

Pacolet Native Inducted Into the National Sporting Clays Association Hall of Fame



Ricky Smith grew up in [Pacolet](#) and graduated from [Pacolet High School](#) in the [class of 1965](#). Ricky grew up hunting in the Pacolet area in the 50's and 60's. He went to [Pacolet Mills Grammar School](#). His dad taught him to shoot. They hunted mostly rabbit, squirrel, and quail. In his teen years, he hunted with his friend, Jackie Lemmonds. While in high school, Ricky earned the rank of [Eagle Scout](#) as a member of [Troop 151](#). After he graduated from [Pacolet High School](#), he joined the Marines.

After leaving the service, Ricky began working with Clarkson Industrial Contractors in about 1975. The company, located in Spartanburg, specialized in heavy machinery relocation and installation. Ricky worked in the Business Development segment of the business and had contact with company customers.

He started shooting sporting clays in 1995, as a way to entertain these customers. He started shooting competitively a year or so after that. Within 3 years he had reached the status of Master Class. He won numerous circuit shoots, state shoots, zone shoots and placed third in the US Open. Wanting to help his clients more, he took the Level I instructor's course. Enjoying teaching, he decided to become a professional instructor. Upon completion of the Level II and III instructor's certification, he started teaching the Level I and II certification. He taught over 60 instructor courses, while certifying nearly 500 new instructors. He also taught shooting clinics, The Shooting Academy, individual lessons, worked with youth shooters, youth coaches and their teams. Although getting close to retirement, he still teaches upon request. Rick Smith is a 2018 inductee into the National Sporting Clays Association Hall of Fame and is a NSCA Level III Instructor Master Class and is in the NRA.

Rick and his wife, Patty Brown Smith, just celebrated their 50th anniversary. They lived in Pacolet until 1973, when they moved to Boiling Springs. They have lived in that area for over 30 years. He retired from Clarkson Industrial Contractors in 2010 after about 35 years with them. This has allowed him to devote more time to teaching sporting clays.

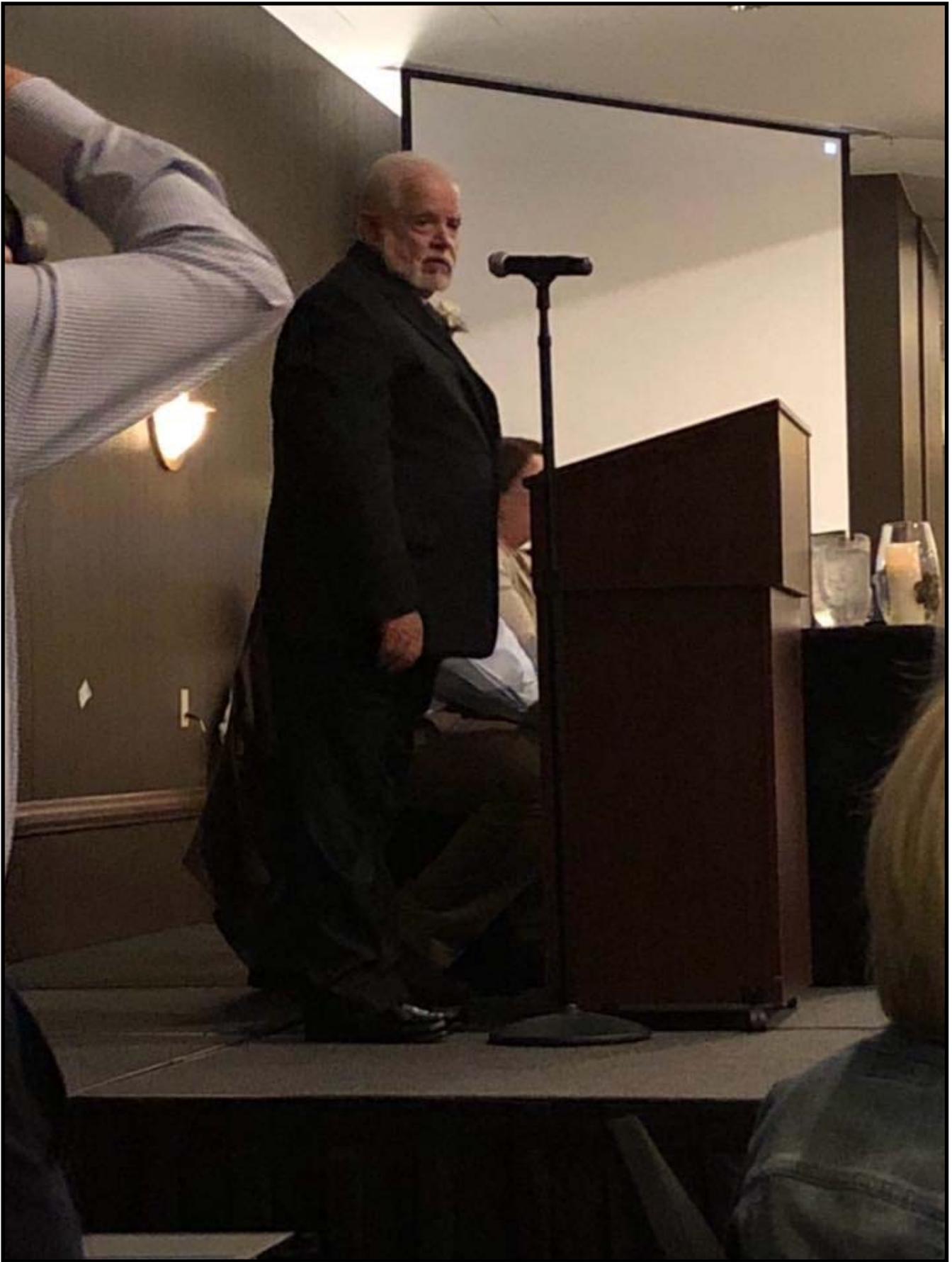
Rick and Patty have 2 sons and daughters-in-law who enjoy hunting (mainly deer) and shooting sporting clays, when time allows. Their 14-year old grandson just killed his first deer.



Ricky Smith at the NSCA Hall of Fame Induction Banquet in San Antonio, Texas



Ricky with the Sporting Clay's Chief Instructor, Don Curry. Don nominated him for the award and introduced him at the banquet.



Ricky giving his acceptance speech at the NSCA Hall of Fame Induction Banquet in San Antonio.



Trophy that Ricky received for being inducted into the Hall of Fame.



Ricky Smith and his wife Patty at the NSCA Hall of Fame Induction Banquet.



Picture that will go into the Hall of Fame in San Antonio.



Rick at the National Shooting Complex in San Antonio.



Rick instructing a student.



Ricky and his youngest son, Brad, after shooting for fun.