

WE GIVE TO ... make our mark

ANNIE OAKLEY SHOOTERS,
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

WHY WE GIVE

NICK BURCHELL



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“Women of my generation were not encouraged to compete in sports,”

Since helping start the Annie Oakley Shooters, Huntz has participated in tournaments all over the country.

The sport of clay shooting is sometimes called “golf with a shotgun”—both for the wandering outdoor courses and the social atmosphere.

NEVER BEEN CLAY SHOOTING? If you ask Mary Huntz, there’s nothing quite like it.

“You lift your gun and you call, ‘Pull!’ The orange disc flies up. You shoot—and the air changes. The clay explodes into pieces.

And you think, wow—I did that!”

Huntz is a founding member of the Annie Oakley Shooters, an all-women’s club based in Atlanta, Georgia. They’re named for the 19th-century exhibition sharpshooter—in her time as well known as an advocate for gender equality as for her impeccable aim.

In that spirit, the club offers instruction and practice hours to a diverse group of female clay shooters, emphasizing safety and camaraderie as well as skill development.

“We’re pea shooters and sharpshooters, working professionals and stay-at-home moms, young and not so young,” says Huntz. “We’re women who’ve discovered a secret

many of our husbands and fathers and brothers had known for a long time—that shooting together with friends is very enjoyable.”

For more than a decade, the club has hosted a popular clay-shooting tournament as a benefit for The Trust for Public Land. In addition to prizes for the top-scoring shooters, the tournament awards the Annie Oakley trophy to a participant who, in Huntz’s words, “rejoices in the achievement of others and is passionate about her own growth.”

A belief that everyone deserves access to the challenge, fun, and friendship of an outdoor sport drives the club’s commitment to parks and conservation. Now in its twelfth year, the tournament is nearing a half-million dollars raised for projects ranging from city parks on the Atlanta Beltline to boating access on the Chattahoochee River. And for the Annies, that’s right on target.

