

# IKES ON TARGET



## Sportsmen and Conservation

**S**portsmen have been leading the investment in wildlife conservation and restoration for 75 years.

As the Izaak Walton League marks its 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, sportsmen across the country are also commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pittman-Robertson Act. In the mid-1930s, with wildlife across the spectrum in steep decline following decades of unregulated hunting and habitat loss, American hunters and recreational shooters agreed to tax themselves to fund wildlife restoration, habitat conservation, and wildlife-related research.

League member A. Willis Robertson, a Congressman from Virginia, teamed with Senator Key Pittman of Nevada to champion passage of this hallmark legislation. President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act into law in 1937, and today it is more commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act.

Over the past 75 years, excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment have generated more than \$6.5 billion and these funds have been returned to state fish and wildlife agencies using a formula based on hunting license sales and land area.

Although hunters and recreational shooters (and anglers and boaters through a separate program focused on restoring sport fish) have financed these conservation efforts, the public at large has benefitted equally, if not more, from these investments.

Land and habitat conserved with these dollars are open to the public for a wide range of uses. Wildlife restored from the brink of extinction is enjoyed by millions of Americans who don't currently or may never hunt.

As we reflect on the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Pittman-Robertson Act, the main focus isn't on passage of a law. It's more about what that law embodies — the commitment of sportsmen to invest their hard-earned dollars in conservation and wildlife restoration and the broad public benefits that derive from that investment.

This is only one example of how America's hunters and recreational shooters, along with anglers and boaters, have been — and remain — among the nation's earliest and most committed conservationists.

Knowing the facts about these significant contributions to conservation that we as sportsmen make will go a long way in helping Ikes stay "on target."





Photo courtesy U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

## Got Clean Water?

**W**ell, yes, and you can thank hunters, anglers, boaters, and recreational shooters for it!

Why? They pay billions in excise taxes and license fees. These dollars go to states to conserve fish and wildlife and enhance outdoor recreation opportunities. Clean water is the result of restored and conserved habitats.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently released a series of posters highlighting the contributions sportsmen make to conserving natural resources, particularly clean water and wetland habitat.

The League purchased posters with waterfowl hunting themes and is pleased to provide a copy for your chapter's use. The posters tell our story simply and visually. And they make a connection to clean water issues that have been central to our organization since 1922. Consider putting a poster up on a community bulletin board or displaying it in your chapter house or meeting location.

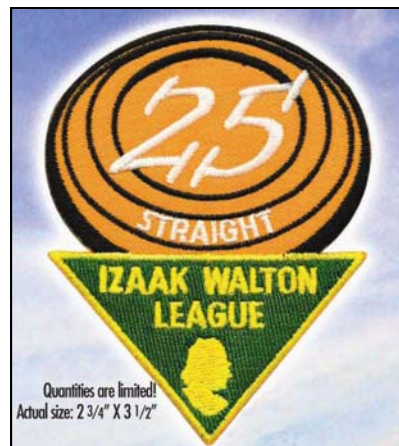
To learn more about the contributions of sportsmen to conservation, visit <http://wsfr75.com>.

## 25 Straight Patches For Sale

**H**ere's something for you trap and skeet shooters! Izaak Walton League "25 Straight" patches are available for sale to interested chapters in single and bulk quantities.

- Single patch: \$5 (shipping included)
- 10 patches: \$10 plus \$6 shipping
- 50 patches: \$45 plus \$6 shipping

Call (800) IKE-LINE x0 or x255 or download an order form: [www.iwla.org/shootingsports](http://www.iwla.org/shootingsports). Prices subject to change. Quantities limited.



**Shoot all you want ... We'll make more!**



## On Target: Featured Chapters

In each issue of *Ikes On Target*, we highlight a few chapters with facilities to promote shooting sports.

### **Under 500 Members —**



Photo courtesy Lois Green-Sligo Chapter, IWLA

#### **Lois Green-Sligo Chapter, Maryland**

Located in the suburbs of Washington, DC, is a chapter that is new to promoting shooting sports. Armed with an IWLA Endowment grant and National Archery in the Schools Program instructor training — as well as an assist from Rockville Chapter members — this chapter developed a popular public archery program.

On their 65-acre property (55 acres of which remain forested as a conservation reserve), these 70 Ikes operate a successful Family Archery program that has increased awareness of the League in their community and grown chapter membership.

[www.lgsc-iwla.org](http://www.lgsc-iwla.org)

## Henry-IWLA Rifle Offer

The Henry Repeating Arms Company has several special Izaak Walton League rifles available for purchase, including a commemorative IWLA 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Edition.

For pricing and details on how to order your IWLA rifle from the Henry Repeating Arms Company, please download an order form at [www.iwla.org/shootingsports](http://www.iwla.org/shootingsports).

**Note:** Order forms also enclosed.

### **Over 500 Members —**



IWLA Staff Photo/Dawn Merritt

#### **Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chapter, Maryland**

Near the rural town of Poolesville this chapter has nearly 1,100 members. On their Conservation Farm (623 acres), chapter members manage their resources using sound land practices while balancing outdoor recreation — especially shooting sports.

The chapter operates multiple trap, skeet, and sporting clays courses and rifle, handgun, and archery ranges. They also host 3-D archery shoots and skeet/trap leagues. Annually, chapter members hold a highly successful riflery, archery, and shotgunning merit badge training session for area Boy Scout troops.

[www.bcciwla.org](http://www.bcciwla.org)



## 90<sup>th</sup> Celebration Trap Shoot Held

Despite the threat of a hurricane, more than two dozen Ikes from chapters in Virginia and Maryland recently celebrated the Izaak Walton League's 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the trap fields at the Arlington-Fairfax Chapter in Centreville, Virginia.



IWLA Staff Photo/Dawn Merritt

### Shooting For 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Success

This 50-target event (two rounds at the 16-yard position) benefited the IWLA conservation programs in recognition of 90 years of conservation leadership. The event was a great opportunity to celebrate a League milestone — and win bragging rights!

Shooters engaged in a heated competition for the winner's circle as Hurricane Sandy bore down on the area, bringing gusts of high winds that added to the level of difficulty.

Brian Hickerson shot a perfect 25 in one round to take first place with a score of 48 out of 50. (He was also part of an "all in the family" team that took first place in the team competition.) The top of the leaderboard was so close that we needed a tie breaker to determine the other winners. Mark Scott shot a perfect 25 out of 25 to win the tie breaker and clinch second place.

A brisk fall day of trapshooting was completed with individual and team awards and prizes (gift cards from Bass Pro Shops and Dick's Sporting Goods) along with special awards for "25 Straight" shooters.

Prizes were awarded to the top five shooters, best team, and best individual youth and lady shooter of the day.

**First Place:** Brian Hickerson, Score: 48/50

Plus "25 Straight" recognition

**Second Place\*:** Mark Scott, 47/50\*

Plus "25 Straight" recognition

**Third Place\*:** Bob Nolan, 47/50\*

**Fourth Place\*:** Alan Hemer, 46/50

**Fifth Place\*:** Glen Hickerson, 46/50

*\*Determined through a tie breaker.*



IWLA Staff Photo/Dawn Merritt

### 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event's Five "Top Guns"

Also included in the winner's circle were:

**Best Team:** The Hickerson Family (Brian, Glen, Ben, and Alan), Score: 175/200

**Best Lady Shooter:** Ashly Palles, 37/50

**Best Youth Shooter:** Mathew Bonatti, 36/50

Ernie Padgett, Arlington-Fairfax Chapter president, suggested that "all chapters with shooting ranges consider doing such a benefit shoot, with the proceeds going to the host chapter and the national organization."

Event chairman Bob Brino agreed and supported this idea. "We look forward to organizing another trap shoot to benefit the Izaak Walton League next spring — well after the hurricane season!"

***Ikes On Target is a quarterly production of the Izaak Walton League of America. © 2012***

**For more information:**

**IWLA Chapter Relations**

**707 Conservation Lane**

**Gaithersburg, MD 20878**

**(800) IKE-LINE x216 • [chapters@iwla.org](mailto:chapters@iwla.org)**

**Check out [www.iwla.org/shootingsports](http://www.iwla.org/shootingsports) today!**

