

# Regional Tournaments



By Brad Glustoff

## 2006 Delaware River Classic

**Shooters relished in New Jersey's scenic landscape while having a blast breaking clays during this memorable two-day event held at M&M Hunting Preserve and Sporting Clays.**

New Jersey's state motto is "The Garden State," and with its heavily wooded forests and lush green meadows, M&M Hunting Preserve and Sporting Clays more than lives up to that slogan. Located in Pennsville between the Delaware and Salem rivers, it's as far from the images of its big-city neighbors as you can get.

M&M's sporting clays season runs from early September through the end of May. This past September 29-October 1, it successfully hosted the 2006 Delaware River Classic. This annual event marks the first major tournament on its 2006-07 clays shooting calendar, which includes such esteemed events as the Big Seafood Blast and The Masters Cup.

While most tournaments are growing in length to three, four, or even five days, the Delaware River Classic remains a two-day event. The preliminary and sub-gauge events were shot on Saturday, while the 100-bird, 16-station main event was shot on Sunday. With both days being non-squadded and European rotation, there was a lot of flexibility on when and where you could shoot. When I spoke to owner Anthony Matarese Sr. about this unique format, he responded, "With the variable weather we have, shooters prefer the option to sign up the day of the event and still be able to shoot with their friends." He added, "We've also seen that the events run smoother and end earlier than with the conventional format."

The prelim began under overcast skies. Thirteen stations challenged shooters with everything from "in your face" to "in

the next county." M&M's sporting clays course is divided into two diverse sections. The woods section tests you with high-speed targets set in a forest background, while the open section lets Matarese stretch out the targets. If you're someone who likes to change chokes, the open section lets you tighten up. Joseph Carey and Gary Phillips posted the top score of 93, with Carey taking the top spot via a tie-breaker station.

The sub-gauges were 50-bird, six-station events shot on their own course. In the 20 gauge, Stephen Edmondson and California shooter Justin Fox both posted incredible 49s, with Edmondson taking M1. In the 28, an amazing four shooters shot 47s, with Edmondson again taking M1. And in the .410 event, Randall Tinsley took M1 with 44, although Glen Lewandowski did post 45 to take AA1. HOA was not awarded in any of the weekend's events, with all awards presented by class.

Many people think of European-rotation events as being long, drawn-out affairs. Nothing could be further from the truth. Even with a brief Saturday-afternoon rain shower, everything ran smoothly. There was plenty of time to shoot the prelim and sub gauges. There was even time to sneak into nearby Philadelphia for all that great city offers visitors.

Sunday began under heavily overcast skies with a light drizzle. Being European rotation and non squadded, most shooters waited to see what the weather was going to do. The sporting clays gods must have been with us because the clouds cleared and those shooters who waited were rewarded with bright-blue skies and comfortable weather the rest of the day.

Sunday's course again featured stations in the woods as well as out in the open. Sixteen stations assured shooters that there would be some they would find easy as well as challenging. Anthony Matarese Sr. and Jr. set all the weekend's targets, and they didn't beat you up with anything over the top. Every target was hittable if you did your part, and most of the course could be shot with improved-cylinder or light-modified chokes.

When the dust had settled, it was current New Jersey State champ Brian Wright in the top spot with a scorching



Class winners were (standing left to right) E1 Jimmy Melson, D1 Dominick Fallini, C1 Peter Hontz, B1 John Snyder, A1 Ed Grassia, and (kneeling) M1 Brian Wright.

96x100. Ryan Kenton was two birds back with 94 for M2, and Raymond Carey rounded out the top three, also with 94. Wright, whose father David is a past New Jersey State champ, told me, "I really like shooting here. My father won his state championship here. Anthony and Anthony set really fun and challenging targets, and the hospitality is second to none."

I would agree. Next time you're in the Philadelphia area, give M&M a call. For more information, visit [www.mmhunting.com](http://www.mmhunting.com). Complete Delaware River Classic scores can be found on [www.wyshotgun.com](http://www.wyshotgun.com).

### 2006 Delaware River Classic M&M Hunting Preserve Pennsville, New Jersey September 29-October 1, 2006

Main Event		
M1	Brian Wright	96
M2	Ryan Kenton	94
M3	Raymond Carey	94
AA1	Charlie Watson	90
AA2	Jimmy Redmond	88
AA3	Michael Primavera	87
A1	Ed Grassia	84
A2	John Carbone	81
A3	Larry Miller	81
B1	John Snyder	83
B2	George Griscom	83
B3	John Matrango	82
C1	Peter Hontz	76
C2	Michael Dodd	76
C3	George Curtin	75
D1	Dominick Fallini	85
D2	Adam Laudenklos	75
D3	Bill Watt	73
E1	Jimmy Melson	65
E2	Brad Glustoff	65
E3	Russell Mullen	55
LYCH	Diane Sorantino	93
SJCH	Justin Fox	89
JRCH	Ryan Kenton	94
VTCH	Jack Concannon	93
SVCH	John Farrell	87