Fame. See Page 4 for contact information.

Bob Felber

By the Grand American's last day, the World Shooting and Recreational Complex begins to feel different. The rhythmic gunfire slows, conversations grow quieter as the gun racks empty, and the shooters who spent two weeks chasing targets now turn their attention to the road home. Yet in these final hours, after most competitors have already stowed away their shotguns, hooked up their RVs and pulled away, Bob Felber is still hard at work punching scorecards and helping the remaining shooters, seeing the job through until the very end.

It's in these small moments that Felber's character shines brightest. After spending decades doing the quiet work that keeps trapshooting running, the sport pauses to recognize Felber's service as he is inducted into the Trapshooting Hall of Fame. Long before he became one of the sport's most trusted volunteers, however, he was just another young hunter who stumbled upon a gun club with a few boxes of shells. Expecting only some quick entertainment, Felber instead found a community worthy of a lifetime of devotion.

Felber's path into the sport was anything but deliberate. In 1977, as the cold South Dakota winter warmed into spring, he accompanied a friend's brother to his weekly trapshooting league. In short order, finding trapshooting thrilling, Felber joined a team with some of his hunting buddies at the Crooks Gun Club. Even still, despite meeting amazing people and becoming hooked on the sport, Felber committed to little more than shooting his four boxes of shells each week before heading home.

It was in these early years, though, after demonstrating natural ability, that he was encouraged by the more competitive shooters to try his hand at registered shooting. So, between 1977 and 1978, Felber got his feet wet, registering just a few hundred targets. It wasn't until Sioux Falls was slated to host the 1979 South Dakota State Shoot that he took to ATA shooting with a more concerted effort. His buddies convinced Felber to register at least enough targets so as not to be penalized at the state shoot. It was in this early journey, hastily filling his target quota, that Felber discovered the plethora of clubs and shooting

opportunities just beyond his immediate vicinity. As the sheer breadth of the sport came into focus, and with his old trusted Remington 1100 in hand, Felber traveled from club to club, ultimately earning his first short-yardage trophy in the Handicap Championship at the state shoot.

Like the plethora of shooters before him, Felber was drawn in initially by the allure of competition. It didn't take long for registered shooting to kindle an even greater fire. The larger trapshooting community quietly beckoned, and his curiosity was piqued. So, by 1980, Felber made his first pilgrimage to the Grand American in Vandalia. It was that first trip that left a lasting impression, cementing a lifelong obsession.

Going to the Grand for the first time, Felber didn't know what to expect. Perhaps the experience would be like his other registered shoots, just on a larger scale. What he found, though, was an experience unlike anything he had known before. The crowds, the energy and the talent were overwhelming in the best possible way. Felber rode the wagons up and down the shooting line, watching legendary shooters like Ray Stafford, Leo Harrison, Dan Bonillas and Steve Carmichael. He was simply enthralled by the magnitude of the tournament before him. He only shot the main week, and to his credit, he did not let the excitement overtake him; he broke his first 100 straight and finished with a 198 in the class championship singles event. While the pride in that score stayed with him, Felber left the Grand feeling so much more, especially the earnest desire to keep coming back.

Felber established an impressive shooting resume over the course of his nearly 50-year ATA career. He reached the 27-yard line in 1990 and AA-27-AA status in 2021. He has claimed a spot on the All-American Team five times since 2021, including three veteran second, one senior vet first and one senior vet second placements.

In 2000 he broke his first 200 straight and won the South Dakota singles title. He added the veteran crown in 2020 and senior vet championships in 2024 and 2025. He topped the ATA Central Zone Doubles Championship with a perfect score in 2003 and was senior vet handicap champ last year.



Bob won his first Grand trophy in the 1989 Doubles Championship, topping Class A with 99 plus 20 in shootoff.

In Spring Grand competition, Felber captured the veteran singles crowns in 2022 and 2023, the latter with a perfect score.

Winning the 2000 state singles title is perhaps his most memorable accomplishment. Felber remarked, "I shot so poorly the day before and was so embarrassed." However, he then countered, "But no one really cares how others shoot. They may comment on bad scores, but in the same breath they switch thoughts asking, 'What's for lunch?'" It was in this understanding, backed by a newfound determination to hyper-focus on each target, that Felber propelled himself to the leaderboard with the lone double century.

Shooting accomplishments aside, Felber's greatest impact on trapshooting has never been measured by his posted scores, but rather by



Trapshooting Hall of Fame



Mitchel Loveless II

Mitchel Loveless II stands quietly amidst the popping of shotguns, his attention fixed downrange. After a calming breath, the target is called. The clay bursts from the house at a hard right angle. The shotgun swings through the fleeing saucer, and with a quick percussion, only dust remains floating to the ground. Mitchel finds this moment, like countless others, intimately familiar. However, on this day, there's something new. This time, the gun isn't in Mitchel's hands. Instead, he watches his son Trip find his own rhythm in the shoot.

Mitchel now stands in much the same place that his father Alan once did, right behind him, offering guidance when needed and space when it mattered most. Alan never rushed Mitchel or forced the game; he simply trusted in time and experience. His father's patient approach not only shaped Mitchel's early trapshooting career but also evolved into a guiding philosophy behind his approach to competition and parenting. Mitchel now finds himself encouraging, observing and, when necessary, stepping back, allowing Trip to find his own rhythm, much the same as he once had to do.

Mitchel now asserts that trapshooting, much like life, unfolds in seasons. There are seasons for shooting, for hard work and for reaping the harvest. Conversely, there are also seasons for rest, reflection and growth. He believes that understanding this balance is pivotal for an enduring shooting career. Today, with more than 30 years of registered targets, his perspective has only become more nuanced as he finds himself spending more time not only on the trapline but also observing Trip from behind it. In watching Trip evolve as a shooter, Mitchel reflects on the path that guided his own shooting career—a path that now seems to have come full circle. So, it is only fitting to pause this season to honor not just a career of championship titles, but one patiently built over time as he is inducted into the Trapshooting Hall of Fame.

Long before Mitchel stood behind Trip, he was a young shooter himself just trying to find his way in the game. His father, Alan Loveless, first introduced him to trapshooting. Alan began his shooting career on the skeet range in 1989. However, it didn't take Alan long to move over to the trap field, where he

found comfort in the faster but steadier rhythm of the game. During these early years, Mitchel was always eager to join his father. He was often found accompanying Alan to the club, shouldering a gun that was no doubt taller than he was. By 1992, at only 11 years old, Mitchel began registering targets of his own, now armed with a 20-gauge Remington 1100 youth model. In fact, this is the very same gun that Mitchel later passed down to Trip as he began registering targets of his own.

In these early years, Alan made it a point to keep things simple. Father and son practiced together, not just building proficiency and confidence, but more importantly, bonding over a shared love. Before Mitchel experienced registered targets, Alan wanted him to first learn the feel of the gun and the rhythm of the game. So, by the time the Tennessee State Shoot rolled around in 1992, 11-year-old Mitchel stepped to the line for the first time, matching the pace of the more experienced competitors. While his performance was lackluster by today's standards, it reflects the origins of a patient philosophy fostered by Alan in the years leading up to that day. Mitchel never felt rushed to get ahead, nor did he feel the need to impress his father by moving into the top of the standings. Even at this young age, Mitchel was hard at work developing the foundational belief that progress would come in time, through struggle and with experience; there was time to mature.

While these early years established Mitchel's shooting philosophy, his time away from competitive shooting also helped craft his lasting legacy. Mitchel didn't grow up chasing every target. Despite the father-son team making their way to numerous state and zone shoots, and of course the Grand American, there were seasons when shooting took a backseat to other interests and responsibilities. Mitchel played basketball, loved to hunt and found enjoyment in the rhythm of childhood. Today, he argues that the key to loving something for the long term is finding balance, not obsession. Often it is the brightest flame that burns out the quickest. This is something Mitchel sees all too often, as eager young shooters give up the sport after only a few stellar but strenuous years of shooting have burned through their desire. Mitchel lightheartedly claims that the ATA should mean "April to August." He believes it is restraint that keeps the sport a passion, rather than letting it become a burden of obligation. "Trapshooting is a lifelong sport," he says. "You've got to pace yourself."

It wasn't until after graduating high school that Mitchel seriously devoted himself to the sport. With his own car, he was less limited by schedule and distance, so he attended more shoots, staying for longer stretches. From a young age, Alan instilled more than the fundamentals of shooting; he taught Mitchel how to observe, listen and most importantly,



Trapshooting is a family sport for the Lovelesses. Mitchel (center) with his dad Alan and son Trip (Mitchel Loveless III) at the 2026 Southern Grand.



Mitchel on one of the covers of the October 2011 issue for winning the Grand All-Around championship.

learn. Mitchel fondly remembers sneaking away at shoots to go watch the best in the game. From behind the line, he quietly studied legends like Ray Stafford, Leo Harrison and Nora Ross, observing not just how they handled success, but also failure. From these quiet reflections, Mitchel found increasing motivation to remain committed to the game, focusing on one target at a time, not living



At 15 years old, Mitchel won the Vandalia Handicap during the 1997 Grand American.

in the past or in the future, but experiencing the now. This lesson mirrored his seasonal philosophy well, one he put to good use through his own competitive career.

As Mitchel's target count steadily increased, so too did his averages. He began finding his name in the high-over-all standings with regularity. While this served as a basis for pride, it more importantly represented the financial means that allowed him to travel to the next shoot. All too often, the prize money he earned entirely funded his shooting. On other occasions, however, when his performance didn't go as planned, it meant a return trip home to work alongside his father at the photography studio until he earned enough money to strike out for the next shoot.

In 2000, only his second year in the men's division, Mitchel's seasonal approach, ability to observe and learn, and perseverance allowed his competitive edge to truly blossom. After a series of strong finishes that year, Mitchel began trusting in his confidence to compete at the highest level. By the end of that competitive season, he was named to the men's All-American Team for the first time. From this point forward, he no longer questioned if he was capable, but rather how far he could go.

Despite being inducted into the Hall of Fame at such a young age, Mitchel has an impressive record that speaks to his rising legacy. Among his list of accomplishments, one moment stands out above the rest. That moment is his 2011 All-Around title at the Grand American. Two years prior, Mitchel was positioned to clinch a Grand American ring for the first time, tying for the Doubles Championship with 13 others. He and Stuart Welton made it to the final two, but Mitchel dropped a bird in the fourth round to take

runnerup. Making the moment particularly heartbreaking was the fact that doubles was always his self-proclaimed strongest game. Two years later, Mitchel won the HAA with 100 in doubles, 99 in handicap and 199 in singles. After running the first 100 in the Clay Target Championship, Mitchel knew he needed to buckle down over the next 100 targets. As the second century commenced, especially with singles being his weakest game, some anxiety crept into the dark recesses of his mind. But Mitchel found calm and rhythm in watching the consistent demeanor of Nora Ross, who was shooting there beside him. Mitchel settled in, concentrating on just one target at a time, ultimately ending the match with just one loss. When shooting ceased on the final day of the Grand, he quietly waited by the line in full anticipation of a shootoff, only to pause in disbelief as he alone was left standing.

At the age of 15, Mitchel won the Vandalia Handicap and led all shooters in the Prelim Week High-Over-All at the 1997 Grand American. His other top trophies from the Grand include the titles in the 2007 Prelim Tuesday and 2012 Grand Week Friday handicaps plus the 2010 prelim Sunday doubles. He was runnerup in the Grand Week HOA in 2011 and placed third in 2013. His sub-junior crowns include the 1995 Grand American Handicap and 1996 Clay Target, HAA and HOA. In 1997 he won the junior HOA title. He was a member of the Tennessee teams that won the State Team Race in 2004 and 2006. In all, he has broken 13 100s in doubles and six 200s in singles in Grand American competition.

Mitchel's first Tennessee state title was the 1995 all-around. At 13 years, eight months and 25 days, he set the record for the youngest to win the HAA at any state or provincial shoot. That record still stands today. Since that time, he has topped the all-around 11 more times. He has also captured two singles and six doubles crowns in addition to leading the high-over-all 12 times. He secured the ATA Southern Zone handicap championship in 2000 and was junior singles champ in 1997.

In Satellite Grand competition, Mitchel won the 2002 Great Lakes Grand doubles title and was junior singles and HAA victor in 1998. He paced the Heartland Grand HOA in 2010. From the Southern Grand, he secured the 2011 doubles crown and was sub-junior handicap victor in 1994, 1995 and 1996. He took junior HAA honors in 2000. Mitchel won the 1995 Dixie Grand sub-junior doubles championship and was junior singles, handicap and HAA winner at the 1998 Southwestern Grand.

Earning AA-27-AA status in 1997, he reached AAA-27-AAA in 2002. Mitchel completed his ATA Grand Slam with 100 from the 27-yard line in 2005. He won sub-junior TRAP & FIELD All-Around Average Awards in 1995 and 1996, taking top age-group honors the latter year. In all, he earned placements on the All-American Team 19 times between 1996 and 2021, including two sub-junior, three junior and 14 open. Mitchel has produced an

instructional video, "All American Trap," which is available for purchase.

Despite all the championships and career milestones, Mitchel never defined trapshooting's meaning solely on the results. What has endured far beyond any scores are the fond memories tied to the moments themselves. Through trapshooting, he has traveled countless miles alongside his father, built heartfelt and lifelong friendships and learned lessons that extend far beyond the trapline. These are the criteria by which Mitchel defines his own trapshooting career, criteria arguably more meaningful than any title.

On any given day, it's not uncommon to find three generations of the Loveless family standing together on the line: Alan, who first introduced the game, Mitchel, who carried it forward, and Trip, who is now finding his own rhythm in the sport. And now the story has come full circle. The boy who once stood on the field under the watchful guidance of his father has now become that very steady presence in his own son's life. Mitchel trusts that experience, time and the seasons will shape Trip's path, both on the trapline and away from it, much as they shaped his own legacy. As Mitchel Loveless II is welcomed into the Trapshooting Hall of Fame, his career is celebrated not only for its achievements but also as a testament to a trapshooting legacy defined by patience, longevity and generational experience.

—Christopher DeLaney & Elissa Harding



Mitchel set the record of being the youngest to win the all-around at a state or provincial shoot when he captured Tennessee's crown at the 1995 state tournament.





Bob being presented the Diamond Badge by Randy Clark at the 1980 South Dakota State Shoot.



Bob at the 2022 Spring Grand, where he won the veteran singles title.



Bob (on the left) once again offering his help by refereeing shootoffs.

his work when the shooting was done. Like any enduring tradition, trapshooting depends on the willingness of those who give of themselves, ensuring the continued thriving of the community. Felber embodies this very willingness, becoming an unwavering presence in the quiet, rhythmic work that sustains the sport. At Crooks Gun Club, he became one of the many essential volunteers who helped make possible the club's successful day-to-day operations. By 1983, only a few years after first picking up the sport, Felber served as that club's president, beginning four decades of service on its board of directors.

Felber's volunteerism then extended beyond the local level. By 1987, he began his work with the South Dakota State Trapshooting Association, first as ATA Alternate Delegate and later as Delegate. Whether it was classifying shooters, organizing trophies, keeping score or producing South Dakota's annual shoot program, Felber was a constant volunteer. This same commitment eventually led Felber to the national stage, where in 1996 he began assisting the Central Handicap Committee and, in 2011, became the ATA Central Zone's representative. For Felber, the work was never about recognition; it was always done for its own sake, making the best possible shoot experience for all.

Whether leading at his home club, representing South Dakota or serving on the national level, Felber always remained dedicated to the same objective. He strove to make the sport fair, accessible and enjoyable

for the entire trapshooting community. To him, trapshooting's appeal is found in giving, not just in competition. While the sport may unfold in solitude on the line, everything else is built on community, shared effort and a willingness to sustain the sport.

This spirit of quiet service made what happened next all the more fitting. As both a longtime trustee of the Hall of Fame Committee and the head of the Biographical Committee, Felber spent years selecting shooters for the sport's highest honor. Last year's process, though, while seeming ordinary to Felber, was unique—and for good reason. All proceeded as normal, final selections were made, and Felber left the last committee meeting happy with the choices and smiling about the pride that would soon come to these shooters when announced. That said, unbeknownst to Felber, the committee reconvened without him with the direct intention of discussing the induction of their esteemed committee member. So, when his name was announced among the 2026 Hall of Fame inductees at the Hall of Fame Dinner in Sparta, Felber was simply blindsided. For a man who never measured his merits by titles or against the illustrious careers of the great Hall of Fame shooters that came before him, the recognition carried unique meaning. Today, Felber is so deeply touched by the very people he spent a lifetime working beside; he is humbled to be honored for his commitment to the people and his dedication to sustaining the community.

In true Felber fashion, even that moment did not pull him away from his duties that evening. Felber has a passion for photography, and outside of his nature work, he is often found at shoots taking pictures and archiving the event for posterity, sharing his photos with the ATA community through TRAP & FIELD. Prior to the Hall of Fame dinner, he had already agreed to help by taking photographs of the inductees, their families and the event; this is a role he has filled many times. However, other plans had been made, so Felber could enjoy his deserving moment in the spotlight. Though despite being honored himself, he waved off the congratulations as he gathered families and got to work behind the camera. As usual, Felber placed the needs of the shooting community first as he quietly worked behind the scenes. This helping gesture may go unnoticed by many, but it speaks volumes about Felber's volunteering attitude, validating his deserving position in the Trapshooting Hall of Fame. Felber contends that, "Trapshooting has never been about standing in the spotlight, but about making sure the experience is there for everyone else." So, as the Grand American winds down again this year, as the fields become quiet and the crowds begin their long journey home, Felber will still be there as he always is, quietly working behind the scenes, ensuring the sport lives on unabated.

—Christopher DeLaney & Elissa Harding





Paul Shaw

Paul Shaw showed up to the trapshoot that day with no real plan and no experience; he was just there to volunteer. In fact, he only shot trap once before, and that was on a whim years earlier. At a small club in Ontario, after being persuaded to step up to the line, Shaw grabbed his old field gun without any real intention. What followed, while seeming incidental to Shaw, was nothing short of miraculous from the standpoint of other true beginners. With nearly 40 shooters in the event, the countless years of experience on the trapfield that day were overtaken by the greenest of novices. Shaw broke a 99 in singles and a 94 in handicap, winning both titles. Even in that spectacular moment, Shaw held no long-term ambitions, no International team aspirations and no leadership desires. He was just a young man who seized upon borrowed opportunity, uncovered unrealized talent and kindled a spark.

For many shooters, their story ultimately ends where Shaw's began, with a championship win and a sense of wonder. Shooters challenge themselves to chase championships and refine their skills, ultimately working their way to the top. However, Shaw's unconventional way to the podium, while encouraging the full exploration of trapshooting's opportunities, became something more than a pursuit for shooting perfection. His introduction to trapshooting, spectacular as it was, gradually took on more weight. It grew into years of international competition, travel and involvement at every level of the game. In time, trapshooting became more than targets and scores; it grew into a way to better understand people, represented something larger than the self and became not a pastime but a responsibility. The young man who stumbled into the sport would eventually help carry it forward as a leader, an advocate and a steward worthy in every way for induction into the Trapshooting Hall of Fame.

Before Shaw was a competitor traveling the world with a shotgun in hand, he was a farm kid. He grew up on a 300-acre farm in rural Ontario. Work wasn't optional for Shaw and his sister Janis. Each day they spent hours tending to cattle, pigs, chickens, and they also plowed fields, repaired equipment, seeded,

Trapshooting Hall of Fame



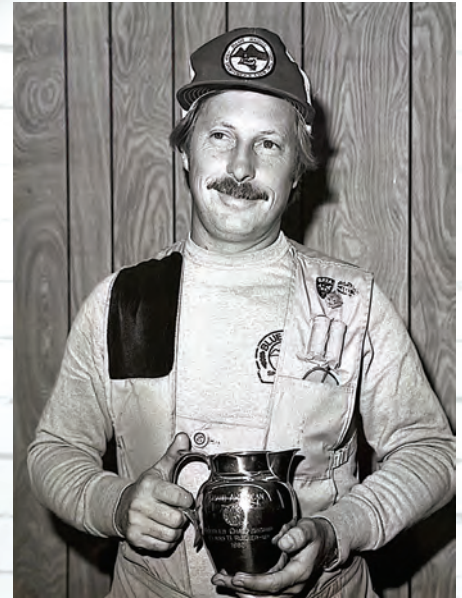
sprayed and harvested in step with the seasons. This upbringing shaped Shaw from a young age. His parents instilled the expectation that there was always work to be done, and that responsibility came first. In this way, Shaw viewed hard work and responsibility as qualities to live by, not traits reserved for convenience.

By the time Shaw stepped into his first career as a young teacher, those traits already defined him. For three years he taught fifth grade to classes of more than 30 students spanning a wide range of abilities. At this early juncture, his hard work and disciplined sense of responsibility began to show their value. The work was demanding, but Shaw was already used to that. At the end of most days, when he should have been winding down, Shaw was still hard at work preparing lessons for his students and fulfilling the responsibilities in which he had been entrusted.

In just three years, Shaw was offered the opportunity to transition into a leadership role at his school. While he was honored by the offer, he also felt an urgent pull to return to school to pursue his law degree. So, at 22, standing at a crossroads, he entered law school, a decision that shaped not just his professional life but also his future shooting career. By Shaw's own account, the work was relentless; the litigation and long hours were compounded by his responsibilities to clients. However, just as before, responsibility was nothing new for Shaw. Through his time on the farm, in the classroom and now as a lawyer, Shaw honed a foundation of discipline, focus and work ethic that would serve him well in the years to come.

While necessary, Shaw's busy schedule didn't allow for any serious trapshooting pursuits beyond the intermittent enjoyment found in those stolen moments on the line. Trapshooting was simply something Shaw enjoyed when the responsibilities of life, teaching, law school and the rigors of an early professional career permitted. Even so, there was unmistakable regularity with which Shaw used the trapline as an escape. Without any real guiding mentor, Blue Ridge Sportsmen's Club and St. Thomas became his proving grounds, shaping his experience and routine. As each round taught Shaw a new lesson, he grew increasingly curious about how far he could go.

Ironically, it wasn't American trap that broadened Shaw's path in the sport, but rather International trap. In 1984, while attending a trapshoot in Cookstown, Shaw found himself fascinated by a game of bunker trap unfolding on an adjacent field. The faster targets, sharper angles and heightened energy piqued his interest, and he was drawn to try it for himself. Much like his first extraordinary competitive experience, Shaw took to the sport instantly, breaking a 22 on his first attempt. Remarkably, just over a year later, after proving his ability



Paul at the 1982 Grand American, where he won a class trophy in the Doubles Championship.

at various National Team Trials, Shaw found himself at the range in Edmonton, AB, where he made the Canadian National Team for the first time. While being named to the National Team numerous times is impressive, Shaw's ultimate dream came true in 1996 when he represented Canada in the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

His selection to the National Team didn't just mark a milestone in his shooting career, it catapulted Shaw's adventure to the international stage. Even as Shaw's fame grew and his name began appearing alongside the best shooters in the world, he remained humble. His ego did not grow in proportion to his popularity, but what did grow was Shaw's concept of opportunity. Trapshooting evolved into more than competition; it provided opportunities to observe and learn about the people of the world. Shaw found himself in a unique position to better understand other communities, and in turn, he learned to better understand his own.

Shaw began viewing trapshooting as common ground where people could meet and connect in ways that extended beyond competition. By wearing the Canadian colors, Shaw realized that athletes carried not only a patriotic duty but also the responsibility to advocate for their sport (and in his own case, Shaw advocated for the greater shooting community). This responsibility followed Shaw everywhere as he sought to break the "best kept secret" mentality that limited the sport's growth. As his legal career progressed,



Rob M. Taylor

Rob M. Taylor, 2015 ATA President, is a leader—motivated, hardworking, loyal and deeply dedicated to the sport he loves. He leads with passion, cares deeply about the people and organizations he serves, and continually strives for excellence in all he does. These qualities have earned him a place among the 2026 Trapshooting Hall of Fame inductees. His induction recognizes not only his outstanding shooting accomplishments, but also his many generous contributions to the ATA, the Kansas Trapshooting Association and the sport as a whole.

Starting as a hunter, Taylor spent time chasing quail over the Flint Hills near his hometown of Council Grove, KS. His father and mother seemed to work all the time trying to manage a feedlot, working ranch and commercial laundry. “On Sundays, when one of the local organizations would have a turkey shoot, my dad or mom would drop me off and let me spend the day shooting and watching,” Rob said. “My grandad was a railroader and seemed to always have time to go hunting or fishing and take me along.” Growing up on the ranch with the various chores formed Rob’s work ethic.

He participated in his first ATA shoot in October 1973 at Wichita Gun Club when he was 17, winning three of the four junior trophies. Turning 18 later that month, that was the only shoot in which he competed as a junior.

Since 1973, he has registered more than a half million targets—to be exact, 556,675 as of press time. He did take a short break from the sport in the early 1990s. Like many ATA’ers, Rob said his biggest obstacle early in his career was money and balancing work, marriage and a son.

Rob considers the highlights of his career to be completing his ATA Grand Slam, which he did June 23, 2000 at the Nebraska State Shoot with 100 from the 27-yard line; breaking three 100s in doubles at the 2005 Grand to win the prelim Wednesday and Sunday events and claim the AAA prize in the class race (where no high-gun trophy was awarded); earning 20 placements on the open All-American Team and five seats on the veteran team, including the captain’s hat in 2022. He has carded more than 100 perfect centuries in doubles and reduplicated 10 Grand Slams.

Trapshooting Hall of Fame



Taylor has 10 Kansas state titles to his credit, including four doubles, one handicap, one high-all-around and four veteran crowns. Among his ATA Southwestern Zone accomplishments are the 1991 doubles championship plus the 2005 and 2008 all-arounds. He was veteran handicap victor last year.

Rob’s Satellite Grand championships include the 2009 Dixie Grand doubles plus the 2001 handicap and 2009 doubles at the Southwestern Grand. He won the SWG singles title in 2016 and captured the handicap crown again in 2023. Rob secured the top high-over-all trophy at the 2020 Heartland Grand and has collected one singles, three handicap, one doubles, three HAA and two HOA championships in the veteran category. He has claimed the veteran high-over-all title three times at the Autumn Grand and has topped the age group two times each in the Southern Grand all-around and high-over-all.

In total, Taylor has broken 17 twin-bird centuries in Grand American competition, which places him 14th among all competitors. He has run 13 200s at the tournament as well. His veteran wins include the 2022 Champion of Champions and 2024 Grand American Handicap. A member of the Kansas team that took top honors in the State Team Race in 2002 and 2012, he was also part of the Southwestern Zone winning teams in the 2004, 2008 and 2012 Doubles Championship plus the 2008, 2009 and 2012 Clay Target events.

Taylor achieved AA-27-AA status in 1988 and reached AAA-27-AAA in 2002. He earned TRAP & FIELD All-Around Average Awards in the veteran category in 2021 (first place) and 2024. He posted a singles average of .9907 in 2014.

Larry Zerngast and Kenny (K.J.) Johnston have been constant in Rob’s shooting career. “For more than 30 years, these two have stood beside me through lots of ups and downs. Good or bad, they have always been there.”

Prominent shooters in Taylor’s life are Trapshooting Hall of Fame enshrines Harlan Campbell Jr. and C.E. Barnhart, who was an early mentor to Rob, plus Silver Seitz owner Jerry Phillips for his ability to juggle shooting and business.

The best advice he has received is to take one target at a time, and don’t get down on yourself. “They’re going to throw another 100 tomorrow,” he said. He offers that same advice to new shooters or those struggling with their scores. “Try again and learn from your mistakes.”

Changes Rob has seen in the sport since he started include the demise of the three-hole target and the addition of Pat-Traps and Canterbury voice calls, all of which have resulted in higher scores.

In Kansas, as well as the ATA, Taylor was not happy with the way things were being managed. With the encouragement and support of Gary Sherrod, Rob decided on a run at the



Rob (right) with son J.R. on the line.



Joan and Rob during his 2015 ATA President’s year.

Executive Committee. Gary gave Rob his full support during the years prior to Rob’s election, and Rob ran unopposed as Southwestern Zone Vice President.

Taylor considers the best thing to have happened during his tenure on the Executive Committee is hiring Lynn Gipson as Executive Director, and he says the purchase of TRAP & FIELD is one of the cornerstones of his career. “Buying the magazine was important,” according to Taylor. “It was key for the shooters and the history of the game to ensure the sport’s



Paul was inducted into the Collingwood Sports Hall of Fame in 2014.

he increasingly provided legal advice not only to fellow shooters but also to organizations like the Ontario Provincial Trapshooting Association, where he served on the board for some time. That legal guidance soon evolved into more official leadership roles, as Shaw assumed the position of ATA Delegate for Ontario in 2011, which he currently still holds, but he has announced his retirement effective at the 2026 Ontario Provincial Trapshooting Association annual meeting. Continuing this trend of responsibility, Shaw was soon named Vice President for the ATA Eastern Zone and finally ATA President in 2020.

Throughout these leadership roles, Shaw remained deeply devoted to growing the sport. Serving on the Executive Committee, he was instrumental in setting up the bursary for the ATA's Gunsmithing Scholarship. In this way, Shaw recognized the importance of great gunsmiths in making great shooters. Arguably Shaw's most noteworthy contribution came during his tenure as ATA President. Serving his term in 2020, Shaw quickly became known as the COVID President. Under his leadership, the ATA was confronted with a worldwide pandemic and the global lockdown on sports. Despite the uncertainties, Shaw was involved with COVID mitigation protocols, which permitted the Grand American Tournament to continue, even though he was unable to travel to the U.S. to attend himself.

Shaw's responsibility to his shooting clubs and organizations, his country and the trapshooting community was supported not only by his own foundation and hard work, but also by his constant companion and wife of 43 years, Beverley. Whether it was Olympic obligations or leadership responsibilities, Beverley shouldered her fair share of the demands that accompanied Shaw's trapshooting commitments. As Shaw's family grew alongside his involvement in the sport, especially after the birth of his son Drew and daughter Destiny, the game became a family experience. As Drew found his way

to the trapfield at a young age, the personal values and lessons taught by the sport that shaped Shaw were now being passed on to a new generation. In this way, the sport's true potential came full circle: trapshooting became a place where values were learned, shared and ultimately passed on to the next generation.

After talking with Shaw, there is simply no denying the passion, the perspective and the sense of responsibility that defined his career. However, there is no overlooking his impressive accomplishments. He attained AA-27-AA status in 1990 and AAA-27-AAA in 2002. He logged singles averages of at least 99% seven times between 1993 and 2007 and completed his ATA Grand Slam in 2004 with a 100 from the 27-yard line in the Southern Grand's preliminary handicap. Shaw has earned spots on the All-American Team 20 times, including 13 men's, one sub-vet, four veteran and two senior vet.

In Grand American competition, his veteran titles include the 2017 Doubles and 2018 All-Around. He has won numerous Canadian championships at the tournament, including five in the Grand American Handicap plus four Doubles, two HAA and four HOA. He has broken 21 200s in singles at the tournament.

While competing at Satellite Grands, Shaw has collected 15 titles over the field plus numerous age-group crowns. During the 2008 Dixie Grand, he bested all shooters in the main singles. He was veteran handicap and HOA champion in 2017 and category winner in the feature 16s two years later. At the Empire Grand, he claimed the 2006 HAA and handicap plus the HAA in 2007. His veteran wins include one each in singles, handicap, doubles and all-around plus three high-over-all. He was singles champ at the 1993 Great Lakes Grand and veteran doubles winner in 2024. While competing at the Northeastern Grand, Shaw captured the singles in 1993, 1994 and 2000; handicap in 1990 and 2001; HAA in 1990; and HOA in 1988, 1989 and 2001. In addition, he has earned one veteran singles title. His senior vet crowns include two singles and one HOA. At the 2009 Southern Grand, he was co-champion in the singles with Leo Harrison III.

Shaw captured the ATA Eastern Zone HAA crown in 2006 and the singles championship in 2016. His Ontario provincial titles include four singles, one handicap, six doubles and six all-around. He has topped the high-over-all nine times.

Even with all Shaw has accomplished, he remains grounded. As the sport honors his accomplishments, he refrains from self-celebration, instead embracing a quiet appreciation. Much like the distinction that surrounded him during his Olympic days, Shaw's name is now enshrined with other trapshooting legends. Yet when asked about it, he quickly deflects attention away from himself, knowing how quickly fortune can



The Shaw family: Drew, Beverley, Destiny and Paul.



Paul (center) representing Canada on the podium at an international event.

change and acknowledging how trapshooting can humble the boastful. Shaw instead places value, drawn from a lifetime in the sport, on the places it took him, the people he was able to meet and the experiences that shaped his opportunities. To Paul Shaw, competitive shooting is more about perspective than the final score, and it is this perspective that defines the career that is now rightfully honored with his induction into the Trapshooting Hall of Fame.

—Christopher DeLaney & Elissa Harding





In 1988 Rob made the Kansas State Team for the first time. He took time to get a photo with C.E. Barnhart, who was inducted into the KTA Hall of Fame.

records not be lost or sold to the highest bidder. We couldn't afford for those to go somewhere else." Other highlights include hiring Hunter Galloway as secretary and moving the ATA office to Sparta, thereby reducing costs and redundancy.

Positive changes like these were in part made possible because of the consistency of Executive Committee members during his tenure with collective decision making. The unfortunate untimely deaths of John Hiter and Bill Anzaldi created a situation where five people were able to serve together for four years, which is not the norm, and many positive changes happened for the organization, including the addition of added categories which encouraged participation and gave members more gold to shoot for.

Tenacious is the word Taylor uses to describe himself. "I don't give up. I persevere, and I hate to lose." That is the quality that helped him succeed in business, on the shooting line and in helping move the ATA forward during his years on the Executive Committee.

In addition to serving the ATA, Taylor is currently in his 22nd year as president of the Kansas state association. During his time in that position, the association has rebuilt the homegrounds. The refurbishing includes a new trapline, Hall of Fame building with banquet room, plus a six-sided concrete shower house with eight individual bathrooms and room for more than 200 people in the case of an emergency. The state tournament continues to grow, and 76 out-of-state shooters who made the 2026 All-American Team shot at Kansas last year.

Taylor grew up on a working ranch and feedyard in Kansas. He left home at 18; at 19 he began in the automobile business and at

27 started his first pawn and gun store. While the pawn business is no longer, the focus is on Taylor Made Guns, managed by son J.R., who described his dad as "motivated, committed, looks out for others and is always supportive." Rob purchased Tuttle Creek Trap Park in 2004, and the club throws registered targets. He maintains his office at that location, and the gun store is located there. Other businesses include

Taylor Farms and Taylor Made Storage managed by wife Joan. Both J.R. and Joan have shot ATA registered targets as their busy schedules have allowed.

Taylor continues to shoot top scores while doing so much work behind the scenes. He has the fortunate ability to separate work from shooting when he goes to the line and gets in the zone. "Generally, shooters are good about waiting until I'm done shooting before approaching me. Everyone knows I'll talk to them about anything." While Taylor was on the Executive Committee, he made sure he was visible at all the tournaments, and he continues to do so today. Rob has a goldmine of experience and savvy in trapshooting, business and life.

He noted that the economy continues to make it difficult for the ATA and other recreational sports to attract new members, and that will probably continue until things turn around. When that happens, the ATA and gun clubs need to be ready so as not to miss the opportunity. He has said for years that everyone needs to be prepared to entice new shooters and handle the crowds. Rob has walked the walk for many years promoting the ATA, KTA and the shooting sports as well as all the people involved.

"Over the years I have been blessed with many, many friends from my association with shooting. Some still compete, some have changed passions, some have passed, but my life is much richer because of my association and friendship with these special people."

Now, as Rob M. Taylor takes his place in the Trapshooting Hall of Fame, he is honored not only as a competitor, but as one of its most dedicated caretakers—someone who has helped ensure that the game, its traditions and its people will continue for generations to come.

—Terry Heeg & Elissa Harding



A 499 squad from years past: Tom Buxman, Kenneth (K.J.) Johnston, Larry (Zerny) Zerngast, Billy Rink and Rob.

