

Hall of Fame plans relocation to WSRC

The relocation of the Trapshooting Hall of Fame Museum from Vandalia, Ohio, to Sparta, Ill., was announced during the 2008 banquet and induction ceremony by Hall of Fame Trustees Chairman Jim Bradford Jr.

“As we grow accustomed to our new Grand American venue at the World Shooting & Recreational Complex in Sparta, it’s only natural that we take our facility to that location,” Bradford said. “It has been the consensus of the Hall of Fame Trustees for several years that the museum needs to be there. With the Grand American and other trap tournaments plus skeet, sporting clays and cowboy action competitions—not to mention non-shooting events at the WSRC—our exposure will be much enhanced.”

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has proposed sites at the WSRC grounds for evaluation by the Hoff. Currently the Hall of Fame is in the preliminary design phase and examination of its financial picture. According to Bradford, “A capital campaign will undoubtedly be necessary as we will continue to support our annual Hall of Fame scholarship awards.

“We have been entrusted with great responsibility to care for the history of our sport and the collection of prized artifacts in our possession,” Bradford continued. Because of storage issues with the current building, “In the near future we intend to close down and ‘mothball’ our present museum. There are special archival storage facilities available [for the interim]. We hope our new facility will be open by the 2010 Grand American.

“Tami Daniel, Hoff Operations Manager, has agreed to stay the course with us. Museum Director Kenny Ray Estes and the entire Board of Trustees are together in this significant undertaking,” Bradford concluded.

In 1968 the white clapboard ATA offices in Vandalia were refinished in brick, and a wing was added to house the newly created Hall of Fame and Museum. Official dedication ceremonies and the first induction of 15 enshrinees were held on Aug. 19, 1969.

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