

# The Bandera PROPHEET

August 2, 2021

Bandera County 4H Shotgun Team dedicates competition to beloved coach battling Covid

Contributed

Each year the best 4H shotgun shooters from across the state get together in at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio to participate in the Texas 4H State Games. This year there were over 600 shooters from most every county in the state. The Bandera County team of young people came into this year's State Championships with a target on their backs. They were the reigning 2019 Texas 4H County State Champions. This year we had 24 shooters participating in the State Games shooting in six different disciplines of shotgun competitions shooting at a total of over 10,000 targets hitting over 80 percent of those targets.

This year's event started out on a sad note when it was learned our longest tenured coach, Mark Bonner, was hospitalized with a severe case of Covid and was in the ICU in Kerrville. Bonner is the only adult in the group who doesn't have a child on the team and was a founding father of the team. However everyone will tell you in all reality he has hundreds of children on the team as each and every current and former shooter gladly call themselves one of Bonner's Kids! His impact on the youth of Bandera county is beyond measure as he has literally made the difference for so many of our youth. This year's team adopted the hashtag #bustingclaysforbonner in his honor and had stickers made of one of his main sayings "One Bird at a Time" to put on their shotgun barrels. As of the writing of this he had made significant improvements and we are all praying hard for his safe return to the team!

Individually our shooters were able to accomplish amazing results. Here are a few of those:

In the Junior age division (3rd-5th grade) there were 62 shooters at the State Games. In this age group our shooters were all first time competitors at the State Games and our shooters easily won this age division. Brody Moore shot a personal best 38 out of 50 in American Sheet to finish tied for 9th with Hayden Drefke. Hayden also shot his personal best scores in multiple events took 2nd place in Modified Trap and 2nd place in International Skeet. Malcolm Black shot his personal bests in both American Skeet 28 out of 50 and Sporting Clays with a 54 out of 100. Colby Gonzales had a very strong week and finished 9th place over all in International Skeet in his first time ever shooting it! Jag Smith was an important part of the team and shot his personal best in American Skeet and Sporting Clays. Elle Vanderzee really brought home the points earning 2nd place Ladies American Skeet, 2nd Ladies Whizbang, 2nd Ladies American Overall, 2nd place Ladies Whizbang, and 2nd Sporting Clays.

In the Intermediate level (6th-8th grades) there were a field of 116 shooters. Billy Browning shot a 71 out of 75 in American Skeet to place 10th in and he placed 13th in Whizbang. Ashton Robinson won second place lewis class with a 69 out of 75 in American Skeet and was 16th overall in International Skeet. Lauren Meier took 3rd place in Ladies American Skeet, 3rd place in Ladies International Skeet, 3rd in Ladies Whizbang, 6th in Ladies American HOA. In his first year of shooting, Brody Culak shot several personal bests at the State shoot including a 26 in Whizbang and a 68 in Sporting Clays – two very tough events. Also shooting in his first year was Cody Osborn also shot his personal best of a 73 in Sporting and 52 in American Skeet.

In the Senior 1 division (9th & 10th grades) there were 141 shooters. Presley Dorries has been a long time team member and she had a great week taking 3rd in International Skeet, 4th in American Skeet, 6th in Modified Trap, and 2nd in Sporting Clays. Mack Robinson was competing in his first State Games and had several personal bests including a 88 out of 100 in American Trap and a 70 in Sporting Clays. Garrison Thomas also was competing in his first State Games and shot personal bests in both American Skeet (85) and American Trap (85).

Coleton Trenkelbach also is a long time member of the team and he took 2nd place in Modified Trap with a 48 out of 50 and tied for third in Sporting Clays with an 88. Kayli Beckham had an amazing week finishing in 2nd Ladies Whizbang, 2nd Ladies American Skeet, and 2nd Ladies International Skeet.

In the Senior 2 division (11th & 12th grades) there were 126 shooters. Clayton Lewis tied for 4th in American Skeet with a 99 out of 100, and 4th in Sporting Clays with a 91. Garrett Meier recently won the National 4H Shotgun Individual Championship in Nebraska. At the Texas State Games Garrett took 6th in Modified Trap with a 47, tied for 9th in American Trap with a 97, finished 10th in Whizbang, and 3rd in Sporting Clays with a 92. Lukas Jackson took 4th in Modified Trap with a 48 and 4th in American Trap with a 98. Wyatt Lewis went out in his last State Games taking 4th place in Whizbang with a 40 on a very tough course. Ross Reynolds shot his best American Trap event of his life hitting 92 out of 100 targets. Tanner Kaples earned a tenth place finish in Whizbang. Long-time member of the team and out new president Cooper Dorries shot a perfect round in American Trap hitting 25 out of 25.

Here are our individual state champions:

Elle Vanderzee in her first year shooting brought home the Texas State Championship buckle in Junior Ladies American Trap. Hayden Drefke in his first ever State Games beat the entire state of Texas to earn the Texas State Championship in Junior Open American Trap. Clayton Lewis won the State Championship in Senior 2 Open International Skeet. And Kayli Beckham won two State Championship buckles in Senior 1 Ladies American Skeet and also in Senior 1 Ladies American Overall.

All these individual efforts were amazing. But, as we all know when we all work together towards a goal even greater things can be achieved. With a daily focus on #bustingclaysforbonner the defending Texas State County Champions - the Bandera County 4H Shotgun Team once again earned the Texas State County Championship. At the Texas State Games

Bandera county has won back to back state championships twice now 2013-14 and 2019-21.

The future is bright for these young shooters. If your child is interested in joining this great group please come to the 4H kickoff Aug. 31 to sign up. Contact the Bandera County 4H office for more information 830-796-7755.