



History of Century Gun Club Detroit, Michigan



Century Gun Club was founded in the late 1950's, around 1955 or 1957. There was a group of twelve (12) men who had been hunting together for a number of years. On a hunting trip to Carlton, Michigan they came across a piece of land for sale and they discussed the possibility the land for their hunting pleasures. After much talk about this project, they each donated \$500.00 to buy the land. After they made the purchase, they decided to form a gun club, in which Century Gun Club was formed.

The new club was headed by a couple of men who were very business-oriented. These two men, Thurman Bell and Joe Graves, held shoots for years. Later, they heard about the Western Skeet & Trapshooting Association and joined.

For many year, the club was a leader in hosting inter-club shoots. Joe Graves was instrumental in having African-American join the Amateur Trapshooting Association. In those years, racial segregation prevented Blacks from shooting events with Whites.

Joe Graves, his friend, Boyd Williams (a white man), and the NAACP fought segregation to allow Blacks to shoot with Whites.

Over the years, Mr. Graves was responsible for signing up most of the black shooters in the ATA. In 1971, Century Gun Club was one of the first clubs to buy a trap at the ATA home ground in Mason, Michigan. Joe also signed up most of the lifetime members in the Michigan Trapshooting Association.

At one time, Century Gun Club had a membership of 500, although most of them were non-shooters. Today, we own forty acres of land. We are still one of the leading clubs in the WSTA and still host ATA shoots. We are proud to have Richard Ford, Charles William, Jason Marzette, Eric Kimble, Kevin Hill, Johnny Lazenby and a host of others to follow in Frank Woods steps, as a top shooter in the ATA and WSTA.