



News from Rotary Club of Clayton, NY

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Note: Mathew is spelled with one t

18th Century Firearms Restorer and Retired Munitions Specialist Coming to Clayton-1000 Islands Gun & Sportsmen Show August 16-17

Clayton, NY – An 18th century gun restorer and a retired army munitions expert will be at the Clayton-1000 Islands Gun & Sportsmen Show August 16-17, 2014 at Cerow Recreation Park Arena, 615 East Line Road, in Clayton, NY.

Mathew Zabinski of Skaneateles, NY, specializes in repairing antique flintlock weapons used in the Revolutionary and French and Indian War. Most of his commissioned work is done for collectors and museums. He owns one of three rare 18th century weapons himself.

“I bought a French and Indian War weapon that was in pieces, having been damaged from firing with the wrong kind of gun powder. I sculpt metal to crate the parts that need to be repaired,” says Zabinski, who works only on guns that do not take bullets.

Zabinski, who has traveled to shows across the U.S., will have some of his 18th century pistols and swords on exhibit at his Clayton gun show exhibit.

When U.S. Army armament technician Robert Owens retired after 20 years of service, he decided to stay in northern New York and in 2013 started Thousand Island Armory in LaFargeville. A modern gunsmith, Owens sells, repairs, refurbishes, and builds rifles and sells the Zerust Vapor Corrosion Inhibitor gun bags.

“I assemble Springfield-style rifles with iron sights. The Springfields have a rich American history. I gauge, function test and test fire the rifles for quality assurance and safety, and use walnut stocks to make them attractive guns,” Owens says.

Owens specializes in NY SAFE Act-compliant rifles and military bolt action rifles, and offers family-friendly weapon safety, functioning, and maintenance classes.

“Proper safety training is especially important for first-time gun owners,” Owens says.

Also new at the 2014 will be a booth presented by the nonprofit Project Healing Waters which teaches fly-tying and offers fly-fishing experiences to wounded combat veterans, active duty and retired military personnel, and veterans with non-combat injuries and conditions. The current outreach for the Fort Drum Chapter of Project Healing Waters was started in 2008.

Zabinski, Owens and Trent Myer with Project Healing Waters will be among the more than 60 exhibitors, gun, knives and outdoor gear dealers, and guides at the 2014 Clayton-1000 Islands Gun & Sportsmen Show that benefits the scholarship, community and international programs of the Clayton Rotary Club.

Show hours are 8:30 am-5 pm Saturday, August 16 and 9 am-4 pm Sunday, August 17. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for military with ID; children under 12 enter free. Route 37 Building Supply, Wellesley Island Building Supply, Greg Henry Construction, and Surefine Market of Clayton are the 2014 show sponsors.

Cerow Recreation Park is at 615 East Line Road south of the Village of Clayton. For show information, contact Tom Neely, 315-482-4596, or Bud Baril, 315-686-2832.