



You are Union. You are Sportsman. You Belong.



THE UNION SPORTSMEN'S JOURNAL

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 3, SUMMER 2009

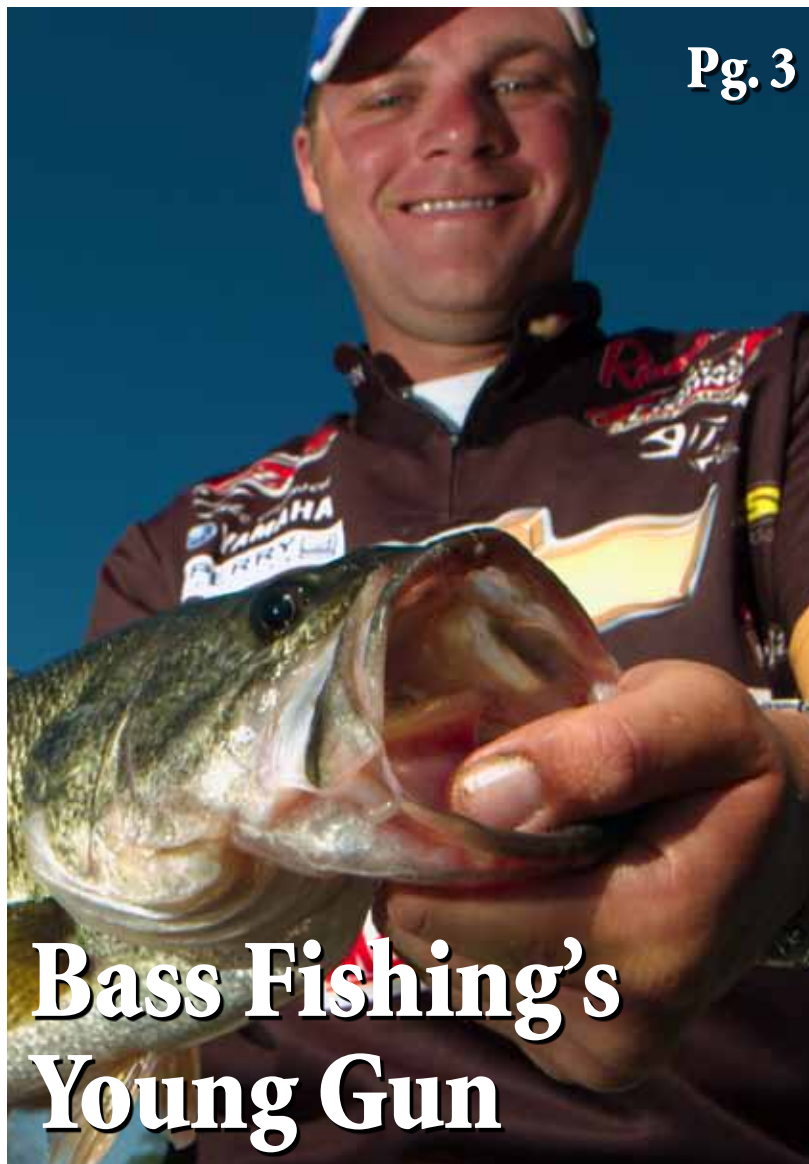
AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE UNION SPORTSMEN'S ALLIANCE



Pg. 3

Keeping Your Bow Quiet

Non Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
Hyattsville, MD
Permit # 5394



Pg. 3

Bass Fishing's Young Gun



8

Your Best Shots

USA members have been busy in the woods and on the water.



10

Gauge'n the Goose

A tale of entertainment from one of USA's members.



11

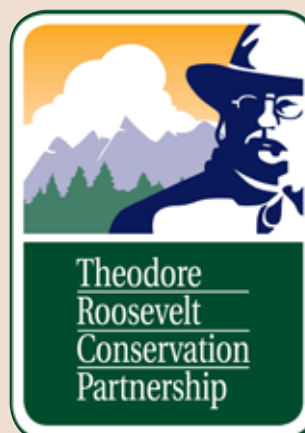
Made in the U.S.A.

Outdoor gear for you.

TRCP/Union Sportsmen's Alliance
555 11th Street NW
Washington, DC 20004



The USA is a hunting and fishing program of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership and its AFL-CIO affiliated trade union partners designed to extend union member benefits to the woods and water.



Tough times, Great solutions

In these difficult times, no one enjoys talking about budgets, cutting spending or, even worse, layoffs. But tough times do have a way of getting us back to the basics and can even help us focus on some of the more important things in life, like spending time with those we care about the most.



Fred Myers

When was the last time you slowed down enough to call your dad and say, "Let's go fishing," or take your kid out for an afternoon of plinking? Forget expensive vacations or the latest "must have" toys. Now, more than ever, is the perfect time to grab a rod and head to the nearest fishing hole, get out the target and tune-up your skills with a gun or bow, or simply take a walk through the woods looking for signs of wildlife. The outdoors provides us all with some of the most rewarding yet inexpensive ways to spend time together as a family.

Some of my best childhood memories are of the first time I hooked a really big largemouth bass and the yards of line reeling off my rod because I forgot to set the drag...and the pounding I felt in my chest the first time I had a whitetail doe with her fawn standing so close to my tree stand I could hear them breathing. And most of all, I remember walking in the woods with my grandfather and older cousins and those "bigger than life" stories they told of their hunting and fishing trips. Yep, those are memories I will cherish forever.

Hunting and fishing not only create memories to last a lifetime; they are activities that can be done cheaply and offer a great get away from life's pressures. Plus, a portion of the money you spend will always support wildlife conservation. If your aim is straight or your angling skills are up to par, you might even bring home dinner and save some money on your grocery bill.

We'll get through these tough times. But in the meantime, spend some extra time enjoying the great outdoors with those who are most important to you. You'll be glad you did.

Tight Lines and Best Afield,

Fred Myers
Executive Director, Union Sportsmen's Alliance

Climate issue hits home for sportsmen

Change in climate means change in wildlife behavior

BY BRIAN McCLINTOCK, TRCP

The hunt was a bust. It was early October, usually the best time to walk along the small streams of central Pennsylvania in hopes of jumping waterfowl, but this year was different. The sleeves of my lightweight shirt were pushed up and sweat blurred my vision. I've never been so miserable while wearing camo and carrying a shotgun.

More and more sportsmen are facing similar challenges. Weather patterns and seasons have changed. Stripers are running up the East Coast later, mule deer are moving into higher altitudes and coming down later in the fall, bass lakes are drying and birds are altering their migration patterns.

"I'm not seeing elk in the lower country where I used to hunt in the fall," said Bill Geer, director of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Center for Western Lands. "Instead, I have to hump farther back into higher mountains to even see them. I have no doubt warmer fall seasons and the absence of early snow are a direct effect of climate change."

The evidence is undeniable: Climate change is affecting how you hunt and fish, and it's happening now. In 2008, the Wildlife Management Institute compiled studies from some of the nation's leading hunting, fishing and conservation organizations into a report, Season's End (www.seasonsend.org), documenting how climate change is altering fish, wildlife and their habitats.

Season's End documented that overall temperatures could increase by as much as 10 degrees Fahrenheit, which would mean less

snow, more floods and higher sea levels. The impact on fish and wildlife would be substantial. Waterfowl habitat from prairie pothole wetlands to coastal regions would change drastically, reducing numbers of ducks and geese. Up to 42 percent of America's trout and salmon habitat would be lost by 2100. Whitetail deer would face increased mortality through a rise in infestations of disease-carrying insects.

"It's too late to prevent all the adverse effects of a warmer and drier environment," said Geer, "but we can prevent the worst impacts if we develop strategies to help fish and wildlife adapt."

A new report, Season's End 2, to be released later this year will attempt to provide a science-based plan for developing adaptation strategies that will help fish and wildlife maintain self-sustaining populations.

Sportsmen-conservationists and unions also are working to ensure that adaptation strategies get the support they need from the federal government.

Congressional legislation currently being developed would help combat climate change, in part by allocating funds to assist federal and state agencies in implementing adaptation measures.

"We are at a tipping point concerning climate change legislation," said Joe McCartin, legislative representative for the United Association of Plumbers and Pipefitters and member of the TRCP's climate change working group. "We need to make sure provisions for adaptation, job growth and energy efficiency are addressed. If no federal investment in new technologies occurs, we cannot move forward."

USA

Penny for Your Thoughts



Win This Gun!

Make That a Remington 11-87 for Your Thoughts
Help the USA add value to your membership by letting us know what you like and dislike about this publication. Because your input is so important to us, we'll enter you in a special drawing for a U.S./Union made Remington 11-87 shotgun when you complete our online survey.

Take the Survey

Visit www.UnionSportsmen.org and click on "Take the USA Newspaper Survey." Complete the survey by September 15, 2009 for your chance to win a new gun.

The Union Sportsmen's Journal is the official publication of the Union Sportsmen's Alliance.

Executive Director
Fred Myers, fmyers@trcp.org

Deputy Director
Mike d'Oliveira, miked@trcp.org

Sr. Communications Manager
Kate Cywinski
kcywinski@trcp.org

Membership Services & Recruitment Manager
Amy Napoli, anapoli@trcp.org

National Membership Coordinator
Nate Whiteman
nwhiteman@trcp.org

Membership questions:
877-872-2211 or
615-831-6779



The Union Sportsmen's Journal is produced by Michigan United Conservation Clubs' Communications Division.

Editor
Tony Hansen
thansen@mucc.org

Creative Services
Jeanne Esch, jesch@mucc.org

Luke Clausen:

One of America's finest anglers

In a matter of days, Luke Clausen would be fishing for the FLW's coveted Angler of the Year (AOY) title.

The crown not only includes a pretty substantial chunk of cash and a new Ranger boat, it also carries with it an enormous amount of prestige. Very, very few anglers have ever been good enough to earn an AOY

championship.

Clausen wants it and wants it bad.

But you certainly couldn't tell that from talking to him. Despite the fact that Clausen would enter the final event of the FLW season in a week, trailing the AOY race by just five points, the 30-year-old Chevy-sponsored pro was his usual calm, laid-back self.

"If I catch them, I catch them. If I don't, well I'll be disappointed but that's the way it goes sometimes. That's what makes this sport so different from everything else out there. I'm not fishing against the other guys or really even for points. I'm fishing to catch fish -- they're the ones who will really decide who wins."

Every angler has undoubtedly heard a similar version of Clausen's position -- it's all about the fish.

But Clausen truly believes that. He doesn't try to force anything on the water. He's open to all options and presentations and lets the fish tell him what they want.

Trust me, that's far easier said than done.

Clausen didn't win the AOY title.

But he came about as close as you can come.

Clausen made the Top 10 cut on Lake Champlain along with Kelloggs' pro Clark Wendlandt.

Clausen needed to finish

five places better than Wendlandt to earn the Angler of the Year championship.

Wendlandt finished in seventh, Clausen was 10th.

While finishing as the runner-up in the FLW's AOY race wasn't what Clausen was hoping for, there is no doubt the 30-year-old Spokane, WA native is going to be in plenty of title races in the years to come.

Clausen has already achieved some of the greatest milestones in bass fishing: He won the FLW Tour Championship event in 2004, becoming the youngest angler ever to do so, and followed that up by winning the BassMasters Classic in 2006 -- the two most sought-after single-tournament titles in all of fishing.

Clausen started fishing tournaments in his native state of Washington while he was in high school.

"There were always tournaments around, team events and things like that," he said. "I just started fishing those and then I realized that you could actually make some decent money doing it. I think I've only had one 'real' job and that was working in a tackle store in high school."

Clausen traveled all across the West coast fishing as many events as he could fit in, gradually working his way up from regional team events to BassMaster Opens.

In 2002, Clausen qualified to fish in his first BassMasters Classic, finishing 27th.

In 2004, he began competing in both the FLW Tour and the BassMaster trail.

Following his BassMaster Classic win in '04, Clausen decided to focus solely on FLW events.

"At the time the event schedules conflicted and I thought FLW was a better fit for me and my sponsors," Clausen said.

"It wasn't an easy decision but I think it was the right call."

Clausen has some of the top sponsors in the sport ranging from Chevy to Ranger boats. He's thankful for every one.

"It does feel good to know that the sponsors think enough of me and the way I represent their brands to stick with me during what is obviously a very tough time for them," Clausen said.

"I just try to go out every day, fish hard and represent them the best that I can. You definitely feel for all of them right now."

When asked to describe his strengths as an angler, Clausen said that it's a question he hears often but is very difficult to answer.

"It's just that I don't really think I have a particular strength. I try to let the fish tell me what they want," he said. "I go into every tournament with an open mind. I don't have any preconceived notions of how I'm going to catch them or where. I just fish and learn what I can from the reactions that I get."

While Washington isn't exactly known as a hotbed of bass fishing, Clausen said his experiences at home have definitely helped him in his career.

"There's not much I haven't seen. We have clear water, dirty water, tidal fisheries. I traveled quite a bit and was really able to experience a lot of different types of water," he said.

When he's not fishing for titles, Clausen loves to spend time hunting his home state. He's had terrific success there as well.

Whether it's on the water or in the field, there's little doubt that Clausen will excel.

USA

For big summer bass, look for relief from the heat

BY LUKE CLAUSEN

Most people think catching big bass in the summer is difficult, but it doesn't have to be. Like anything that spends all day outside during the hottest part of the year, bass look for shade. Finding these places is the first step towards catching more than a sunburn.

Shade fishing pays off on big lakes, farm ponds, backwater sloughs and creeks in the middle of the day, where it's common to find bass holding on the shady side of boat docks, in the shade of walkways leading to boat docks and piers, and in the shade of pilings on the side of boat docks and piers. Aquatic vegetation like weeds and grasses also creates shade that holds bass during the middle of the day.

I have the most success when fishing soft plastics and

jigs in big water shade. Pitching a plastic worm or craw under a boat dock can cause a bass attack.

My favorite is a Berkley 4 inch Chigger craw in green pumpkin or black. These two lures also can catch bass in the grass. To catch big bass in the middle of the day, fish a heavy jig that will punch a hole in the thick grass. Then let the bait fall.

When I fish a jig in the grass, I primarily fish the lure on the fall and watch my line to see the strike. A heavier jig results in a faster fall, which is more likely to produce a reaction strike.

If the lure hits the bottom, shake your rod tip to make the bait quiver. If a bass doesn't attack the bait within 10 seconds of its laying on the bottom, I reel the lure in and

make another cast.

If a finesse approach in the shade doesn't provide the action, topwater baits can be equally effective in warm water. Regardless of the time of year or day, you can usually find some bass holding on shoreline cover in shallow water, and most of the time they will bite a topwater bait such as a Megabass Pop-X.

Experience with depthfinders will allow you a third option in the summer—fishing for structure-oriented bass in deep water on bottom breaks, humps, drop-offs and ledges.

Though it may be the hottest time of the year, it never hurts to think about what the fish are doing and why they do it. Look for things in the lake that are likely to appeal to a bass and focus your efforts there.

USA

USA Organizing Efforts at a Glance

By NATE WHITEMAN, USA NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

Across the country, our organizing efforts are paying off. With the continued support of our Charter Unions, we have successfully launched the early stages of a full-blown, North American Bottom Up Organizing Campaign. We have nearly doubled USA membership in the last six months. Though we're increasing at a good pace, we continue to need your support. One of the keys to our continued success is the understanding that the USA belongs to you as a UNION BENEFIT. Any union member who participates in some form of outdoor activity—whether that's hunting, camping, hiking, boating, or bird watching—has a place in this union-dedicated club.

Jim Klatt, Central Flyway
612-331-0270 • 952-221-9787
jklatt@trcp.org

More than 200 outdoor enthusiasts, including union members from 17 Locals of multiple trades, helped make the first USA sportsmen's dinner in Minneapolis, Minn., a great success. The event, featuring great food, valuable prizes and a compelling speech from Minnesota Outdoor TV personality Ron Schara, was held at the IUOE Local 49 hall on April 30.

The sportsmen's night brought in 120 new USA members and renewed 65 current members. Thanks to the success of the inaugural dinner, the USA plans to hold many similar events in the future.



Union members pack the house and USA Sportsmen's Dinner

The USA also is working with several IAFF members to reach 12,000 union fire fighters in the Chicago metro area through a summer-long member recruitment campaign. Nearly 30 IAFF Local leaders signed up to help deliver the USA message to fire stations.

Don Coburn, Mississippi Flyway
614-441-9013 • 614-787-1354
dcoburn@trcp.org

The Great Lakes region is busy with hunting and fishing activities this summer and fall. In May, the IBEW 683 Sportsmen's Committee held a turkey shoot in Delaware, Ohio, organized by Doug Stewart, Local 683 liaison to the USA.

That event was followed in June by a Lake Erie walleye fishing trip with a group

of IBEW Local 8 members aboard Sharkey's Revenge. The event was made possible by Mark Huffman, owner of Southbank Charters and a USA/IBEW member.



Members of IBEW Local 8 and Don Coburn chase walleye with Southbank Charters

On October 10, 2009, union sportsmen will have another chance to connect at the USA's Inaugural Pheasant Hunt & Feed at Elkhorn Lake Hunt Club in Bucyrus, Ohio. Spots are filling up. Call Don Coburn for details.

Tim Bindl, Pacific Flyway
608-788-0043 • 608-397-1023
tbindl@trcp.org

Gary Allen, Vice President for the IAM Western Territory, has helped pave the way for the USA to reach IAM members throughout the west. We are continuing our campaign with IAM District 751 and will begin more partnerships with the IAM this fall.



Bindl introduces the USA at IAM 751 stewards meeting.

Thanks to the efforts of Dan Stuart, IBEW Local 354 member and a USA volunteer, we've expanded USA promotion to Utah through union events and meetings, as well.

In September, the USA will attend Labor Fest in La Crosse, WI, on Labor Day. Members of Western WI AFL-CIO locals who join the USA prior to the event are eligible to win the Remington 770 to be given away. We also will join more than 500 union members at the Cook County Labor Council's golf outing in Chicago, IL, on Sept. 25.

Nate Whiteman, Atlantic Flyway
440-867-8229 • 440-867-2732
nwhiteman@trcp.org

In the Northeast, the USA is forming an organizing campaign within Bath Iron Works, Maine's largest single employer, to recruit new members. We continue grow

in New York due to the support of Joe Proscia of IBEW Local 3. And in October the USA and IBEW Local 3 will partner for a wild game dinner.

Pennsylvania continues to be a successful area for USA recruitment at a multi-trade level. During the summer and fall, we will begin recruitment campaigns with IBEW Locals 5 and 712.

We recently kicked off a major campaign with CWA in the Tennessee, lead by CWA member Alica Posey. Farther south, we will partner with individual locals and multi-trade organizations in Atlanta, Miami,



IBB Western States Intl. VP Tom Baca, retired IBB member Ernie Dorsey, Nate Whiteman, and IBB Intl. Secretary-Treasurer William Creeden

Welcome New USA Partners

IBEW Local 903
IBEW Local 364
IBEW Local 24
IBEW Local 683
IBEW Local 494
UA Local 72
IBEW Local 613
IBEW Local 702
BAC Local 15

Pascagoula and multiple locations in Texas.

Additionally, thanks to the effort and continued support of the Boilermakers, USA will hold its first mid-west sporting clays shoot in the Kansas City area, hosted by the Boilermakers. **USA**

> Regional Coordinator Spotlight

A Wisconsin native, Tim Bindl got his start hunting and fishing by tagging along with his dad.

"In the spring, he would help me dig up nightcrawlers and take me fishing for bass on the neighbor's pond. When fall came, he would take me in the woods and show me how to use tree limbs for climbing, instead of a ladder stand."

It was that bond between father and son that got Bindl hooked. It

was a similar bond that inspired him to join the USA staff as Northwest Regional Coordinator. As a dedicated member of IAM Local 1115, Bindl knew the benefits of union brotherhood, and combining that with his love for the outdoors made perfect sense.

"Union membership means standing side by side during the good times and the tough times to succeed as a team," said Bindl. "The USA takes that membership to a whole new level – connecting union sportsmen and women across the country and extending union benefits beyond the workplace and meeting halls."

As a USA regional coordinator, Bindl tells fellow union members to join the USA for whatever they are most interested in.

"It might be conservation and providing public hunting and fishing access for future generations, or it could be the American-made Buck knife, the outdoor magazines and the numerous discounts and giveaways. Whatever the reason, the USA has something for everyone."

USA



Tim Bindl

Life in the Open sets fifth season

The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership's union-sponsored TV show, TRCP's *Life in the Open*, returns to the Versus Network this fall for its fifth season of hunting and fishing adventures in remote corners of rugged landscapes, where the journey itself is part of the payoff.

While TRCP's *Life in the Open* occasionally features exotic dream destinations, like Africa where TR once hunted for an entire year, its focus remains on publicly accessible places, where average hunters and anglers can experience some of the best sport found in North America. Host Ken Barrett, whose family roots are planted deeply in union soil, says he couldn't be prouder of the fact that America's working people and its unions sponsor the show.

Besides showcasing great hunting and fishing, TRCP's *Life in the Open* attempts to educate viewers about issues and policies effecting our hunting and fishing traditions and legacies, while highlighting our nation's conservation history, especially history made by Teddy Roosevelt.

Travel along with Ken Barrett this fall on TRCP's *Life in the Open* and his guests as they go on a do-it-yourself combination salmon fishing trip and Sitka blacktail deer hunt in the Tongass National Forest on Alaska's Prince of Wales Island. Then watch as Ken encounters the biggest bull elk he's ever seen while hunting public land in Montana's Custer National Forest.

You'll see whitetail deer hunts in Tennessee and Wisconsin and a hunt for opening morning turkeys in

**Life In The Open:
Season 5
airs Sundays at
9 a.m. on VERSUS
Country.
www.versuscountry.com**

eastern Kansas, where Ken and Chevy representative Kevin Messmer team up to take a big eastern gobbler. Another show features a classic combination mule deer and pheasant hunt in far western Kansas, where Ken's guest misses his first shot but redeems himself just a couple hours later, when he takes a heavy antlered, thick bodied, corn-fed bruiser of a buck.

Add to these trips a do-it-yourself hunt for javelina on public lands in New Mexico, where Ken's first attempt at calling the little pigs solicits some surprising results and what can only be described as a hair-raising experience!

Then it's off to Africa to celebrate the hundredth anniversary of Teddy Roosevelt's great safari in 1909-1910 with guest Steve Kelly, Assistant General President of the UA, for a plains game hunt. You'll have to tune in to see how former U.S. Marine Kelly does on critters like kudu, gemsbok, hartebeest and warthog, with his brand new Sako .300 Win Mag.

And there's more, including: great



Chevy representative Kevin Messmer and Ken Barrett on Kansas turkey hunt

striped bass fishing on the Chesapeake with staff members like USA's Kate Cywinski, quail hunting in Texas and Florida, duck hunting in the famed rice fields of California and some early season sharptail grouse and Hungarian partridge

hunting in Montana with guest Lt. Colonel Brent Cummings, a true American hero and long time TRCP partner.

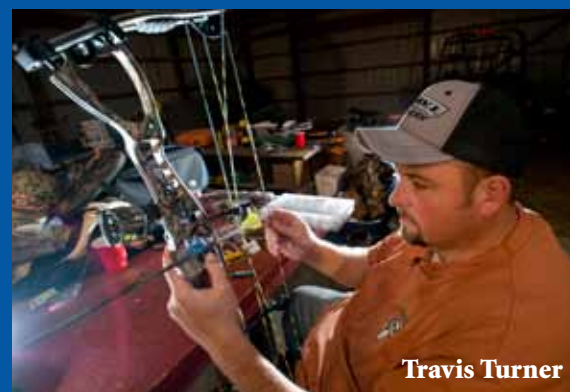
To learn more about TRCP's *Life in the Open* and *Escape to the Wild*, visit www.TRCP.tv. **USA**

>Tips from Experts

Keeping Your Bow Quiet

Here's a few ways to make your bow quieter

1. Everything the Limbsaver makes works well for quieting bows...HONESTLY.
2. Use polar fleece or felt in the sight window.
3. Keep your string waxed.
4. Use cat whiskers and/or leaches in the string.
5. Check and recheck all bolts and screws for tightness.
6. Put a small amount of bow wax on all four e-clips at the end of each axle. This keeps the e-clip from rattling and displaces water and moisture from entering the axle and bushing.
7. If you have squeaking and popping in the axles and limb pockets, have a pro-shop break the bow down and lube the axles as well as put a thin layer of bow wax in the limb pocket.
8. Use heat shrink, polar fleece, Teflon sleeves or suede leather on the bow rest to quiet the arrow as you draw.



Travis Turner

BY TRAVIS "T-BONE" TURNER OF BONE COLLECTOR

First USA Sporting Clays Shoot a Blast

After expenses, the USA sporting clays shoot raised nearly \$30,000 through shooter registration, sponsors, the raffle and a gun auction. That money will go right back into making the USA an even greater value for union member, while helping support the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership's efforts to guarantee all Americans a place to hunt and fish. Special thanks to the AFL-CIO, UA, IBEW, Roofers, TCU, IAMAW, IUOE, BAC, UFCW, IUPAT, IBB, CWA as well as Beretta-USA and other corporate partners for making the event a great success.



Gray skies and looming thunderstorms didn't stop 152 union members and shooting enthusiasts from attending the Union Sportsmen's Alliance First Annual Capital Area Sporting Clays Shoot on June 18, 2009.



The morning drizzle let up just in time as enthusiastic participants turned off Good Luck Road in Glenn Dale, Maryland at Prince George's County Trap & Skeet Center and packed the USA registration table. Once registered, participants located their team members, poked a few good-natured jests at opposing teams and took advantage of the shooter instruction offered by Shoot for a Cure volunteers.



Then the fun began as teams of four shooters headed to the wooded course consisting of twenty stations, where they blasted clays coming at a variety of angles and speeds.

**You are Union. You are Sportsman.
You Belong**
at the next USA Sporting Clays Shoot
Kansas City, MO – October TBD
Grab a team and get your Union Local involved!
For information about future USA shoots,
call 1-877-872-2211.



As participants neared their last stations, they were chased from the course to the shelter of the lunch pavilion by a torrential downpour. But that didn't dampen spirits as the shooters enjoyed a delicious BBQ meal and cold drinks, while considering the many raffle items on display. Many shooters went home with fantastic raffle prizes including a Beretta Urika 2 Gold shotgun, a commemorative Theodore Roosevelt Buck knife, a Lincoln Electric welder, hunting clothing from Rutwear and Drake, an Otis gun cleaning kit, and a Maine fishing trip for two with Classic Connections.



The clouds disappeared with the raffle items, and the first USA sporting clays shoot ended with a special presentation by Travis Mears, 2009 International Trap Men's Champion and member of Team Beretta. Mears, who has achieved more than 30 notable shooting awards at just 22 years old, amazed shooting enthusiasts with shots from the hip, over the head with the gun upside down, behind the back, and between his legs.

USA Founding Partner Richard Trumka Runs for AFL-CIO President

Supporting a USA-logo shirt and hat with pride, AFL-CIO Secretary-Treasurer Richard Trumka never misses an opportunity to talk about the Union Sportsmen's Alliance (USA) and the importance of unions engaging in conservation issues, while at union meetings, outdoor trade shows and USA events.

A lifelong outdoorsman, Trumka helped launch the USA two years ago as a member of the USA Working Committee and has been a leader in bringing new opportunities and benefits to the millions of union members who hunt, fish and recreate outdoors.

Standing on a picnic table this past June at the USA's inaugural sporting clays shoot, Trumka addressed the crowd of more than 150 union members, saying, "As union members, we unite on critical issues affecting working conditions. It's great to see members of all different trades also coming together through the USA to have fun in the outdoors while supporting conservation efforts."

For nearly 15 years, Trumka has served as Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO, working to improve worker's benefits and assisting affiliated unions in collective bargaining. Now Trumka, whose union roots run as deep as his love for the great outdoors, is running for president of the AFL-CIO.

Trumka's path toward his candidacy for the top AFL-CIO position began at an early age with the lessons passed down from his father and grandfather, hardworking miners who also engendered his love for hunting as they



Richard Trumka (2nd from left) with members of UA Local 486 at USA Sporting Clays Shoot.

chased squirrel, rabbits and birds in Pennsylvania.

Growing up in the 1960s, Trumka saw the challenges mine workers faced with dangerous working conditions and low pay. When he graduated high school, he followed his father and grandfather into the mines. In facing the hazards of a miner in sometimes near death situations, he learned the true meaning of solidarity. Trumka spent seven years in the mines while working toward a law degree, with the help of a scholarship from the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA), before joining the UMWA legal staff.

He rose quickly through the union ranks and was elected the UMWA's youngest president. His record of activism, innovation and reform over the next decade didn't go unnoticed, and in 1995, he was elected

Secretary-Treasurer of the AFL-CIO.

In recent years, Trumka helped expand traditional roles of the union beyond the workplace through his involvement with the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), a coalition of the nation's leading conservation organizations and grassroots partners working together to preserve the traditions of hunting and fishing.

"I love to listen to the woods wake up and go to sleep. The less intrusive I am to the natural sounds of the woods, the better the day afield becomes," said Trumka, who pursues big game, rabbit, upland birds, turkey, trout and bass.

Recognizing that many of his union brothers and sisters share a similar sentiment, Trumka helped establish a partnership between the AFL-CIO and the TRCP, which led to the creation of a one-of-a-kind hunting and fishing club exclusively for union members – the USA. He also has been instrumental in getting the AFL-CIO to partner with the TRCP on a number of conservation initiatives.

"I've had the pleasure of hunting sharp-tailed grouse and pheasants in the Montana foothills with Rich. The enthusiasm and tenaciousness he showed climbing up and down those hills is the same kind of commitment he has poured into supporting the TRCP's conservation efforts," said TRCP President and CEO George Cooper. "I am excited about the opportunity to further grow our relationship with the AFL-CIO and Rich and to see the Union Sportsmen's Alliance continue to flourish." **USA**

USA Member Special Offer

28% discount on American Bass Anglers membership
Team USA Special Offer 1 year membership \$18.00

USA Member Benefits:

- 6 Issues of the American Bass Anglers Magazine
- ABA membership Card and Patch
- Learn how to find and catch bass!!
- Fish ABA qualifying tournaments (boaters and non-boaters)
- Participate in the Team USA Competition Team
- Profile, Points and Stats shown on ABA website
- Can join abaangler.com free of charge
- Can qualify for year-end championships and prizes

Take advantage of this special offer by calling
Toll Free (888) 203-6222.



5 Special USA Member Events - Summer 2009
Barbeque Cook-off Challenge at 5 ABA Tournaments
Challenge to USA Members to put Grilling Teams Together
visit www.americanbassanglers.com/bbq for more
information or call (888) 203-6222

American Bass Anglers is the largest tournament organization for the weekend angler. American Bass Anglers operates the American Fishing Tour, The Bassmaster Weekend Series and the American Couples Series. Each tour is designed specifically for the weekend angler offering low cost and close to home events so the anglers can qualify for larger championship. For more information on American Bass Anglers visit www.americanbassanglers.com or call (888) 203-6222

Don't Be Last to Cross the Finish Line Join the Union Sportsmen's Alliance



Nick Kashi - IAFF Winner '08

- * Roundtrip airfare & lodging
 - * 2 tickets to Fall '09 TMS weekend
 - * VIP passes to Beretta Private Suite
 - * Pit passes
 - * **PLUS a U.S. made Beretta Shotgun**
- TOTAL PRIZE VALUE \$6,000+**

Join the USA by October
16th and you automatically
qualify to win.

Not a member? Join Today!



Bob Wewers - SMWIA Winner '08

For complete details visit www.UnionSportsmen.org

>Take Your Best Shot

You Could Win a #110 Buck knife engraved with the USA logo when you share your best shots with your brothers and sisters of the USA. Check out great photos from the woods and water and submit your own at www.UnionSportsmen.org.



Win A Buck Knife!

A \$70 Value!



Andrew Buck, a member of Glaziers Local 2105 from Oshkosh, WI.



Brett Graham, a member of Machinists Local 839 from Wichita, KS.



James Troyer of Communication Workers Local 4900 in Kokomo, IN, took his first Tom in April 2007. It weighed 23lbs and had an 11 inch beard and 3/4" spurs.



JP Vincnete (left), a member of Fire Fighters Local 3066 from Prescott, AZ, guided Larry Fischer (right) on this sheep hunt.



Joseph Pozzi, a member of Ironworkers Local 1 from Burr Ridge, IL, caught and released this snook in Costa Rica.

FIRST HARVEST

Congratulations Deidre!



Deidre Vieser took her very first buck with a 243 Win. She got a magnum mark on her nose from the shot as an extra souvenir.

Deidre was drawn as one of the winners in the USA First Harvest Prize Giveaway and received a USA hat along with her certificate. Congratulations to Deidre and all the other participants for their first harvest or catch!

Help the USA recognize youths who have taken their first game animal or caught their first fish. To request a USA First Harvest certificate, email USAmembers@trcp.org.



Robert Davis, a member of Steel Workers Local 632 from Pocatello, ID, with his 5-year-old daughter Danner.



Tom Mattingley, member of Electrical workers Local 351 from Clayton, NJ.

Use common sense in the woods

Staying safe this hunting season means paying attention to all of the details

BY TOM NELSON

I spend a large amount of my non-bowhunting time at sport shows. Whether as a seminar speaker or a floor walker, I attend dozens across the nation every year. I like talking to other hunters and sharing experiences with them. Recently, I was at a large show in another state when a man about my age, approached me and introduced himself. After a brief introduction, he pulled a large envelope from under his arm and handed it over to me. While I opened the envelope he began to tell me his story.

While walking out along the edge of the woods after an evening's bowhunt, this fellow learned firsthand what it is like to be shot with a broadhead. Enclosed within the oversize envelope was an x-ray of his forearm bone with a broadhead imbedded firmly within it. This bowhunter went on to tell how he had walked out of the woods after dark with no flashlight. Another hunter mistook him for a deer and shot him. Fortunately the arrow missed the large arteries and the wounded archer made it to the hospital and lived to tell about it.

Every year I hear similar stories about

bowhunters getting hurt while enjoying their beloved sport. Some mishaps are only minor, with a scrape or shallow wound being the only reminder of their accident. Other archers are injured falling from treestands. Every once in awhile, albeit rare, an archer is accidentally shot by another bowhunter. The sad fact is, most all of these misfortunes can and are avoidable. Here are my tips to becoming a safer bowhunter.

STRAP IN

Always wear a safety belt or harness. Honestly, a safety harness is, in my opinion, the only way to go.

A harness will keep you upright should you fall and unlike a safety belt, it won't tighten up around you, choking the air out of your lungs. More than once I have had a bowhunter tell me that they were not sure if it was not better to hit the ground than have their safety belt tighten up around them almost crushing their ribs.

CLIMB CAREFULLY

Use your harness when climbing into

and out of your treestand. This is when the vast majority of treestand related accidents occur. Not while on stand but while getting in or out.

USE STEPS

Never use a tree limb as a foot or hand hold. No matter how strong a limb may appear, never trust it to hold your body weight. My one and only fall came when I grabbed a limb that I had used dozens of times, only to have it snap. Fortunately I fell only a few feet and landed unharmed. That was the last time I relied on a tree limb.

USE A ROPE

Never carry your bow up or down your stand. Always utilize a bow hoist rope.

Inspect the tree you plan on hanging your stand in. Be sure it is alive and well. Never, ever, attach a stand, portable or a ladder stand, to a dead tree. If you do so, you are only asking for a disaster.

USE YOUR QUIVER

Always keep your arrow in your

quiver while walking to and from your hunting spot. This is one of my pet peeves. Bowhunters walking with a broadhead-tipped arrow swinging about on their bowstring. Sadly, I even see this on some hunting TV shows. It drives me crazy. Twice I have witnessed a bowhunter accidentally cut or stab another with an arrow. Both times it was a bowhunter who had an arrow knocked while walking.

PAY ATTENTION

When it's dark, use a flashlight when going to and from your hunting spot. Period!

Know your target and shoot only if you have a clean, unobstructed shot.

Use common sense.

It only takes a moment of inattention for something bad to happen. You should enjoy yourself when you're in the woods, but that isn't a license to completely lose track of yourself.

Pay attention and play it safe.

If something does not feel right, trust your instincts.

USA



GUIDED HUNTS

For a Trophy PC or Laptop
Outfitted by Members of IBEW, CWA, and UWUA

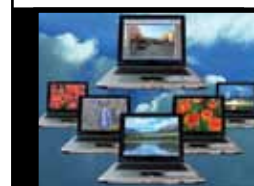


WWW.UNIONBUILTPC.COM

Union Built PCs and Laptops • Install & Equip Training Centers
Grievance Tracking Software • Online Tech Support

Call Toll Free **877-728-6466** Call Toll Free

100% UNION SHOP



Bag A Trophy
www.unionbuiltpc.com

The "Boone & Crockett" of
Union Information Technology



Mention Ad For 5% Discount

Gauge'n the Goose

BY CLAYTON BOLTON, MEMBER OF USA AND IAM 946

I wasn't planning on going. I had a lot to do and the weather guessers were calling for clear skies and sun, not even a little morning fog typical of an early goose season in California. But, then my brother, Bill, called.

We used to spend every possible moment together chasin' anything in season. As our families and responsibilities grew, our time together dwindled. But a suitor after one of his three daughters was lookin' to impress him, and



Clayton Bolton (right) with brother Bill

a hunting trip might be the ticket.

My brother has never been bashful about putting young men who show interest in his girls through their paces, so I set up a morning run. I called the property owner to see if we could sit by "The Big Pond" the next day, and with a chuckle, he gave the okay. He knew it was too early in the season to be productive, but I didn't care. After all, it was a chance to get out, and I was curious about the "test" my brother had in store. Bill called to tell me his youngest daughter was going to do some coyote calling with dad, while the young man and I tried for geese.

Our day began in the dark as I splashed out a half dozen floaters, laid out a couple dozen shells in the fresh nibblin' grass, and set cover and chairs up in the tall weeds on the south side of the pond. The air was dead still and cool beneath a star-filled sky. As the young guest and I settled in, I didn't pay attention to the gun he was totin'. I ask him a few safety and hunting regulation questions, and he seemed on top of it. He said he'd shot a few clays but never live birds.

With the sun up for several hours warming things up, my fidgety blind mate was about ready to give up. Then I heard it - a loner! A few honks got his attention, and he was on his way. As I prepared my guest, the bird came right overhead, circled the north end of the pond and was

Win a Shotgun with Your Story!

Send us a story about your most challenging hunt, biggest trophy, best memory in the woods or water or anything related to the outdoors, and you'll be entered in a drawing for a U.S.-made Beretta 3901 American Citizen shotgun.

To Qualify: Submit your story (300 words minimum) via email to USAmembers@trcp.org by Labor Day—September 7, 2009.

on a straight in approach toward the dekes.

Guns up and ready, "SHOOT!"

It sounded like a cannon fired beside me. His shot missed and down he went. I lost sight of him from my peripheral vision. There was no time to waste. I wasn't going to let our only bird of the morning get away, so I fired and watched it fold. But the momentum was so great and the dead bird so close, my bunker buddy had to scramble out of the way of the fast approaching, 12 lb. missile about to knock him down again.

When I got a good fix on the young man, he looked dazed with a trickle of blood running from the corner of his mouth. Then I heard my brother from a stand in the trees behind us laughing as loud as I've ever heard. That's when I realized the gun he shot was Bill's lightweight single in 10-gauge with a maximum 3 1/2 inch load. That gun makes me cringe with heavy loads.

The young suitor survived "trial by Bill" that day. But later, when I asked him about a trip back out, all he said was "only if I can shoot a different gun."

That's when Bill said, "I have a different one for ya. It's a double gun, and if ya put fingers on both triggers, you can't miss!"

I could have told him it's also a 10-gauge. But hey, he's not dating my daughter. **USA**

> In The Field

Scout smarter not harder this year

BY TONY HANSEN, MICHIGAN OUT-OF-DOORS MAGAZINE

I realize that the old sayin about "best laid plans" applies to mice and men - or something like that.

But, when it comes to targeting a mature buck, a best-laid plan is a necessity. And there just may not be a better planning tool than the remote-activated surveillance camera.

Trail cameras haven't been around for that long. They're not exactly new, but the technology to really make them viable and affordable options has evolved over the past few years.

For those unfamiliar with trailcams, the concept is pretty simple. You take a digital camera, mount it in a weatherproof box, fit it with a motion-sensing device and what you end up with is a tool that will tell you exactly what's passing by the camera's location.

Scouting is one of the most critical aspects of a successful season - particularly if you're choosy in the animals that you take. A trail camera can help you take inventory of the deer in the area you plan to hunt; it can help you evaluate the age and quality of the bucks as well as get a general feel for the overall health of the deer population.

Most importantly, the trail camera can really help you to finetune your hunting locations without wasting time hunting in unproductive areas.

Most hunters will use their trail cameras just prior to the start of the hunting seasons. That's certainly a good time to have your cameras in the woods. But don't overlook these late-summer weeks.

For starters, bucks in velvet are cool. Getting a few great photos is certainly worth the effort, and it can sort of extend your hunting experience into a time when the season is closed.

Personally, I think one of the very best times of year to take a mature buck is during the first few days of the archery season while the animals are still in their somewhat-predictable summer patterns. A trail camera can help immensely in the task.

In my neck of the Michigan woods, I'm fortunate to be able to scout summer whitetails from afar - in those locations where beans are in the crop rotation. Bean fields are the ideal scouting location because you can hang way back and use quality optics to scope out the

visiting deer. But what do you do when those fields are covered in corn?

Well, that's where the trail cameras prove invaluable. I tend to be a very cautious hunter. I firmly believe that any time you enter the areas you plan to hunt, you diminish your odds of seeing a mature buck simply because you've somewhat contaminated that area.

In years past, I've had to make multiple visits to a site covered in corn to keep tabs on what the deer were doing. Now, I can simply head in once, set up a couple of cameras and return a week or so later to pull the memory cards and see what's been happening.

It's an easy-in, easy-out scenario with minimal disturbance to the area.

As good as today's technology is, there continues to be major differences in camera performance. With lower-end cameras, you'll find a lot of "blank" photos in which no animals can be seen. Odds are, a deer (or some other critter) walked by the camera and the response time on the unit wasn't quick enough to fire the camera before the deer was out of the frame. Other units have almost instantaneous trigger-times and capture

a lot more photos of animals.

Now, there are ways to minimize those blank photos with all models. Rather than set the camera up to shoot the photo as a deer passes by, angle the camera towards the direction you expect the deer to come from. That way, even if the camera triggers slowly, the deer will more than likely still be in the frame because it's walking towards the camera location.

Many hunters worry about the flash bothering deer. Personally, I don't think it's an issue. But, if you do, there are some options.

For starters, you can set most cameras to shoot "daylight-only" and the flash will never fire. Of course, most mature bucks are active after dark and that means you'll be missing an awful lot of photo chances.

The other option is to buy a camera that uses infrared technology. Many manufacturers now offer "no flash" models capable of taking photos at night without a traditional flash.

Yes, you'll pay more for these units but it just might be an expense you're willing to handle. **USA**

U.S. Made: Outdoor Gear For You

These Products Are Proudly Made in the USA



Ardent Reels F700

The F700 is Ardent's first-ever signature model. The company teamed with legendary angler Denny Brauer to produce the reel which is designed for effortless flipping and pitching.

The F700 features seven ball bearings, an aluminum frame, a high strength handle and signature look.

CHECK IT OUT:

www.ArdentReels.com

Summit Treestands

Raptor Series

The new Raptor series from Summit is all about mobility and stealth.

Some hunters prefer the stability of a fixed position stand but want the mobility of a climber. The Raptor meets in the middle, allowing hunters to quickly and easily take the stand down, leaving the mounting bracket in place.

CHECK IT OUT:

www.SummitTreestands.com



Berkley Powerbait

CrazyLegs Chigger Craw

Yes, it has a crazy name. It also has crazy action and helped lead Skeet Reese to the BassMaster Classic championship this spring.

The new CrazyLegs Chigger Craw is perfect for pitching to summer bass in thick cover.

CHECK IT OUT:

www.BerkleyFishing.com

Bad Boy Buggies XT

The new Bad Boy Buggies XT has been redesigned with several key improvements including a more even distribution of the weight of the batteries. The battery system has also been improved to generate even more torque and longer life from the battery system.

CHECK IT OUT:

www.BadBoyBuggies.com



>USA Member Exclusive Discounts

To cash in on these special member-only offers, visit UnionSportsmen.org and check out the Deals and Discounts area. There you'll find links to the product websites where you can enter your USA membership number or promotional code to take advantage of the savings.



North Padre Boating Adventures is happy to offer boating adventures for six or less. Experience **Texas saltwater fishing** at its best as you test your skill against redfish, speckled trout, flounder, sheephead and black drum in the Corpus Christi area. If fishing isn't your thing, come aboard for exciting dolphin or bird watching tours of North Padre, Corpus

Christi and Port Aransas or enjoy a relaxing sunset cruise.

USA members get a 10% discount on all activities

Contact Captain Chuck Matthews: 361-949-3257



Located in **Oak Harbor, Ohio**, Summer Break Charters offers chartered fishing trips on **western Lake Erie** – the walleye capital of the world – in a fully equipped 30-foot SportCraft boat with twin 350 Mercury Cruisers. Bring your own tackle or take advantage of Summer Break Charter's

selection of quality rods, reels, and tackle to chase walleye, perch and smallmouth bass. Fish cleaning is also available.

USA members get a 10% discount on charters, Monday - Friday

Contact Capt. Jeff Spesia: 815-545-3095 ♦ www.SummerBreakCharters.com



WINDSONG ADVENTURES

Windsong Adventures Outdoor Entertainment is a family owned and operated business in **Adair, Oklahoma**, that offers something for everyone in the family. Hunt quail, pheasant, wild hog, whitetail, elk or something more exotic. If fishing is your passion, try your hand at bluegill, bass or catfish in ponds or on Lake Hudson. Windsong Adventures also offers a beautiful, furnished lodge close to trails for hiking or bird watching.

USA members get a 10% discount on hunting & fishing packages and/or lodging

Contact Roger Malchow: 918-864-0055 ♦ www.WindsongAdventures.com



Nestled in Big Sky country and big game territory just west of Yellowstone National Park, Trail Creek Lodge is a full-service hunting outfitter for elk, deer and antelope. Trail Creek Lodge conducts hunts on private

land ranches **north of Big Timber, Montana**, and on public land in the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. In the lower 48 states, you'd be hard pressed to find better hunting or outdoor splendor.

USA members get a 10% discount on all hunts

Contact Paul Maliskey: 1-800-275-3017 ♦ www.TrailCreekLodge.com



Woods-N-Water, Inc. provides sportsmen with high-quality and affordable hunting and fishing adventures in **Georgia**, including special corporate, group and parent/child packages. Chase trophy whitetail, wild hog, spring turkey and bass. Enjoy superior outdoor adventures on extensively managed hunting properties in one of the top trophy-producing areas of the state. Come and hunt some of the finest properties in the south!

USA members get a 10% discount on hunting packages

Contact Blaine Burley: 478-864-9108 ♦ www.WoodsNWaterInc.com



Whether you go for a day or stay for a week, Bucks and Ducks Hunting Lodge in **Bellevue, Texas** offers a one-of-a-kind hunting experience. Chase monster whitetails on a three-day guided hunt or spend your time hunting dove, geese, quail, turkey, hog or other game. You can also book a one-day "Cast & Blast" outing that includes a fishing trip and a duck hunt. No matter which hunt you choose - you're guaranteed to have a good time.

USA members get 10% off any hunt

Contact Ronnie Ogle: 682-552-0001 ♦ www.BucksAndDucksHuntingLodge.com



I am Union. I am Sportsman. I Belong.

The Great Outdoors.

It's deep inside your bones. Like the blood coursing through your veins, it's at the very core of who you are.

Whether it's fins, fur or feathers that calls you, everything else takes a back seat when the season opener rolls around. You're always ready to gear up, get out and experience the rich rewards that only you and those who share this special bond can understand.

At the Union Sportsmen's Alliance we understand that connection because our bond with each other runs as deep as our love of the great outdoors. We are an exclusive community of hunters and anglers who also share the brotherhood of being proud Union members. That's what makes the USA so special. It is by and for Union members and it comes to you with the generous and dedicated support of your Union.

But above all, the USA is your club. When you join the USA, you're helping to ensure future generations have quality places to hunt and fish. You're also making a commitment to encourage friends and family to participate. More members means bigger and better benefits, discounts and services. More members means more USA hunting, shooting and fishing events. More members means we have a stronger, more unified voice to preserve our hunting and fishing heritage.

So, join us today and help spread the word about the Union Sportsmen's Alliance. Because as a proud member of both your Union and the USA, you're more than welcome. You belong.



Your \$25 USA Membership Comes Fully Loaded With Benefits:

- USA-logo Buck knife (\$30 value)
- 12 chances to win in a Gun-a-Month giveaway
- 1-Year subscription to a top outdoor magazine (\$32 value)
- Subscription to the USA newspaper, *The Union Sportsmen's Journal*
- \$25 gift certificate for Beretta field gear
- Money-saving discounts on outdoor gear
- Personalized USA membership card
- Free MyTopo.com online mapping subscription (\$30 value)
- Chances to win exceptional prizes and trips
- Access to "Members-Only" section of the USA website
- Free membership in the TRCP

A \$115 Value for just \$25!

YES! I Want To Join The USA For A \$25 Membership

New Membership Renewal Membership

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip (Prov. / Postal): _____

Country: United States Canada

Phone / Cell: _____

E-mail: _____

Union: _____ Local: _____

Your Union Status: Active Retired Family Member

Do you: Hunt Fish Both

Choose Your One Year Subscription To:

Guns & Ammo In-Fisherman Petersen's Hunting

(\$2 of your \$25 dues will be applied to your one-year subscription. If you don't want a magazine, you'll be refunded \$2)

Method of Payment: Check Money Order Credit Card

Please fill out this information only if paying by credit card.

Credit Card Type: Visa Mastercard AMEX Discover

Name on Card: _____

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration: _____

Your Signature: _____

Mail this completed application to: Union Sportsmen's Alliance • 3340 Perimeter Hill Drive • Nashville, TN 37211



A Hunting and Fishing Club
Exclusively for Union Members,
Retirees and Their Families