

Trash cans stand full to overflowing as I huddle bundled against the cold, my back to the unseasonably cool breeze. It is obvious that the day's activities are done. People rush past in the parking lot behind me. Shoot offs into the glare of the setting sun are just now completed on the Make-A-Break at Hunters Pointe. I stood thinking that this 5-Stand where I am would have been a better place for the shoot-offs. Suddenly, the

milling action behind me becomes a determined force, moving deliberately toward me. New action is set to begin – this show is far from over. The 5-Stand will now host a new round of shoot offs to determine the East Coast Championships' FITASC winners.

The late Sunday time-crunch stretches the crowd thin, as the action switches first from the Make-A-Break to the 5-Stand and back again to determine Main Event award winners. All this hustle and bustle is very necessary in finalizing shooter placement in this great sporting clays classic. Shoot-off targets get lost in the long shadows of the late winter's light. Congratulations are in order.

At the awards presentation, Curtis Mauldin of Missouri steps forward to claim the Championship trophy of the East Coast's Main Event. With an impressive 186, he slipped past the

hot shooting Bill McGuire by a single target. Mauldin's coach and good friend, Wendell Cherry, headed Master class's imposing list of competitors. Mauldin is on a roll. He won the Mardi Gras Open just two weeks before and had twenty-six top-five finishes in 2006, including two firsts at the US Open and a first and second at the Winter Nationals. He took M1 honors at the East Coast Championship a year ago.

SOUTHERN HOSPITALITY

Chuck and Lori Frazier's Hunters Pointe Sporting Clays (March 15-18th) showed off its best southern hospitality with a shoot that ran smoothly from registration to the awards. It's easy to see why so many shooters return year after year. Wonderful lunches prepared by fellow shooter, Danny Moss, was a welcome change from the Saturday evening dinners that are standard at many shoots.

CURTIS MAULDIN IS ON A ROLL. HE CAPTURED THE EAST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP AT HUNTERS POINTE, HE WON THE MARDI GRAS OPEN JUST TWO WEEKS BEFORE AND HAD TWENTY-SIX TOP-FIVE FINISHES IN 2006.

EAST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP

TOM THOMPSON REPORTS FROM HUNTERS POINTE



Regardless of your shoot rotation, Danny's pork chops, chicken and burgers were available – and were prepared to perfection.

The hot topic of discussion was the “not so hot” weather that inflicted itself upon the Washington, North Carolina landscape. Those of us who traveled from the north hoping to find harbingers of an early spring were not disappointed, at least not until Friday's Pre-lim which was drenched in a steady rain that soaked all three rotations. After the rains came the cold. It began as a chill that seemed destined to pass, but it just hung on, and on – taking the thermometer into the mid thirties. I swear I saw snow flakes briefly on Saturday. The cloud cover blew away during the night and Sunday dawned bitter cold. (You can't buy long underwear in North Carolina in mid-March!) The bright sunshine stood in contrast to the twenty nine degree temperatures. The afternoon temperatures grew to the low fifties, but the breeze stayed cold.

GREAT TARGETS

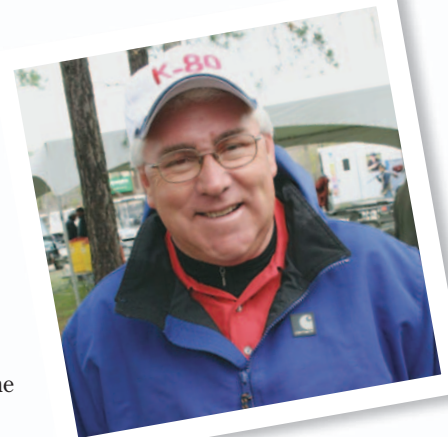
It was the targets that drew us to the East Coast Championships, and we truly got our money's worth. Regardless of how you like 'em, Hunters Pointe had something to satisfy every shooter's taste. Chuck Frazier is one of the great target setters in the country – that explains why he is so much in demand as a traveling enterprise providing traps and talent at shoots throughout the eastern half of the United States.

I arrived from Ohio, along with two of my brothers, early enough to shoot the Thursday Old Style FITASC. Parcour three was our starting point, and it was a beauty – dominated by a big rainbow chandelle that spread from the left side of the window to the right, higher than the giant oak that anchored the background. Eighty degree sunshine held sway over all four Parcours. There were no weather related excuses in the dead calm of the sunny south. Bill McGuire's 95 led us all home in this event that offered an “either or” option – we were glad we chose Thursday.

SECOND PRE-LIM

Friday's drizzling rain was a constant, so everybody had to deal with it. The Pre-lim event was a high quality preview of the Main Event. Focus and shoot was the order of the day. Our squad started out with a hot sixty getting away from under our feet. The shot pattern cutting through the rain told us where we were on every target. The slow crossing 108 on report was just the first of many 'change of speed' presentations we confronted throughout the tournament. McGuire captured the Friday Pre-lim with another 95.

BEAUTIFUL HIGH CROSSERS SET IN THE PARK LIKE ATMOSPHERE OF HUNTERS POINT SET THE STAGE FOR THE EAST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP. CURTIS MAULDIN WON THE EVENT WITH BILL MCGUIRE FINISHING RUNNER-UP.



THE HOT HAND OF BILL MCGUIRE WAS EVIDENT EARLY DURING THE EAST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP. WITH SCORES OF 95, HE WON THE OLD STYLE FITASC AND THE PRELIMINARY EVENT.

200 TARGETS

The 200 target Main Event courses were both set over the same terrain – so Chuck Frazier and his crew worked right up to dark resetting both courses after a full day of shooting. Most shooters agreed that the Sunday course was a few birds tougher than





A SPECIAL SHOOT OFF EVENT WAS GENERATED BY SELECTING A NUMBER AT RANDOM...ANY SHOOTER WHOSE SATURDAY SCORE ENDED IN THAT NUMBER COULD COMPETE FOR A NEW SHOTGUN. THE WINNER WAS NEW JERSEY SHOOTER TOM THOMPSON, WHO TOOK HOME A REMINGTON 11-87.

Saturday's. Mauldin shot them even with 93 each day. Stalwarts like Andy Duffy, McGuire and Doug Vine lost birds on the second day. Ricky Kanoy, who shared the lead with McGuire, dropped the pace from 94 to an 82 to finish M4. Class A winner, Phillip Gregory, and C class winner, James Moore, both picked up birds on their way to the winners circle. Wendell Cherry moved up from a three way tie for seventh place to finish M1. The greatest positive turn-around of the tournament came for Jimmy Sykes who shot ten birds better (61 – 71) on Sunday to finish E2.

FITASC

Modified FITASC on Saturday and Sunday drew 112 entries that overlapped the Main Event schedule. Mauldin proved his multi-tasking capabilities by winning the event three birds better than M1 winner Larry Corbett, who was visiting from his neighboring Rose Hill Farm. (We visited his course on the way to



Hunters Pointe.) Class D winner Jeffrey Tripp finished with a score good enough to win AA – a very solid 81. He was one of only nine shooters to finish above a score of 80.

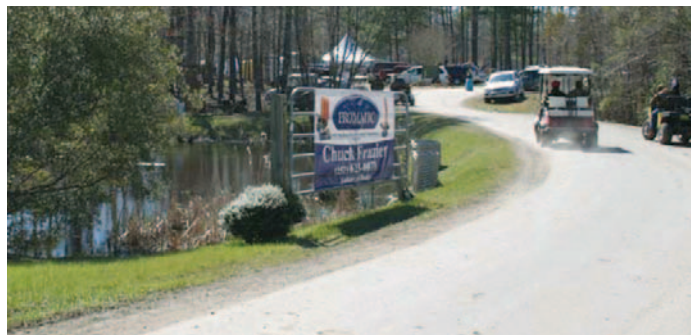
CLASS ACT

From the first target to the last, the East Coast Championships were a class act. All presentations demanded your 'A' game. The most talked about target of the tournament was Sunday's Main

THE GRAND-DADDY OF ALL LONGSHOT GAMES, HUNTERS POINTE OFFERED A MONSTER TRUE PAIR THAT REQUIRED A DEAD PAIR TO GET INTO THE SHOOT-OFF. SHOTS BEYOND 65 YARDS MADE FOR A SMALL SHOOT OFF!

Event high tower true pair. Word of this devil beat me home. It was an eight bird station and it was putting zeros on everybody's score card. I think all of us were miss-judging it. As our squad waited for two

IT WAS THE TARGETS THAT DREW US TO THE EAST COAST CHAMPIONSHIPS, AND WE TRULY GOT OUR MONEY'S WORTH. REGARDLESS OF HOW YOU LIKE 'EM, HUNTERS POINTE HAD SOMETHING TO SATISFY EVERY SHOOTER'S TASTE.



squads ahead of us to finish, I watched shooter after shooter change to tighter chokes and come away empty. The tower was only 35 yards away. The birds hit the ground at about fifty-five. I decided to leave my IC chokes in but shot over the first pair. I tried to measure the second pair and lost 'em both. I stayed low on the next two pairs and picked off the trailing bird and then the lead bird – a bit chippy, but I'll take that four!

PRIZES GALORE

A nice assortment of door prizes was given out by random drawing. Both of my brothers were selected. Then at the end of Sunday's shooting, Brother Brian got into a shoot-off for a new Remington 11-87 because his score from Saturday ended with a randomly selected number (2). The winner of that shoot-off was Tom Thompson – not me, but a New Jersey shooter whose name I'd encountered before but only met at this shoot. That Thompson is a B class competitor and he won out over contestants from all classes. Mike Gurkins won a similar shoot-off for a pair of ESP Elite electronic hearing protection

devices awarded by PMS Firearms.

Hub Johnson carried out the most hardware from the awards presentations. He won Junior honors in all four events. Joe Cantey III matched Johnson by winning all four Super Veteran events. Ashleigh Hafley won three ladies championships in the only three events she participated in. David Radulovich took Sub Junior in the Main Event and Junior RU in Modified FITASC. Travis Carroll got the SJ award in the Pre-lim. Jack Concannon was Veteran winner in the Main and finished second in the Pre-lim to John Drew. Drew was the only Veteran who finished with a 90 in the rain soaked Pre-lim. The FITASC Veteran awards went to Danny Moss in the Old Style FITASC (after a shoot-off with Richard Lanzilotta) and to Larry Corbett in Modified FITASC.

Hunters Pointe offers their clientele a full calendar of fun events. A new one set for June 1-3 is the East Coast All Around Championship. There's something different every month thereafter. See their website at www.hunterspointesportingclays.com for complete details. ■



KRISTINA ALDRICH POSTS SCORES DURING THE EAST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP AT HUNTERS POINTE IN NORTH CAROLINA. SHE WORKED WITH HER MOTHER, LORI FRAZIER, TO PROCESS SCORES IN A TIMELY MANNER.

EAST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP

MAIN EVENT

CH	CURTIS MAULDIN	186
RUNNER-UP	BILL MCGUIRE	185
MASTER 1	WENDELL CHERRY	182
MASTER 2	JOSEPH CAREY	180
MASTER 3	THOMAS CUTLER	177
AA1	CARL BRANDT	166
AA2	KENNETH HODGES	163
AA3	HUGH BENNETT	163
A1	PHILLIP GREGORY	164
A2	DEAN BLANCHARD	157
A3	JOSEPH GRANINGER	156
B1	MATTHEW CHANEY	165
B2	BERT HILL	165
B3	GRANT ROSSER	162
C1	JAMES MOORE	166
C2	CHRIS GRIFFIN	160
C3	CHRIS BLIZZARD	150
D1	JEFFREY TRIPP	149
D2	JONATHAN KACMARCIK	146
D3	MARK HEBERT	142
E1	WAYNE BARBOUR	136
E2	JIMMY SYKES	132
E3	DANIEL GLOVER	125

CONCURRENTS

LADIES	ASHLEIGH HAFLEY	159
SUB JUNIOR	DAVID RADULOVICH	166
JUNIOR	HUB JOHNSON	173
VETERAN	JACK CONCANNON	169
S. VETERAN	JOE CANTEY III	160

FITASC MODIFIED STYLE

CHAMPION	CURTIS MAULDIN	90
MASTER 1	LARRY CORBETT	87
AA1	KENNETH HODGES	80
A1	JAMES DUKE	81
B1	TAYLOR TEW	79
C1	DALE ANDREWS	67
D1	JEFFREY TRIPP	81
E1	SHARON O'QUINN	57

CONCURRENTS

LADIES	FRANCES GALLOGLY	61
JUNIOR	HUB JOHNSON	85
VETERAN	LARRY CORBETT	87
SR. VETERAN	JOE CANTEY III	76

