

2021 Annie Oakley Tournament

REPORTED BY HARVEY SCHWARTZ

The “Annies” were formed in conjunction with The Atlanta Charity Clays tournament which raises money for Atlanta’s Children’s Charities. In 1999, Annie Oakley Day was introduced for women to shoot Sporting Clays.

In May 2004, six women got together and established a tournament of their own – *A New Tournament, A New Day, A New Cause*. The first charity benefitted The Trust for Public Land, which the event has donated approximately \$500,000. In 2016, The Annie’s named Shepherd Center’s – Share Military Initiative as their beneficiary. As of now, they have contributed approximately \$350,000 which includes approximately \$80,000 raised at this year’s shoot.

The Annie’s has grown into a diverse group of women shooters – young and not so young, professional women and stay-at-home moms, peashooters and sharpshooters. The second Monday of every month (except July and August), holiday or not, rain or shine, is Annie Monday. They offer shooting instruction at each one of these for those wishing to up their game. There are no dues to join and a typical Annie Monday will draw between 40 – 50 shooters.

At this year’s shoot, I was the guest instructor. There were four shooters who inquired about coaching. We met on one of the Plantation’s five stands. These three women and one man had not shot much, so we looked at and shot several targets. All of them continued to progress and at the end of the session, most of them felt very comfortable handling the shotgun and more importantly hitting targets.

Located in Atlanta, Georgia, Shepherd Center is a private, not-for-profit hospital specializing in medical treatment, research and rehabilitation for people with spinal cord injury, brain injury, stroke, multiple sclerosis, spine and

chronic pain, and other neuromuscular conditions. The SHARE Military Initiative at Shepherd Center is a comprehensive rehabilitation program that focuses on assessment and treatment for service members who have served in the U.S. military since September 11, 2001, regardless of discharge status. The program helps service members who are

experiencing symptoms of or have a diagnosis of mild to moderate traumatic brain injury or concussions and any co-occurring psychological or behavioral health concerns, including post-traumatic stress. SHARE Military Initiative provides hope, assistance, support and education to service members and their families during their recovery treatment and beyond. ■

