

UKC[®]
FIELD

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UKC TEAM IN THE FIELD

— *An update from Domenick Muoio*

The heat of summer is upon most of us, and the heat of award season is bearing down as well. The Purina Awards have come and gone, but the American Field Hall of Fame nomination process continues. We are excited to announce the full schedule for this year's Hall of Fame voting process, which doesn't differ from last year.

The last day to submit nominations for publishing will be August 5. Nominations received between July 5 and the deadline will be featured in the September issue of UKC[®] Field. The September issue will also feature instructions on how to submit your votes. Voting will be open until September 30, after which the vote counts and official ballots will be sent to the election committee to determine your 2023 Hall of Fame inductees. We will announce your 2023 Hall of Fame inductees in the December issue of UKC[®] Field.

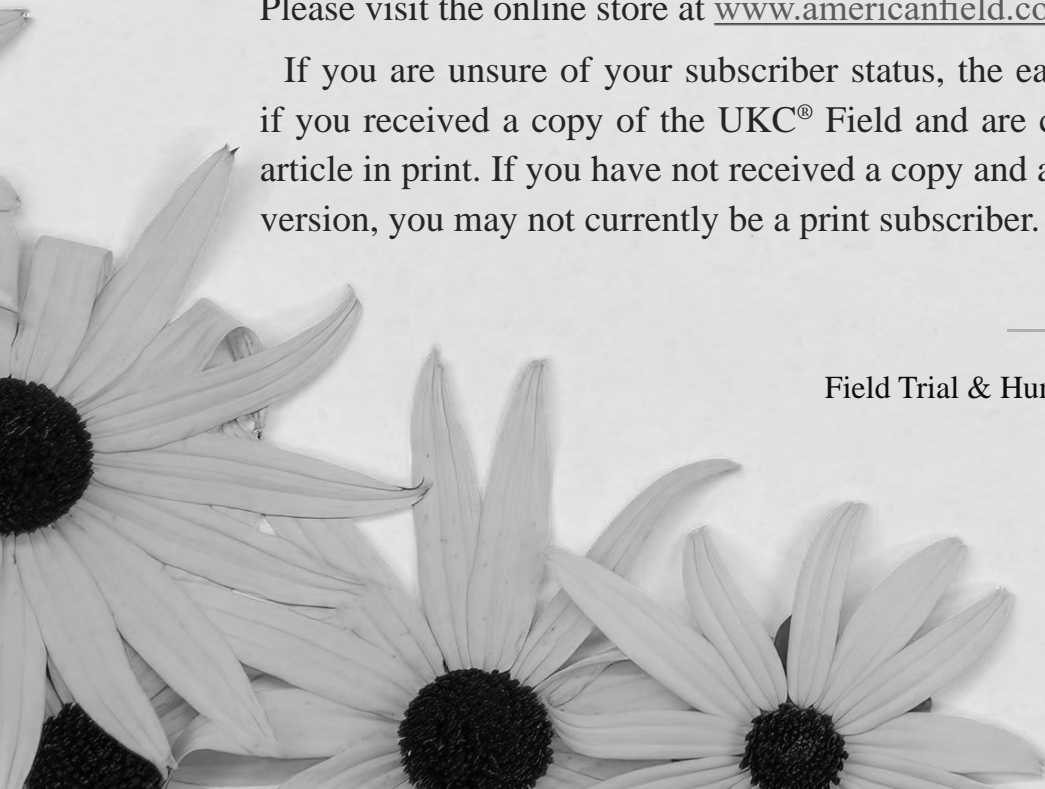
Important Voting Information:

This is a reminder that only current UKC[®] Field subscribers are eligible to cast votes. So if you are not a subscriber, there is still time to subscribe! Please visit the online store at www.americanfield.com.

If you are unsure of your subscriber status, the easiest way to know is if you received a copy of the UKC[®] Field and are currently reading this article in print. If you have not received a copy and are reading the digital version, you may not currently be a print subscriber.

— *Domenick Muoio*

Field Trial & Hunt Test Program Manager



National Champion



MILLER'S BLINDSIDER

Nick Berrong, Owner | Jamie Daniels, Handler | Fran & Jack Miller, Breeders

[Photo by Chris Mathan]

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Dialed In, 2022-23 Purina Top Amateur All-Age Award Winner

Jim Pendergest, Owner & Handler

ON THE COVER

PURINA AWARDS

Congratulations To The 2022-23 Season Winners

Handler of the Year



Mark McLean

The Purina Handler of Year Award was developed with the express purpose of prompting sportsmanship and to recognize and reward handlers for their successes in the field trial season.

Mark McLean won Handler of the Year honors with 1,784 points, handling seven dogs to points-earning placements.

The dogs handled and their owners include: Touch's Shadow Rider (Bruce & Karen Norton and Dr. Reuben Richardson), Touch's Malcolm Story (Alex Rickert), Woodville's Yukon Cornelius (Carl Owens), Touch's Breakaway Fred (Bruce & Karen Norton and Gary & Becky Futch), Haney's All In (Chris Cagle, Sr. and Chris Cagle, Jr.), Touch's Midnight Rider (John D. Milton, Jr.), and Aucilla Jim (Gene Brown and Reed Brown).

Handler of the Year (Shooting Dog)



Shawn Kinkelaar

The 2023 Purina Top Handler is Shawn Kinkelaar. No stranger to the award, this is Shawn's eighth Purina Handler award. Shawn's year lists 23 placements, with 11 dogs and 3,119 points earned.

Shawn's winning string and their owners include: Upfront's Southern Star (Lance Schulz), Erin's Thunder Backus (Dr. Tom Jackson and Jerry Moisson), Chelsea's

Mae West (Ron Prewitt and Brad Sadler), Thunder's Wild Agin (Doug Swingley and Brett Bruggeman), Lester's Another Shockwave (Dr. Tom Jackson, Jerry Moisson, Lance Schulz, Bjorn Peterson, and Todd Mann), Silver W Jill Z (Debbie Ozner), Thunder Bolt's Storm (Dr. Tom Jackson), Tug O'War (Adam Hart and Bjorn Peterson), Hale's Smooth Touch (Dr. Jeffrey Hale), Upfront's McQuade (Lance Schulz and Bjorn Peterson), and Valiant Heir (Robby Robinson).

Congratulations to Shawn and the owners for another successful season.

Top Field Trial Bird Dog of the Year

Earning top honors in the Purina Dog of the Year competition is Miller's Blindsider, a pointer male owned by Nick Berrong of Maryville, Tenn., and handled by Jamie Daniels. Miller's Blindsider tallied 1,940 points to claim the season's award, with the following placements: Runner-up in the Georgia Quail Championship, Winner of the Masters Open Quail Championship, 1st place in the American Quail Classic, Winner of the National Championship, and Winner of the Missouri Open Championship.

Top Shooting Dog

The Purina Top Shooting Dog for 2023 is Upfront's Southern Star ("Roo") for owner Lance Schulz and handler Shawn Kinkelaar. This 8-year-old pointer female is out of Ransom and Double Wild.

Roo's record shows six placements with two wins at featured bonus points events: 1st place in the Fleetwood Open Shooting Dog Classic, Winner of the International Endurance Open Shooting Dog Championship, Runner-up in the Arkansas Open Shooting Dog Championship, Winner of the Mississippi Open Shooting Dog Championship, Winner of the United States Shooting Dog Invitational Championship, and Runner-up in the Midwest Open Shooting Dog Championship. Roo ended the season with 1,975 points earned.

Congratulations to Lance and Shawn on Upfront's Southern Star being crowned Purina Top Shooting Dog!

Top Amateur Shooting Dog

The Purina Top Amateur Shooting Dog for 2023 is Miller's Heat Wave ("Rose"), for owners Fran and Jack Miller. Fran handles the 7-year-old pointer female out of Just Irresistible and Miller's Bringing The Heat.

Rose's record lists five placements at some well-attended trials, for 1,600 points earned during the 2022-23 field trial season.

Her wins include: Winner of the Region 2 AFTCA Amateur Shooting Dog

Championship, 1st place in the Round Pond Amateur Shooting Dog Classic, Winner of the Region 16 AFTCA Amateur Shooting Dog Championship, 1st place in the Esmont/Greenfields Amateur Shooting Dog Classic, and Runner-up in the Region 13 AFTCA Shooting Dog Championship.

Congratulations to Fran and Jack on Miller's Heat Wave being crowned Purina Top Amateur Shooting Dog!

Top Derby (All-Age)

Derbies are the future of the field trial season to come. The young dogs show the potential to be successful as adult competitors.

The Purina Open Derby winner for 2023 is Nighthawk's Rebel, a pointer male owned by Rick Leverich and Sheree Lucero, with 739 points.

His wins include: 1st in the Dr. Douglas Guthrie Memorial, 2nd in the Central Carolina, 1st in the Blackbelt, Winner of the Continental Derby Championship, 2nd in the Preston Trimble, Runner-up in the All-America Derby Championship, and 2nd in the North Carolina.

Top Derby (Shooting Dog)

The Purina Top Shooting Dog Derby for 2023 is Miller's Little Duce Coupe ("Ruby") out of Miller's Upgraded Version and Walden's Ice Breaker. Ruby is owned by Madison McDonald and Allen Linder and handled by George Tracy.

Ruby's record lists five placements, including: 1st place in the United States Quail Futurity, 3rd in the Swamp Fox Derby Classic, 2nd in the Georgia Open Shooting Dog Championship Derby, 4th in the New England Shooting Dog Futurity, and 2nd in the Keystone "Yankee" Open Derby Classic.

In total, Ruby collected 551 points.

Congratulations to Madison, Allen, George, and Miller's Little Duce Coupe on winning Purina's Top Shooting Dog Derby.

Top Amateur All-Age

For the Purina Top Amateur All-Age, the winner is Dialed In, a pointer female owned and handled by Jim Pendergest, with 983 points.

Her wins include: 1st place in the Central Kentucky, 2nd in the Carroll County, Runner-up in the National Amateur All-Age Invitational Championship, 1st in the Alabama James W. Page, 1st in the Carolina Amateur, 2nd in the Pinehurst, and 3rd in the Clarksville Pointer & Setter.

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA FIELD TRIAL CLUBS

South Carolina Amateur Classics

By Jadie C. Rayfield | Patrick, South Carolina | January 7, 2023

The South Carolina Amateur Shooting Dog and Derby Classics held the 58th renewal January 6-7 over the H. Cooper Black Memorial Grounds. The grounds are between Patrick and Cheraw, S. C., just a few miles off Highway 1.

Judges for this renewal were high-quality and experienced dogmen. Mr. George Hickox of Ochlocknee, Ga., and Travis Gelhaus of Ridgeland, S. C., judged a high-caliber field of 21 dogs. Mr. Hickox is co-owner of multi-champion and award-winner Chelsea's Thunder Bolt. Travis started training walking dogs and quickly moved up to horseback. Travis also has qualified dogs and competed in The National Championship at Ames Plantation.

The meals were catered by Corner Crossroads Store out of Kingstree, S. C. Store owner Matt White did a fantastic job preparing authentic southern lunches and our appreciation supper on Friday night. All attendees enjoyed watching Matt preparing our food on his outside kitchen grill.

Many thanks to Greg Blair of Nestlé Purina for the continuing support of the South Carolina Field Trial Association. The field trial fraternity is extremely fortunate to have representation from such a top-shelf individual.

The South Carolina Association would like to thank all the attendees and participants. We look forward to seeing everyone again and planning next year's event.

Winners and Others

The first brace on Saturday morning paired two strapping pointer males, One Day Lucky Strike, owned by Lane and Darcey Hodges of Griffin, Ga., and Hirollins Gone And Doneit, owned and handled by Warren Parrott of Pamplico, S. C.

Weather conditions for this second morning of running were ideal. These powerful canines thrilled the judges and those in the gallery with a talented hunting, action-packed hour. Three minutes into the brace, each dog was espied, standing majestically posed on the left side of the course. Everything was in perfect order at flush and shot. After being released, Lane and Warren sat back in the Money Hole, showing their charges making forward and intelligent hunting cast. Then at 17, each handler lifted their caps skyward. Upon our arrival, Luck Strike and Done It were viewed standing with high calendar style. The birds were located and manners excellent to wing and shot. Seven minutes later, handlers found their charges standing separately in the large Minefield feed patch. Once again, each entry showed intensity and advanced training. We made the Beaver Pond crossing finely,



South Carolina Amateur Shooting Dog Classic Winners (front, l-r): Lane Hodges with One Day Lucky Strike and Gray Watson with Excalibur River Queen. (Behind): Roger McPherson, Darcey Hodges, George Hickox (judge), Rodney Poston, Travis Gelhaus, and President Mac Stidham.

with handlers showing their entries hunting independently over the distant sand-hill ridges.

Then again, at 35, both dogs were found standing alongside the wax myrtle hedge. Lane dismounted and flushed a single directly in front of the motionless Lucky Strike. All was in order for the sound of the gun. Meanwhile, during Parrott's initial flushing effort, game could not be raised. Warren, showing complete confidence in his dog, tapped Done It on his head to relocate. The dog moved to the right and straight forward to slam in to point. He went to the "meat" and was statuesque for the quick flush and shot.

From this point on, these hard-hunting competitors hunted the course intelligently and mindful of handlers at all times. Done It stopped to point in a known release site at 49. Warren showed Judge Gellhaus a fresh kill and elected to regain the front. At the call of time, Lucky Strike was shown on the distant pine line with Done It crossing the Goose Pond dam at a fast clip reaching for more country.

In brace No. 10, Excalibur River Queen, a well-bred pointer female owned and developed by Rodney Poston of Pamplico, S. C., came to the line. This beautifully made first-year dog went to work immediately. Queen scored a corking field trial find at the end of her opening cast. Queen stood pretty as a peach while Rodney flushed and presented birds to the gun. Rodney sent his fancy female forward, and Queen hunted the course as if she owned it for the next 25 minutes. Then at 28, Rodney again raised his cap for the dynamic first-year contender. Everything was in order to wing and shot. At 40, Queen stood proudly with an exaggerated style and

showed advanced training during the flush and shot. For the remainder of the hour, Rodney sat back and showed his Queen hunting, boldly searching for game.

The Other Contenders

The first brace kicked off the trial with a competitive female pairing. Bella Bulli had three pieces of bird work for Pennsylvanians Ernie and Karen Saniga. Her brace mate, One Day Queen Bee, also scored three times for Lane and Darcey Hodges.

Brace No. 4 paired pointer male Cottonwood Banjo, owned and handled by Tim Ruff, with Lane and Darcey Hodges's fancy female, One Day La Bandita. Banjo finished his hour with three pieces of bird work and a natural back. Bandita tallied two pieces of bird work combined with a fine hour on the ground.

David Huffine and his setter male, Sweet Grass Slim, rendered a fine hour. The stylish setter presented birds to the gun five times and naturally backed his brace mate.

Patrick, S. C., January 7 – One Course
Judges: Travis Gelhaus and George Hickox
SOUTH CAROLINA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats] – 19 Pointers and 2 Setters
1st—ONE DAY LUCKY STRIKE, 1684551, pointer male, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-DuBose's Snow White. Lane Hodges, owner and handler.
2d—HIROLLINS GONE AND DONEIT, 1679825, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-Littlewing B K Tia. Warren Parrott, owner and handler.
3d—EXCALIBUR RIVER QUEEN, 1691691, pointer female, by Bonner's Excalibur-Santee River Iced Crush. Rodney Poston, owner and handler.

The Derby Classic

The dynamic pointer female, Palmetto's Street Singer, owned and handled by Gray



Amateur Derby Winners (front, l-r): Palmetto's Street Singer with Gray Watson and Cook's Fleetwood Mac with Harry Cook III. (Behind): Lane Hodges, Jadie Rayfield, Roger McPherson, Rodney Poston, Sims Cannon, Annalia Cool, George Hickox (judge), Travis Gelhaus (judge), and President Mac Stidham.

Watson of Pamplico, S. C., nailed down first

place. Street Singer and Gray were super exciting to watch. Street Singer spun an exciting forward pattern during her bid, and Gray enjoyed every second. "Dixie" was rewarded for hunting efforts at 29!

Harry Cook III of Darlington, S. C., piloted his well-made pointer male, Cook's Fleetwood Mac, to second. This handsome youngster has a stride that gains attention from the start. Mac slammed into a rigid, high-style point at 8. Harry could not produce on the initial flush and required relocation. The classy moving animal finished his hunt, hunting with a diligent forward pattern.

Sweet Grass Skipper, a beautifully made setter, rounded out the placements. David Huffine, of Wilmington, N. C., is the proud owner and handler. The Skipper had four stylish pieces of bird work and hunted every step of the way.

AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—PALMETTO'S STREET SINGER, 1699456, pointer female, by Touch's Grey Street-Hirollins Fancy Lady. J. Gray Watson, Jr., owner and handler.

2d—COOK'S FLEETWOOD MAC, 1699983, pointer male, by Bonner's Excalibur-Hirollins Canadian Mist. Harry Cook III, owner and handler.

3d—SWEET GRASS SKIPPER, 1698209, setter male, by Sweet Grass Slim-Tower Hill Zoey Zee. David Huffine, owner and handler.

REGION 16 (AFTCA) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
Miller's Heat Wave Named Champion; Rebel Survivor, Runner-Up
 By Joe Rentz | Bronwood, Georgia | January 13, 2023



Region 16 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship Winners (l-r): Alan Atkins, Roger Key, Ray Joye, Jack and Fran Miller with Miller's Heat Wave, Jesse Brown, Larron and Laura Copeland, David Williams with Rebel Survivor, Jeff Gibbons, and Steve Wiley.

Region 16 held its annual Amateur Shooting Dog Championship January 13-16, 2023, at Showtime Plantation in Bronwood, Ga. A fine field of 47 amateur shooting dogs was drawn for this year's renewal. The Region would like to thank Laura and Larron Copeland for the use of their grounds and their exceptional hospitality. Showtime Plantation was in excellent condition, and birds were plentiful. The grounds feature piney woods and some field edges on each course, making for an exceptional test of a field trial shooting dog. Larron has done an outstanding job of improving this venue from year to year and has turned it into one of the premier field trial venues in the area. Judges for this year's renewal were Ray Joy of Marion, S. C., and Jeff Gibbons of Deatsville, Ala. The Region thanks them for their time in the saddle. Saturday night featured a low country boil provided by the Region and was well attended.

Thanks to Purina and Greg Blair for their

long-time sponsorship of the Region and for all they do for field trials. The Club would also like to thank Steve Wiley and The Insurance Market in Dawson, Ga., who provided biscuits after the first brace each morning; Steve marshaled every brace.

Named champion was Miller's Heat Wave, a 6-year-old pointer female. Heat Wave is from the successful cross of Just Irresistible and Miller's Bring The Heat. She is owned by Jack and Fran Miller of Barwick, Ga., and was handled to this title by Fran. The classy pointer female appeared in brace No. 9 and was braced with the runner-up, Rebel Survivor, owned and handled by David Williams of Beech Bluff, Tenn.

The brace started at the road crossing by the lake. Both dogs made a good cast and stayed in contact with their handler through the first two fields. Both dogs entered the piney woods, and point was soon called for Heat Wave at 16 on the right-hand side. Birds were put in the air by Fran with all in order. Both dogs hunted

to the front, and Heat Wave was a little out of pocket with Fran looking off to the right; Heat Wave came back to the gallery from the left and was headed back to Fran. After she passed the gallery and, on her way back to her handler, she had her second find at 30. All was in order. Both dogs hunted the field edge down to the dirt road and, after the turn, were seen crossing the middle of the hay field. Coming out of the hay field, David Williams was calling on Rebel Survivor, and as he was coming to him, pointed at 45 in the large plum thicket at the point where the No. 2 and No. 3 courses cross. Birds were soon put in the air with all in order. Both dogs were turned loose through the piney woods, Heat Wave being the wider of the two. Heat Wave was last seen at 55, hunting to the front. Jack and Fran looked far and wide for their charge as pick-up was called. At 1:14, Heat Wave returned to the gallery and was picked up by the reporter.

The Region again thanks all participants who made this year's renewal a success. We look forward to having everyone back for next year's Region 16 Championships. The 2023-2024 Shooting Dog Championship will be held in Alabama, and the All-Age will be held in Georgia. Dates and venues are currently being secured and will be announced as they become available. Once again, we could not have these championships without the generosity of the landowners and the plantation staff that make this all possible.

Thank you to Larron and Laura Copeland for the use of your magnificent venue for this year's renewal.

Bronwood, Ga., January 13

Judges: Jeff Gibbons and Ray Joye
REGION 16 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
 – 45 Pointers and 2 Setters

Winner—MILLER'S HEAT WAVE, 1675842, pointer female, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Jack & Fran Miller, owners; Fran Miller, handler
 Runner-Up—REBEL SURVIVOR, 1680246, pointer male, by Rebel Pride-In Swami's Shadow. David E. Williams, owner and handler.

ASSOCIATED FIELD TRIAL CLUBS OF FLORIDA

Piney Woods Field Trial

By Joe Womack | Punta Gorda, Florida | January 14, 2023

The Associated Field Trial Clubs of Florida (AFTCF) held another renewal of the Piney Woods Field Trial on January 14-15 at the Cecil Webb Field Trial Area near Punta Gorda, Fla. The Webb area is comprised of almost 6,000 acres of Florida flatwoods, broad prairie-like savannahs, flag ponds, and pine and palmetto hammocks. The expansive grounds allow for six hours of continuous courses, with separate tracks for morning and afternoon. This is a wild bird trial; no pen-raised birds are ever released. There are plenty of birds, but you won't find one under every bush; your dog will earn every covey it finds. If you have yet to go to the Webb area, add it to your bucket list; you won't be disappointed. The weather at this time of year can be unpredictable, but for this trial, it was perfect. Saturday's low was 34, with a high of 65; Sunday was similar. Perfect for dogs, horses, and handlers! Saturday evening brought yet another of our famous potluck dinners. It was cool enough to move the meal from the outdoor pavilion to the warmth of the clubhouse indoors. We all enjoyed the good food and fellowship while reflecting on the memories of those members that had passed during the season. We lost Jim Goza, Don Wood, and Dr. Paul May during the year. It's impossible to ride the grounds and not see them through the mist, doing what they loved. Godspeed gentlemen.

We were pleased to have several visitors from "up North" join us for the weekend. Tom Hennes traveled from Gordon, Ala., to run his dogs and do some judging for us. Joe Hicks, Leroy Griffis, and Dakota "Doc" Hall came down to run dogs from "The Farm," Chester Stokes's beautiful plantation in Lake City, Fla. Lewis "Bobo" Peterson brought some nice walking horses down from Bainbridge, Ga. Bobo is a well-known field trial horse trainer. You will see him practically every weekend of the trial season on one of the many Florida, Georgia, or Alabama plantations working his horses. Robert Franks joined us from Arkansas, where he was avoiding another



Just A Honky Tonk
Second in the Open Shooting Dog Stake

winter storm. Robert joins us often, and we always enjoy his sojourns "down South."

The Running

Saturday morning dawned cool and crisp, starting the Open All-Age stake. The judicial saddles were ably filled by professional Tom Hennes from Gordon, Ala., and Vince Feltner of Punta Gorda, Fla., a fine dog trainer in his own right. When the dust had settled, Myakka Maxed Out, owned and handled by Beth Brown, took first with a nicely handled find and a forward, all-age race. Doubledown On Dado, owned by Dave and Diane Vernasco and handled by Dave, had two nice finds on singles and an excellent race, albeit not as far-flung as Max. Myakka Lucy Diamond had a divided find, nicely handled, and paired that with a forward race to claim third place.

Paul Daniel and Petie Brown graciously judged the Open Shooting Dog stake. They gave all the dogs their full attention, and when it was over, Double Down Cruise, owned and handled by Dave Vernasco, came out on top. Cruz had two finds and handled kindly, just what the judges were looking for. Just A Honky Tonk had a perfect find and a forward

race, putting him in second place. Honky Tonk, owned by Chester Stokes, was ably handled by Leroy Griffis. The final placement went to Dave Vernasco, who guided Doubledown On Dado to third place to wrap up the stake.

The final stake of the weekend was the Open Derby, judged by Paul Daniel and Greg Poole. The first brace produced both the first and second-place dogs. Cottonwood Bud, owned and handled by Tom Hennes, took first on the strength of a strong race and a single find. Vince Feltner's nice pointer female, "Tawna," impressed the judges with her race, and that was good enough for second place. Third place went to "John," owned and handled by Justin Muzynski. Justin always seems to have an impressive newcomer or two in his string.

Punta Gorda, Fla., January 14
Judges: Vincent Feltner and Tom Hennes
OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]
- 12 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—MYAKKA MAXED OUT, 1670323, pointer male, by Elhew G Force-Myakka Hey Jude. Beth Brown, owner and handler.

2d—DOUBLEDOWN ON DADO, 1685979, pointer male, by Erin's Tin Soldier-Erin's Margarita. Dave & Diane Vernasco, owners; Dave Vernasco, handler.

3d—MYAKKA LUCY DIAMOND, 1665013, pointer female, by Elhew G Force-Myakka Hey Jude. Petie Brown, owner and handler.

Judges: Paul Daniel and Petie Brown
OPEN SHOOTING DOG - 9 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—DOUBLE DOWN CRUISE, 1670311, pointer male, by Funseeker's Rebel Tex-Nacho Myakka Miley. Dave & Diane Vernasco, owners; Dave Vernasco, handler.

2d—JUST A HONKY TONK, 1690029, pointer male, by Honky Tonk Attitude-Just Irresistible Pearl. Chester & Linda Stokes, owners; Leroy Griffis, handler.

3d—DOUBLEDOWN ON DADO, 1685979, pointer male, by Erin's Tin Soldier-Erin's Margarita. Dave & Diane Vernasco, owners; Dave Vernasco.

Judges: Paul Daniel and Greg Poole
OPEN DERBY - 5 Pointers

1st—COTTONWOOD BUD, 1702591, male, by Sandhill Stud-Cross Country Lexus. Tom Hennes, owner and handler.

2nd—CHECKMATES COUNTRY SUNSHINE, 1702591, female by Nacho's Texas Rebel and Nacho's Drama Ma Ma. Vince Feltner, owner and handler.

NBHA SOUTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Indian Creek Bocephus Named Champion; Meadowwood's Irish Rose, Runner-Up

By Ray Brown | Glenwood, Georgia | January 27, 2023

The National Bird Hunters Association Southern Regional Championship began on January 27, 2023, and was hosted by the AG Preserve Field Trial Club in Glenwood, Ga. Judicial duties for this year's event were handled by George Hickox of Pittsburgh, Pa., and Mitch Osborne of Gordon, Ga. Both gave undivided attention to their

officiating duties, and the decisions were well received. This year's running attracted another large group of entries, with handlers traveling from Illinois, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Jersey, Florida, and Georgia. Thank you to each handler who supported this event!

Landowners and hosts Darrell and

Sharon Gunby warmly welcomed trialers with superb accommodations and Southern hospitality. Their new clubhouse is completely finished with full kitchen facilities, showers, comfortable furnishings, and a large fireplace. Outdoors there is a covered front porch and a large rear deck that is handicapped accessible. The indoor fireplace and the outdoor fire



NBHA Southern Regional Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r): Indian Creek Bocephus with Jillian Stuhr and Meadowwood's Irish Rose with Payton Gunby. (Behind): George Hickox (judge), Ray Brown, Garry Malzone, Alex Silva, Darrell Gunby, Karl Forsberg, and Mitch Osborne (judge).

pit were gathering points each evening. The extended Gunby family prepared excellent meals on the grounds, including jambalaya and slow-cooked pulled pork.

Sharon handles all the organizing and administrative duties for the event, while Darrell ensures the event stays on schedule. He continues developing and improving his AG Preserve grounds through clearing, prescribed burning, and selective planting. The area consists mainly of pine timberland that has been thinned to produce a piney woods habitat optimal for quail. Much of the area contains sedge grass and other native cover with feed strips in more open areas. Weather for this year's event was mild, with sunny skies and lows just below freezing with highs in the mid-50s.

Finally, we are especially grateful to partner



Hosts Darrell and Sharon Gunby

with the following sponsors contributing to the framework that makes each NBHA event stand out: Purina Pro Plan, Gun Dog Supply, Garmin, Mule Brand Gear and Apparel, Gundog Central, and OnX Hunt.

The Championship

Champion Indian Creek Bocephus ("Bo"), ran in brace No. 4. The liver and white pointer male is owned by Ed Marron, handled by Garry Malzone, and scouted by Jillian Stuhr. Bo is a repeat winner on these grounds, also capturing the championship spot in 2021. Running in the last morning brace, Bo scored his first find well to the front in the cleared woods to the right of course, all in order. He continued to put down a powerful forward-reaching race throughout the remainder of the hour with one additional find in a feed strip and one unproductive.



Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Huber's Artemis Sunshine with Travis Patterson, Chippewa's Dream Chaser with Zach Erne, and Indian Creek Pineapple with Jillian Stuhr. (Behind): Payton Gunby (judge), Darrell Gunby, Ray Brown (judge), and Garry Malzone.

Runner-up Meadowwood's Irish Rose came from brace No. 5. The setter female is owned by Darrell Gunby, was handled by Alex Silva, and scouted by Payton Gunby. Breaking away just after lunch, Rose scored her first find in sedge grass on the right of course. She continued the hour with a moderate shooting dog race, carding three additional finds and one unproductive. A number of other dogs finished the hour, but this weekend their efforts did not exceed those of the winners.

The Open Derby

This year's derby group was exciting to watch. Travis Patterson traveled from Illinois to take first place with Huber's Artemis Sunshine, Chippewa's Dream Chaser (Z. Erne) captured second, and Indian Creek Pineapple (Malzone) placed third. Thanks again to the participants, landowners, and sponsors for making this event possible.

Glenwood, Ga., January 27

Judges: George Hickox and Mitch Osborne
NBHA SOUTHERN REGIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 26 Entries
Winner—INDIAN CREEK BOCEPHUS, 1656742, pointer male, by Brown's Tom Tom-Indian Creek Riptide. Edward Marron, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.
Runner-Up—MEADOWWOOD'S IRISH ROSE, 1658177, setter female, by Caladen's Davinci-Merritt's Hope. Darrell Gunby, owner; Alex Silva, handler.

Judges: Ray Brown and Payton Gunby
NBHA OPEN DERBY – 5 Entries

1st—HUBER'S ARTEMIS SUNSHINE, 1702261, Brittany female, by Biebel's Walt Longmire O'Call-O'Callahan's Run Around Sue. Aaron T. Patterson, Jr., owner and handler.
2d—CHIPPEWA'S DREAM CHASER, 1698352, setter female, by Dashing Iron Kentucky Coal-Otho's Field of Dreams. Andrew & Zachary Erne, owners; Zach Erne, handler.

NBHA OPEN PUPPY – 3 Entries

1st—HUBER'S ARTEMIS SUNSHINE, 1702261, Brittany female, by Biebel's Walt Longmire O'Call-O'Callahan's Run Around Sue. Aaron T. Patterson, Jr., owner and handler.



Open Puppy Winners (front, l-r): Huber's Artemis Sunshine with Travis Patterson, Sonic Boom Von Uber Haus with Payton Gunby, and Levi with Zach Erne. (Behind): Ray Brown (judge) and Darrell Gunby.

Planning a Field Trial?

Submit your Fixture information as soon as dates have been confirmed. Please include: Name of club, start date, location of grounds (city and state), and contact name, phone number and email address.

Previous ads may be requested by emailing gsmith@ukcdogs.com or by searching the online Calendar at www.americanfield.com

GARY *Lester*

FOR FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME

For over 25 years, Gary Lester and I have worked and campaigned dogs from Canada to Florida, spending many happy days in the field together. I know the kind of man he is, and if elected, Gary would highly represent the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

In 2002, Gary scouted Miller's True Spirit and helped me go on to win The National Championship. He set his goal that day to win the National, and in 2009 Gary earned that title with Lester's Snowwatch. Along with wins in other major trials, Gary has gone on to win The National Championship six times, most recently Shockwave in 2022.

Gary is more than just a successful field trialer; he is a good family man, raising three boys and a girl with his wife Joy, his strongest supporter and helpmate. Gary is a man of faith and serves as a Christian leader in his community and church.

Gary has met all the requirements of a man whose contributions will leave a lasting impact on the field trial community. Gary is president of the Kentucky Lake Field Trial Club and has organized and managed



amateur and open trials, ensuring each trial was successful. He has acted as a judge in many trials and major championships. Gary has raised, trained, and won championships with his dogs and for the public while lending his time and expertise to young men getting started in field trials.

It is clear that Gary will be an honorable addition to the Field Trial Hall of Fame. Please vote for Gary Lester and his induction into the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

— *Ferrel Miller and Family*

NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

C S Code Blue Wins 62nd Renewal

By Elton Bray | Union Springs, Alabama | January 30, 2023



National Open Shooting Dog Championship Winner (l-r): Bill Lee, Joe Varner, Tony Gibson, Steve Hutto, Bo Brewer with C S Code Blue, Jonathan Burch (judge), Steve Hurdle, Squire Lee (judge), Anna Grace Tompkins, and Elton Bray (judge).

The 62nd renewal of the prestigious National Open Shooting Dog Championship began Monday, January 30, and concluded on February 7. A string of 64, which included 53 pointers and 11 setters, was drawn to compete for the best of the best. Twenty of the most renowned, professional, and amateur dog handlers vied for the title of their dog to be named champion.

The venue for this historical event was none other than the famous Sedgefields Plantation near Union Springs, Ala. If one has never visited there, you should add it to your list. The towering pines, native grasses, and food plots make for the perfect bobwhite habitat. Sedgefields is owned by Raymond and Kathryn Harbert. Without their continued generosity of usage of their beautiful facilities and grounds, it would be almost impossible to hold such a prominent event. The Harberts are to be commended for their kindness and hospitality.

A huge thank you goes out to Jason Howard, Sedgefields manager and field trial board member. He and all the plantation staff help make the trial run smoothly. From manning the road crossings to making sure the trash barrels are empty, it all gets done every day. Bill Lee is another notable board member and a major part of the Sedgefields operation. He is on hand daily as the stake manager and does whatever it takes to make the trial run fluently. He is also a head marshal during the stake. His love for the sport and the people is well-noted throughout the field trial world. If something needs to be addressed during the running, Bill Lee is the “go-to” man who always has a plan. Club President Joe Varner was also on hand each day assisting with the

chores and was on horseback for much of the running. Joe is a Union Springs native, and his passion for the sport and the outdoors run deep. He and his wife, Shirley, contribute a generous amount of time and resources to the National and support all surrounding bird dog events.

Most all successful field trial clubs have a secretary and treasurer, but none are lucky enough to have Heather Klinck. Heather can do it all and does it all. She takes care of the ad, entries, judges, and dog wagon goodies and does all the scheduling for each day and night events. From flower arrangements to judges’ books, Heather gets everything done. Klinck’s time and dedication are one of the major parts of the trial’s success each year.

Steve Hutto was in charge of the dog wagon duties. Hutto is always in the right places at the right times. He also makes sure the wagon is stocked full of snacks and drinks each day. This year’s dog wagon sponsors were: The Perote Ladies; Shirley Capps, Sarah Hixson, and Darlene Hixson; Lawton Huggins, Missy’s Hair Salon (Missy Lawrence), Kara Williamson, Hunter and Addi Smith, Union Springs Chamber of Commerce, Lisa and Justin Clark, Joe and Cecelia Moorner, and Mare and Diane Fratessa of NK Cattle Ranches.

Minding the marshaling duties were Hunter McDuffie, Chance Kelley, Harrison Lee, Brian Sanderson, and Harold Johnson. With these men in attendance, no handler took wrong turns, and judges were never left behind.

Helping out in the barn and washing the judges’ horses after each ride was Anna Grace Tompkins. All greatly appreciated her sweet

attitude and attention to detail.

Advertised judges for this year’s competition were Jonathan Burch, Holly Springs, Miss., returning for his third consecutive year; Squire Lee, Pike Road, Ala., returning for his second tenure; and Mike Jackson, Battle Ground, Ind. Unfortunately, Jackson fell ill the night before the starting day and asked to step down if a replacement could fill in. Your scribe was asked to step in as the third judge. I humbly accepted the honor. Purina is the official dog food sponsor. Their representative, Greg Blair, was in attendance for several days and was accompanied by his daughter, Maddie, a student at Auburn University. Purina is a very important part of this Championship; not only do they provide financially, but also with rewards, gifts, and dog food to the winner. Without the support of Greg Blair and Purina, our sport would be nearly dissolved. Other official sponsors for the trial were Garmin, 5 Star Equine Products, Dan’s Hunting Gear, and The Saddle Guy.

A full-course breakfast was served each morning during the running. It was provided by the Tourism Council of Bullock County and its large number of sponsors. Ginny Allen and the Union Springs Country Club prepared and served delicious lunches each day.

A function was held every evening during the running. Sunday night’s kickoff party started with a catered wild game supper sponsored and prepared by Terry Reinke and Doug White. Elk, mule deer, trout, and goose, along with several other meats and sides, were enjoyed by all in attendance. The cocktails for the evening were sponsored by Partners Real Estate, T. J. Williford.

Everyone was invited to the Country Club for a steak dinner sponsored by Purina on Monday night. Tuesday, we had dinner at the Field House, sponsored by Union Springs Home Center, with cocktails provided by Jimmy Cook Chevrolet. On Wednesday night, all gathered at the Country Club for a steak dinner in honor of the 2022 champion, Bo Bunda. The dinner was hosted by Bo’s owner, Mr. Jack Arlington. A beautiful portrait commissioned by Ross Young was presented to Mr. Arlington. All enjoyed visiting and listening to stories of Mr. Jack. Thursday evening, we were treated again to another delicious meal at the Field House sponsored by the Tourism Council of Bullock County. The cocktails were provided by Phillip’s Seed and LC May. Friday night, trial officials and several club members gathered at the Field House for hamburgers. Field trialers hosted a delicious meal sponsored by the Humane Society on Saturday night, with cocktails provided by Ginny and David Allen. Sunday evening, everyone gathered at the Field House again for a low country boil, catered by the

Country Club, with cocktails sponsored by Mossy Oak Realty and Tony Reynolds. On the final night, a delightful meal was hosted at the Field House with cocktails sponsored by Amber and Steve Money. The help and support of these sponsors from all over Bullock County give everyone a welcoming feeling.

This year's running was slightly different than a normal year at the National. Sedgefields, along with Tall Timbers, has put together a wild bird program for the afternoon courses. Therefore, no pre-release was done this year, and not many birds were found on the afternoon side. Several dogs competed in the afternoons with great performances but were birdless. To give those deserving a fair chance at finding birds, the judges decided to have a callback run only on the morning courses. Tall Timbers started the wild bird project on the morning courses four years ago. As you will find out from the brace-by-brace report, it was very successful. If the afternoon courses are as successful as the morning, within the next few years, Sedgefields Plantation will be all wild birds.

The Callbacks

Earning the title of National Champion is everyone in the field trial fraternity's goal and dream. Large amounts of time, effort, hard work, determination, and a little luck create champions. This year's champion was C S Code Blue. Tony and Becky Gibson of Union Springs, Ala., own Blue. Steve Hurdle handled him. Blue is a 4-year-old white and orange pointer male by Sundance Kid and out of House's Snow White. Mr. Tony and Mrs. Becky have owned and campaigned an abundance of shooting dogs and all-age competitors over the years. Many of these went on to be great winners and champions. This was their second National Championship win. The first for the Gibsons was in 2016 with Conecuh's Shoe Shine. This was Steve Hurdle's fifth time handling a National Champion. On the all-age circuit, he has won it with Shell Creek Coin, Connor's E Z Button, and Coldwater Thunder. This was his second time for the shooting dog, the first being Spirit's Blaze in 2004. To many people's knowledge, Steve is the only handler to have one either of these Nationals twice. Several other handlers have won both once.

Blue ran in brace No. 2 of the callbacks held on Tuesday morning. He was paired with Silver W Jill Z, who is handled by Shawn Kinkelaar and owned by Debbie Ozner. The breakaway was just behind the dog cemetery. Jill had a nice find to the front at 13, nearing the Eagle's Nest. She had not been seen for several minutes, and we all rode up to find her on point. She was pretty around her game, and all was in order. At 22, Kinkelaar spotted Blue standing still nearing the lake's edge and called point. Hurdle arrived to see his competitor pointed flawlessly on the edge of the food plot. He made a few steps before the large wild covey flushed back to the left. Jill was not seen after her find, and Kinkelaar asked for the retrieval device at 32. Blue was



Michael Martino and Jack Arlington pose as Mr. Jack accepts the painting of 2022 Champion Bo Bunda, presented by Bill Lee.

credited with his second impressive find at 33 on the left side of the course past the levee at the Big Lake. Scout Bo Brewer was riding the left side and found him on point. Blue ran at a forward, snappy pace for the duration of his 45 minutes. He showed at the right places and time, hunted with intention, and was a stylish gentleman around his game. This combination earned him the title of National Open Shooting Dog Champion.

Starting the callbacks with brace No. 1 was Reynolds Party Starter, handled by Tony Reynolds and owned by Brian Sanderson. He competed with Reedy Creek Dial Tone, handled by Mike Tracy and owned by Joe McHugh. Starter began the callbacks on the right foot with a very nice, classy find at 7 just before crossing the road behind the Church. Scout Hunter McDuffie found him on point. His second find came at 27, just before crossing the Old Bridge Road. Handler Mike Tracy was riding the left side looking for his dog when he called point for this brace mate. The judges arrived, and Starter stood there quite staunching while the birds lifted. Nearing the corner at Hwy. 29, at 38, Reynolds spotted his dog standing still on top of the hill with his head held high. The birds flushed, which awarded him with find number three. The judges called pick-up at the 45-minute mark. Tone competed to the front for most of the heat but was not seen at pickup.

Brace No. 3 saw Bittersweet War Cry, handled by Mike Tracy and owned by Joe Lordi Jr. and Ralph Gillota, and Charitable Deed, handled by Tommy Rice and owned by Keith Finlayson. They were released from the Coke Barn. Cry was hunting the left side of the course at 12 when he swapped ends. Tracy called point, dismounted, and flushed a nice bevy for his classy competitor. He was credited with a second nice piece of bird work at 17, just before Bicolor Hill. Deed was unsuccessful at 35 and was harnessed. Cry was picked up at 37.

The Running

Drawn in brace No. 1 were Lester's Another Shockwave (Shawn Kinkelaar) and Miller's Newest Version (Bill Owen). It rained nearly a half inch on Sunday night and stopped just before we turned them loose Monday morning. The temperature was 58 degrees and cloudy. The dogs were released at 8:01 at the morning breakaway. The trial started with a bang at the 4-minute mark when the scout for Version, Alex Mauck, called point for Another Shockwave. Kinkelaar and the

judges arrived to see him standing perfectly in the pines between the course and the road. Kinkelaar flushed a large covey rewarding his dog with the first find of the Championship. At 22, Kinkelaar called point for both dogs on top of the hill on the left side of the course. Kinkelaar and Owen both shot after the covey rise. Making the strait away alongside County Road 23 at 31, both handlers called point. When the judges arrived, they stated the birds had already flown, and both handlers carried their dogs on. Version was credited with his second find classy find at 1:05, just after making the turn behind the dog cemetery. Another Shockwave went missing from the front just after the hour mark, and Kinkelaar asked for the retrieval device at 1:15 at the Eagle's Nest. Version completed the 90-minute heat on the hill near the crossroads at Coke Barn Road.

Released at the Coke Barn for brace No. 2 were Bully Rock (Mike Tracy) and Hillhavyn's Good Time Rail (Michael Martino). The temperature had dropped a few degrees, and light fog and mist had set in. Rock had his first find at 4 on top of the hill before making the left swing. He was credited with his second at 18 on the right side. Tracy called point, and Rock stood staunching for the flush. His third find came at 22 on the left side of the course next to the plowed field. Rock was found on point again at 43. Tracy was unsuccessful in producing game. He relocated, and the only thing flushed was a cotton tail. Just after crossing the levee at the Big Lake, Rock swapped ends at 1:04 on the right side, producing a very large covey of wild bobwhites. His fifth successful find came at 1:18 on the left side of the crossroads in front of the main lodge. Rock's sixth and final find was at 1:22, just after crossing the Big Pipe at the Northfork Church. Rock completed the hour and a half. Good Time had not been seen since the 5-minute mark, and Martino got the tracker at 29. The total covey count for the morning, including dog finds and gallery ride-ups, was 24!

Paired in brace No. 3 were Miller's Southern Gossip (George Tracy) and Miller's Stray Bullet (Clay Ferguson). They were turned loose from the Field Trial Barn at 1:01 with temperatures at 61 degrees. Ferguson asked for the retrieval device at 1:04, and Tracy asked for his at 1:16.

Turning loose at the Ladies Restroom for brace No. 4 were Miller Unfinished Business (Clay Ferguson) and Lone Tree Splish Splash (Bill Owen). Business pointed at 22 after crossing Duck Lake but was unsuccessful. Both dogs were picked up at 1:07.

Running in brace No. 5 starting Tuesday morning were Wind Ridge Sugar (Eddie Taylor) and Silver W Jill Z (Shawn Kinkelaar). The fog delayed the breakaway until 8:31, with the temperature at 62 degrees. Jill started the morning with an impressive forward find at 20 on the left side of the course before crossing at the Old Road Bridge. Sugar was not seen at 17, and Taylor asked for the retrieval device at 35. Jill's second

piece of pretty bird work came at 58, just past Eagle's Nest. Kinkelaar rode on top of the hill searching for his competitor and found her standing quite staunching. Jill ran the front the entire 90-minute heat with enthusiasm and style.

Breaking away from the Coke Barn in brace No. 6 were Erin's Big Casino (Mike Tracy) and Upfront's Southern Star (Shawn Kinkelaar). Star had an absence at 21 and asked for the tracker at 36. Casino pointed at 1:05, nearing the Big Pipe. Tracy relocated twice, but no game was produced. He was harnessed at 1:21.

Tuesday afternoon brought out sunshine and warmer temperatures for brace No. 7. Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Dallee (Alex Mauck) and Miller's Extreme Heat (Mike Tracy) were released from the field trial stable at 1:15. Dallee was picked up at 1:03. Heat finished the hour and a half on Turkey Ridge.

Drawn in brace No. 8 were Miller's High Heat Index (Mike Tracy) and Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Jack (Alex Mauck). Index competed at a strong, ambitious pace hunting the front for 90 minutes. He completed the brace on the north side of the Dove Field. Jack was picked up at 46.

Running in brace No. 9 on Wednesday morning were Hale's High Flyer (Eddie Taylor) and Thunder's Wild Agin (Shawn Kinkelaar). A light fog was in the air, and the temperature was 58 degrees when the dogs were turned loose at 8:02. At 15, scout Virgil Moore called point for Flyer on the right side of the course after the road crossing. As Taylor rode up, the birds flushed, and all was in order. Agin was credited with his first find at 20 on the left side of the course. As Kinkelaar dismounted, the large covey flew. At 27, Flyer pointed again. He was relocated twice but was unsuccessful. Flyer's second find came at 32 nearing Old Bridge Road. His third piece of bird work came at 42 on the right side, just past the New Town Creek Bridge. Scout Virgil Moore was given the credit for finding him on point once more. Agin has his second find at 55 behind the Sedgefields Kennel. Just a minute later, Flyer was pointed about 200 yards just down the hill but was unable to produce game. Agin suffered his second unproductive at 59 and was harnessed. Flyer found a nice bevy of bobwhites at the hour mark just past the turn behind the kennels crediting him with his fourth find. He completed the 90 minutes.

Drawn for brace No. 10 were Cheap Thrill (Tommy Rice) and Hillhavyn's Wild Child (Jeanette Tracy). The temperature was dropping, and the birds were feeding. Thrill was making a cast on the top right side of the course before the first crossing at 8 when she swapped ends. Her brace mate was there to honor as Rice flushed the large wild covey. Her second find was at 48 before making the swing toward the Big Lake. Before crossing the levy at 51, Child was found on point on the left side. After a relocation, she had them pinned, awarding her a nice stylish find. Her second piece of bird work came at 1:09, just



(L-r): Elton Bray (judge and reporter), Jonathan Burch (judge), Bill Lee (stake manager), and Squire Lee (judge).

before crossing the Big Pipe. Thrill was harnessed at 1:17, and Child completed the hour and a half.

Competing in brace No. 11 were Erin's Thunder Backus (Shawn Kinkelaar) and Neely's Business Man (John Neely). Business Man was hunting the front and pointed just before the crossing behind Bill Lee's house at 21. He was bold and pretty on point, but unfortunately, no game was produced. Backus was not seen at 41, and Kinkelaar requested the tracker at 54. Man completed the 90 minutes on Turkey Ridge.

In brace No. 12, turning loose at the Ladies Restroom, were Tug O'War (Shawn Kinkelaar) and Hatteras Rip Tide (Doug Ray). Tide disappeared after the breakaway, and Ray called for the retrieval device at 24. Tug O'War pointed at 47 to the right side of the Deer Stand, but as the birds flushed, he took one too many steps earning him the rope.

Thursday morning, there was a light mist and cooler temperatures for brace No. 13, drawing Thunder Bolt's Storm (Shawn Kinkelaar) and Charlie's Zip Tie (Bill Owen). Storm pointed at 7 on the right side just behind the Church at the road crossing but was unsuccessful. Tie made game at 22 but moved a little too much and was picked up. At 34, scout Tommy Rice called point for Storm alongside the fence row parallel to County Road 23. A very large covey flushed as Kinkelaar dismounted. Storm was picked up at 48 after a slight mishap.

Released from the Coke Barn in brace No. 14 were Nella Belgian Brew (Tommy Rice) and Waybetter Rocky (Mike Tracy). At 19, nearing Bicolor Hill at the Joe Varner line, Brew came to a standstill, and Rocky standing just behind honoring. They were each relocated but were unlucky. At 25, as the gallery topped the far side of Bicolor Hill, everyone was able to see Rocky stopped. As soon as he stopped, the birds flew, and Tracy dismounted and fired. Nearing the Roy Warren Deer Stand at 23, scout Harrison Lee called point for Brew. As soon as Rice dismounted, the birds flew to the right, and all was in order. Rocky was deemed his second find at 46 along the road. He pointed again at 1:20 just before making the left swing back toward the church, but no birds were found after two attempts. Brew scored her third covey just three minutes later, nearing the road crossing at the Church. After a nice relocation, she had them pinned. Both dogs completed the brace.

Thursday afternoon was overcast and 51

degrees. Panther Creek Rosie (Tommy Rice) and Miller's Strolling For Gold (George Tracy) were released at 1:03 for brace No. 15. Gold suffered an unproductive at 43 and was harnessed. Rosie was picked up at 56.

Running in brace No. 16 were Class Act Express (Anthony Martino) and Miller's Big Iron (George Tracy). Iron was not seen at 4, and Tracy asked for the tracker at 18. Express pointed at 16 just after crossing Duck Lake but was unfortunate. He was picked up at 50 at the road crossing.

Brace No. 17 on Friday morning drew C S Code Blue (Steve Hurdle) and Reedy Creek Dial Tone (Mike Tracy). The temperature was 56 degrees, and the clear skies seemed to bring out the quail. Blue started the brace off at 6 with his first staunching piece of bird work on the left side of the course just before the road crossing. At 7, his brace mate pointed at the road crossing just behind the Church. He, too, was awarded with a bold, classy find. Tone's second find came at 40 just after crossing the New Road Bridge on the right side. As Tracy was crossing the bridge, he was calling point. Just after the shot, Hurdle was calling point for Blue on the left side of the course. As the judges arrived, a nice bevy flew to the left in front of the pretty white pointer. At 47, Blue pointed just past the deer feeder behind the dog cemetery. As the judges were cantering to the point, the birds flew and were in judgment sight, crediting Blue with his third. His fourth find was at 56, nearing the Eagle's Nest. Hurdle was in search of him when he found him standing intently and fashionably to the front. Blue's fifth dashing find came at 1:16, just past the Big Lake on the back side of the levee. Tone was regarded with his third piece of fashionable bobwhite location at 1:24 nearing the Coke Barn Road. Both pointer males competed at a strong pace, and each completed the brace hunting stylishly to the front.

Breaking away from the Coke Barn in brace No. 18 were Oahe Buck (Tommy Rice) and Greypointe Nubarron (Calvin Curnutte). Nubarron was unsuccessful at 30 and 42, which earned him the rope. On his second unproductive, he was honored by his brace mate. Buck had a nice piece of work at 35 after crossing Whaley Road. Scout Harrison Lee called point for the pointer male. He stayed staunch for the flush and shot. At 53, Buck was found on point again, nearing the road crossing. He was relocated, but no game was produced. Rice decided to pick up at 1:14 at the Big Pipe.

Competing in brace No. 19 were Town Creek Hardaway Jill (Michael Martino) and Miller's Record Heat (Mike Tracy). At 44, making the horseshoe swing on the east side of Bill Lee's driveway, scout Casey Foster called point for Heat. A single flush after Tracy made only a few steps. Heat went missing at 57, and Tracy called for the retrieval device at 1:12. Jill was not able to find any bobwhites during her heat, but she did hunt the front until time was called.

Drawn for brace No. 20 were Erin's Three

Leaf Shamrock (Tracy Swearingen) and Miller's Lock And Loaded (George Tracy). Shamrock was scratched due to unforeseen circumstances; therefore, Loaded had the course all to himself. At 22, just after crossing the Duck Pond Levee, Loaded was found on point, but unfortunately, no bobwhites were found. He was picked up at 1:03

Call Me Clyde (Michael Martino) and Miller's War Bonnet (Mike Tracy) were drawn for brace No. 21, which began Saturday morning. The sun was shining, but the temperature was just above freezing. Just past the Old Bridge Road crossing, both dogs were seen on point together at 25. Both handlers attempted to flush, but no birds were found. At 46, they were both found pointed together again; unfortunately, no game was produced here either, and both were harnessed.

Running in No. 22, breaking away from the Coke Barn, were Phillips Wind Line (Anthony Martino) and Levi Express Visa (Virgil Moore). Line had a nice find at 17 just before making the swing onto Bicolor Hill. Visa was credited with his first classy piece of bird work at 28, just before making the turn headed toward Whaley Road. Moore had to make several passes before the tight covey of bobwhites would fly. At 41, Visa was unsuccessful, and his bracemate failed to honor, earning him the rope. Visa scored again at 52 and 1:01. He was harnessed at 1:11.

In brace No. 23 were Sun's Out Gun's Out (Eddie Taylor) and Nonami's Johnny Come Lately (Ray Pierce). Taylor got the tracker at 22 after his dog was not seen after the 6-minute mark. Lately suffered an unproductive at 16 and another at 47. He was picked up after his second.

Drawn for brace No. 24 breaking away at the Ladies Restroom were Bittersweet War Cry (Mike Tracy) and Charitable Deed (Tommy Rice). Deed was unsuccessful at 18 after crossing the Duck Lake. She went birdless for the heat but stayed strong and hunted the front for the duration. Cry was unsuccessful at 1:08. He, too, hunted with intent and completed the hour and a half.

Sunday morning was overcast and 43



Zach Erne flushing in the sedge grass for Emert's Sho Me Mo during the last brace on Friday afternoon.

degrees. Turning loose with brace No. 25 were Cheyenne Jack (Mike Tracy) and Doc's Second Wind (Virgil Moore). Jack pointed right off the breakaway at 4 on the right side before the road crossing, a large covey flew as the judges arrived, awarding him his first find. Wind was there to honor. At 19, handler Moore called point for Wind. He stated that the birds had lifted before the judges arrived. He shot and went on, but Wind's find was not in judgment. Just up the course on the left side, Tracy called point at 23 just before the Old Road crossing. A nice wild covey flushed just after Tracy dismounted. Wind was ill-fated again at 34 and was picked up. Wind was awarded a third find just before crossing the New Bridge at 43. He was unsuccessful at 51 and was harnessed.

Releasing from the Coke Barn in brace No. 26 were Miller's Heat Seeker (George Tracy) and Senah's Back In Business (Clay Ferguson). Business was having a little bad luck and was picked up at 14. Seeker was accorded a nice find at 38 after scout Mike Tracy found him pointed on Bicolor Hill at 38. He was put on the wagon at 1:03.

Brace No. 27 drew Reynolds Party Starter (Tony Reynolds) and Kool Hand Luke (Virgil Moore). They broke away from the Field Trial Stables at 1:04. Just before making the turn back towards the Dove Field at the power line at 17, Reynolds was riding the left side in search of his dog when he found him standing on the edge of the woods. When the judges arrived, he stood there boldly, quite sure of himself. Reynolds made several flushing attempts before he decided to ask Starter to

relocate. He moved up only about 15 yards where he had them pinned, which credited him with an impressive relocation find. Luke was unsuccessful at 25 and was harnessed at 51. Starter competed eagerly and fashionably for the remainder of the heat and completed the hour and a half on Turkey Ridge.

Brace No. 28 turned loose from the Ladies Restroom with Two Spot Tommy (Doug Ray) and Faithful (Mike Tracy). Tracy asked for his tracker at 41, and Ray requested his at 45.

Monday morning started sunny and 62 degrees with Chelsea's Mae West (Shawn Kinkelaar) and Miller's Upgraded Version (George Tracy). Just off the breakaway at 2, West pointed on the right side, but no game was located after two relocations. She pointed again at 20, nearing the Old Bridge Road, this time producing a nice bevy of wild bobwhites. Version was standing stylishly behind, honoring the find. Version was awarded with a very nice find at 46 just after crossing the New Bridge on the left side of the course. Both competitors were picked up at 53.

Braced in No. 30 were Sandlands Shooter (Calvin Curnutte) and Upfront's McQuade (Shawn Kinkelaar). Neither were suiting their handler. Shooter was harnessed at 42 and McQuade at 44.

Running in brace No. 31 on Monday afternoon with the temperature at 65 was Grand Prairie Thrill (Tommy Rice), and I'm Spartacus (Doug Ray). Thrill was not seen after the breakaway, and Rice asked for the tracker at 18. Spartacus wasn't competing to please his handler and was put on the wagon at 32.

The last brace, No. 32, drew S B Always Dreamin (Bill Owen) and Woodlands Ridge Jim (Calvin Curnutte). They were both picked up at 34.

Union Springs, Ala., January 30
Judges: Elton Bray, Jonathan Burch and Squire Lee
NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [Ninety-Minute Heats]
- 54 Pointers and 10 Setters

Winner—C S CODE BLUE, 1692316, pointer male, by Sundance Kid-House's Snow White. Tony & Becky Gibson, owners; Steve Hurdle, handler.

NGSPA SAVANNAH RIVER CHAMPIONSHIPS

Championship Series Held At Showtime Plantation

By Diane Rakers Coppens | Bronwood, Georgia | February 5, 2023

The 2023 NGSPA Savannah River Championships were held at Showtime Plantation in Bronwood, Ga., starting on February 5. Thank you to the landowners, Larron and Laura Copeland, for graciously allowing us to use this beautiful place. We look forward to this being "home" for these trials. Thank you to Larron, Colt, Brady, and Scooter Jones for marshaling the courses and dog wagon duties. We had beautiful weather, plenty of wild birds, three one-hour courses,

and a superb plantation. We also enjoyed using the clubhouse with a patio for viewing parts of the trial and the wildlife.

Thank you to Purina for their support of these trials. Also, thanks to Greg Blair, Carl Gunzer, and Terry Trzcinski for all your work behind the scenes. Thank You to SportDOG and Mr. Jim Morehouse for always supporting us with collars.

Thank you to Diane Coppens, Becky and

Andy Dynkiewicz, Art Terstage, and Cheryl and Gale Graves for helping with lunches, suppers, and the clubhouse. Thank you to everyone who helped clean up after supper and lunches.

We want to thank all the participants; without the support of everyone, we could not have these Championships. Thank you to our judges—George Hickox, Debbie Ozner, Jarrett Bell, Dave Walker, Gary Hill, T. K. Smith, Joe



NGSPA Savannah River Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r): Sherri Tangsrud with Uodibar's Robbi Jo, April Raber with Monkeyshine's Call Me The Breeze, and Dan DiMambro. (Behind): Kirk Loftin, Jarrett Bell (judge), and Dave Walker (judge).



NGSPA Savannah River Open All-Age Championship Winners (front, l-r): Allison Bell with Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee and Sherri Tangsrud with Uodibar's Robbi Jo. (Behind): Jarrett Bell (judge), Peter Coppens, Kirk Loftin, and Gary Hill (judge).



NGSPA Savannah River Derby Classic Winners (front, l-r): Joe Orndorff with Ream's Winnie, April Raber with Chicoree's Four Leaf Clover II, Rebecca Dynkiewicz, and Andy Dynkiewicz with Caprock's Bella's County Gamin. (Behind): Cheryl Graves, Gale Graves, Kirk Loftin (judge), and Allison Bell (judge).



NGSPA Savannah River Amateur All-Age Championship Winner (l-r): T. K. Smith (judge), Mary Lynn Miller, Doug Miller, Heather Miller with S P's Little Hurricane, and Joe Orndorff (judge).



NGSPA Savannah River Amateur Shooting Dog Winner (front, l-r): Kirk Loftin, George Hickox (judge), Sherri Tangsrud with Uodibar's Lover Boy, Deb Ozner, and Mary Lynn Miller. (Behind): Colt Copeland, Jarrett Bell, and Doug Miller.

Orndorff, Allison Bell, and Kirk Loftin—for their time in the saddle.

Thank you to April Raber for cleaning the clubhouse after the Championships and to Diane Coppens, our secretary/treasurer, for all the paperwork and constant reminders and for trying to keep us on the straight and narrow. Our scribe was President Peter Coppens, with help from the judges. Thank you, Peter, Art Terstage, and the rest of the Board, for your dedication to this sport.

NGSPA Savannah River Open Shooting Dog Championship

The Championship Series started with the Savannah River Shooting Dog. Eighteen German Shorthair pointers entered the stake, and we had beautiful Georgia weather. Uodibar's Robbi Jo was named champion. Robbi, a female owned by Sherri Tangsrud and handled by Kirk Loftin, ran on the first day in brace No. 4. She was gone forward from the breakaway. She had finds at 35 and 55 with all manners in order and finished the hour strong and to the front.

Runner-up went to Monkeyshine's Call Me The Breeze, a female owned and handled by Dan DiMambro and April Raber. Breezy ran a forward race and handled well for Dan in the first brace of day two. She was found on point at 45 and worked birds successfully. Breezy had a forward and consistent shooting dog run and was rewarded with the runner-up placement.

Bronwood, Ga., February 5

Judges: Jarrett Bell and Dave Walker

NGSPA SAVANNAH RIVER OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 18 German Shorthairs

Winner—*UODIBAR'S ROBBI JO*, 1662507, female, by Uodibar's Against All Odds-B D K's Sin City Casino. Sherri Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.

Runner-Up—*MONKEYSHINE'S CALL ME THE BREEZE*, unreg., female, by Riden High Rudy-Lena. Dan DiMambro & April Raber, owners; Dan DiMambro, handler.

NGSPA Savannah River Open All-Age Championship

The Savannah River All-Age immediately followed the Shooting Dog. Twelve German Shorthairs were entered, and we had another great weather day. Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee, owned and handled by Kirk Loftin, was named champion. She ran a consistent all-age race and had one find at 55, earning her the honor of champion.

Uodibar's Robbi Jo, owned and scouted by Sherri Tangsrud, and handled by Kirk Loftin, was named runner-up champion. Robbi had a find at 50 and ran a nice consistent all-age race, earning her the runner-up title.

Judges: Jarrett Bell and Gary Hill

NGSPA SAVANNAH RIVER OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 12 German Shorthairs

Winner—*STONEY HILL'S PINNACLE DEE*, 1694168, female, by Simons Gunner-Shadowrocks Mighty Mouse. Kirk Loftin, owner and handler.

Runner-Up—*UODIBAR'S ROBBI JO*, 1662507, female, by Uodibar's Against All Odds-B D K's Sin City Casino. Sherri Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.

NGSPA Savannah River Derby Classic

The NGSPA Savannah River Derby Classic was held with 17 hopefuls going to the line. First place was awarded to Ream's Winnie, owned by Derrick Ream and handled by Joe Orndorff. Second place was awarded to Chicoree's Four Leaf Clover II, owned by Fred Ryan and handled by Dan DiMambro. Third place was awarded to Caprock's Bella's Country Gamin, owned by Joe Vandiver and handled by Dan DiMambro.

Judges: Allison Bell and Kirk Loftin
NGSPA SAVANNAH RIVER DERBY CLASSIC

– 17 German Shorthairs

1st—*REAM'S WINNIE*, 1703217, female, by B M B's Freeloader-Autry's Natural Chromoly Steel. Derrick Ream, owner; Joe Orndorff, handler.

2d—*CHICOREE'S FOUR LEAF CLOVER II*, unreg., female, by Twin Creek's Running Ruger-Hi N's Allison Miranda. Fred Ryan, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.

3d—*CAPROCK'S BELLA'S COUNTRY GAMIN*, unreg., female, by Llano's Game On Dude-Chicoree's Country Fan. Joe Vandiver, owner; Dan DiMambro, handler.

NGSPA Savannah River Amateur All-Age Championship

The Savannah River Amateur All-Age followed the Derby, with ten German Shorthairs in the stake. Named champion was S P's Little Hurricane, owned by Heather and Doug Miller and handled by Doug. Lucy had a covey find at 47. She ran an all-age race consistently throughout the hour. She had a big finish and was going away. She handled perfectly for Miller and was awarded the championship trophy. The runner-up placement was withheld.

Judges: Joe Orndorff and T. K. Smith
NGSPA SAVANNAH RIVER AMATEUR ALL-AGE
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

– 10 German Shorthairs

Winner—*S P'S LITTLE HURRICANE*, 1664084, female, by Hi N's Hurricane Express-Miller's Mischievous Maebyn. Doug & Heather Miller, owners; Doug Miller, handler.

NGSPA Savannah River Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

The Savannah River Amateur Shooting Dog followed the Amateur All-Age. Sixteen German Shorthairs entered the stake. Named champion was Uodibar's Lover Boy, owned and scouted by Sherri Tangsrud and handled by Kirk Loftin. Blue was cut loose by his handler and showed us all what a champion is meant to be. He had finds at 22 and 45, had nice style on all bird work, and worked well for his handler. Blue was powerful and to the front.

Runner-up was Hi-N's Free Ride, owned by Derrick Ream and Hank Lewis and handled by Hank. Toby broke away with a large, strong move. He continued to work this way, came up with a find at 54, and displayed good style and intensity.

Judges: George Hickox and Debbie Ozner
NGSPA SAVANNAH RIVER AMATEUR SHOOTING
DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

– 16 German Shorthairs

Winner—*UODIBAR'S LOVER BOY*, 1689423, male, by Diamond R S Texas Express-Uodibar's Bet Your Booty. Sherry Tangsrud, owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.

Runner-Up—*HI-N'S FREE RIDE*, 1696637, male, by B M B's Free Ride-Covey Up's Controlled Burn. Hank Lewis and Derrick Ream, owners; Hank Lewis, handler.

PONY EXPRESS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Westfall's Wheels Up Wins Heartland Open All-Age

By Steve Auxier | Gentry, Missouri | February 18, 2023

Pony Express Field Trial Club members Tommy Smith, Terry Doolittle, Barry Ward, Larry and Linda Smith, and Steve Auxier came together and hosted a successful event! This year's event was highlighted by outstanding performances and maintained the camaraderie everyone looks forward to each spring. We want to thank in advance all the judges, bird dog breeders, owners, handlers, and sponsors for this National Qualifying event. Without their support, this event would not be possible. Purina, SportDOG, The Saddle Guy, and Good Life Fitness sponsored this year's event.

The Heartland Open All-Age commenced over the rolling north Missouri countryside known as Smith Farms, west of Gentry, Mo. The field trial venue owned by Mr. and Mrs. Larry Smith has been laid out with four continuing one-hour courses to showcase all-age dogs.

We want to thank Mr. Bill Westfall for helping transport dogs between braces and assisting the dog wagon in helping make the trial run more efficiently.

Smith Farms has a pre-release quail program with habitat and food plots designed to provide sustainable quail. Birds are released every day before the day's running, where every entry could have ample opportunity to find game. The Pony Express Field Trial Club provided horse hay and meals for the participants and all handlers. Thank you to Mrs. Linda Smith and Donna Gladstone for preparing all the meals for the event; they did a fantastic job!

This year's Heartland Open All-Age judges were Mr. Frank LaNasa and Mr. Mark Johnson. The Pony Express Field Trial Club is truly honored to have these fine gentlemen in the judging seats. The judges had many great performances with multiple pieces of bird work and good races. The judges noted they enjoyed the field trial, grounds, nice dogs, hospitality from the Pony Express Field Trial Club, and multiple bird contacts by all dogs.

Heartland Open All-Age

Topping the strong field of contenders was pointer male Westfall's Wheels Up, who ran in brace No. 8, handled by Mr. Andy Daugherty and owned by Mr. Bill Westfall of Liberty, Mo. Wheels Up scored three perfectly spaced out finds and a solid forward race showing his endurance with a large finish heading west along the creek line off in the distance at time. Wheels Up showcased immense style on his game and ran the country, staying on the lines and having a great connection with Andy. Daugherty handled Westfall's True Grit to score second, recording six finds in brace No. 2. Both second and third-place dogs came



Heartland Open All-Age Winners (front, l-r): Ryan Westfall with Westfall's Wheels Up, Landon Westfall with Westfall's True Grit, and Matt Cochran with Firefly's Invictus. (Behind): Bill Westfall, Mark Johnson (judge), Allen Vincent, Andy Daugherty, Frank LaNasa (judge), and Steve Auxier.

from this brace, exciting to watch as it was like a boxing match with True Grit pointing, Firefly's Invictus backing, and then Firefly's Invictus pointing and True Grit backing. True Grit was noted for a strong ground performance in challenging 30+ mph wind gusts testing his overall endurance. Mr. Ryan Westfall of Kearney, Mo., owns True Grit. Taking third was Firefly's Invictus, handled by Mr. Allen Vincent for owners Bonnie and Dennis Hidalgo. Firefly's Invictus scored multiple finds with a smooth and consistent forward race in tough windy conditions. All the dogs were noted as having good performances over the rolling hills at Smith Farms.

Gentry, Mo., February 18

Judges: Mark Johnson and Frank LaNasa

HEARTLAND OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

- 15 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—WESTFALL'S WHEELS UP, 1680653, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Ace-Westfall's Quick Trick. Bill Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

2d—WESTFALL'S TRUE GRIT, 1663635, pointer male, by Erin's Brave Heart-Westfall's Irish Bell. Ryan Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

3d—FIREFLY'S INVICTUS, 1680661, pointer female, by House's Ring of Fire-Touch's White Radiance. Dennis & Bonnie Hidalgo, owners; Allen Vincent, handler.

Heartland Open Derby

This year's derbies provided an exciting stake with many solid performances. We thank our judges, Mr. Frank LaNasa and Mr. Mark Johnson. First place was credited to Beeler's White Knight, handled by Mr. Scott Beeler and owned by Charlie and Scott Beeler. White Knight put on a big front-running all-age performance with five nice finds. Second place was Westfall's Pioneer Pete, handled by Mr. Andy Daugherty and owned by Mr. Ryan Westfall. Pioneer Pete scored a nice limb found by his scout by the pond north of the clubhouse. Pioneer finished the 45-minute brace strong with a good finish. Third place was Sandridge Big Iron, handled by Mr. Allen Vincent. Big Iron scored two

finds and a good forward race.

HEARTLAND OPEN DERBY

- 7 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—BEELER'S WHITE KNIGHT, 1700938, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Touch's Wildwood Flower. Scott & Charlie Beeler, owners; Scott Beeler, handler.

2d—WESTFALL'S PIONEER PETE, 1698838, pointer male, by Foster's Tall Cotton-Flush Em Feathers Queen. Ryan Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

3d—SANDRIDGE BIG IRON, 1700919, pointer male, by Westfall's True Grit-Gin Smoke And Lies. Allen Vincent, owner and handler.



Heartland Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Scott Beeler and Larry Smith with Beeler's White Knight, Landon Westfall with Westfall's Pioneer Pete, and Matt Cochran with Sandridge Big Iron, Thomas Smith, and Emerie Smith. (Behind): Terry Doolittle, Frank LaNasa (judge), Bill Westfall, Ryan Westfall, Mark Johnson (judge), Allen Vincent, and Andy Daugherty.

Pony Express Amateur All-Age

The Pony Express Amateur All-Age, with many nice dogs entered, made the stake a competitive competition. The stake showed many quality pieces of bird work with each brace of dogs. Taking the top honors was Nemaha Magic Marker, handled by Dr. Pat McInteer was three nice finds credited with stylish bird work and excellent ground performance. Coming in second was Working Class, handled by Steve Auxier. "Mack" showed his all-age ground race and was credited with several finds. Mack finished the hour, reaching at time. Nemaha Tap Water for Dr. Pat McInteer was braced with Working Class. This was an exciting brace with several finds for each of the dogs. The weather, with higher wind and light rain, was challenging

for both dogs.

Gentry, Mo., February 18

Judges: Greg Hellbusch and Ken Sanderson

AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats] – 8 Pointers
1st—NEMAHA MAGIC MARKER, 1687208, male, by Nemaha Night Hawk-C E K's Meaculpa. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.

2d—WORKING CLASS, 1658384, male, by Elhew Fibber McGee-Ice's Elhew Reba. Steve Auxier, owner and handler.

3d—NEMAHA TAP WATER, 1696256, male, by Coldwater Spectre-Coldwater June. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.

Pony Express Amateur Derby

The Pony Express All-Age Derby was noted as a very competitive derby stake as many showed the qualities of the extreme range, with all-age independence to judge. First place honors went to Nemaha Touch A Grey for Dr. Pat McInteer. He showed intensity on the ground and was credited with several stylish finds. Second place Tews Hotspot, for Tommy Smith, showed her good all-age race sticking to the lines and pushing to the front for her handler with two finds. Third place was Worsham's Spitfire ("Tom"). Tom was credited for his ground performance and bird



Pony Express Amateur All-Age Winners (front, l-r): Doug Watt with Nemaha Magic Marker, Steve Auxier with Working Class, and Pat McInteer's grandson, Eli, with Nemaha Tap Water. (Behind): Emerie Smith, Thomas Smith, Dr. Pat McInteer, and Ken Sanderson (judge).

work and hitting his objectives, rounding out the field of competitors.

Judges: Bruce Bryant and Kirk Swanson
AMATEUR DERBY – 9 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—NEMAHA TOUCH A GREY, 1700806, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Touch's Wimbledon. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.

2d—TEWS HOTSPOT, 1701683, pointer female, by S F Bandwagon-S F Rushhour. Tommy Smith, owner and handler.

3d—WORSHAM'S SPITFIRE, 1701266, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Erin's Miss Daisy. Joe Worsham, owner and handler.

Heartland All-Age Derby

The Heartland All-Age Derby was an exciting stake to watch. First place honors went to Worsham's Spitfire for Joe Worsham. Tom had a good and exceptional ground performance with bird work. Second place Tews Hotspot, for Tommy Smith, showed an excellent all-age race and was credited with bird work. Third place, Nemaha Lima Bean, did a fantastic job on the ground and was credited with bird work for Dr. Pat McInteer.

Judges: Bruce Bryant and Kirk Swanson
HEARTLAND ALL-AGE DERBY – 6 Pointers

1st—WORSHAM'S SPITFIRE, 1701266, male, by Touch's Grey Street-Erin's Miss Daisy. Joe Worsham, owner and handler.

2d—TEWS HOTSPOT, 1701683, female, by S F Bandwagon-S F Rushhour. Tommy Smith, owner and handler.

3d—NEMAHA LIMA BEAN, 1700804, male, by Touch's Grey Street-Jackson's Teardrop. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.

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SEDFIELDS YOUTH FIELD TRIAL

Sterling Woodruff Takes First With Pointer Female Mae

By Maria Bassham and Darron Hendley | Union Springs, Alabama | February 18, 2023



Youth Winners (front, l-r): Sterling Woodruff with Mae, Kira Jenkins with Knot, and Reese Green with Josie. (Behind): Woody Woodruff, Woody Woodruff, Jr., Robert Moorer, Jeffery Arnold, Darron Hendley, Bill Owen (judge), Justin Green, Mike Green, and David Miller (judge).

The Sedgfields Youth Trial was held at the beautiful Greenway Sportsman Club grounds just outside Union Springs, Ala., on February 18. Eighteen canine athletes were entered and run by nine enthusiastic kids aged 11 to 16. Sixteen entries were pointers, and two were German Shorthairs. The weather couldn't have been any better, and the grounds were immaculate. Every dog had bird work.

A huge thank you goes out to Mike Green for allowing these kids to run on the club grounds. Mike's lovely wife, Jan, provided a wonderful warm lunch. A birthday cake was served to celebrate Addison McDuffie's 15th birthday! Justin Green marshaled the entire stake. Maria Bassham graciously served as

the official reporter. Chris Sellers of Selmer, Tenn., generously paid all the entry fees for the kids; we are incredibly grateful for that. The love and support of fellow field trialers like these keep this great sport alive.

Thank you to the judges, well-known amateur handler Bill Owen from Santa Barbara, Calif., and local bird dog enthusiast David Miller, for spending their time in the saddle. They gave their complete attention to the action and watched these kids and dogs hard at work. Both judges commented at the end of the day that they had never had so much fun at a field trial! It was indeed a special day. We were all pleasantly surprised when the gallery count got up to 60 riders

for the afternoon braces. We love seeing the support and encouragement for all these kids doing what they love.

The Running

The first brace of the morning was Ella Grace Montgomery with her female pointer, "Rook," running with Katie Bell Varner and her male pointer, "Sam." Ella Grace had the first find with birds up at 5.5. Katie Bell had the next one at 7.5 and a covey rise. Ella Grace had her second find at 13. She relocated Rook but moved out on her own and continued her race.

Brace No. 2 was Claire Street with her male pointer, "Clay," and Ella Grace Montgomery with her female pointer, "Belle." Clay had his first find at 2.5. His next find was at the top of the hill at 6.5. He had one last find at 17, and birds took flight.

Brace No. 3 was Reese Green, with female pointer "Ann," and Claire Street and "Cole," her male pointer. Ann had her first find at 7. She relocated herself, and birds got up when Reese flushed the second time. She had her second find at 13 and her last one at 16.5. Birds were seen both times.

Brace No. 4 was Kira Jenkins and "Knot," her male pointer, with Addison McDuffie and male pointer, "Lou." Knot handled well and was pleasing to watch. He had three clean finds at 10, 13, and 17.

Brace No. 5 was Hayes Green with male pointer, "Jack," and Sterling Woodruff with female pointer, "Mae." Both dogs stopped

for a divided find, with Jack backing Mae. They both stopped a second time at 5, facing each other. Sterling flushed a covey. Mae had her last find at 8. She was tapped on her head to relocate, and birds got up after she repositioned. Hayes and Jack had one last find right as time was called. He relocated but had an unproductive.

Brace No. 6 was Sterling Woodruff with male pointer, "Sammy," and Shelby Street and her pointer female, "Jenny." Jenny started the brace with a find at 4 and birds up. Both dogs had a divided find at 11, with Jenny flushing a covey and Shelby firing her gun. She had her last find at 14. Sammy had a point at 17. He was relocated with the whistle but ended with an unproductive.

Brace No. 7 was Addison McDuffie with male pointer, "Rebel," and Reese Green with her German Shorthair female, "Josie." Rebel had four finds at 2, 6, 8, and 12. Josie had two finds at 8 and 14.

Brace No. 8 was Katie Bell Varner with female pointer, "Sassy," and Kira Jenkins with male pointer, "Jag." Sassy pointed immediately at 30 seconds after release with birds up. She had her last find at 18, also producing birds. Jag stopped for a covey that took flight, but Kira never dismounted. Jag continued his race.

Brace No. 9 was Shelby Street with female pointer, "Belle," and Hayes Green and his German Shorthair male, "Bo." Both dogs stopped immediately at the start of the brace with a divided find. Bo had a covey rise, and shot was fired. Hayes and Bo had four finds at 5, 11, 17, and 19. Birds were seen in all four finds. Belle had a find at 3 with a relocation but continued independently. She had another find at 9 with judges seeing birds. She stopped at 12 but relocated and moved on again. She had one last find at 17 and ended the brace chasing the one single quail across the field.

The Winners

Sterling Woodruff came from Shelbyville, Tenn., to take first place with his 3-year-old female pointer Mae. Sterling and Mae also took Top Dog in the Junior Division for handlers 12 and under. Sterling's father, Woody, would show well with Mae in the National Amateur Free-For-All Championship the following week. Second-place honors went to Knot, handled by Kira Jenkins from Thomasville, Ga. Kira has already placed in two Alabama Youth trials this season. Union Springs native Reese Green also returned to the winners' circle for the second time this season with her female German Shorthair, Josie.

Even though there are only four recognized placements, every one of these youngsters is a winner! Congratulations to every one of them for a job well done!

CARROLL COUNTY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Lester's Shockwave Wins Lynn Taylor Memorial Open All-Age

By Jim Atchison | Huntingdon, Tennessee | February 23, 2023

The Carroll County Field Trial Club hosted their annual open trials near Huntingdon, Tenn., beginning with their Lynn Taylor Open All-Age stake on February 23. Lester's Shockwave, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton and handled by Gary Lester, won first. Second place was won by Coldwater Odyssey, owned by Andrew and Debra Agnew and handled by Weldon Bennett. Third place was won by Mayfield Storm Charger, owned by Scott Mason and Jake Davis and handled by Gary Lester.

The Open Derby stake followed immediately, and first place was won by Coldwater War Cry, co-owned by Paul Melton and Weldon Bennett and handled by Gary McKibben. Rebel Gold, owned and handled by David Williams, won second place, and Miller's King Poast, owned by Jannie Chapman, and handled by Gary Lester, won third.

Purina again generously sponsored this annual renewal by assisting the club financially and providing dog food for the winners. Their sponsorship was acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

Dennis Sneed from Ewing, Ill., judged the All-Age and Derby stakes. Scott Beeler from Lancaster, Mo., judged the All-Age competition, while Jamie Daniels from Dawson, Ga., served as the second judge for the Derby contest.

The Carroll County effort, again, came together well, thanks primarily to the efforts of David Williams. He works almost year-round to do everything he can to ensure his three one-hour courses are in excellent



All-Age Winners (front, l-r): Rose Marie Daniels, Gary Lester with Lester's Shockwave, Gary McKibben with Coldwater War Cry, and Scott Mason and Allison Daniels with Mayfield Storm Charger. (Behind): Scott Beeler (judge), Ferrell Miller, Weldon Bennett, Dennis Sneed (judge).

condition. Others who helped in many ways included Angie Williams, Gary McKibben, Weldon Bennett, Jim and Charlotte Atchison, Michelle Clark, Phillip Barnett, Danny "Lebob" Stanfill, Richard Simmons, and Jamie Daniels. The Carroll County gatherings continue to come together in such comfortable and casual ways that they are much like happy homecomings when everyone is together.

All-Age Winners

Lester's Shockwave won first with his strong performance in brace No. 4. The dogs braced together were Shockwave, the retiring 2022 National Champion, and Miller's Blindsider, the 2023 National Champion, with the announcement having been made just two days earlier. Shockwave and his bracemate stood at 5, birds were flushed, and both handlers shot before leaving the area of

native vegetation, which is hunted early on the first-hour course. He then continued strong across the Harold Miller property, crossed Ball Creek Road, and continued around the Miles Farm and across its most northern edge onto the property of an adjoining Buena Vista neighbor. He pointed at 34, and Lester flushed until birds flew while the 6-year-old pointer stood confidently. He then continued to hunt until 49, where he had another find, with his bracemate backing, on a hill between the Sandy River bottom and abandoned railroad right of way. From there, Shockwave finished the hour with a strong finish.

Coldwater Odyssey won second place on the third-hour course. He circled the Quiet Place Loop with no birds and then had birds for Weldon Bennett three times in pretty quick order. The first find was a 28 in mature bicolor along the gravel farm road that is used while

leaving the Vickers property. Continuing out of the Vickers bottom, Odyssey, now eight years old, had a second find in bicolor, where the course makes a 90-degree turn near an abandoned hog farrowing house. He then pointed again, and Bennett flushed birds at 47 off to the right while moving back through the Vickers Farm rolling hills area and finished the hour well.

Mayfield Storm Charger won third for Gary Lester in the second hour of the competition with Scott Mason, who co-owns the dog with Jake Davis, watching from the gallery. He had two nice finds, the first at 39 near Willis Road and the second at 51 after going onto the Vickers Farm and to the right, down into a hollow near the Green Allen Springs Road. From there, he continued in the westerly direction of the course to finish the hour.

The Other All-Age Contenders

Dominator's Mae Belle, handled by Jamie Daniels and owned by Nick Berrong and Tierra Hadley, and Miller's King Poast, handled by Gary Lester for Jannie Chapman, were the first dogs released, the temperature already at 65 degrees at 8 a.m. Both Jannie Chapman and Nick Berrong were mounted and watched their dogs. Immediately after crossing Ball Creek Road at 16, King Poast pointed, but no birds were flushed. Continuing to the east side of the cotton field on the Miles Farm, both dogs stood at 27, with King Poast backing Mae Belle. Mae Belle moved while Daniels was flushing and was picked up. King Poast continued and pointed again at 44, where Lester flushed birds on the vegetated hill area lying along the east side of the abandoned railway right of way. He then finished the hour well.

Coldwater War Cry went next, braced with the third-place winner. He was handled by Weldon Bennett, who co-owns the derby with Paul Melton. War Cry had birds north of the clubhouse at 32 but got off course while in the Willis Road area and never returned to the front.

Quintin Wiseman had Bad Prairie's Valley Girl in the second brace, paired with the second-place winner, Coldwater Odyssey. Prairie Girl had no birds during her first 48 minutes and was picked up as the temperature continued to spiral toward a high in the upper 70s during the afternoon.

After lunch, Miller's Blindsider was braced with Lester's Shockwave, the first-place winner. Nick Berrong was on horseback while Jamie Daniels handled. The dogs shared a divided find, with both handlers firing. Blindsider stood again during the hour, backing at 49, while birds were flushed near the railroad right of way mentioned above in brace No. 1.

Dominator's Rebel Queen, owned by Nick Berrong and handled by Jamie Daniels, and Coldwater Paradise, owned and handled by



Derby Winners (front, l-r): Weldon Bennett with Coldwater War Cry, David Williams with Rebel Gold, and Gary Lester with Miller's King Poast. (Behind): Ferrell Miller, Rose Marie Daniels, Jamie Daniels (judge), Gary McKibben, Dennis Sneed (judge), Michelle Clark, and Allison Daniels.

Gary McKibben, were braced together. Rebel Queen had birds near the clubhouse before crossing Smyrna Road and then continued onto the Vickers Farm and found a covey near Green Allen Springs Road. Coldwater Paradise had birds once during the hour, at 50, and McKibben flushed with ease.

David Williams had Rebel Dreams, with Jamie Daniels and Dominator's Queen Bee, in brace No. 6. Rebel Dreams had birds in extremely dense bicolor at 35 and then had another find off to the right at 45 while leaving the rolling hills on Vickers. Daniels then called point, almost immediately, and flushed birds at 47, off to the left near Green Allen Springs Road. Both dogs then finished the hour.

The temperature dropped from about 40 degrees during the night to 38 degrees, with light rain on Friday morning. Haney's Hurricane Seeker, owned and handled by David Russell, and Rebel Survivor, owned and handled by David Williams, were the first to go at 8 a.m. Survivor had birds at 5. The pair hunted until 49 when Hurricane Seeker pointed, and Rebel Survivor backed. Yet, while waiting for Williams to arrive, Survivor moved and was picked up. Russell successfully flushed the birds and continued, finding no more birds until time was out.

Rebel Cause, owned by David Williams and handled by Jamie Daniels, went next, with David Russell handling Como Rain, owned by the Arthur, Blackwell, and Russell partnership. Neither dog found any birds and stopped only once when Rebel Cause had an unproductive at 40, which Como Rain backed.

Como Thunder and Dominator's Wild Bill competed in brace No. 9. David Russell handled Como Thunder for the above mentioned partnership, and Jamie Daniels handled Dominator's Wild Bill for owners Jack and Sarah Schwarz and Nick Berrong. Wild Bill's owners attended these stakes. The three were great company and much enjoyed by their hosts and Carroll County friends. Como Thunder found birds once, at 31, in bicolor below the farrowing house on the third-hour course. Wild Bill found no birds during his effort.

Lester's Storm Surge, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton and handled by Gary Lester, was the bye-dog in the last brace. He

had an unproductive at 20 and was then picked up.

Huntingdon, Tenn., February 23
Judges: Scott Beeler and Dennis Sneed
LYNN TAYLOR MEMORIAL OPEN ALL-AGE
[One-Hour Heats] – 19 Pointers

1st—LESTER'S SHOCKWAVE, 1681623, pointer male, by Ransom-Beane's Line Dancer. Tommy & Bonnie Hamilton, owners; Gary Lester, handler.

2d—COLDWATER ODYSSEY, 1669589, pointer male, by Coldwater Warrior-Tibbs Avatar. Andrew & Debra Agnew, owners; Weldon Bennett, handler.

3d—MAYFIELD STORM CHARGER, 1701588, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. Scott Mason & Jake Davis, owners; Gary Lester, handler.

Derby Winners

Coldwater War Cry won first place. He is owned by Weldon Bennett and Paul Melton and was handled by Gary McKibben, standing in for Bennett, who had lost his voice due to bronchitis. War Cry ran a strong race and had one find on the back side of Quiet Place Loop in bicolor. His strength and style, both running and on game, were impressive and earned the judge's favor.

Second place was awarded to Rebel Gold, owned and handled by David Williams. He, too, had a great 30-minute performance with one find, with birds pointed north of the barn in bicolor.

Miller's King Poast won third, handled by Gary Lester for his owner, Jannie Chapman. He ran an excellent race and demonstrated his bright future as an all-age contender. Only a few days before this placement, he placed second in the all-age competition of the West Tennessee stakes at Dancyville.

The Derby Judges

Dennis Sneed and Scott Little were scheduled to judge the Derby stake, but a horse accident changed that plan, and Jamie Daniels graciously agreed at the last minute to serve as the second judge. An all-age bye-dog would be run after lunch, and the derby competition would start immediately. But within the first minute after the All-Age breakaway, Scott Little's horse went into a bucking frenzy, and Scott was unloaded. He stayed on for more than eight seconds but was bucked off and unable to judge. A trip to the doctor the next day established that there were no broken bones, collapsed lungs, or anything serious but that Scott was very sore and bruised. Lisa reported a few days later that he was feeling better and had returned to work after taking it easy for a couple of days.

Judges: Jamie Daniels and Dennis Sneed
OPEN DERBY – 9 Pointers

1st—COLDWATER WAR CRY, 1699004, pointer male, by Valiant-Coldwater Belle. Weldon Bennett & Paul Melton, owners; Weldon Bennett, handler.

2d—REBEL GOLD, 1701829, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Rebel Maiden. David Williams, owner and handler.

3d—MILLER'S KING POAST, 1702090, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. Jannie Chapman, owner; Gary Lester, handler.

GYP HILLS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Rescheduled Trial Takes Place At Z Bar Ranch

By Douglas Meyer | Medicine Lodge, Kansas | February 24, 2023



Amateur All-Age Winners (l-r): Lynn Oxendine with Double Rebel Cowboy, Lou Qualtiere (judge), and Doug Meyer with Greypointe Oso.



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (l-r): Lynn Oxendine (judge), Jeanette Heise with Ten Oaks Annie A, Lou Qualtiere, Stylish Miss Bell with Tom Curtsinger, Paul Roederer with Cruise Rocket, and Doug Meyer (judge).



Amateur Derby Winners (l-r): Brian Williams, Lynn Oxendine with Worsham's Spitfire, Joe Worsham, Lou Qualtiere with Ten Oaks Maggie May, Tom Curtsinger with Stylish Hot Chic, Sean Anderson (judge), Kristina Wall, and Alex Mauck.

The Gyp Hills Field Trial Club Amateur stakes were rescheduled from November to February 24-26, 2023, to accommodate unforeseen date conflicts in the fall. Despite the change, we had an excellent renewal over the 43,000-acre Z Bar Ranch southwest of Medicine Lodge, Kan., with quite a few wild bird contacts and more seen along the three one-hour courses and the separate derby venue. Despite the drought that had gripped the western reaches of Kansas, the cover on the Z Bar and the rotational grazing of bison had the venue in very good shape.

The courses on the Z Bar are routed along and between the drainages of the Salt Fork of the Arkansas River, Cottage Creek, and West and East Dry Creeks, which sustain the native bobwhites, pheasants, and increasing population of lesser prairie chickens. These wild birds can be found anywhere, and dogs must search diligently and intelligently along the various plum thickets and hillsides to point these birds. While the birds utilize the riparian areas adjacent to the water features, they often eat western ragweed seed and other weed seeds where overhead cover from sumac and sandhill plums provide protection. Dogs who work this country know where to look, much as the chukar dogs of Idaho know to seek out the rock outcroppings on the hilltops. Our judges were a group that enjoy this type of country and came to watch good dogs hunt it to the limits in the All-Age and Derby and to apply their skills properly in the Shooting Dog stake.

Judges Lou Qualtiere and Sean Anderson were in the saddle for the hour All-Age, which started in cold temperatures. Lou splits his time between Saskatchewan and Southern Missouri and is a stalwart of the trials at Mortlach, Sask., and a former trustee of Region 14. Sean competes with their Vizslas and runs them in wild bird trials, including the stakes on Sharptail at the Namekagon Barrens. Brisk morning temperatures led us to wait an hour before turning our first brace loose a little after 9 a.m. Double Rebel Cowboy ("Slash") for Lynn Oxendine always runs an all-age race, and this time was shot over on a covey of bobs along the Salt Fork to take the blue

ribbon. It was great to have Alex Mauck in camp on their way back west to take second with Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Dallee. Braced with Dallee, Greypointe Oso ("Bear") for Doug Meyer was named third with a nice handling race and a rooster pheasant contact just as his hour expired.

In the Amateur Derby, a 30-minute qualifier for the U. S. Amateur Derby Invitational, Sean Anderson was joined by Doug Meyer to look at the 13 entries. Several coveys were seen during the stake, and Joe Worsham's nice pointer male, Worsham's Spitfire, had a beautiful broke covey find on a hillside to take first place. Ten Oaks Maggie Mae ran a very busy forward race for Lou Qualtiere to claim second. Chic for Tom Curtsinger rounded out the placements with a solid derby effort.

In the featured one-hour Amateur Shooting Dog stake, 16 were entered under the review of Lynn Oxendine and Doug Meyer. Lynn has judged far and wide and likes an all-age dog but also knows the difference. The weather was pleasant for dogs and riding. Our first brace created some excitement right away as Ten Oaks Annie A for Jeanette Heise and Roulette Rocket ("Penny") for Paul Roederer were loosed. Within ten minutes, both dogs were working game and pointed on the hillside in sagebrush and native grass. Initial flushing failed to produce, and Annie nailed a single bobwhite on relocation from what appeared to be a covey feeding through the landscape. It was a nice piece of work with Penny honoring when notified. Shortly after, at the front, both dogs were again smelling something and pointed downhill left of course. Annie was standing, but out of view of Penny, who was below and ahead, also stopped. Before Roederer could get off his horse, Penny tried to relocate, resulting in a nervous and likely running pheasant exiting the area. Both dogs would have been given credit, but Penny followed and was picked up. Annie ended up with a very nice searching race from here to claim the first-place prize. Stylish Miss Bell, for Tom Curtsinger, ran a very nice, forward, stylish, and responsive shooting dog race to be named second. Cruise Rocket, who won this shooting dog stake last year with two

great covey finds, had an excellent race with a strong finish to be named third. We had several nice ground performances to consider, including Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Ajay (Mauck), Ten Oaks Sophie's Jack (Qualtiere), Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Dallee (Mauck), Sia (Anderson), and another dog or two picked up after bird issues.

We thank Purina and Greg Blair for their continued support of the Club with this renewal and the National Qualifier and Purina Points All-Age stakes we run in the fall. Our thanks to Carolyn Roederer and others who pitched in with dog wagon duties which aren't easy on a venue that stretches a dozen miles winding through the ranch. Major thanks to the Z Bar ownership, management, and the hands for our access and assisting with preparation, mowing, turning off fences, etc. It is great to run on native and wild game in the beautiful Gypsum or Red Hills of South-Central Kansas. If you can, it's worth the drive to witness this beautiful country and ride where the buffalo and wildlife roam.

Medicine Lodge, Kan., February 24 Judges: Sean Anderson and Lou Qualtiere AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

- 7 Pointers and 2 Setters

- 1st—DOUBLE REBEL COWBOY, 1673791, pointer male, by Frontline Butch-Double Rebel Mayhem. Lynn Oxendine, owner and handler.
2d—MAUCK'S WYEAST OWYHEE DALLEE, 1687695, setter female, by T's Gunslinger-Hidden Jasmine. Alex Mauck, owner and handler.
3d—GREYPOINTE OSO, 1678566, pointer male, by Whippoorwill Justified-Greypointe Invierna. Doug Meyer, owner and handler.

Judges: Doug Meyer and Lynn Oxendine AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats] - 6 Pointers, 7 Setters and 2 Vizslas

- 1st—TEN OAKS ANNIE A, 1658799, pointer female, by Erin's Brave Heart-Nathan's Sis. Jeanette Heise & Lou Qualtiere, owners; Jeanette Heise, handler.
2d—STYLISH MISS BELL, 1691586, pointer female, by Valiant-Haney's North Star. Tom Curtsinger, owner and handler.
3d—CRUISE ROCKET, 1686934, setter male, by Rhythm Rocket-Rocketing Hope. Paul Roederer & John Settle, owners; Paul Roederer, handler.

Judges: Sean Anderson and Doug Meyer
AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Pointers 4 Setters

1st—*WORSHAM'S SPITFIRE*, 1701266, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Erin's Miss Daisy. Joe Worsham, owner and handler.

2d—*TEN OAKS MAGGIE MAE*, 1697901, pointer female, by Touch's Diamante-Ten Oaks Annie A. Jeanette Heise & Lou Qualtiere, owners; Lou Qualtiere, handler.

3d—*STYLISH HOT CHIC*, 1698303, pointer female, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Tom Curtsinger, owner and handler.

NOW ACCEPTING HALL OF FAME NOMINATIONS!

Please email your nominations of 200 words or less to:
dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

HANOVER FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella Wins Waverly Coleman Amateur Shooting Dog

By Kirk Regensburg | King William, Virginia | March 4, 2023



Waverly Coleman Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): James Festa with "Dog of the Day" trophy, Marty Festa with Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella, Steve Graham with Chippokes Cracker Jack, and Lee Flanders with Chippokes Fancy Lady. (Behind): Tommy Stargell (judge) and Jimmy Crandall (judge).

The Hanover Field Trial Association's fall U. S. Complete trial was held on Saturday, March 4, 2023, at the Cohoke Shooting Preserve. The Association would like to thank the Gottwald family for allowing the trial to be held on their private shooting preserve.

Dennis Bosewell had the facilities in good condition for the field trial. The Club is fortunate to use these pristine grounds for field trials. It was a crisp sunny day—perfect weather to run dogs. All had a good time.

We thank Nestlé Purina for being the national sponsor of the U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association weekend and championship trials. Purina is providing discount coupons for dog food to all dogs who have earned placements in the various stakes.

Several club members pitched in to make this field trial a success. George Ramkey, Bert Wright, and Kirk Regensburg planted birds. Retta Ramkey typed the program. Art Mourino provided the Kawasaki Mule, which Isabella Rector used to transport the dogs and handlers to the starting line. Pat Brooks provided the gallery wagon. Jimmy Crandall and Steve Graham drove the truck to pull the gallery wagon.

We want to send a special thank you to Ron Blackburn and Heather Keener for helping supply the birds.

Charlotte Regensburg and Judy Jones provided lunch; fried chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, and butter beans were served. The Hanover Club is fortunate to have many members and wives who help make this trial successful, and we appreciate everyone's help.

Four dogs were entered in the Puppy stake and eight in the Derby. Twenty-two dogs were in the Shooting Dog stake. Judging the Puppy and Derby stakes were George Ramkey and Dennis Kivikko. Jim Jones and Tommy Stargell judged the Shooting Dog.

River, a pointer female handled by Marty Festa, took first place in the Puppy stake. River maintained a strong forward race with fancy ground movement. She was very independent and checked in appropriately with her handler. Second place was Tilly, a pointer female, handled by Dean Avillion. She looked good moving, showed independence, and maintained a good connection with her handler. Third place was Lucy, a pointer female, also handled by Dean Avillion. A bookend to the second-place pup, but she wasn't quite pushed as hard by her very young brace mate.

In the Derby stake, Ace, a pointer male, took first. Owned and handled by Verlene Stephenson, Ace ran a strong forward race. He handled well, looked great on the ground, and checked all his objectives. Ace had two well-spaced finds and handled with shooting

dog manners. Second was Freedom, a pointer male. Owned and handled by Ken DeLong, Freedom ran hard and strong with a fancy running style. He had one unproductive and one find with good style and broke dog manners. Pete, a setter male, took third. Owned and handled by Ashby Morgan, he moved well and was pleasing to the eye. He had a good ground race. Pete finished with one unproductive and one find with good manners.

During this trial, we carried seven dogs that we would have been pleased to name as winners, but there is the adage that "field trials are to the front." In this case, a continuous concentric circular ground pattern with a sporadic forward pattern throughout the 30 minutes did not hold serve. All seven dogs pointed their birds nicely, backed when called upon, and ran good patterns. It all came down to who showed the final necessity, a powerful forward finish. The last two minutes have to be as strong as the first two. We allowed every handler to have their dog seize those last two minutes; three filled the requirement and placed.

First place was Harper, a pointer female owned by Marty Festa. Harper's finish was to the front, and she actually entered the beginning portion of the course. We saw her disappear past the waiting gallery and into the course at time. She had her birds well located four times and was rock steady. Her performance was without blemish, earning her "Dog of the Day" recognition.

In second place was Jack, a setter male handled by Lee Flanders. He started his time running big to the front woods on the right side. He did not come around as we swung around, taking in the left side of the course. He was on point and dead ahead as we approached the road crossing. He was gone for a good amount but was seen pointing well within the acceptable period. He went on to have four majestic finds and finished as you wished to see one finish. Third was Molly, a pointer female handled by Lee Flanders. Molly, although a female, attacks a course in a male fashion with long powerful strides. Her birds were pointed at 5, 12, 21, and 25, with long flushing attempts and relocations on the last two. Like the other two dogs, Molly



Puppy Winners (front, l-r): Marty Festa with Blue Ribbon River, James Festa with Huckleberry's Double Take, and Dean Avillion with Huckleberry's Double Trouble. (Behind): Dennis Kivikko.

required no backing and ran the course to the front, had not a second of let down, and finally was well forward in the big green field.

Jake and Molly severely pressed the winning dog, Harper, in every way. The Shooting Dog stake required constant visual attention and attention to detail. All seven dogs gained our respect.

Harper, owned by Marty Festa, was named "Dog of the Day," winning the Waverly Coleman Shooting Dog trophy.

The Club would like to thank all the judges, participants, and guests for coming and supporting our sport. The Association looks forward to its next U. S. Complete trial scheduled for the fall.

**King William, Va., March 4 – One Course
Judges: Dennis Kivikko and George Ramkey
AMATEUR PUPPY – 4 Pointers**

1st—BLUE RIBBON RIVER, 1701966, female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Huckleberry's Lucky Penny. Martin Festa, owner and handler.

2d—HUCKLEBERRYS DOUBLE TAKE, 1701987, female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Huckleberry's Lucky Penny. Dean & Catherine Avillion, owners; Dean Avillion, handler.

3d—HUCKLEBERRY'S DOUBLE TROUBLE, 1701986, female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Huckleberry's Lucky Penny. Dean & Catherine Avillion, owners; Dean Avillion, handler.

AMATEUR DERBY

– 3 Pointers, 4 Setters and 1 Brittany

1st—CAROLINA'S WINNING ACE, 1696147, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Steel Valley Wardance. Verlene D. Stephenson, owner and handler.

2d—MAY'S LEGACY OF JUSTICE, 1695469, pointer male, by Faith's Maximum Justice-Chasehill Mighty May. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.

3d—PINEKONE PETE, 1697771, setter male, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way-Quickmarksman's Silky. Pinekone Kennels, owner; Ashby Morgan, handler.



Derby Winners (l-r): Dennis Kivikko, Verlene Stephenson with Carolina's Winning Ace, Ken DeLong with May's Legacy of Justice, and Ashby Morgan with Pinekone Pete.

**Judges: Jim Jones and Tommy Stargell
WAVERLY COLEMAN AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
– 11 Pointers, 8 Setters and 3 Brittans**

1st—BLUE RIBBON'S HARPER BELLA, 1682768, pointer female, by Bud of Piney Woods-Blue Ribbon Bella. Martin Festa, owner and handler.

2d—CHIPPOKES CRACKER JACK, 1691321, setter male, by Skyview New Edition-Grid Iron's Sorrell's Penny. Lee Flanders, owner and handler.

3d—CHIPPOKES FANCY LADY, 1689564, pointer female, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Hirollins Fancy Lady. Lee Flanders, owner and handler.

LOWCOUNTRY BIRD DOG ASSOCIATION

Faithful Wins Carolina Celebration Open Shooting Dog Classic

By Ernie Saniga | Allendale, South Carolina | March 6, 2023

The Carolina Celebration was held March 6-12 at Clarendon Farms, Yadkin Ridge, near Allendale, S. C. This Purina Points Classic attracted 62 entries handled by five professionals and four amateurs.

Yadkin Ridge comprises more than 8,500 acres completely fenced and, apart from a few dove fields, is farmed exclusively for quail. Another 2,500-acre tract of Clarendon Farms, also managed for quail, is near Beaufort, S. C.

Yadkin Ridge has 105 miles of quail feed trails hunted by the owners and their guests. It is a privilege to ride and run dogs on property of this quality, and our gratitude goes to the owners, Jim Kennedy and Alex Taylor.

Dog trainer and trial manager Billy Kerr has laid out six one-hour courses through the gently rolling terrain. The more open morning courses are on the north side of Miller Creek Road, while the afternoon courses, tighter but still plenty open, are on the south side.

It was warm throughout the trial, with highs above 82 and lows of 60.

Free lunches were available in the trial lodge on all days but one. Thanks go to Billy Kerr and his wife Lauren for the food service. The lodge doubles as judges' quarters and the site of the dinners each night. Chris Rahm of Stoney Creek at Bindon Plantation donated dinners and lunches. Jason Hewitt of Private Land Management provided a prime rib dinner for everyone on Friday night. Stanton Harrell and Murphy Renfro cooked chicken



Carolina Celebration Open Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Faithful, Hauser's Rollin Thunder, and Backcountry Buddy, joined by spectators.

on the last night.

Billy Kerr did most of the marshaling, helped by Nate Bishop on occasion. John Ferguson drove the dog wagon, a specially modified Humvee with padded seats.

Whether it was time of the day, the concentration of birds, or the dozens of other variables affecting bird finding, the two later afternoon courses, five and six, were the most productive in terms of coveys pointed during this trial. All three winners came from these courses.

The judges were Chris Sellers of Tennessee and Roger Key of Alabama. Attentive, experienced, and willing to ride when needed, their decisions were applauded.

The trial winner was Faithful, owned by South Carolinians Roger and Susan Duerksen. Mike Tracy handled her.

Faithful ran on parts of courses five and six since the two previous braces were up early. The little female scored first at 19, then made a wide swing to the right on the part of the course where visibility is limited, Tracy singing to her confidently. After a six-minute absence, she was found about 60 yards to the right front in some bi-color with a covey in front of her, upright style, and finished manners as in all her work. This was at 29. After the pond, she had another covey at 39 directly to the front. Six minutes later, she scored again. Then Tracy asked her to go here in this showy country, and she did, being

seen in spurts to the far front before the turn to Millers Creek Road. We last saw her at 55; at time, Tracy and his scout Casey Hollander went far and wide to find her. At 66, she entered the dog wagon on her own as we all waited to make the long ride to headquarters.

Second went to Hauser's Rollin Thunder, owned by Deb and Sean Hauser, also handled by Mike Tracy. Thunder ran in brace No. 14 on course five, breaking away at 3:06. He had a level, consistent performance, good in all dimensions. After the turn away from the railroad tracks, he was standing at 9, birds in front of him. Then at 25, after the creek crossing, he was seen on point to the front with Tracy riding to him, waving his hat up and down to indicate that the birds were leaving, the judges riding hard here to get a glimpse of them as they rocketed away.

After the pond, Tracy sent him 90 degrees to the right around a bowl and rode ahead. This was in an area of young pines. Four minutes later, at 52, we heard the call of point from George Tracy, scouting. Thunder was buried in some thick cover with a covey in front of him, high tail and steady at flush. Sent on, he stood again at 59, again all in order at flush and shot. Tracy shot him away to finish.

Mike Martino won third with Chris Catanzarite's Backcountry Buddy, who was here for some of the running and ran a dog himself but left early to run an amateur trial.

Buddy ran on course six on the last afternoon. He scored first at 6 on a limb, Anthony Martino finding him after we passed him. Buddy made a wide swing to the left, and after a six-minute absence, we heard the call of point again from Anthony, this time to the back left where we again rode by him, birds well located. He started on a rare edge at 36, pointed briefly, then pointed about 100 yards to the right with a covey in front of him, tail up, and finished manners, the same on all his work. There was some confusion after this as we had not got this far on course six yet, but Billy Kerr galloped to the front and instructed Martino on where to finish. Buddy was heeled across a pond dam, sent, and pointed immediately, birds in front of him. The dog then swung wide around the big curve on the right, and we rode up a knoll to find him standing at 57 with a nice covey. Martino sent him over the next knoll, rode up to see where he was, and stopped his horse. We cantered up to see the dog shrinking away.

Another bird finder with a good race and mannerly bird work was Miller's Extreme Heat, with five finds on course five. The little female had a snappy effort on the ground and was sharp on everything. There were also a handful of good running dogs with two and three finds.

The Running

Brace No. 1 was Miller's Automatic Upgrade (G. Tracy) and Deception's Wild Justice (M. Martino). The start was at 2 p.m. on Monday, March 6, on course four, 82 degrees, according to the weather channel.

Justice pointed at 8, but the birds left, Upgrade backing. Both ran well, with Justice missing at the end and Upgrade finishing with two unproductives.

Brace No. 2 saw Miller's Extreme Heat (M. Tracy) and Hightailing Penny (K. Joyce). Heat was covered above while Penny's handler asked for the tracker, only to find her pointing to the front a moment later.

Brace No. 3 saw Backcountry Pure Gold (M. Martino) and Miller's Southern Gossip (G. Tracy). Gold ran a pretty forward race with easy handling but did not score. Gossip scored nicely at 2, but the tracker was asked for later.

Brace No. 4 saw Answered Prayers (M. Tracy) and Sunbelt's Repete (M. Martino) on course one at 8 a.m. with a 60-degree temperature showing. Very dry and dusty. With both searching well, Prayers did not score, while Repete was up after a mistake.

Brace No. 5 saw R Q's Saddle (J. Tracy) and Miller's Upgrading The Ante (G. Tracy). Saddle and Ante shared a find at 34. Ante then pointed a snake at 37 and finished with a field trial find at 56. Saddle was shown to the far front at 56 and then found pointing over a hill after time, but nothing was home.

Brace No. 6 saw Hightailing Maggie (K. Joyce) and Reedy Creek Dial Tone (M. Tracy). The two running dogs showed early on the wide-open start to the third course but disappeared midway.

Brace No. 7 saw Calico's Sky's The Limit (G. Tracy) and Steel City Raven (J. Tracy). The start was on course four, with temperatures near 80. This pair ran but looked for on the tracker at 25 and 40, respectively.

Brace No. 8 saw Miller's Special Cinderella (G. Tracy) and Electronic Warfare (B. Goodwin). The two dogs tried, but birds were not moving until Cinderella had a covey early but made a mistake. Warfare missed the creek crossing but found his handler on his own and went well forward but was up at 51.

Brace No. 9 saw Backcountry Bruiser (C. Catanzarite) and Bittersweet War Cry (M. Tracy). Bruiser had a good covey find to the right at 12, but unproductives at 15 and 31 had him up. War Cry stopped at 25, but nothing was flushed. He finished with a flourish with good finds at 42, 45, and 52.

Brace No. 10 saw Hauser's Hard Line (M. Tracy) and Pine Straw Hot Chocolate (J. Tracy) on course one, 57 degrees. Line erred at 8. This was Chocolate's second start in a field trial, and the setter impressed with her class and hunting ability scoring first at 21 and then with a field trial find at 45, where scout Mike Martino held his hat up far to the right. A good finish ensued.

Brace No. 11 saw Dunn's True Reign (M. Tracy) and Face To Face (M. Martino). Rein had a big forward race, George Tracy finding him way out on a limb at 16 with birds in front and scoring again at 30. He finished well to the front. Face To Face ran well but had a

mistake at the half.

Brace No. 12 saw Steel City Avenger (J. Tracy) and G J F Sparq (M. Tracy). Both were off quickly, but Sparq erred at 13 while Avenger backed. A pair of unproductives had him up at 31.

Brace No. 13 saw J C L's Hap (M. Tracy) and Towncreek Hardaway Red (M. Martino). on course four, 80 degrees. Two good running dogs with separate mistakes midway

Brace No. 14 saw Hauser's Rollin Thunder (M. Tracy) and Pine Straw Fatbottom Girl (J. Tracy). Thunder was covered earlier. Girl had a good effort but was up near the end with no birds.

Brace No. 15 saw J C L's Dal (Bill Adams) and Trumped (M. Tracy). Trumped had a find at 5, unproductives at 12 and 45, sandwiching another find at 42 with a good ground effort. Dal backed the find at 12, but two unproductives had him up.

Brace No. 16 saw Oahe Buck (T. Rice) and Raag's Rich And Rare (M. Tracy) on course one at 8 a.m. The two good dogs shared a find at 4. Then Rare pointed at 29 with Buck backing, and Tracy flushed the covey. Rare had another at 54, and both finished well.

Brace No. 17 saw Nella Belgian Brew (T. Rice) and Miller's Flowers And Lace (G. Tracy). These pointed together at 12 way out with birds flushed by both handlers. Then it was barren for both until Brew pointed at 55 with Lace backing. A mistake had Brew up.

Brace No. 18 saw Waybetter Jay (B. Kerr) and Miller's Lock And Loaded (M. Tracy). Early, all saw Jay pointing about 250 yards to the right front while Loaded stood 200 yards ahead. Kerr flushed his covey, but Loaded had an unproductive. Jay found a coyote to his liking and took him away at 40. Loaded had a nice find at 29, Tracy firing his shotgun which fell out of the scabbard later. Loaded then had a long absence, and Tracy picked up and went looking for his shotgun which he found.

Brace No. 19 saw Waybetter Rocky (M. Tracy) and Cheap Thrill (T. Rice) on course four, 79 degrees. Rice got the tracker after the sweeping 180-degree turn toward the creek. Rocky tried but was up at 50 after an unproductive

Brace No. 20 saw Pine Straw Sweet Tea (J. Tracy) and Miller's Heat Seeker (G. Tracy). Seeker vanished early while Tea scored at 16 nicely, but nothing seemed to move, so she was up before the end.

Brace No. 21 saw Hillhavyn's Good Time Rail (Martino) and Faithful (M. Tracy). Rail scored first at 16 and added another at 32 in a good effort. Faithful's effort has been described.

Brace No. 22 saw Miller's Stroll For Gold (G. Tracy) and Check It Out (M. Martino). The start was on course four since the morning running was delayed due to rain and thunder. Gold had a find at 2 but was lost early; Out was also out.

Brace No. 23 saw Miller's Blazing Hot Chick (G. Tracy) and Hillhavyn's Wild Child (J. Tracy). Child was up early with a mistake, while Chick had finds at 9 and 25 but was up before the finish.

Brace No. 24 saw Erin's Big Casino (M. Tracy) and Ironstone's Dark Horse (M. Martino). Casino left early while Dark Horse tried but was up before the end without birds.

Brace No. 25 saw Miller's Million Dollar Penny (G. Tracy) and Hillhavyn's Major Tom (M. Martino) on course one, 58 degrees. Two scratches had Tom moved here. He had two quick finds at 9 and 11, but Martino removed him since he appeared ill. Penny swung the front and scored at 23 but moved at flush.

Brace No. 26 saw Miller's War Bonnet (M. Tracy) and Town Creek Hardaway Jill (M. Martino). A good pair, Bonnet with finds at 31 and 54 and Jill with one at 44.

Brace No. 27 saw Waybetter Thor (M.



Carolina Celebration Judges

Tracy) and McFay's Dire Straits (M. Martino). These two went together early, Martino riding off with the harness in hand. Thor then had an unproductive at 29 and was up early.

Brace No. 28 saw Bully Rock (M. Tracy) and The Secret (J. Tracy) on course four, 74 degrees. Rock had finds at 9 and 29 and an unproductive at 33; The Secret scored at 36.

Brace No. 29 saw Waybetter Rebel (M. Tracy) and Rock N Rebel Reb (M. Martino).

Rebel scored at 31 and 47 and pointed feathers at 43 with a good effort; Reb also had a find at 43, far away from Rebel's stand, and an extreme finish.

Brace No. 30 saw Miller's Record Heat (M. Tracy) and Backcountry Buddy (M. Martino). Buddy was covered earlier. Heat wasn't listening and was removed.

The Club wishes to thank the Purina company for supporting the trial.

Allendale, S. C., March 6
Judges: Roger Key and Chris Sellers
CAROLINA CELEBRATION
OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 56 Pointers and 6 Setters
1st—FAITHFUL, 1684597, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Steel City Karen. Susan & Roger Duerksen, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.
2d—HAUSER'S ROLLIN THUNDER, 1690733, pointer male, by Rocky Ridge's White Smoke-Gambler's All In. Sean & Debra Hauser, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.
3d—BACKCOUNTRY BUDDY, 1682654, pointer male, by Waybetter Rocky-Backcountry Polly. Chris Catanzarite, owner; Mike Martino, handler.

OIL CAPITAL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Westfall's Wheels Up Wins Cecil Proctor Open All-Age

By Kristy Oxendine | Inola, Oklahoma | March 6, 2023

The Cecil Proctor Open All-Age began the morning of Monday, March 6, on the heels of the very successful Region 8 Open All-Age, where the winner had turned in a five-find performance. Expectations were high for this trial.

Our new practice of putting out birds each morning in multiple places across all three one-hour courses is making for a quality event for all participants. A big thank you goes out to Oil Capital workers, particularly Steve Burris, our bird planter, for all his fine efforts. Mike Griffin handled the dog wagon with his usual flawless effort. Another big thank you is extended to Nestlé Purina for their continued support and to Greg Blair for all he does to help us.

We want to thank Kay Ingersoll, her family, and the ranch crew for allowing us to hold this event on this legendary ranch again. Much-needed rain had fallen the previous week, and the country was wet to the point of muddy in places, but with that came better scenting conditions.

Well-known and respected judges this year were Everett Brannon of Texas and Doug Meyer of Kansas. Doug stepped in at the last minute when one judge had to cancel due to medical reasons. They had tough decisions as 13 of the 17 entries had multiple finds. Their decisions were well thought out and applauded. We all thank you, gentlemen.

The winner emerged in brace No. 5 as Andy Daugherty piloted Westfall's Wheels Up to a three-find and one-back performance. Both dogs started strongly, with Texas Wild Ace (Vincent) having the first find at 16,



Cecil Proctor Open All-Age Winners (front, l-r): Ryan Westfall with Westfall's Wheels Up, Matt Cochran with Barshoe Forget Me Not, and Garvin Collins with Westfall's Mandalay. (Behind): Bill Westfall, Andy Daugherty, Everett Brannon (judge), Lynn Oxendine, Allen Vincent, and Doug Meyer (judge).

with Wheels Up backing. A definite postcard picture moment as both dogs stood beautifully. Wheels Up went on to finds at 28, 33, and 49. His finish was forward as he moved up the rise heading to the top. Owner Bill Westfall was on hand to watch.

Barshoe Forget Me Not got the stake off to a bang-up start in brace No. 1 to garner second for Allen Vincent and owner Bob Gum. Forget Me Not was strong on the ground throughout the hour and found birds at 9 and 13. Then was found by scout pointed at 42 and was later found by Allen at the front at 60 after a short absence.

The team of Andy and Bill was back in the winners' circle again as Westfall's Mandalay won third with a workman-like performance

and finds at 11, 46, and 60; the find at 60 cemented the deal.

This was a fun trial to attend and participate in. Good dogs, lots of birds, good food, good people, and good weather make for a great trial. Thank you all!

Inola, Okla., March 6
Judges: Everett Brannon and Doug Meyer
Cecil Proctor Open All-Age
[One-Hour Heats] – 16 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—WESTFALL'S WHEEL UP, 1680653, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Ace-Westfall's Quick Trick. Bill Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.
2d—BARSHOE FORGET ME NOT, 1692349, pointer female, by Whipoorwill Justified-Greypoint Invierna. Robert Gum, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.
3d—WESTFALL'S MANDALAY, 1682881, pointer male, by Strut Nation-Erin's Amazing Grace. Bill Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

SOUTHERN PINES CELEBRATION

Scott Griffin's Pointer Trumps Field Of Star-Studded Entries In Amateur All-Age

By Dwight Smith | Hoffman, North Carolina | March 9, 2023



Amateur All-Age Winners (l-r): K H Game Train with Scott Griffin, Mac's Silver Chief with Tim McClurg, and Bonner's Hot Rize with Derek Bonner.

The Southern Pines Celebration, fast becoming one of the pretious field trials in the southeast, ended a four-day event enjoyed by field trialers and citizens in Northern Richmond County, N. C. The event venue was the Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds near Hoffman, N. C.

Cecil Cole, a well-known field trial judge from Texas, proclaimed that every night was Saturday night in Union Springs, Ala. Hoffman isn't there yet, but it is well on track to be during the Southern Pines Celebration.

The Robert Gordon Grounds are among the best to be found anywhere, and quail were plentiful throughout the three stake programs. The first day produced at least 13 finds. The second day's running produced at least 19 finds, and the third day averaged about like the previous two days, even in heavy rain on the second day.

The Hoffman grounds are owned and maintained by the North Carolina Wildlife Commission, whose staff, supervised by Lee Crisco, works to make the multi-use 6,000 acres available to outdoor lovers from nationwide locations.

Crisco works diligently. A good example of his dedication to the Sandhills was shown on Friday. Thursday, the first day of the trial, someone complained about the dust coming from the sand. Lee said, "I will take care of that tomorrow." Two inches of rain fell that night. There was not any dust the next day. Lee might have had a little help from up above with that.

Sammy and Nida Giddens's report of the Central Carolina trials included an excellent description of the quail release. So, there isn't much use in revisiting that part of the grounds at Hoffman.

The members of the directors of the Southern Pines are Grayson Francis, Ray Joye, Til Hankley, and John Atkinson, plus

this reporter. The group has worked together for years on several different projects.

Joye and Atkinson took entries, conducted the drawing, and collected entry fees. Francis does whatever needs to be done and is a man of many talents. He is becoming an outstanding amateur trainer and handler of pointers.

Judge Joye prepared Saturday night's dinner with the help of several ladies. Desserts were provided by folks from the community which added to the friendly atmosphere of the gathering.

Lunches and breakfasts were served daily. Where else can you go and have a judge serve you breakfast before 7 a.m.? That's Ray Joye at work.

A word of thanks needs to be made to Gretchen and John Adsit, who moved to the Hoffman area several years ago. They prepare lunches daily, keep the clubhouse clean, and handle several other tasks. Gretchen's birthday was celebrated at the Saturday night dinner. Mike and Susan Fox served lunch on the last day because Gretchen and John attended Ted Riley's funeral.

Alfred Wood provided dog truck service. He knows much about the Hoffman grounds, bird dogs, and horses and welcomes riders to ride on the dog wagon.

Purina provided dog food and financial support for the Celebration. They allow financially struggling field trial clubs to continue hosting trials. The Richmond County Tourism Council provides support for the quail program. Think about it, what would we do without the quail?

Thanks also to the North Carolina Wildlife Commission for providing some of the country's best field trial grounds and facilities.

Ray Joye and Todd Williams judged the Open Derby and the Amateur All-Age. Williams lives nearby and is knowledgeable

about the performance of quail dogs and is pleasant to be around.

Joye does everything from cooking to providing administrative duties for the trial. He is a much sought-after judge and is this reporter's hero. He, too, knows what it takes to win a good field trial.

Open Derby

The Open Derby stake was the first stake of a three-stake trial. The first day was a beautiful Carolina day with blue skies and warmer temperatures than usual for mid-March in the Sandhills of North Carolina.

Sweet Grass Skipper drew the first part of course two, brace No. 3 of the Open Derby, and he, as some folks say, "ate up the course." Skipper had three well-spaced finds in the half-hour heat. He is a young derby, a July pup, but he showed lots of potential in his application of the countryside as he hunted forward. The black and white David Huffine setter had a strong finish. Jerry Raynor handled him.

Darrel Miller was on hand to watch Mack Hilliard handle his pointer female, Betty's Karma, to a second-place placement. There wasn't much difference between Skipper's and Karma's ground efforts. Karma had two well-earned finds. Owner Darrel Miller was all smiles at the finish of his pointer's performance.

Send The Bullet, owned by Johnny Keohane and handled by Phil Stevenson, placed third. The big white and orange male might have been the stronger of the three derbies' placement of an entry of 26 youngsters. At times one didn't expect him to be around at the end of 30 minutes, but he was. Bullet had one find to go with his efforts on course five.

Hoffman, N. C., March 9

Judges: Ray Joye and Todd Williams
OPEN DERBY – 21 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st—SWEET GRASS SKIPPER, 1698209, setter male, by Sweet Grass Slim-Tower Hill Zoey Zee. David Huffine, owner; Jerry Raynor, handler.

2d—BETTY'S KARMA, 1696872, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Steel Valley Wardance. Darrell Miller, owner; Mack Hilliard, handler.

3d—SEND THE BULLET, 1696258, pointer male, by Broken Halo-Witt's Sissy. Johnny Keohane, owner; Phil Stevenson, handler.

Amateur All-Age

The Amateur All-Age stake is the flagship stake of the Southern Pines Celebration. Twenty-eight entries were entered from five different states.

K H Game Train took first place with an outstanding performance that excited everyone. When possible, those in the car gallery got out to watch the white and black pointer hunt the countryside. His groundwork



Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Sweet Grass Skipper with Sammy Giddens, Betty's Karma with Darrel Miller, and Send The Bullet with Whitney Stephenson. (Behind): Jerry Raynor, Ray Joye (judge), Mack Hilliard, Todd Williams, and Phil Stevenson. (Top row): Dennis Snyder, John Atkinson, and Grayson Francis.

was just about beyond criticism. He seemed to be always up front, crossing to the long edges where possible, and he impressed by hunting where long-time Hoffman veterans know that quail are usually found. Train backed his bracemate early on in the hour, then had three finds.

The first find was before 30 near the turkey pens, then two more at 45 and the other at 50 before going toward the Naked Creek country. All three finds were handled with the proper manners, lots of style, and intensity.

The Scott Griffin pointer had drawn the third course. When judges Joye and Williams called time, Griffin and his scout, Derek Bonner, rode far to the front toward the Bill Andrews water hole to return the fleet-footed white and black pointer to show the waiting judges.

Mac's Silver Chief had set the bar high when he ran on the second course in brace No. 2, and Judges Joye and Williams thought that only one entry topped Chief's performance.

Chief's first find came before the area of the grapevine field and in a location that this reporter couldn't see. His second find came near the soldiers' camp, and the third before McGee's Castle. All were handled with the required manners and with style.

Tim McClurg, an Ohio sportsman, handled his white and orange pointer confidently and acted as though he trusted Chief to set his range and select his objectives.

What separated the first and the second-place winners must have been their ground

race.

Bonner's Hot Rize placed third. The white and orange pointer male went on a game-finding expedition seldom seen on the Robert Gordon Grounds.

Judges Joye and Williams credited Rize with five finds, but it is believed he had a sixth. One find he was seen pointing, his bracemate came into the area and, according to the judges, went in front of Rize. The bracemate was taken up. Bonner elected to take Rize on without attempting to flush, a wise move on the part of Bonner. The other five finds were spaced throughout the hour, all handled as they should be.

Rize's groundwork matched his bird work. He could be seen far ahead at time, hunting every step with one thing on his mind: quail.

Bonner seems to have a relationship with dogs and horses that few people have—always calm, always demanding the best an animal has but never showing it.

Bonner's Hot Rize was entered under the ownership of Derek Bonner. We were notified later that he now belongs to Jannie Chapman.

Among the entries not placed was Cape Hickory Bucky, handled by Paul Gadd. Bucky had four finds and a strong race but was out of pocket often.

Dialed In, owned by Jim Pendergest, had a whale of a race and two game contacts that this reporter saw but had an extended absence.

Stormchaser seemed to be putting it all together with three pieces of bird work until he had a wreck.

**AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]
- 25 Pointers and 3 Setters**

- 1st—K H GAME TRAIN, 1681832, pointer male, by Cole Train-Tallgrass Bella. Scott Griffin, owner and handler.
- 2d—MAC'S SILVER CHIEF, 1665549, pointer male, by Mac's Silver Dollar-Hilo Southern Tea. Tim McClurg, owner and handler.
- 3d—BONNER'S HOT RIZE, 1687893, pointer male, by Miller's Speed Dial-Miller's Martha White. Derek Bonner, owner and handler.

Amateur Shooting Dog

The Amateur Shooting Dog stake was a good one, even if there were just six entries. John Atkinson and Grayson Francis judged.

Ray Joye's pointer Rocky River Loaded, ran in the last brace of the trial and had a great performance to cap off a thrilling four days of



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Ray Joye with Rocky River Loaded, Nan Hilliard with One Last Time, and Backcountry Missy with Chris Catanzarite. (Behind): Tim McClurg, John Atkinson (judge), and Grayson Francis (judge).

the Southern Pines Celebration.

Loaded had three well-spaced finds, the last one at the end of his hour. The three finds were handled with excellent manners, loaded with style and intensity. His groundwork was about as good as possible, maybe just a tad extreme in range for a shooting dog.

One Last Time's, Nan Hilliard's pointer female, the groundwork was similar to Rocky River Loaded, coupled with two finds.

One Last Time is an attractive moving female handled expertly in the wet weather. There is lots of class wrapped up in this pointer female.

Third was Backcountry Missy. Seeing Chris Catanzarite ride in the saddle after an illness was good. Missy had one find and two unproductive.

The Amateur Derby wasn't run due to the lack of available use of the grounds.

**Judges: John Q. Atkinson and Grayson Francis
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]
- 4 Pointers and 2 Setters**

- 1st—ROCKY RIVER LOADED, 1696572, pointer male, by Broken Halo-Morgan's Mountain Maggie. Miles Ray Joye, owner and handler.
- 2d—ONE LAST TIME, 1686212, pointer female, by Stony Run's Buddy-Legendary. Nancy Hilliard, owner and handler.
- 3d—BACKCOUNTRY MISSY, 1672663, pointer female, by Erin's War Creek-Backcountry Tornado. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

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GEORGIA-FLORIDA INVITATIONAL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Tallokas New Business Wins Open Shooting Dog; Real Thing Ann Dorst, Open Derby

By Maria Bassham | Boston, Georgia | March 10, 2023



Open Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Jason Loper with Tallokas New Business, Thomas Rice, Jr. with Real Thing Dolly, and Shon Powell with Pinewood's Blue By U, joined by well-wishers.

The 60th annual spring running of the Georgia-Florida Invitational Handlers' Trial was held on the beautiful grounds of Seminole Plantation in Boston, Ga. The trial started on Friday, March 10, but could only run four braces that first day due to a storm system that quickly rolled in. Saturday's running picked up the two remaining braces and ran eight that day to complete the all-age dogs. Four braces of derby dogs ran on the crisp, cool Sunday morning, bringing the spring trial to a conclusion before lunch.

We sincerely thank the Rankin Smith family, the Knox family, Wallace Reed, and the entire staff of Seminole Plantation for allowing us to run on their beautiful South Georgia plantation. Thank you to our sponsors and club members for keeping this field trial up and running for 60 years. We couldn't do it without you. Ag-Pro sponsored Friday and Saturday's lunches and the delicious catered meals were enjoyed by all that attended. Serving tables with white tablecloths and round guest tables were set up in the entry of the barn, with a few stalled horses admiring the spread. Thank you to Andrew Campbell of Northfield, Mass., and Gary Futch of Statesboro, Ga., for riding in the judicial saddles. We wouldn't be able to hold trials like these without these two gentlemen selflessly sharing their expertise and time watching these canine athletes.

We had several dogs that weekend whose ground effort was much appreciated. We were eagerly hopeful and would have loved to have seen them have some bird work. One of our

handlers got to run in his very first field trial. Daniel Ward entered his dog, "Shot," and ran in brace No. 4 on Friday. He was braced with Michael Hill, who could experience the competition's thrill. Shot and bracedmate "Dot" had points that did not result in a flight of birds, but the judges and gallery's support and encouragement were exciting to be a part of. They both completed their hour-long brace and had their dogs when time was called. It was a fabulous learning experience for Daniel and Shot and one I'm sure won't soon be forgotten.

The Winners

The first-place winner of the Open Shooting Dog was Tallokas New Business ("Chance") and handler Jason Loper. Chance was last fall's derby winner of the Handlers' Trial held at Burnt Branch. The handsome male pointer ran Saturday morning, brace No. 1, after the storm delay of Friday afternoon's braces. His bracedmate was Pine Straw Half N Half and Lee Phillips. Chance had three nice, crystal-clear finds during his hour on the ground. He ran a consistently forward, strong race and was working for his handler. Chance also stood to honor one of Half's finds. He did have one unproductive at the end of his powerful shooting dog race but was with his handler at the 60-minute mark.

The second-place winner was Real Thing Dolly and Tommy Rice, Jr. Dolly ran in the last brace of the all-age on Saturday afternoon. She was braced with "Stacey" and Jason Sanders. Dolly had a solid start to her race and

was impressive to watch. She had two nice, immaculate finds in her hour on the ground. Dolly handled well and was with her handler at the brace's end.

Pinewood's Blue By U ("Blue") and Shon Powell were the third-place winners. Blue ran on Friday morning in brace No. 2 against "Spec" and Tommy Rice III. At 10, Blue had his first find, and covey was up. He ran a clean, forward race and handled well. His second find came at 57, and he held steady to wing and shot. He was with his handler at the end of the brace when time was called.

Boston, Ga., March 10

**Judges: Andrew Campbell and Gary Futch
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (One-Hour Heats)**

- 24 Pointers

1st—TALLOKAS NEW BUSINESS, 1701627, male, by Miller Unfinished Business-Tallokas Sun Dial. Tallokas Kennels, owner; Jason Loper, handler.

2d—REAL THING DOLLY, 1695583, female, by Mayhaw's Perfect Storm-Erin's Miss Rosebud. Thomas Rice, Jr., owner and handler.

3d—PINWOOD'S BLUE BY U, 1698292, male, by Ransom-Pinewood's Jenny Bell. Tom Bell & Shon Powell, owners; Shon Powell, handler.

The Open Derby

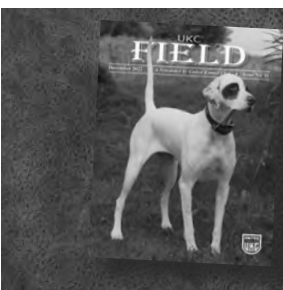
Unfortunately, no bird work was seen this Sunday morning. The three dogs that placed ran their 30-minute braces with style, and all three handled well. First-place winner, Real Thing Ann Dorst ("Ann"), ran an impressive, forward race in the first brace of the Derby stake. She was pleasing to watch. The second and third-place winners, Foshalee Ice ("Ice") and Pine Straw Bodacious ("Tuff"), competed in brace No. 2 together. In their 30 minutes on the ground, each dog stopped for a point, with the other stopping to honor. No birds took flight, and both points were unproductive for each dog. The dogs handled nicely and were seen across the top of the field when time was called.

OPEN DERBY - 7 Entries

1st—REAL THING ANN DORST, 1700677, pointer female, by Erin's Tough Grit-Dekle's Chasehill Maria. Thomas Rice, Jr., owner and handler.

2d—FOSHALEE ICE, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given. Foshalee Plantation, owner; Chris Rehberg, handler.

3d—PINE STRAW BODACIOUS, 1698807, setter male, by Pine Straw Black Hawk-Pine Straw's Tupelo Honey. Michael Reeves, owner; Lee Phillips, handler.

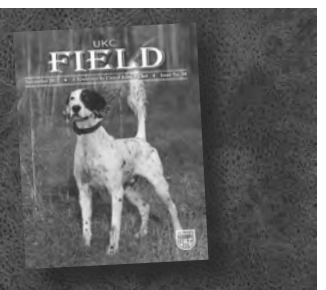


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CH. HOUSE'S RAIN CLOUD for Field Trial Hall of Fame

Ch. House's Rain Cloud placed 37 times in field trials and has produced 74 winners that placed 387 times.

Rain Cloud won the Quail Championship Invitational three times in back-to-back years, a record of its own.

Please join us in electing Rain Cloud to the Field Trial Hall of Fame.



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CENTRAL PRAIRIE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

2023 Spring Running Moved To Sandy Run Hunt Club

By Dan Crunk | Vandalia, Illinois | March 11, 2023

The Central Prairie Field Trial Club held its spring trial this year at Sandy Run Hunt Club. Our grounds at Orchardville were unavailable for this trial, so Bill at Sandy Run graciously allowed us to hold our trial at his hunt club. We used two courses to handle the large number of dogs we drew out. The weather forecast was not good, but we never had to put on rain gear the entire day. So many people we need to thank when a field trial happens. The judges were Jim Ashby, Jeff Marshall, Rick Stanford, Frank Christie, Ted Ellis, and your scribe Dan Crunk. The judges worked hard to watch and evaluate each dog in every stake; thanks for a job well done. Jae Crunk prepared lunches with some of her homemade cookies. Trial Chairman Rick Stanford and your scribe pulled off a well-run trial, especially for the large number of dogs that competed.

In the Amateur Shooting Dog, Buck, a setter handled by Don Heisner, had two finds and ran a front-running race to catch the eyes of the judges. Buck took home the first-place plaque. Don and his two setter males are always a force when they show up for a trial. The second-place plaque went to Roxie, handled by Craig Hiatt. Roxie was just off of a National Championship. Roxie had three finds for her half hour. Hawk, a setter handled by Rob Warner, had one find and a forward race.

In the Amateur Derby, Jeff Marshall brought Radom, an Irish setter male, to the line and finished the 30 minutes with three finds. Radom took home first place with a fine performance on the day. Second place went to a young pointer female, Dixie, handled by Kevin Western. Dixie also had three finds and a quality race searching all the likely places quail should be. Craig Hiatt brought his young

pointer male, Max, to the line and took home the third-place plaque. Max carded one find for his 30 minutes.

First place in a strong Amateur Puppy entry went to a pointer male, Jake, handled by Ted Ellis. Jake, when turned loose, filled up the country, to the front and always had his tail up on his back as the judges liked. Travis Patterson, a newcomer to field trials, has had a spectacular year with his young puppies. Today, Brittany Artie finished second, and Boomer, his pointer male, finished third. These two are always in contention with their ace and attractive gaits.

John Landolina has just recently started attending our field trials in Southern Illinois. He brings a nice string of German Shorthairs to the starting line. Today, Diamond, a German Shorthair female, won the Amateur Shooting Dog with four finds, with several of the finds, shooting dog broke finds. Diamond ran a very forward-pleasing race. Second place went to Jack, an Irish setter male handled by David McCuan. Jack had nine finds and was on his game today. The third-place plaque went to Craig Hiatt handling Sadie, his three-legged dog. Sadie lost a rear leg in an accident but hunts with speed and searches all the likely spots.

Again, we thank Bill at the Sandy Run Hunt Club in Bluff City for allowing us to use this wonderful facility to hold our spring trial. Thanks to our judges, who worked tirelessly to do a great job.

The Central Prairie Field Trial Club would like to thank our national sponsors, who add so much to each event. Thanks to Purina, Gun Dog Supply, Garmin, and Mule Hunting Clothing for their gracious and continued support of the NBHA.

Vandalia, Ill., March 11

Judges: Jim Ashby and Jeff Marshall

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 9 Entries

1st—BEAUCOUP CREEK BUCK, 1666952, setter male, by Shadow Oak Bo-Beaucoup Creek Ellie. Don Heisner, owner and handler.

2d—CRAIG'S RUNIN ROXIE, 1665573, pointer female, by Mac's Silver Dollar-Hilo Southern Tea. Craig Hiatt, owner and handler.

3d—SKY HAWK'S LITTLE RASCAL, 1670670, setter male, by Hytest Paladin-Sky Hawk's Blues Traveler. Rob Warner III, owner and handler.

Judges: Jim Ashby and Rick Stanford

NBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 15 Entries

1st—RADOM, unreg., Irish setter male, breeding not given. Jeff Marshall, owner and handler.

2d—WESTERN'S WHISTLIN DIXIE, 1700866, pointer female, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Touch's Conference Call. Kevin Western, owner and handler.

3d—CRAIG'S GEORGIA MAX, 1699217, pointer male, by Bonner's Excalibur-Hirollins Canadian Mist. Craig Hiatt, owner and handler.

Judges: Dan Crunk and Ted Ellis

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 7 Entries

1st—NO LIMITS LITTLE SLICK, 1702850, German Shorthair female, by Right Stuff's Rock N Roll-Outbak's Attitude. John Landolina, owner and handler.

2d—MYTHODICAL KILLGAIN FLUSH, 1691900, Irish setter male, by Mythodical's Astronomical I Q-Lowe's Celtic Jewel. David McCuan, owner and handler.

3d—CRAIG'S SASSIE SADIE, 1690033, pointer female, by Greypointe Izquierda-You Never Can Tell. Craig Hiatt, owner and handler.

Judges: Frank Christie and Dan Crunk

NBHA AMATEUR PUPPY – 9 Entries

1st—WILDWOOD REBEL JAKE, 1700948, pointer male, by Erin's Grey Justice-Three Stripe's Duchess. Ted Ellis, owner and handler.

2d—HUBER'S ARTEMIS SUNSHINE, 1702261, Brittany female, by Biebel's Wait Longmire O'Call-O'Callahan's Run Around Sue. Travis Patterson, owner and handler.

3d—SONIC BOOM VON HUBER HAUS, 1701297, pointer male, by Mac Rhoads-Lacee Jane Elthew Blackhawk. Travis Patterson, owner and handler.

SHENANDOAH YOUTH FIELD TRIAL

Sterling Woodruff And Mae Win Youth Classic

By Anna Grace Tompkins | Fitzpatrick, Alabama | March 11, 2023

Shenandoah Plantation held its annual Youth Trial Classic on Saturday, March 11, 2023, on the immaculate grounds of Shenandoah Plantation, owned by Dr. John Reardon. With an outstanding draw of 24 dogs and eight hopeful handlers, it made for a good day. Judges Morgan Brewer of Union Springs, Ala., and John Neely of Albany, Ga., gave their time and knowledge for the day. The Bullock County Tourism Council so graciously provided a breakfast of biscuits to fuel up for the long day ahead. A delicious lunch of Chappy's Deli sandwiches with pasta

salad and other sides was provided by Eric Leisy with Great Southern Lands. Many great prizes were up for grabs donated by Union Springs Home Center, Tractor Supply, and Phillips Feed and Seed, along with a beautiful, engraved plaque for each placement. The first brace broke loose promptly at 10 a.m. after Hayes Green delivered a special prayer to watch over all the participants, dogs, and horses. It was brisk at the breakaway, but the sun shined down, which made for a beautiful morning; a gallery of 42 riders and nine buggies followed the action.

Starting the morning, we called Ella Grace Montgomery with "Ed" and Reese Green with "Rick" to the line. Both dogs made a beautiful cast for their handlers, Reese and Rick had their first find right off the bat with a plentiful covey getting up. Ella and Ed had their first find shortly after uprising another big covey of birds, with Reese and Rick making a respectful back. Reese and Rick had another nice find backed by Ed and Ella. Ella and Ed had their second find, with Reese and Rick making another nice back. A beautiful divided find ended the first brace with two happy

handlers.

Brace No. 2 paired Claire Street and “Clay” alongside first-timer Luke Reardon with “Lucy.” Luke and Lucy had their first find with birds getting up, as Clay covered much ground for Claire. Lucy and Luke had their second find with birds flying, and another divided find ended the second brace.

Brace No. 3 paired Hayes Green and “Bo” with Shelby Street and “Ted.” These two handlers in the Junior division will have a top dog qualification at the end of the day. Bo flew through the countryside for Hayes, and they had their first find with a big pheasant getting up. Shelby and Ted made a beautiful run, and they had their first find with birds getting up; the brace ended with both dogs in the front.

Brace No. 4 was Sterling Woodruff and “Mae,” also in the Junior Division, alongside Kira Jenkins and “Knot.” Sterling and Mae had their first find with a big covey getting up. A divided find happened shortly after, allowing both handlers to shoot their guns. Knot handled beautifully for Kira and ran an impressive race. One more brace awaited us before we took a break and ate lunch.

On the line for brace No. 5 were Addison McDuffie with “Shrimptales” and Reese Green with “Ann.” Shrimptales and Addison had a beautiful find shortly into the brace. Both dogs handled exceptionally well for the girls. Ann ran a nice race but ultimately had no bird work, but that didn’t take away from their big race.

After a break for lunch, we headed back out at 1 p.m. with seven braces to go. In brace No. 6, Luke Reardon with “B” and Claire Street with “Cole” were ready to rock and roll. Claire and Cole had a find right off the breakaway with birds getting up. Luke and B had their first find with birds backed by Cole and Claire. Both dogs handled nicely for their handlers ending the brace.

Brace No. 7 paired Katie Bell Varner with “Sassy” and Addison McDuffie with “Rebel.” Both dogs made a beautiful cast for their handlers. Katie Bell and Sassy had their first find with birds, and Addison and Rebel had their first find with a nice covey getting up. Addison and Rebel were on a roll having two more productive finds of pheasants ending the brace.

Brace No. 8 paired Katie Bell Varner again, with “Sam,” alongside Ella Grace Montgomery and “Bell.” This was an emotional brace for Katie Bell because it was her last time running in a youth trial. We have all enjoyed watching her run and grow as a handler and wish her the best of luck in her future endeavors. Bell put on an impressive show as she raced through the bottoms and hills. She was on the hunt. Sam also made a



2023 Shenandoah Youth Classic Winners: (front, l-r): Brayden Renfroe and Sterling Woodruff with Mae, Reese Green with Ricky, Addison McDuffie with Rebel, and Hayes Green with Jack. (Behind): Big Woody Woodruff, Big Will, Little Woody Woodruff, Gabe Renfroe, Robert Moorer, Corbin Rhodes, Lane Rhodes, Emma Kate Reynolds, Bo Brewer holding niece Mae Woods Thomas, John Neely (judge), Morgan Brewer (judge) with niece Lou Lou Thomas, Hunter McDuffie, Mindy McDuffie, Darron Hendley, Justin Green, Anna Grace Tompkins (reporter), and Mike Green.

nice cast for Katie Bell, and they had two productive finds. The brace ended with Bell on point for Ella and the birds getting up.

Brace No. 9 is the brace we had all been waiting for, the Junior Division boys’ showdown with Sterling Woodruff and “Sammy,” alongside Hayes Green and “Jake.” It’s always a joy to watch them work together. The handlers had two divided finds, both with plentiful birds. The boys were all smiles and showed great determination, and they were a pleasure to watch.

In brace No. 10, we see the dynamic duo again, Hayes Green with “Jack” and Sterling Woodruff with “Mae” on the line. Hayes and Jack started strong with a nice find with birds. They turned around and did it again with another big covey getting up. Sammy handled nicely for Sterling. They had a find with no bird work but quickly redeemed themselves with a divided find for both boys to shoot their guns.

Brace No. 11 paired Reese with “Josie” alongside Kira Jenkins and “Jag.” They were ready to go, both girls running their last dogs of the day. Reese and Josie had a nice find with a pheasant getting up. Shortly thereafter, the girls had a divided find leaving another pheasant flying. Kira and Jag had their second find with guns fired, with both dogs finishing up front.

The final brace of the day, No. 12, called to the line Addison McDuffie with “Lou” and Shelby Street with “Jenny.” Addison and Lou had a nice find with bird work, with Jenny making a beautiful back for Shelby. Shelby also had a nice find with birds getting up and ending the last brace, leaving all smiles on the handlers’ faces and their parents.

Everyone’s favorite part of the day was

here. It was time to announce the winners. Everyone gathered in the shop for the announcement. Robert Moorer closely held the paper holding the winners’ names, keeping everyone in suspense. This youth trial would not be where it is today if it weren’t for Robert. He shows so much heart for the youth and has been an integral part of the budding careers of many youth handlers over the years, including mine. Starting with the Top Dog in the Junior Division, we have Hayes Green with Jack. Third place went to Addison McDuffie and Rebel, and second place was awarded to Reese Green and Rick. Finally, after much anticipation, the big name was called out, “First place goes to..... Sterling Woodruff and Mae!” All the winners smiled big as they collected their goodies and plaques. It was then picture time. “Grab your favorite dog and let’s take a picture,” was the command from volunteer photographer Van Wadsworth. Van captured the precious moments throughout the day and generously shared them with everyone. They were fantastic pictures and beautifully captured the day and the fun all had had.

Everyone hung around for live music, and some of the best food served at a youth trial. Chris Sellers of Tennessee generously provided the food, prepared by Dr. John Guber and the ever-popular Steve Hutto. The food and fellowship made for a very special evening. These kids are the future of this sport that we all know and love, and it is such a blessing to see them grow and learn so much over the years. Again, thanks to Dr. John Reardon for letting us use his beautiful plantation and to everyone who donated, whether it be prizes, entry fees, food, or just their time. We all appreciate it deeply and hope to see this sport of youth trials continue to grow.

Registering a new pup or enrolling a litter?

The necessary forms may be accessed at: www.americanfield.com

RED SETTER FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Kansas Open Classics Held At Radcliff Ranch

By Don Beauchamp | Dexter, Kansas | March 17, 2023



Open All-Age Winners (front, l-r): Greg Sand with Nemaha Tap Water, Justin Crook with Warjam's Big Mac Daddy, and Jay Lewis and grandson Jase with Bocomo Dutchman. (Behind): Don Beauchamp, Dr. Pat McInteer, Frank Schoenborn, Laney Berendzen, Nathan Berendzen (judge), Ed Berendzen (judge), and Tom Wood.

The Kansas Red Setter Field Trial Club hosted the Kansas Open Derby and Open Puppy Classics at the Radcliff Ranch again this year with the help of the Wichita Bird Dog Club. This kicked off the 47th year of running trials on these beautiful grounds.

This year's event commenced on Friday, March 17, and concluded on Sunday, March 19, 2023, with 39 entries with owners and handlers from four states. Thank you all for your entries. I thank all the judges and workers who helped put on this trial. Ed Berendzen and Nathan Berendzen of Higbee, Mo., judged the All-Age stake and Open Derby Classic. The Open Shooting Dog was judged by Dr. Richard Steckley of Wichita, Kan., and Jay Lewis from Ashland, Mo., and the Open Puppy Classic was judged by Rhonda Shepherd of Savonburg, Kan., and Frank Schoenborn of Wichita, Kan. Thanks to all six judges for their expertise and well-received decisions. Thanks for all the help from the Wichita Bird Dog Club members, Frank Schoenborn, who picked up and planted the quail each morning and picked up the dog food from Nutri Source, who sponsored us again this year with the ad and dog food for the winners. Thanks to Bob Lais, Paul Ott, Klaus Schmidt, and Greg Gibson for helping around camp, opening and closing gates, and marshaling and the handlers for their help. In addition, thanks to Linda Beauchamp for preparing the excellent daily lunches and the banquet supper.

The All-Age began Friday morning with a 25-degree temperature which increased to 50 degrees by mid-afternoon. Ten pieces of bird work, including two wild coveys, happened on the first morning. Nemaha Tap Water, a pointer male owned and handled by Dr. Pat McInteer of Falls City, Neb., won first place with a big forward race and excellent bird work. Warjam's Big Mac Daddy, handled by

Justin Crook of Jasper, Mo., and owned by Jim Corpening of Topeka, Kan., had two finds and a nice race to win second place. Third place went to Bocomo Dutchman, owned and handled by Jay Lewis. "Duke" had a good find and a nice race.

The Open Derby Classic ran Friday afternoon in 50-degree temperatures, with the bird contacts declining. The first brace produced the first and third placements. Dr. Pat McInteer, who owns and handled Nemaha Touch A Grey, a pointer male, won first place in the Open Derby Classic with a good find and race. This win included the first win of the Don Beauchamp Derby Classic rotating trophy, the beautiful trophy made by the Wichita Bird Dog Club, and donated to Don for this event.

Second place went to Flint Ridge Ghost Buster, a pointer male with a nice forward race owned by Andy Neria of Savonburg, Kan., and handled by Justin Crook.

Third place was awarded to Silent Assassin, a pointer male braced with the winner. "Tucker" is owned by Bill Osborne of Inola, Okla., and was handled by Ryan Eichelberger of Chelsea, Okla., with a nice race and a back.

The Open Shooting Dog began Saturday morning with a cold northwest wind and a temperature of 21 degrees which increased to 36 degrees in mid-afternoon. However, it did not affect the bird work; all three placed dogs had three finds. First place was won by Touch's Micro Dot, a pointer female owned and handled by Sonny Clark of Wichita, Kan.; she had three finds and a back. Second place was Unfinished Business, a pointer male owned by John Gaines of Broken Arrow, Okla., and handled by Justin Crook. "Ace" had three finds, one on a wild covey. Third place went to Nemaha Magic Marker, a pointer male owned and handled by Dr. Pat McInteer. He

had three finds and one unproductive.

The Open Puppy Classic ran Sunday afternoon. The temperature started at 9 degrees in the morning and gradually warmed up during the afternoon. The puppies ran on one course out and back from camp. No birds were pointed in this stake. All three placements were based on race. First place was won by Flint Ridge Marco Polo, a pointer male, owned and handled by Paul Ott, of Andover, Kan. Second place was Keshia, a pointer female, owned and handled by Andy Neria, and third place went to Flint Ridge Black Jack, a pointer male also owned and handled by Paul Ott.

We had a very successful field trial; thanks to everyone for their participation and help. I hope you will all be here again next year.

Dexter, Kan., March 17

Judges: Ed Berendzen and Nathan Berendzen

OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

- 5 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—NEMAHA TAP WATER, 1696256, pointer male, by Coldwater Spectre-Coldwater June. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.

2d—WARJAM'S BIG MAC DADDY, 1692715, pointer male, by Boumeester's Duramax-Oday Nation. James W. Corpening, owner; Justin Crook, handler.

3d—BOCOMO DUTCHMAN, 1691795, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Clutch-Bocomo Miss Molly. Jay S. Lewis, owner and handler.

KANSAS OPEN DERBY CLASSIC - 6 Pointers

1st—NEMAHA TOUCH A GREY, 1700806, male, by Touch's Grey Street-Touch's Wimbledon. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.

2d—FLINT RIDGE GHOST BUSTER, 1702228, male, by Touch's Diamante-Rebellita. Andy Neria, owner; Justin Crook, handler.

3d—SILENT ASSASSIN, 1698775, male, by Undertaker-W K Maybe. Bill Osborne, owner; Ryan Eichelberger, handler.

Judges: Jay S. Lewis and Dr. Richard Steckley

OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

- 17 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st—TOUCH'S MICRO DOT, 1692164, pointer female, by Touch's Diamante-Seranao's On Guard Annie. Sonny Clark, owner and handler.

2d—UNFINISHED BUSINESS, 1665852, pointer male, by Unabridged-Momo's Rock Solid. John D. Gaines, owner; Justin Crook, handler.

3d—NEMAHA MAGIC MARKER, 1687208, pointer male, by Nemaha Night Hawk-C E K's Meaculpa. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.

Judges: Frank Schoenborn and Rhonda Shepherd

KANSAS OPEN PUPPY CLASSIC

- 5 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—FLINT RIDGE MARCO POLO, unreg., pointer male, by Flint Ridge Ranger-Flint Ridge Annie. Paul Ott, owner and handler.

2d—KESHIA, unreg., pointer female, breeding not given. Andy Neria, owner and handler.

3d—FLINT RIDGE BLACK JACK, 1702229, pointer male, by Nitro Elhew Mr. Chance-Hackberry's Elhew Tessa. Paul Ott, owner and handler.



Kansas Open Derby Classic Winners (front, l-r): Dr. Pat McInter with Nemaha Touch A Grey, Jay Lewis and grandson Jase with Flint Ridge Ghost Buster, and Justin Crook and Ryan Eichelberger with Silent Assassin. (Behind): Don Beauchamp, Frank Schoenborn, Laney Berendzen, Nathan Berendzen (judge), Ed Berendzen (judge), and Tom Wood.



Open Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Klaus Schmidt with Touch's Micro Dot and Justin Crook with Unfinished Business [not pictured Nemaha Night Hawk and Dr. Pat McInter]. (Behind): Rhonda Shepherd with sons Tate and Stone and friend Emmitt, Sonny Clark, Bob Lais, Andy Neria, Frank Schoenborn, Paul Ott, and Don Beauchamp.



Kansas Open Puppy Classic Winners (front, l-r): Paul Ott with Flint Ridge Marco Polo, Andy Neria with Keshia, and Justin Crook with Flint Ridge Black Jack. (Behind): Rhonda Shepherd with sons Tate and Stone and friend Emmitt, Bob Lais, Frank Schoenborn, and Don Beauchamp.

SOUTH COUNTY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

New England Amateur Trials

By John Stolgitis | Exeter, Rhode Island | March 18, 2023

Over a hundred years ago, there were wild bird field trials in Arcadia, and that tradition continues today. We are not suggesting they have been there continuously over the years, but as of March 2023, they are undoubtedly alive and stronger than ever. Running in the spring on wild birds can sometimes be worrisome, relying on the spring migration of woodcock; although it is believed there are birds in Arcadia year-round, we rely strongly on the migration, and this year worked out great!

The South County Field Trial Club has long supported the New England amateur trials in Arcadia, twice being the host grounds for the National Amateur Woodcock Championship. After last year's perceived lack of support for New England amateurs by the parent organization, the Club elected to go in a new direction. The Club felt the amateur has long supported the open trials and the profit for many trials while getting very little for their entry fees. The South County Field Trial Club decided to change that this year with the inaugural running of the New England Amateur Woodcock Classic. Trying to keep the sport affordable, the Club had a modest \$75 entry fee and, something not seen in quite some time, a purse in an amateur event. We were starting with a \$1,000 purse, but as word spread, requests to donate came pouring in, and the purse quickly grew to \$1,800. The Club provided keeper plaques rivaling those of larger events and two rotating silver plaques for the winner and runner-up donated by Tim Kisielski in honor of two of his past champions, Chasehill Little Thudd and Wild Apple Calvados. We had product support from Nestlé Purina, thanks to Greg Blair. Purina and Greg have been long-time supporters of wild bird trials, and their support helps us dramatically. Jill Stolgitis once again opened her home to the New England amateurs for nightly dinners. The big one on Saturday night, attended by roughly 30 people, consisted of cold appetizers of cheese, soppressata, homemade capicola, and



New England Amateur Woodcock Classic Winners (l-r): Eric Rizza (judge), Bruce Mueller with Doodle Ridge Elroy, John Olsson (judge), Mike Flewelling with Sunkhaze Vera Masardis, and John Stolgitis.

various dips. Hot appetizers of fresh scallops wrapped in bacon were provided by Russell Ogilvie and fresh Maine steamers donated by Mike Flewelling. The main course was Caesar salad, black angus prime rib, and Lighthouse potatoes (Maine potatoes boiled in a half-gallon heavy cream, a pound of butter, and then baked with breadcrumbs and a pound of Pecorino Romano cheese; don't skip your cholesterol medicine!)

Many others donated toward the event and helped with the logistics of making this trial a success, including Allen Raiano, Joe Dahl, Bob Little, Doug Forgraves, Karen Unsworth, Mike Flewelling, Russell Ogilvie, and many others.

The trial drew extremely well and filled up early due to only being able to run for two days; 26 dogs were drawn. Tasked with choosing the winners were John Olsson and Eric Rizza, two die-hard, committed New England amateurs. Both men have judged multiple championships and would have run dogs in this event had they not decided to help the sport by judging, and the club and sport give them our thanks! That being said, these two certainly had their work cut out for them. On the first day, 11 out of 14 dogs finished with clean bird work. Think about that; 11 clean dogs on wild birds! Eighteen dogs finished clean. Birds on every course and brace throughout the trial proved Arcadia to be the country's premiere spring wild bird grounds. The trial was well attended with some of the biggest galleries I have seen

in the woods, with one brace having 26 walkers join to watch the action!

The judges noted that most championships they have judged were much easier than this one. Doodle Ridge Elroy bested the field for his proud owner, Bruce Mueller from Bedford, Pa. Roy ran on the "Bridge Course" and was in brace No. 6. He had a powerful forward race always at the edge of his bell punctuated by two very stylish finds and finished very strongly, taking home the \$1,000 prize. Second place went to long-time New England amateur field trialer Mike Flewelling and his derby, Sunkhaze Vera Masardis. Mike has been absent from the trial scene for several years, and after this week, many wished he had stayed that way. Coming off her recent placement in the Woodcock Futurity, Vera also ran on the Bridge Course. She had a fast-forward race with five well-spaced finds to bring home the \$500 second prize. (Vera also won the Southern New England Woodcock Championship and companion Joel Collier Open Derby Classic; quite a week for Mike and Vera). Just so you know how competitive this stake was, third place and \$300 was awarded to reigning Grand National Champion Spring Brook Maximus and his owner Russell Ogilvie. Max ran on everyone's favorite course, the Cemetery. Max had two finds, one in the green briar jungle where no other dog dared to go.

Thanks to all who made this trial a success! Plans are underway for next year's event, and sponsors are lining up to support the New England amateurs.

Exeter, R. I., March 18
Judges: John Olsson and Eric Rizza
NEW ENGLAND AMATEUR WOODCOCK CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats]

— 17 Pointers, 8 Setters and 1 Brittany
 1st—DOODLE RIDGE ELROY, 1679540, setter male, by Grouse Ridge Reroy-Doodle Ridge Mia. Bruce Mueller, owner and handler.
 2d—SUNKHAZE VERA MASARDIS, 1699121, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Mike Flewelling, owner and handler.
 3d—SPRINGBROOK MAXIMUS, 1657296, pointer male, by Chasehill Little Bud-Riley's Rowdy Shadow. Russell Ogilvie, owner and handler.



Southern New England Woodcock Championship Winners (l-r): Mike Flewelling with Sunkhaze Vera Masardis and John Stolgitis with Chasehill Poison Ivy.

Southern New England Woodcock Championship

The Southern New England Woodcock Championship began on March 20. We are always a little nervous about bird numbers in the spring, but even more so after 44 dogs have been run on the courses the previous three days. We need not worry because bird numbers continued to be extremely strong and consistent with birds on every course and brace.

The Club wishes to thank the State of Rhode Island for supporting wild bird trials in Arcadia. Once again, a huge thanks to Greg Blair and Nestlé Purina for their generous and continued support of the Club and wild bird trials. Thanks to Jill Stolgitis, who continued to open her home nightly for dinners for all in attendance six nights in a row.

The trial was well-supported, with five pros in attendance and 35 dogs drawn at Saturday evening's banquet. Judges for this year's renewal were Doug Dix and Kris Norby, two avid New England amateurs and avid wild bird hunters who brought their knowledge and unquestionable integrity to the line.

Derby phenom Sunkhaze Vera Masardis emerged as the winner of a highly talented and competitive field for owner/handler Mike Flewelling. Vera had placed second in the Northern American Woodcock Futurity and second in the New England Amateur Woodcock Classic. She is on a roll! Vera ran on the Cemetery Course, which can be challenging in spots. Vera's bell fell silent at 10 in the thick laurels. She was located by the scout, and on the handler's and judges' approach, a bird lifted but was missed by the judge in the thick, and Vera was collared away with no further flushing attempt. She then navigated her way to the front, gliding through the extremely thick briars, and was rewarded in the top section looking breathtakingly high and tight on both ends throughout the flushing attempt and flight of the doodle. Across the road we went, where the conditions were much more open, showcasing Vera's foot speed and flowing forward pattern. Unbelievably she pointed in the wide-open mature timber, and another woodcock was put to flight. Now, as they say, after two finds, show me the race!

Vera did not disappoint, filling the country at the edge of her bell to score the Championship. Judge Dix commented that it was the best ground performance he had ever seen! Vera is the product of Chasehill Kennels out of the wildly successful Champion Panola Bacon/



Joel Collier Derby Classic Winners (l-r): Mike Flewelling with Sunkhaze Vera Masardis and Adam Dubriske with North Country's Soda Pop.

Chasehill Little Izzy cross. She is out of the second crossbreeding, which produced three out of the four winners in both the Grouse and Woodcock Futurities. The first litter of this cross produced four different open champions. Mike has done a great job with Vera.

This year's runner-up in the Southern New England Woodcock Championship is Vera's full sister, Champion Chasehill Poison Ivy. Allen Raiano of Newton, Conn., owns Ivy; this is her fifth championship title, and she just turned three! Ivy ran in brace No. 9, and the course had been run on eight times in the previous four days. Surely the birds would be getting hard to point and handle by now. Ivy went out and had a bird-finding extravaganza with seven perfectly well-spread-out woodcock finds and a flowing forward race just shy of her younger sister.

Thanks to all who supported and helped make this year's Championship a success.

Judges: Doug Dix and Kris Nordby SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 25 Pointers and 10 Setters

Winner—SUNKHAZE VERA MASARDIS, 1699121, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Mike Flewelling, owner and handler.

Runner-Up—CHASEHILL POISON IVY, 1694453, pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Allen Raiano, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

Joel Collier Open Derby Classic

After six days of running on wild birds, the trial moved to the John A. Stolgitis Dog Training Area for the Joel Collier Open Derby Classic and Coverdog Puppy Classic. The John A. Stolgitis training area consists of 800 acres in the middle of Arcadia for trialing and dog training year-round. It was named after my father, longtime Chief of Fish and Wildlife, John A. Stolgitis. It is the only state land open year-round for the training of bird dogs. This area was established long before I even considered attending a field trial. My father recognized the importance of bird dogs and sportsmen, and upon his retirement, the Governor officially named it after him. They are New England's premier walking field trial grounds, and the State of Rhode Island has the grounds looking great.

Sunkhaze Vera Masardis continued her winning ways for owner/handler Mike Flewelling, showing she could handle the open edges and walking released quail. Judges Jamie Nee and Bill Bonnetti named her the winner with her beautiful three-find performance. New Hampshire pro Adam



Coverdog Puppy Classic Winners (l-r): John Stolgitis with Mohawk Mill Double E, Mike Flewelling with Sunkhaze Orange Berry, and Rich Giuliano with Chasehill Snoop Dog.

Dubriske, with North Country's Soda Pop, took home the runner-up plaque. Soda Pop also had a three-find performance and looked great with advanced manners on her game.

Judges: Bill Bonnetti and Jamie Nee JOEL COLLIER OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 13 Entries

1st—SUNKHAZE VERA MASARDIS, 1699121, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Mike Flewelling, owner and handler.

2d—NORTH COUNTRY'S SODA POP, 1694744, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Hunter's Flight Risk. Nick Hamel, owner; Adam Dubriske, handler.

Coverdog Puppy Classic

Lanny Dellinger and Richie Rogers looked over a talented field of youngsters. Mohawk Mill Double E, owned by Ellen Clements and Erin Stolgitis, was named the winner. "Bo Derek" is from the heart of Gary Winall's all-age breeding program. She is a powerfully built physical specimen and hopefully has a bright future.

Second place was awarded to Sunkhaze Orange Berry, also from the kennels of Gary Winall, for her new owner and handler, Mike Flewelling. This well-built orange bitch is out of Gary's champion, Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior. Gary sent these two dogs North to the woods to show that if a dog has a brain, it can compete in any venue.

Third went to Chasehill Snoop Dog, owned by Erin Stolgitis. Snoop is a tall, leggy male out of the third cross between Champion Panola Bacon and Champion Chasehill Little Izzy. We can only hope he shares some of the successes his brothers and sisters have had.

Judges: Lanny Dellinger and Richie Rogers COVERDOG PUPPY CLASSIC – 6 Pointers, 2 Setters and 1 Irish Setter

1st—MOHAWK MILL DOUBLE E, 1703688, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Big Stuff-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Ellen Clements & Erin Stolgitis, owners; John Stolgitis, handler.

2d—SUNKHAZE ORANGE BERRY, unreg., pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Raging Redd Lady. Mike Flewelling, owner and handler.

3d—CHASEHILL SNOOP DOG, 1703110, pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Erin Stolgitis, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

It was a fun-filled, sometimes stressful, seven days, and we will do it all again next year...God-willing!

NORTH CAROLINA OPEN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

Erin's Wild Atlantic Way Named Champion; Aucilla Jim, Runner-Up

By Derek Bonner | Hoffman, North Carolina | March 19, 2023

The North Carolina Open Quail Championship ran its annual renewal March 19-21, 2023, on the all-age grounds of Hoffman, N. C. The weather was ideal for horse and rider, but not conducive for bird finding. There were enough finds for a competitive championship, but not as good as last year.

The conditions nor the lack of birds hampered our champion's efforts, as Erin's Wild Atlantic Way, handled by Luke Eisenhart, for owner Sean Derrig, breezed his way to three well-spaced finds and a true all-age race!

Running the same course the day before, Aucilla Jim, handled by Mark McLean for owners Gene Brown and Reed Brown, ran an impressive race with one find to his credit to garner the runner-up title.

The judges for this year's renewal were Steve Mills of Mayodan, N. C., and Larry Cox, from Randleman, N. C. Both men know all-age dogs and expected a dog to be just that for this Championship. They were certainly pleased with the efforts of our champion and runner-up champion. We certainly appreciate these two men filling our judicial saddles. Special thanks go to Larry Cox for filling in on short notice as advertised judge Ray Joye wasn't feeling up to the task.

As always, a trial of this significance doesn't just happen; there are so many that



North Carolina Open Quail Championship Winners (front, l-r): Mark Haynes with Erin's Wild Atlantic Way and Hailey Moreland with Aucilla Jim. (Behind): Luke Eisenhart (handler), Larry Cox (judge), Steve Mills (judge), Mark McLean (handler), and Derek Bonner. (Top row): John Milton, Ray Joye, Mrs. Jim Emerson, Johnny Atkinson, and Jim Emerson.

help make it possible. Thanks to Randy Bradshaw for all his hard work and for driving our dog wagon. Thanks to Alex Rickert, the owner of last year's winner Touch's Malcolm Story, for sponsoring our supper. As always, to Greg Blair and Purina for their continued support of this trial and all they do for our sport, to Debbie Bonner for her famous mandarin orange cake, and to our judges, thank you!

Finally, I close with a special thanks to my friend and running buddy, Scott Griffin, for his generous donation of our new trophy. It is made of hand-carved quail, each in great

detail as they are on the rise. They are attached to a base done by a 90-year-old craftsman who said this was his last public piece. We are certainly grateful to Scott for his continued generosity!

Hoffman, N. C., March 19

Judges: Larry Cox and Steve Mills

NORTH CAROLINA OPEN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 31 Pointers and 7 Setters

Winner—ERIN'S WILD ATLANTIC WAY, 1684809, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-T's Southern Miss. Sean Derrig, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

Runner-Up—AUCILLA JIM, 1696459, pointer male, by Rebel's Last Straw-Just Irresistible Pearl. Gene & Reed Brown, owners; Mark McLean, handler.

NORTH MISSOURI FIELD TRIAL CLUB

NBHA Trial Held At Whetstone Conservation Area

By Tim Penn | Williamsburg, Missouri | March 24, 2023

The North Missouri Field Trial Club hosted its NBHA trial at the Whetstone Conservation Area near Williamsburg, Mo., on March 24. Co-chairs were Tim Penn and Kevin Western. Special thanks to Ralph Niemeyer and his ATV for providing us with a dog wagon that made the trial run smoother. Big thanks to our NBHA club sponsors, Purina Pro Plan and Gun Dog Supply. With rain in the forecast, we were able to complete the trial as scheduled.

Williamsburg, Mo., March 24 – One Course

Judges: Jack Glover and Tim Penn

NBHA OPEN PUPPY – 2 Pointers, 2 Setters and 2 Gordon Setters

1st—WARNER'S UTAH JACK, 1701466, setter male, by T's American Gunfighter-T's Whistling Dixie. Robert Warner III, owner and handler.

2d—SUGAR, unreg., pointer female, breeding not given. Justin Crook, owner and handler.

3d—MILOMIX LIZ, 1701180, Gordon setter female, by Melrose Prairie Storm-Milomix Rocky. Dr. William Wright, owner and handler.

Judges: Craig Hiatt and Kevin Western
NBHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 12 Pointers, 3 Setters and 1 German Shorthair

1st—GLOVER'S FLINTSTONE, 1691597, setter male, by Islander-Kodiak Island Bird Dog. Jack Glover, owner and handler.

2d—INDIAN CREEK SPROUT, 1693330, pointer female, by Indian Creek Perfect Storm-Indian Creek Ramona. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Gary Malzone, handler.

3d—PURE CONFIDENCE, 1660531, pointer male, by True Confidence-Richfield Rose. Black Meadow Kennels, owner; Gary Malzone, handler.

Judges: Tim Penn and Rob Warner
NBHA OPEN DERBY – 8 Entries

1st—INDIAN CREEK PINEAPPLE, 1697900, pointer female, by Indian Creek Perfect Storm-Indian Creek Ramona. Black Meadow Kennels, owner; Gary Malzone, handler.

2d—MILOMIX BLAZE, 1696952, Gordon setter male, by Milomix Chukar-Milomix Rocky. Dr. William Wright, owner and handler.

3d—BELLE, unreg., pointer female, breeding not given. Danny Draffen, owner and handler.

Thanks to all who participated and made this a great event.



Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Jillian Stuhr with Indian Creek Pineapple, Dr. William Wright with Milomix Blaze, and Dan Draffen with Belle. (Behind): Garry Malzone, Joe Zimmer, Rob Warner (judge), and Tim Penn (judge).

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6x Champion, 11x R-U Champion

- R-U, 2012 Region 19 Amateur All-Age Championship
- R-U, 2012 National Prairie Chicken Shooting Dog Championship
- Winner, 2013 National Prairie Chicken Shooting Dog Championship
- R-U, 2013 National Amateur Prairie Chicken Shooting Dog Championship
- Winner, 2014 All-America Open Shooting Dog Championship
- R-U, 2014 National Amateur Pheasant Shooting Dog Championship
- R-U, 2015 Kentucky Open All-Age Championship
- 1st, 2015 Bluegrass Quail Classic
- Winner, 2015 National Open Pheasant Championship
- R-U, 2016 International Pheasant Championship
- 2nd, 2016 Cajun Open All-Age Classic
- R-U, 2017 Georgia Quail Championship
- R-U, 2017 Missouri Open Championship
- Winner, 2017 National Open Pheasant Championship
- R-U, 2018 Southwestern Open Championship
- Winner, 2018 United States Chicken Championship
- 2nd, 2018 Bluegrass Quail Classic
- R-U, 2018 Quail Championship Invitational
- Winner, 2019 Southeastern Quail Championship
- R-U, 2019 Quail Championship Invitational
- 1st, 2020 Dr. D.E. Hawthorne Open All-Age Border Classic
- Top Qualifier, 2019 & 2020, Continental Championship

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TRUE CONFIDENCE...TRUE CLASS. Help elect a great bird dog to his rightful place in the Field Trial Hall of Fame!

David Williams for Field Trial Hall of Fame A Life Lived for the Betterment of Our Sport

Please join the follow field trialers in their unanimous and enthusiastic support for David Williams!

Keith Wright
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Mazie & Colvin Davis
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Lori Auckenthaler
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Shannon Nygard
Chris Cagle, Jr.
Chris Cagle, Sr.
Ken Blackman
Jay Lewis
Mike Lemons
Greg & Melissa Bain
& the Alabama FTC

To this day, David Williams continues to quietly and selflessly devote his life to the betterment of our sport.

Please join us in honoring David's nearly 50 years of dedication to field trials with your support.

— Thank you, the Committee to Elect David Williams to the Field Trial Hall of Fame

VIRGINIA AMATEUR FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Calico's Sugar 'N' Spice Wins Parke Brinkley Amateur Derby Classic

By Gene Hogge | Ahoskie, North Carolina | March 24, 2023



Amateur Derby Classic Winners (front, l-r): Hoss Earley (judge), Jeff Smith with Calico's Sugar 'N' Spice, Gary Winall, Ellen Clements with Mohawk Mill Shake Up, David Huffine with Sweet Grass Skipper, and Rob Maguire (judge). (Behind): Lynn Deaton, Parke Brinkley, Bill Bruchey, Larry King, Al Dahl, Barbel Fetkoter, Fred Potts, Sammy Giddens, Nida Giddens, Darrell Miller, Art Cohen, and Brandon Johnson.

The Virginia Amateur Field Trial Club held its trial on March 24 with a full slate of stakes run over the Cutawhiskie grounds generously given to the club by the late Dr. Aubrey Morgan in St. John, N. C. Weather for the trial was very warm and made the going tough for handlers, horses, and dogs. Hoss Earley of Richlands, N. C., and Rob Maguire of Chesapeake, Va., were trial judges this year. Both did an exceptional job of watching the entries and were able to stretch their horses to the max to cover the stakes.

The grounds have continually improved due to the year-round effort of club members and the support of the Twentieth Century Fund. Feed strips have been maintained and expanded, new paths have made the courses easier to negotiate, and increased quail habitat has resulted from aggressive burning and mowing. The early-release program continues to supply an impressive amount of wild birds during the fall and winter.

It's quite an undertaking to put on the trial, and many thanks go to Barbel Fetkoter for her tireless work. She raises the quail from day-old chicks to their timely release and ensures they are well-fed throughout the season. She also ensures that we are well-fed during the trial with the help of some club members. Skip Brown does his outstanding chicken barbeque,



Amateur All-Age Winners (front, l-r): Larry King with Alibi Girl, Jeff Smith with Dry Creek Zeke, and Steve Mills with Walnut Tree Blue. (Behind): Hoss Earley, Parke Brinkley, Gene Hogge, Gary Winall, Barbel Fetkoter, Rob Maguire, Darrell Miller, Kimberly Maguire, and Larry Cox.

and Jim Jones prepared a great seafood dinner in honor of Gary Winall's 2022 All-Age winner, Mohawk Mill Gangster. Parke Brinkley had his burgers ready for the early arrivers Thursday night.

We would also like to thank our friends at Purina for their generous support of our trial.

In the Verle Farrow Puppy Classic, Gary Miller's female pointer, Lucy, showed future potential with a strong race to capture first. David Huffine's setter, Sweet Grass Scout, ran a classy, forward race to take second. Larry King's pointer female, Sweet Sorrow, was awarded third.

The Parke Brinkley Derby Classic was won by Calico's Sugar 'N' Spice, a pointer female owned and handled by Jeff Smith. Spice had three finished finds, a back and a forward, animated race to take first. Gary Winall's pointer male, Mohawk Mill Shake Up, was close behind, with two finds and two backs. The first and second-place dogs were braced together in a very competitive 30 minutes. David Huffine's Sweet Grass Skipper had one classy find and finished to the front to round out the placements.

The one-hour Amateur All-Age stake was topped by Larry King's pointer female, Alibi Girl. Her far-flung race carried her off course before the dam crossing, where her



Open Derby Winners (front, l-r): Rob Maguire (judge), Kyle Whitfield with I Dream of Jeannie, Gary Miller with Miss Moneypenny, and Hoss Earley (judge). (Behind): Parke Brinkley, Darrell Miller, Lee Flanders, Skip Brown, Gary Winall, Barbel Fetkoter, Gene Hogge, and Kimberly Maguire.

scout found her on point. Getting back on the course, she had two more finds as she ran the edges and handled the course well. Dry Creek Zeke, a pointer male handled by Jeff Smith, did well in the heat with two finds and a good race to take second. Walnut Tree Blue, a pointer male, was handled by Steve Mills with two finds, an unproductive in an impenetrable privet hedge and a forward race.

Setter female I Dream of Jeannie won the Open Derby for Kyle Whitfield. Classy on the ground, she had three finished finds to go along with a very good ground effort. Gary Miller's pointer female, Miss Moneypenny, took second with good bird work to accompany her fine race. Walnut Tree Buddy, a pointer male handled by Steve Mills, rounded out the placements with an acceptable performance.

Gary Miller's pointer male, L C Smith, won the half-hour Open All-Age stake. Gary hung on as his dog found game three times and finished well. Second place was pointer female, Warrior's Debutante, handled by Gene Hogge. She had two finds and finished to the front. Third, placed on race, was Pagan Creek Atticus.

Ahoskie, N. C., March 24

Judges: Hoss Earley and Robert Maguire PARKE BRINKLEY AMATEUR DERBY CLASSIC - 5 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st—CALICO'S SUGAR 'N' SPICE, 1700320, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Waybetter Rummy. Calico Kennels & Jeffrey Smith, owners; Jeff Smith, handler.

2d—MOHAWK MILL SHAKE UP, 1698765, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Legendary. Gary S. Winall, owner and handler.

3d—SWEET GRASS SKIPPER, 1698209, setter male, by Sweet Grass Slim-Tower Hill Zoey Zee. David Huffine, owner and handler.

AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats] - 12 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st—ALIBI GIRL, 1667107, pointer female, by Southbound Ben-Shadow's Carolina Molly. Larry J. & Casey King, owners; Larry J. King, handler.

2d—DRY CREEK ZEKE, 1682747, pointer male, by Black River Hawk-Aries. Jeffrey Smith, owner and handler.

3d—WALNUT TREE BLUE, 1680850, pointer male, by Walnut Tree Fred-Dialing Kate. Steve Mills, owner and handler.



Open All-Age Winners (front, l-r): Rob Maguire (judge), Gary Miller with L C Smith, Darrell Miller with Warrior's Debutante, Gene Hogge with Pagan Creek Atticus, and Hoss Earley (judge). (Behind): Gary Winall, Skip Brown, Lee Flanders, Barbel Fetkoter, Parke Brinkley, and Kimberly Maguire.

OPEN DERBY – 3 Pointers and 2 Setters

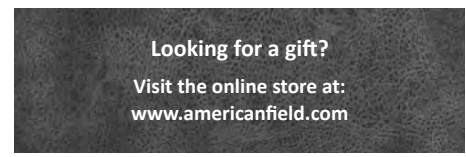
1st—*I DREAM OF JEANNIE*, 1699099, setter female, by Hot Blooded-Shamrock's Miss Grace. Kyle Whitfield, owner and handler.

2d—*MISS MONEYPENNY*, 1701988, pointer female, by Erin's Country Rebel-Quickmarksman Brave Heart. Gary Miller, owner and handler.

OPEN ALL-AGE – 3 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st—*L C SMITH*, 1671185, pointer male, by Stony Run's Buddy-Class Act Rachel. Gary Miller, owner and handler.

2d—*WARRIOR'S DEBUTANTE*, 1688027, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Sinbad's Little Lady. Gene Hogue, owner and handler.



CHICKAHOMINY FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Dave Pomfret Memorial Trial

By Mert Jones | Jarrett, Virginia | March 25, 2023

Our spring trial was run on Saturday and Sunday, March 24 and 25, at Hunt's Shooting Preserve near Jarrett, Va. Hunt's is owned and operated by Clint Holloway. Clint was a great host and most accommodating to us and our guests. The grounds and facilities at Hunt's are truly "as fine as you can find" and provided us with an excellent venue for our weekend.

Our field trial chairwoman, Sharon Townley, assembled a committee for the trial that attended to their duties that created a trial that ran smoothly and timely. We ran 33 dogs in our U. S. Complete stakes on Saturday and seven in our Horseback Shooting Dog stake on Sunday. Danny Gooch joined us for the weekend and planted birds for the Derby and the two Shooting Dog stakes. Stevie Graham and Jim Crandall drove the gallery wagon, which Pat Brooks provided, and Phil Townley helped to get the dogs to the line. Dennis Kivikko coordinated the arrangements for the gallery wagon. Judging for the three U. S. Complete stakes were Sharon Townley, Phil Rutter, Grace Ann Lawson, Bob Spillman, and Jameson Crandall; Howard Schultz judged the AVFTC Horseback Shooting Dog stake.

Our national sponsor is Nestlé Purina, and they once again furnished Purina Pro Plan dog food discount coupons for the U. S. Complete winners. We appreciate this and all their other financial support and encourage the purchase of all the Purina products.

Your reporter thanks Jameson and Grace Ann for their descriptions of the shooting dogs.

The Puppy stake was won by a liver and white pointer called "Lib," from the kennels of Bobby Phillips up from Tennessee to run



U. S. Complete Amateur Puppy Winners (front, l-r): Ashby Morgan with Bob's Elhew Lib, Greg Isenberg with Tenacee Moxie, and Bob Phillips with Bob's Gray Street Macy. (Top, center): Sharon Townley (judge) and Phil Rutter (judge), Clint Holloway (host) and Stevie Graham (gallery wagon driver) on the right, joined by well-wishers.

with us. She had a nice forward, busy race and was always to the front with style. Second was another pup from Tennessee named "Moxie," handled by Greg Isenberg, Bobby's traveling partner. Moxie had another nice, animated puppy brace and finished strong. Third was another puppy from Bob Phillips called "Macy." She had a great puppy race for third place. She had a nice finish to the front.

"Ace," a male pointer owned and handled by Verlene Stephenson, won the Derby stake. Ace had two clean, broke finds, a divided find, and a back. He had a good forward race while making some reaching casts. He is a mature derby who will be ready as a shooting dog in the coming year. "Pete," a setter male from Pinekone Kennels, was handled to second place by Ashby Morgan. Pete had two derby finds and an unproductive with a big wide race. Under Chris Childress's whistle, "Willett" had one derby find with a nice derby race to take third.

The Dave Pomfret Memorial Field Trial



U. S. Complete Amateur Derby Winners (front, l-r): Dennis Kivikko, Verlene Stephenson with Carolina's Winning Ace, Ashby Morgan with Pinekone Pete, and Chris Childress with Single Barrel's Willett. (Above, center): Sharon Townley (judge) and Phil Rutter (judge) joined by well-wishers



U. S. Complete Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Lee Flanders with Chippokes Cracker Jack and Dennis Kivikko with Chippokes Fancy Lady. (Above, center): Grace Ann Lawson (judge), Robert Spillman (judge), and well-wishers join bird planters Danny Gooch and his partner. (Not pictured): Jimmy Crandall and Jake The Joker.

is run in memory of our long-time mentor, field trial judge, and friend, Dave Pomfret. Last year we began awarding the Dave Pomfret Memorial Trophy in memory of Dave. Grace Ann Lawson and Bob Spillman judged this year's stake, which had many fine performances.

The heat in the afternoon slowed a few of the dogs, and birds seemed to be at a premium at all times. This year the Dave Pomfret Memorial Trophy was awarded to "Jack," a male setter handled by Lee Flanders. Jack ran in brace No. 5 in the heat of the day. He was snappy on the ground with a far-reaching, forward, and consistent race, handling very kindly and scoured two quality finds at 7 and 19. Second place went to "Molly," a setter female also handled by Lee Flanders in brace No. 2. She showed a pleasing, forward pattern, handled kindly, and scoured a find at 29. Third was "Jake," a pointer male, handled by Jimmy Crandall in brace No. 3. Jake had an early stylish find at 5 and ran a strong forward race covering many objectives.

Our AVFTC Horseback stake was run on Sunday, March 26. Jameson Crandall and Howard Schultz judged the stake.

"Austin" took first place with four finds and one unproductive. He consistently hunted an appropriate horseback shooting dog range, always forward of his handler and paying attention to the direction she was riding. He handled with ease for her. He pointed staunchly and with style each time, and there was never any movement on the flush. He ran in the heat of the day and showed fitness and endurance, finishing as strong as he began.

"Ruger" placed second with one find and one back. He is a handsome tri-colored large



AVFTC Horseback Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Man of Mystery with Grace Ann Lawson, Rutter's Ruger with Phil Rutter, and Beechwood's She's All That with Sharon Townley. (Above): Jameson Crandall (judge), Bob Spillman (scout), Howard Schultz (judge), Danny Gooch (bird planter), and Mert Jones (reporter).

male with an easy gate and tons of style. He was big running, hunting all the right objectives, and making big casts through the pines and on the edges. His one find was on a bird walking around in the open in the first field just after his breakaway. He handled it with perfect manners. He later backed his bracemate, then finished with plenty of “go” left.

“Ness” placed third, scoring two finds. She is powerful, quick, snappy on the ground, and beautiful on point. She hunted birdy objectives, handled easily for her owner, handled her birds with manners, and ran with class.

We plan to return to Hunt’s Shooting Preserve for our fall trial at the end of October and hope you will be with us.

**Jarrett, Va., March 25 – One Course
Judges: Phil Rutter and Sharon Townley
U. S. COMPLETE AMATEUR PUPPY
– 5 Pointers and 1 Setter**

- 1st—BOB’S ELHEW LIB, 1700143, pointer female, by Tenacee Franklin-Ringo’s Sweet Heart. Bobby Phillips, owner and handler.
2d—TENACEE MOXIE, 1701535, pointer female, by Elhew Money-maker-Crossroads Elhew Dot. Greg Isenberg, owner and handler.
3d—BOB’S GRAY STREET MACY, 1702075, pointer female, by Touch’s Grey Street-Bandit’s Hill Lady. Bobby Phillips, owner and handler.

**U. S. COMPLETE AMATEUR DERBY
– 2 Pointers, 5 Setters and 1 Brittany**

- 1st—CAROLINA’S WINNING ACE, 1696147, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Steel Valley Wardance. Verlene D. Stephenson, owner and handler.
2d—PINEKONE PETE, 1697771, setter male, by Erin’s Wild Atlantic Way-Quickmarksman’s Silky. Pinekone Kennels, owner; Ashby Morgan, handler.
3d—SINGLE BARREL’S WILLET, 1696947, setter female, by Caladen’s Davinci-Wynona’s Gunslinger Luna. Chris & Clare Childress, owners.

**Judges: Grace Ann Lawson and Robert Spilliam
U. S. COMPLETE AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
– 11 Pointers, 7 Setters and 1 Brittany**

- 1st—CHIPPOKES CRACKER JACK, 1691321, setter male, by Skyview New Edition-Grid Iron’s Sorrell’s Penny. Lee S. Flanders, owner and handler.
2d—CHIPPOKES FANCY LADY, 1689564, pointer female, by Stoney Run’s Buddy-Hirollins Fancy Lady. Lee S. Flanders, owner and handler.
3d—JAKE THE JOKER, 1693052, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Legacy’s Pride-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Mitch Forrester & Jim Crandall, owners; Jim Crandall, handler.

**Judges: Jameson Crandall and Howard Schultz
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
– 4 Pointers and 3 Setters**

- 1st—MAN OF MYSTERY, 1660650, pointer male, by Chasehill Little Bud-Shaula. Grace Ann Lawson, owner and handler.
2d—RUTTER’S RUGER, 1675027, setter male, by Rutter’s Dusty Socks-Pinekone Whistling Dixie. Sharon Townley & Phil Rutter, owners.
3d—BEECHWOOD’S SHE’S ALL THAT, 1686446, setter female, by Grouse Ridge Gambler-Beechwoods Madison. Sharon & Phil Townley, owners; Sharon Townley, handler.

GRAND VALLEY BIRD DOG CLUB

Inclement Weather Cancels Several Stakes

By Jim Cipponeri | Ionia, Michigan | March 25, 2023

Special thanks go out to our judges, Rich Sand and Ricky Hollister, who judged the horseback stakes under very poor weather conditions. Sleet, snow, and rain attributed to the inclement weather caused a five-hour delay in the starting time and forced the cancellation of several drawn stakes. The Club appreciates all those who conducted the drawing, planted birds, marshaled, and judged the U. S. Complete portion of the trial. Those who volunteered their time were Bill Branham, Tom Vanecek, William Darr, and Connie Husinka.

Several woodcock were pointed on course one, predominately used for horseback events, including the Michigan Shooting Dog Championship, which will run here next spring.

The Region 13 Amateur Shooting Dog and other breed-specific championships and classics are scheduled for the fall. Hopefully, we will be granted the National Amateur Pheasant Championship in the near future.

Ionia, Mich., March 25 – One Course

**Judges: Ricky Hollister, Sr. and Rick Hollister, Jr.
OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 5 Pointers and 3 Setters**

- 1st—CRIME BOSS, 1684310, setter male, by Thornapple Hawk-Boondocks Karens Annie Girl. Will Langley, owner; Jim Cipponeri, handler.
2d—BAD RIVER RYLAND, 1687379, setter female, by T’s Gunslinger-T’s Unjaded. Tom Vanecek, owner and handler.
3d—BAD RIVER BEAUREGARD, 1665144, setter male, by T’s Nickleback-Straight Up Skydancing Lady. Tom Vanecek, owner and handler.

OPEN DERBY – 5 Pointers and 2 Setters

- 1st—HIGHWATERS ARIAS, 1703634, pointer female, by Greypointe Nubarron-Drowning Creeks Tilda. Louis Albert & Blake Rizzo, owners.
2d—HIGHWATERS LUIGI, 1703635, pointer male, by Greypointe Nubarron-Drowning Creeks Tilda. Louis Albert & Blake Rizzo, owners.
3d—GLENMERE’S CRUISER, 1702833, pointer male, by Miller’s Speed Dial-Wicked Quick. Jeff & Mat Haggis, owners; Jeff Haggis, handler.

**Judges: Richard Lipski and Ron Williams
OPEN ALL-AGE – 3 Pointers and 2 Setters**

- 1st—CRIME BOSS, 1684310, setter male, by Thornapple Hawk-Boondocks Karens Annie Girl. Will Langley, owner; Jim Cipponeri, handler.
2d—G F PARABELLUM, 1701640, setter male, by Grouse Feather Hawk-Sky’s The Limit. Allen Dunbar, owner and handler.

**Judges: Blake Rizzo and Tom Vanecek
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 1 Pointer, 6 Setters
and 1 Brittany**

- 1st—SPRINGPOND ROCKIN GIBBY, 1685618, setter male, by Springpond Rockin Autumn-Tailsup Olive. Lonnie Rademacher, owner and handler.
2d—DUN ROVEN’S CODY, 1701977, setter male, by Dun Rovens Zip-Dun Rovens Soozee. Mark Fernandez, owner and handler.
3d—PONDEROSA’S COPPER PENNY, 1690593, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Eldridge’s Beauty And Beast. Robert Ellis, owner and handler.

**Judges: Blake Rizzo and Bill Branham
OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 10 Setters**

- 1st—GROUSE RIDGE LARRY, 1673191, male, by Long Gone Boston-Grouse Ridge Merri. Paula Giulitto, owner; Richard Hollister, Jr., handler.
2d—THORNAPPLE CASEY, 1690280, male, by Thornapple Cody-Hifive’s Guilty As Charged. Robert Leet, owner and handler.
3d—SUTTER’S BACKWOODS RUMBLE, 1685619, male, by Long Gone Studly-Single Shot Barley. Paula Giulitto, owner; Richard Hollister, Sr., handler.

Judges: Jim Cipponeri and Blake Rizzo

OPEN DERBY – 2 Pointers, 5 Setters and 1 Brittany

- 1st—PINE STRAW’S COVER QUEEN, 1698320, setter female, by Pine Straw Black Hawk-Pine Straw’s Tupelo Honey. Robert Ellis, owner and handler.
2d—SMA HIT LADY KATE, 1703220, pointer female, by Pinehill Elhew Damascus Max-Pinehill Elhew Hit Lady. Mark Steven Ashby, owner; Ron Williams, owner and handler.
3d—SOUTHFIELD CLOVER, 1696757, setter female, by A Tarheel Total Package-A Tarheel Miss Bo. Thomas O’Malley, owner and handler.

Judges: Blake Rizzo and Tom Vanecek

OPEN PUPPY – 1 Pointer, 16 Setters and 1 Brittany

- 1st—DUNROVENS MIDNIGHT EVE, 1702222, setter female, by Grouse Hill Bullet Proof-Hunter Run’s Maggie Mae. Jessica Hollister, owner; Richard Hollister, Jr., handler.
2d—NIANTIC RIVER BAILEY, 1702043, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Lightning Flash Seani. Dave Phillips, owner; Tammy Chaffee, handler.
3d—NORTHWOODS DEXTER, 1701733, setter male, by Snyder’s Pioneer Scout-Northwoods Cedar. Michael Rosario, owner and handler.

CALENDAR

July 8-9: Field Trial Clubs of Illinois Meetings & Dog of the Year Awards Banquet; Hamilton’s, 110 North East St., Jacksonville, Ill.

July 15: North Carolina Field Trial Association Annual Meeting; Hoffman Clubhouse, Hoffman, N. C.

[To add a meeting or special event to the Calendar, please email: gsmith@ukcdogs.com]

U.S. COMPLETE NATIONAL AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Little Miss Margaret Named Champion; Super Storm, Runner-Up

By Thor Kain | East Windsor, Connecticut | March 25, 2023

This year's renewal of the crown jewel of field trials for amateurs competing in U. S. Complete events was held on the prestigious John E. Flaherty field trial grounds in New Windsor, Conn. For over 75 years, field trial enthusiasts have come to Flaherty to showcase their prized bird dogs. The number of champions named on these grounds is staggering, with multiple in the Hall of Fame. Walking into the clubhouse, one is taken back in time and quickly engrossed in the rich history of these grounds.

No trial happens without the work and dedication of many volunteers. Several people gathered at the grounds weeks before the event to make sure they were in premier shape to hold this event. Tim Cavanaugh and Bill Bonnetti handled the bulk of the work, with Heidi Cavanaugh and Jane Bonnetti covering food and cooking duties. A handlers' ham dinner was held Saturday night with a nice crowd gathering in the clubhouse. Old friends told stories of memorable performances of the past and gave reports on prospects they were bringing along for the future. A few lies may or may not have been told.

John Stolgitis of Ashaway, R. I., and Dave McKay of Perkasio, Pa., were in the judicial saddle. John is a successful pro trainer known for the Chasehill line of dogs, most famously 19x Champion/19x Runner-up Champion Chasehill Little Bud. Dave is an amateur field trialer who competes most weekends on the amateur shooting dog circuit. He placed his young prospect, Jolene Jolene, in the prestigious New England Futurity the spring prior; quite an accomplishment for anyone, let alone an amateur. Both men gave all their attention to every dog cut loose, judged positively and fairly, and their decisions were well received.

March 25 dawned overcast, with heavy rain in the forecast. Twenty dogs were drawn to



U. S. Complete National Amateur Championship Winners (l-r): Dave McKay (judge), Tim Cavanaugh with Little Miss Margaret, Thor Kain with Super Storm, and John Stolgitis (judge).

run, and the judges decided to be fair to all; they would watch the weather and stop before the rain started, resuming the next day when better weather was forecasted. The runner-up, Super Storm, a setter male owned and handled by this reporter, came out of brace No. 1. His bracemate was up early, leaving him the course to himself. He tallied five evenly spaced finds with good manners, and the judges commented that his fast, fancy running style and strong finish to the front to end the hour separated him from all but the champion.

The honor of champion went to Little Miss Margaret, owned and handled by Tim Cavanaugh. She ran in brace No. 2, and all who watched knew she set the bar very high. With six evenly spaced finds, blistering speed and a strong finish gave her an edge; what separated her was a giant cast down an edge on the way back to the clubhouse where she disappeared from sight and was found standing.

The judges commented on several other dogs that caught their eye. American Honky

Rock, a setter male owned and handled by Bo Mamounis, was putting down a strong effort until an unfortunate encounter with a bird. Judge Stolgitis liked how strong and powerful he was on the ground. Super Storm Cliff, owned and handled by this reporter, put down a solid effort with five finds but showed his immaturity a couple of times during the hour. Cape Point Lucky Strike, owned and handled by Bill Bonnetti, racked up five nice finds and a solid ground effort. Closest to the winners was Kissamee Grousewoods Tea, owned by Peter Labella and handled by his friend John Olfson. She is breathtaking on point and had her finish been stronger and more forward, she may have changed the outcome.

We hope to have this event on these beautiful grounds in the future. An Amateur Woodcock Championship within a few hours' distance split the amateur walking competitors and lowered the attendance some, but it did not change the quality of the event. Greg Blair and Purina supplied generous amounts of Purina Pro Plan to the winners and boxes of samples for all to take home, and for that, we are grateful. Jameson Crandall is the secretary for the U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association. He handled the draw and made sure all the expenses were covered. Jameson does a great job for the Association. As previously mentioned, Bill Bonnetti and Tim Cavanaugh wore many hats and are owed thanks for all they do. Finally, we would like to thank all those who came out and made this a great trial.

East Windsor, Conn., March 25
Judges: David McKay and John Stolgitis
U. S. COMPLETE NATIONAL AMATEUR
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
— 8 Pointers and 12 Setters

Winner—LITTLE MISS MARGARET, 1693526, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Tim Cavanaugh, owner and handler.
Runner-Up—SUPER STORM, 1675530, setter male, by Pennstar-Straight Forward. Thor Kain, owner and handler.

GREENFIELDS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

The Virginia Classics

By Tommy Stargell | Scottsville, Virginia | March 31, 2023

We began the Greenfields Virginia Classics on Friday, March 31, 2023. The venue was, as always, the beautiful Greenfields Farm located in the heart of historic central Virginia. We are indebted to our host, John Milton, for his generosity. John is a club member and an active participant in the trials. The event is sponsored by Greg Blair and Purina. As always, we thank them for all they do. The meals were provided

by the efforts of Julie Richards, both in the planning and preparation stages, plus she loans us her truck to use as a dog wagon. The dog wagon was manned by Mike Winchester, a valued supporter of all our trials. The other mobile operator is Darrell Miller, who has the lonely and essential job of bird planter, and in this, there is no finer. Steve Mills gets out quail from Williamson's Game Farm of Robbins, N. C. They and Steve are both as

good as it gets. Grayson Francis provided horses for our judges and successfully ran his dogs. Lance Servais provided our Friday supper in honor of last year's all-age winner, Southern Shadows T Rex. The Saturday night supper honored Calico's Guns N Roses and owners, Calico Kennels and Alex and Tiffany Smith and Frank and April Henderson.

We began the trial in cold, clear conditions at 8 a.m. Friday. Our judges were Zach Fisher



Amateur Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Miller's Heat Wave with Jack Miller, One Day Queen Bee with Lane Hodges, Calico's Over The Top with Alex Smith, Braden Smith, and Tiffany Smith. (Behind): Darrell Miller, Fran Miller, Zach Fisher (judge), John Milton, Darcie Hodges, Steve Mills, Pat Lockhart, Marilyn Lockhart, Frank Henderson, and April Henderson.

and Kirk Regensburg. The winner came from brace No. 1 in the form of Rocky Ridge's Second Chance, a pointer male piloted by owner Grayson Francis. His performance card noted a back at 5, a back at 11, a find at 32, an unproductive, a find at 45, and 50. His ground race was forward and biddable. Second was Rester's Bayou Bandit, a pointer male owned and handled by Grayson Francis. His hour included a divided find, a find, and two backs. Third was given to Pagan Creek Atticus, owned and handled by Gene Hogge. He scored two finds, one being a woodcock.

We immediately began the Derby with Tommy Stargell taking over for Zach Fisher as a judge with Kirk. Our winner came in brace



Amateur Derby Winners (l-r): Sadie Ridge Sally with Grayson Francis, Sugarknoll White Lightning with Pete Del Collo, and Sadie Ridge Hammer with George Ramkey

No. 1 with Sadie Ridge Sally, owned and handled by Grayson Francis. Sally handled her birds in derby form. Her groundwork was animated. She found quail at 3, 11, and 26. Our good buddy, Pete Del Collo, brought a good prospect in Sugarknoll White Lightning. His young white male had a contact, a back, and a find at 28. He ran and handled well. Sadie Ridge Hammer ran a forward race for the third placement.

Saturday dawned cold with rain in the morning forecast. It came hard, and we began at 10:30.

Our third-place dog came in at brace No. 3. Calico's Over The Top largely had the course to herself and had finds at 14, 19, 28, 32, and 38. Guns N Roses and One Day Queen Bee started us out Sunday morning. Roses had her running shoes on and was absent after the creek. Queen Bee had a back at 6. She had bird work at 14, 22, 24, 31, and 40. She ran a pretty, biddable shooting pattern, always in sync with her fond handler, eventually giving us a good second-place dog. Our stake winner came in Miller's Heat Wave in brace No. 7. Her bracemate was picked up early. Heat Wave showed she liked to move out after an initial find at the very start. She scored a second time at the ditch at 12, then at 18, 43,

and 52. Her finish sealed the deal.

Again, we appreciate John Milton, Greg Blair, and Purina. It takes many people to put on a quality event. Soup to nuts, this was a quality event. Thank you to everyone!

Scottsville, Va., March 31

Judges: Kirk Regensburg and Tommy Stargell

AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Pointers

1st—SADIE RIDGE SALLY, 1702733, female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Grayson Francis, owner and handler.

2d—SUGARKNOLL WHITE LIGHTNING, 1700086, male, by Lester's Shockwave-Coldcreek White Rain. Pete & Christine Del Collo, owners; Peter Del Collo, handler.

3d—SADIE RIDGE HAMMER, 1701215, male, by Broken Halo-Rocky River First Choice. Grayson Francis, owner and handler.

Judges: Zach Fisher and Kirk Regensburg

AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

– 7 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—ROCKY RIDGE'S SECOND CHANCE, 1671423, pointer male, by Erin's Kentucky Gambler-Burning Edge Julie. Grayson Francis, owner and handler.

2d—RESTER'S BAYOU BANDIT, 1700102, pointer male, by Touch's Blue Knight-Rester's Katie Lee. Cecil Rester, owner; Grayson Francis, handler.

3d—PAGAN CREEK ATTICUS, 1692037, pointer male, by Goldberg-Mohawk. Gene Hogge, owner and handler.

Judges: Zach Fisher and Steve Mills

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

– 18 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st—MILLER'S HEAT WAVE, 1675842, pointer female, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Fran & Jack Miller, owners; Fran Miller, handler.

2d—ONE DAY QUEEN BEE, 1684579, pointer female, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-Dubose's Snow White. Lane Hodges, owner and handler.

3d—CALICO'S OVER THE TOP, 1692315, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Country Strong. Calico Kennels & Alex & Tiffany Smith, owners; Alex Smith, handler.



Amateur All-Age Winners (l-r): Rocky Ridge's Second Chance with Kirk Regensburg, Rester's Bayou Bandit with Grayson Francis, and Pagan Creek Atticus with Darrell Miller.

NGSPA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Series Held At The Field Trial Sportsmen Association Grounds

By Robin Lambourn, Co-Chairman | Grovespring, Missouri | April 1, 2023

The National German Shorthaired Pointer Association held another successful running of its National Championships at the Field Trial Sportsmen Association grounds in Grovespring, Mo. The grounds were well maintained, as always. Thank you to the FTSA for allowing us to run on these world-class grounds.

Entries were very strong again this year and slightly higher than last year, with 204

total entries across all stakes. More entries require more help, but we had no shortage of people and sponsors who answered the call and without whom the NGSPA National Championships could not run. Thank you to Mark Verdoorn, Art Armbrust, and Lori Rezzardi for again serving on the Nationals Committee and doing much of the heavy lifting. Lori additionally serves as secretary and keeps the trains running on time and the paperwork in order. Dan DiMambro also

deserves our gratitude for co-chairing the event. Thanks also to the stake managers: Josh Nieman, Anthony Rusciano, Art Armbrust, Chad Inderman, James Messer, Harvey Franco, Ray Larrondo, and Heath Autry. Thank you to Rich Robertson for waking up early to plant birds and doing everything required throughout the trial. Finally, thank you to all our judges who traveled from near and far to watch our dogs.

We also do not take for granted the support of our numerous sponsors. Purina deserves special recognition for its loyal support. We enjoyed Terry Trzcinski's company during the Amateur Shooting Dog. Purina again sponsored a steak dinner and sent the winners home with plenty of Pro Plan. We also thank Garmin for its generous donation of tracking and training collars. SportDOG also continued its support with its donation of training collars for the Futurity winners. Thank you as well to Dogs Unlimited for its happy hour sponsorship. Finally, we give our sincere thanks to Heritage Tractor in Lebanon, Mo., for loaning us one of its new John Deere Gator UTVs to serve as our dog wagon. Please visit Heritage Tractor the next time you are in the market for a UTV.

The following contributed to the write-up for each stake: Dan DiMambro (National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship), Harvey Franco (National Futurity), Anthony Rusciano (National Championship), and Josh Nieman (National Shooting Dog Championship).

47th National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

The National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship drew 40 dogs, with Chris Meyer and Justin Crook judging. The courses were in great shape, and temperatures varied from cool to hot during the stake. Both judges mentioned how well the trial ran and how all the participants worked together.

The 2023 NGSPA National Amateur Shooting Dog Champion is B M B's Madison Ave, owned by Jennifer and Brandon Blum and scouted by Brandon. This is Madison's second consecutive National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship. She ran in the third brace of the afternoon with temperatures in the low 80s. Madison had finds at 6, 16, 20, 35, and 57. She ran the course as a true shooting dog should, with little handling or scouting required. The judges commented on how well she handled and how Brandon strategically watered and caught her at spots on the course so the judges could see her race around the edges. They were also impressed that Madison powered through the heat with little impact on her range or bird finding while other dogs succumbed to the heat.

Chisholm Creek's Cut'er Loose, owned and handled by Mark Wasserman, was named the NGSPA National Amateur Shooting Dog Runner-up Champion. Lucy also ran on course three. Lucy had five well-spaced finds at 12, 19, 28, 40, and 60. All her bird work was flawless. She ran a great shooting dog race that was forward and required little handling. Lucy took the edges and hunted smartly around the course. She was always on the right side of the wind and heading for the likely objectives. The factor that separated the winners was that Madison had a little more punch throughout the hour.

The judges were impressed with the overall quality of the dogs and handlers. They felt honored to judge this stake and gave all the



NGSPA National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship Winners (l-r): Art Armbrust; Justin Crook (judge), Brandon Blum with B M B's Madison Ave, Dan DiMambro, Mark Wasserman with Chisholm Creek's Cut'er Loose, and Chris Meyer (judge).

dogs their undivided attention. The following other dogs, in no particular order, also caught the judges' eyes.

Hi Tailyn Skye, owned and handled by Scott Bodenstab, ran in brace No. 17. Skye had a great race, but the judges noted that she showed some immaturity. Nonetheless, she did a nice job with six finds, a snappy race, and impeccable style and manners.

Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee, owned by Larry and Kirk Loftin and handled by Kirk, had a powerful race and surged down the edges of course one with complete authority. Dee had two finds at 34 and 40 and one unproductive at 56. The judges commented that Dee would have won the stake if she had a few more finds spaced out in the beginning. They also mentioned that no dog ran a course as well as Dee.

Aunt Troji's Dirty Nike, owned and handled by Larry Metter, had finds at 30, 40, and 44. Nike was not accustomed to the lines and struggled a bit, staying on the edges for the entire line at times.

In Country's Hurricane Jane, owned by Robert Reynolds, DVM, and handled by Chris Young, ran in brace No. 11. Janie carded finds at 27, 37, 45, 50, and 56, all handled with great style and intensity. She finished her lines and hunted hard and big to the front. The judges were sitting up in their saddle and carried her for a while. They both mentioned that her prolonged absence in the beginning, separated her from the winners.

B D K's Sam I Am, owned and handled by David O'Brien, ran in brace No. 20 and impressed the judges with his bird-finding ability. Sam had five well-spaced finds in great locations. They did note that he was a little too handy for this stake, which cost him in the end.

Tulli's Shot To The Heart, owned and handled by Joe Amatulli, ran a big forward race and had finds at 21, 28, and 50, and an unproductive at 6. Cupid tore the lines up on course one, but the judges felt that her handler should have held her up in a few spots, watered her, and then let her rip again.

Grovespring, Mo., April 1 Judges: Justin Cook and Chris Meyer NGSPA NATIONAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 40 German Shorthairs
Winner—B M B'S MADISON AVE, 1670283, female, by Trueblu's B D K Ace Inthe Hole-Time To Pay The Piper. Brandon & Jennifer Blum, owners; Brandon Blum, handler. Runner-Up—CHISHOLM CREEK'S CUT'ER LOOSE, 1683348, female, by Chisholm Creeks Cuttin Loose-Uodibar's Lorrie Darlin. Mark Wasserman, owner and handler.

3rd National Amateur Championship

Running for the third time, the NGSPA National Amateur Championship has quickly become a big hit among our sport's amateurs. Entries for this stake have grown each year. While the NGSPA has run its National Amateur Shooting Dog Championship for 47 years, amateur owners of all-age dogs on a pro's string previously had to sit on the sidelines at Nationals or risk entering a dog that might be "too much dog for the stake." The National Amateur Championship gives all amateurs an opportunity to run their dogs. We were fortunate that James Messer and Ken Chenoweth agreed to judge. Both have substantial experience judging our breed and others. Incidentally, Ken also supplied our quail this year, which performed tremendously throughout the trial.

Twin Creeks Running Rocky, owned and handled by Kirk Loftin, separated himself from the pack as the NGSPA National Amateur Champion. Running in brace No. 9, Rocky set the bar high. His run started on the back half of course two and finished halfway through course three. He scored well-spaced finds at 12, 19, 29, and 51. Rocky had the most consistently forward application of the stake, hanging on every edge in the open fields. Whenever the course tightened, Rocky always moved forward, hitting objectives along the way. He was consistently powerful and forward.

B M B's Free Ride, owned by Brandon and Jen Blum and handled by Brandon, also had a strong performance on course two and was named the NGSPA National Amateur Runner-up Champion. Lewey carded finds at 15, 28, 45, and 56, with an unproductive at 42.



NGSPA National Amateur Championship Winners (l-r): James Messer (judge), Kirk Loftin, Sherri Tangsrud with Twin Creeks Running Rocky, Brandon Blum, Terry Bomer with B M B's Free Ride, Chad Inderman, Ken Chenoweth (judge), and Robin Lambourn.

Lewey stayed to the front and went with his handler throughout, showing impeccable style on each find. He made several nice moves around Little Vine Loop and up Sycamore Bottom, with a strong finish after his last find. The judges commented that the champion separated himself from the runner-up with a little more punch, especially toward the end.

The judges commented that H's Am Cruiser, owned by Harlan Higginbotham and handled by Chase Verdoorn, and Uodibar's Robbi Jo, owned and scouted by Sherri Tangsrud and handled by Kirk Loftin, also had performances that pushed the winners. Cruiser was braced with the runner-up on course two. He had a comparable performance to his bracemate's with three finds and a back but with a bit less power. Robbi Jo scored finds at 22, 29, 38, and 45 on course one. Her final find at the top of Horse Killer Hill was especially nice. Overall, her race could not quite best the winners'.

Judges: Ken Chenoweth and James Messer
NGSPA NATIONAL AMATEUR CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 27 German Shorthairs

Winner—TWIN CREEKS RUNNING ROCKY, 1685652, male, by Twin Creeks Running Ruger-P J Wildfire's Little Lexi. Larry Loftin & Kirk Loftin, handler.
 Runner-Up—B M B'S FREE RIDE, 1660979, male, by Kimber Tactical-Time To Pay The Piper. Brandon & Jennifer Blum, owners; Brandon Blum, handler.

65th National Futurity

This year's National Futurity included many promising young dogs from which the judges had to make a difficult choice. Ken Chenoweth and Brandon Blum graciously donated their time in the saddle. They placed Holcomb's Lottie Sue first, MSR's Scarlet's Witch second, and O B's Little Girl Blue third.

The first and second-place dogs both came from the first brace. Scarlet and Sue started off briskly to the front in Davis Bottom. Scarlet located a bird on the corner line at 3, standing with great manners and style at the flush. Both dogs made great use of the Island Field to showcase their power, with Sue taking the lead into the next field and both dogs well to the front. As the gallery entered the next field, Scarlet had come from the top line, and Sue was seen farther down, headed towards Horse Killer Hill. Sue was next observed on point down the tree line above Horse Killer Hill, standing stylishly for the flush. They both finished well to the front with plenty of gas left in their tanks. The judges placed Sue first due to a slightly more forward race and



NGSPA National Futurity Winners (l-r): John Holcomb, Chase Verdoorn with Holcomb's Lottie Sue, Brandon Blum (judge), Harvey Franco, James Messer with MSR's Scarlet's Witch, Sarah Messer, David O'Brien, Art Armbrust, Robbi Gullede with O B's Little Girl Blue, Ken Chenoweth (judge), and Keith Gullede.

Scarlet second.

The third-place dog, Janis, ran in brace No. 8. She started off to the front hunting the likely objectives. She stayed on her lines nicely, using the wind to her advantage. Janis continued through the brace hunting hard and to the front. She became more independent as her 30 minutes progressed. She was rewarded with a find at 2 after a big move up the right side. She had a second find at time and earned third place.

Judges: Brandon Blum and Ken Chenoweth
NGSPA NATIONAL FUTURITY
– 39 German Shorthairs

1st—HOLCOMB'S LOTTIE SUE, 1698903, female, by Snowy River's White Out-Holcomb's Ava. John Holcomb, owner and handler.
 2d—MSR'S SCARLET'S WITCH, 1701064, female, by Llanos Game On Dude-MSR's Pretty Little Psycho. James & Sarah Messer, owners; James Messer, handler.
 3d—O B'S LITTLE GIRL BLUE, 1703568, female, by B D K's Twelfth Man-O'Brien's Ill Gotten Gains. David O'Brien, owner; Keith Gullede, handler.

70th National Championship

Randy Anderson and Kent Patterson judged the 2023 NGSPA National Championship. The weather started cool with a slight breeze and overcast skies but turned hot and windless by the third day of running. Most dogs had plenty of opportunities to point the abundance of birds that had established small coveys. Enough dogs made the hour with strong runs to make the judges' decision difficult.

The judges crowned B M B's Free Ride the 2023 NGSPA National Champion. Lewey ran on the first day in the third brace. Lewey was last year's National Runner-up Champion and the 2021 National Champion. The judges stated that Lewey had a strong forward race and required little scouting. Lewey broke away at 10:41 a.m. on course three. Lewey had a strong start racing up the hill to Clubhouse Loop. He was found standing at 6 on the back side of the loop with his bracemate backing. All was in order throughout the small covey flush. The handlers sent the dogs forward, and Lewey again showed himself moving to the front. Point was called again at 10, with both dogs dug in on a divided find. Lewey remained stylish through the covey flush. Lewey scored again at 13 near the pond on Clubhouse Loop on a single bird. After last being seen heading towards the Twin Barns, Lewey was found standing in Sycamore Bottom at 28 on a two-bird find. The handler and Lewey went on, and the handler next showed Lewey

across the road, making a big move around the cemetery. Lewey was found standing again at the bottom of the hill on the back of Course 3. Lewey had a strong finish. Lewey's forward, all-age application and impeccable manners garnered him the 2023 NGSPA National Championship.

B D K's Twelfth Man, the 2023 NGSPA National Runner-up Champion, is owned by David and Peggy O'Brien and was handled by Keith Gullede. Aggie ran in brace No. 7 on course one. Aggie had ideal running and scenting conditions on a brisk, overcast morning with a light wind. Aggie ranged far to the front after the breakaway. His handler pointed him out before crossing the first road into Davis Bottom. Aggie and his bracemate were later found standing in a hedgerow in Davis Bottom. A small covey took flight with everything in order. After a short absence, Aggie was again found standing on a single bird on a fence line along course left. Aggie was sent on and observed running forward until found standing at 45 in the hedgerow above Horse Killer Hill, with an unproductive taken. Aggie was sent on and moved forward out of sight with plenty of go. Aggie scored his final find at time past the course two breakaway. Manners and style were all in order as a single bird flushed. This superb performance earned Aggie the NGSPA National Runner-Up Champion title.

The judges mentioned the following other contenders that deserve recognition. Evergreen's Jed, owned by Lance Olsen and handled by Dan DiMambro, had a nice race with three finds and an unproductive. P W Bert's Joke On Us, owned by Keith and Bobbi Richardson and handled by Rich Robertson, also caught the judges' attention with his style and big forward race. Bart had four finds and a strong finish. Running in brace No. 3 with the champion, P W Ben There Done That, owned by Keith and Bobbi Richardson and handled by Rich Robertson, also had a fine performance. Ben scored two finds and a back during his all-age run. Cuttin Wild's Rebel Yell, owned by Mike Patrick and handled by Josh Nieman, also kept things interesting in brace No. 5. Rebel carded two finds and finished his hour strong with plenty of gas left in the tank.

Judges: Randy Anderson and Kent Patterson
NGSPA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 36 German Shorthairs

Winner—B M B'S FREE RIDE, 1660979, male, by Kimber Tactical-Time To Pay The Piper. Brandon & Jennifer Blum, owners; Brandon Blum, handler.
 Runner-Up—B D K'S TWELFTH MAN, 1661756, male, by Uodibar's Against-B D K's Sin City Casino. David O'Brien, owner; Keith Gullede, handler.

53rd National Shooting Dog Championship

Jerry Langford and Mick Cheshire graciously donated their time in the saddle for the 2023 NGSPA National Shooting Dog Championship. The temperatures were high, and the scenting conditions were difficult throughout the stake.

The judges selected All N's Johnny B Good, owned by Gale and Cheryl Graves



NGSPA National Championship Winners (l-r): Anthony Rusciano, Brandon Blum, Josh Nieman with B M B's Free Ride, Kent Patterson (judge), David O'Brien, Robbi Gullede with B D K's Twelfth Man, Peggy O'Brien, Keith Gullede, and Randy Anderson (judge).

and handled by Joe Orndorff, as the 2023 NGSPA National Shooting Dog Champion. Johnny ran on the morning of the second day in the second brace. His run started eventfully with a stop to flush about ten seconds after breakaway. Johnny continued on laying down a spectacular run, with well-spaced finds at 5, 11, 23, 29, and 39. Each piece of bird work came with exceptional style and manners.

Johnny scored two of his finds on a limb in locations where no other dog hunted. He is truly a deserving NGSPA National Shooting Dog Champion.

The judges named P W Indian Brook Heads Up, owned by Keith and Bobbi Richardson and handled by Rich Robertson, as the 2023 NGSPA National Shooting Dog Runner-Up Champion. Heads Up ran on course two on the third morning of the stake. He carded four finds with excellent style and manners, having a divided find to start and three well-spaced finds to follow, finishing to the front.

Two other dogs pushed the winners. B D K's Sam I Am, owned by David and Peggy O'Brien and handled by Keith Gullede, scored four finds and a back with a very nice race. Uodibar's Robbi Jo, owned by Sherri Tangsrud and handled by Kirk Loftin, also had an excellent run.

The NGSPA Nationals Committee looks forward to seeing everyone back in Grovespring in 2024.



NGSPA National Open Shooting Dog Championship Winners (l-r): Cindy Orndorff, Joe Orndorff, Mick Cheshire (judge), Josh Nieman with All N's Johnny B Good, Jerry Langford (judge), John Rabidou, Rich Robertson, Heath Auntry with P W Indian Brook Heads Up, Penny Robertson, and Dan DiMambro.

**Judges: Jerry Langford and Mick Cheshire
NGSPA NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP**

[One-Hour Heats] – 44 German Shorthairs

Winner—ALL N'S JOHNNY B GOOD, 1687178, male, by All N's Wild Card-All N's Double Down. Gale & Cheryl Graves, owners; Joe Orndorff, handler.

Runner-Up—P W INDIAN BROOK HEADS UP, 1661199, female, by No Mars Mack v Hauss-P W Pennies From Heaven. Keith & Bobbi Richardson, owners; Rich Robertson, handler.

SETTER CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND

Annual Spring Trial Held At Frances Crane Wildlife Management Area

By Thom Richardson | Falmouth, Massachusetts | April 1, 2023

The Setter Club of New England hosted its 2023 spring trial April 1-2. The location for the trial was once again at the Frances Crane Wildlife Management Area in Falmouth, Mass., on historic Cape Cod.

The Setter Club is the oldest field trial club in New England and one of the most storied clubs in America. Their first trial, a liberated bird trial, was reportedly held near Assonet, Mass., in 1891, and their first wild bird trial was held in 1924 in Rhode Island.

Once again, the Club provided coffee and donuts in the morning, and assorted sandwiches, chips, and cold beverages for lunch. The Setter Club is one of a few that still lists all their judges in their ads. As a token of their appreciation, all judges were given a gift of a leather lead for judging this renewal.

For the renewal in 2022, I reported that the early springtime weather was outstanding; unfortunately, the same cannot be said for this year. I arrived at the grounds at 6:20 a.m. It was cool, overcast, and a bit breezy, but no rain. The conditions stayed the same for 10 minutes, and then the rain came. It rained all day, I departed the grounds at 5:30 p.m., and it was still raining.

Enough cannot be said for all the judges, club officials, handlers, and guests who toughed out the less-than-perfect weather. We were all hopeful that the weather on Sunday would improve, and thankfully it did.

With assistance from his wife, Emily, Stakes Manager Nick Hamel handled all the trial details. Under ideal weather conditions, stakes

management is a monumental task. Given the poor weather conditions, Nick and Emily did a great job and are to be commended. This was Nick's first stakes manager assignment, and I am sure he will be called on again to perform this duty.

The Club is well supported by its members and club officials. Club President Mitch Nee, Vice President Tony Leone, Treasurer Tom Jay, and Secretary Jim Hathaway were all on hand to help Nick and Emily with all the details to make the trial successful. We must tip our caps to B. J. Cassio, who provided the dog wagon and set out birds for every brace. Club member Edward Marquis and his granddaughter did more than their fair share of dog wagon and bird planter duties. A huge thank you to all that helped!

The Running

As advertised, the first brace of the Open Puppy broke away at 7 a.m., under the watchful eyes of judges Kelly Hays and Jamie Nee. First place was awarded to English pointer Blue Ribbon River, handled by professional Robert Ecker of Pennsylvania. Second place went to Brittany "Zoey," handled by owner John DiPerrio. Attitude's Spec (Ecker), a setter female, went away with the yellow ribbon.

The Open Restricted Shooting Dog stake was up next. Stakes Manager Nick Hamel stepped in for an absent judge, joining Vermonter Bob Arkley. The blue ribbon was given to an English setter, "Suzie," owned and handled by Doug Dix. Second was awarded to "Toga," a Brittany male handled by

owner Paul Shirley. Third place was given to Mooselook Texas Star, a pointer male owned and handled by Jack McNulty.

After a quick break to dry off, the Phil Fogg Open Shooting Dog was off and running. We were pleased that long-time club members Jamie Nee and Bill Bonnetti had agreed to judge our premier open stake. These men have been involved in field trials for decades, owning and handling their dogs. A field of 17 shooting dogs would come to the line to be judged by Jamie and Bill.

Ledge Hill Chippewa, a setter male owned and handled by Jimmy Levesque, was the first-place dog. "Chip" had an outstanding shooting dog race, fast, always to the front. His range was just right for the Cape Cod cover and imperfect weather conditions. Both judges commented that his bird work was the best of the event. Attitude's True Grit, a setter male handled by Robert Ecker, was closest to the winner. Grit had one find and a very strong race. A slight difference in the ground race was what separated the first-place dog and Grit. The yellow ribbon went to another setter male, Lightning Flash Remington, owned by the Dix family of Vermont and handled by Brian Dix. Remi was rewarded with two finds and an unproductive. His race was not as strong as the first and second-place dogs. The judges made it a point to mention a setter dog handled by newcomer Robert Urban. The late George Johnson and Shirley bred Peat.

Sunday morning arrived with much-improved weather, mostly sunny and a slight sea breeze.

The Amateur Puppy was off at 7 a.m., with Kelly Hays and Emily Hamel overseeing the field. The first-place dog was a setter female, "Sadie," handled by long-time setter enthusiast Dennis Sentner. The second-place dog was also a setter female, "Roadie," owned and handled by Maine amateur Kellie Short. Third went to a red setter, "Ragu," handled by Jimmy Levesque.

With 16 braces of amateur shooting dogs to run in the Frankie McLaughlin Classic, Stakes Manager Hamel decided to get it started and hold up the Amateur Derby, which had only four braces to run.

Jimmy Levesque and Eric Rizza judged the Amateur Derby. First place went to North Country's Soda Pop, a setter female owned and handled by Nick Hamel. Second was "Rusty," a pointer male handled by Rich Rogers. Third was setter female "Lilly," handled by Doug Dix.

Club Vice President Tony Leone and Bailey Arkley of Jay, Vt., oversaw the Amateur Gun Dog. The blue ribbon was awarded to Robert Urban's setter male, Peat. Robert is new to field trial sports and has had some success with what I believe is his first dog. Close to the winner was "Scout," a Brittany male owned and handled by Kris Norby. Not far behind Scout was English setter female Ledge Hill Mia, owned and handled by Jimmy Levesque. The judges wanted us to shout out to a new field trialer, Lyndon Carver. Lyndon handled his setter male, "Moxie." I believe this might have been one of their first field trial experiences. Lyndon and Moxie did a very good job, according to our judges.

Our premier amateur stake is the Frankie McLaughlin Amateur Shooting Dog. This stake is named for and in memory of long-time member and trialer Frank McLaughlin. I was lucky enough to have known Frankie, and to say he was a character would be a great understatement; he was one of a kind!

Our outstanding judging duo was Bob Arkley of Jay, Vt., and Adam Dubriske of Troy, N. H. Bob has been involved with bird dogs and field trials for years, and Adam is a professional bird dog trainer. I believe that this was one of the largest entries in many years, with 32 dogs drawn.

First place was awarded to Lightning Flash Remington, handled by Brian Dix. "Remi" had placed the day before in the Open Shooting Dog stake and came back for more in the amateur event. Not an unheard-of feat, but it tells you a great deal about this dog's ability and consistency. The



Attitude's True Grit
Second in the Phil Fogg Open Shooting Dog Classic

dog's race was outstanding, fast, forward, and stayed connected with its handler. His bird work was exceptional; his head held high and very intense. Remi would have been tough to beat on this day with this performance.

The second-place dog, also a setter, "Dot," ran in brace No. 1 and carried first until No. 7 when Remi ran. Dot was handled by her owner, Dave Theroux. Dot carded four finds, was light on her feet, and ran like the wind, very stylish both on the ground and on her game. Her range was not as deep as Remi's, which kept her from the blue ribbon.

The yellow ribbon was awarded to Ledge Hill Chippewa, handled by owner Jimmy Levesque. Like Remi, "Chip" had placed in the Open Shooting Dog the day before. Chip always gives you 100% both on the ground and on his birds. The only difference between the first and second-place dogs and Chip was range. Remi was a little bit bigger in his range and was very, very strong on the ground.

Over the years, I have enjoyed watching all three dogs in different venues; they will be competitive for a long time.

Our judges in all stakes are commended for their attentiveness and professionalism. As we all know, the pay for judging is not great, and we are fortunate to have secured the service of these fine ladies and gentlemen.

The Club thanks Robert Ecker and everyone who entered dogs in this year's event. We hope to see all of you next year!

Falmouth, Mass., April 1 – One Course

Judges: Kelly Hays and Jamie Nee

OPEN PUPPY – 1 Pointer, 2 Setters and 1 Brittany

- 1st—BLUE RIBBON RIVER, 1701966, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Huckleberry's Lucky Penny. Marty Festa, owner; R. J. Ecker, Jr., handler.
2d—WEST WIND'S LAYIN IT ON THE LINE, unreg., Brittany female, by Firestarter's Crossroads-Boudreaux's Dakota Plum Button. John DiPerrio, owner and handler.

Judges: Bob Arkley and Nick Hamel
OPEN RESTRICTED SHOOTING DOG
– 3 Pointers, 2 Setters and 1 Brittany

- 1st—LIGHTNING FLASH BILLIE SUE, 1686150, setter female, by Blast Zone-Clermont Lucky Brynn. Douglas J. Dix, owner and handler.
2d—SHIRLEY SARATOGA BRITT, 1668158, Brittany male, by Guinness Du Widgeonlee Hunrunr-Jade's Tricky Du Toga. Paul Shirley, owner and handler.
3d—MOOSELOOK TEXAS STAR, 1688092, pointer male, by Elthew Snakecharm-Wild Apple Samantha. John McNulty, owner and handler.

Judges: Jamie Nee and Bill Bonnetti
PHIL FOGG OPEN SHOOTING DOG
– 4 Pointers, 12 Setters and 1 Irish Setter

- 1st—LEDGE HILL CHIPPEWA, 1675025, setter male, by Lightning Flash Abe-Grouse Ridge Lazer. James W. Levesque, Jr., owner and handler.
2d—ATTITUDE'S TRUE GRIT, 1653218, setter male, by Ridge Creek Cody-Tall Oaks Cotton. Dennis & Hope Beauford, owners; R. J. Ecker, Jr., handler.
3d—LIGHTNING FLASH REMINGTON, 1687367, setter male, by Denco's Crockett Again-Arctic Tundra Bird Dog. Douglas J. Dix, owner; Brian Dix, handler.

Judges: Emily Hamel and Kelly Hays
AMATEUR PUPPY – 3 Pointers, 1 Brittany and 1 Irish Setter

- 1st—NORTH HILLS SADIE, 1703661, setter female, by Long Gone DeQuan-Cream Polk Dollie. John Sentner, owner; Dennis Sentner, handler.
2d—PAUCEK'S ROCKY ROAD, 1704261, setter female, by Long Gone Porky-Paucek's Mandy. Kellie Short, owner and handler.

Judges: Jim Levesque and Eric Rizza
AMATEUR DERBY – 2 Pointers, 4 Setters and 1 Irish Setter

- 1st—NORTH COUNTRY'S SODA POP, 1694744, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Hunter's Flight Risk. Nicholas Hamel, owner and handler.
2d—OSAGE LITTLE CHIEF, 1697442, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elthew Chief-Faith On The Prairies. Richard K. Rogers, owner and handler.
3d—ROCK SOLID LILLY, 1694966, setter female, by Rock Solid Romeo-Rock Solid Reba. Douglas J. Dix, owner and handler.

Judges: Bob Arkley and Adam Dubriske
FRANKIE MCLAUGHLIN AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC – 10 Pointers, 17 Setters, 3 Brittansys, 1 Irish Setter and 1 German Shorthair

- 1st—LIGHTNING FLASH REMINGTON, 1687367, setter male, by Denco's Crockett Again-Arctic Tundra Bird Dog. Douglas J. Dix, owner; Brian Dix, handler.
2d—HENRY'S SUSIEQ DOT, 1680901, setter female, by Henry of Ferguson-Blossom's Pale Face Susieq. David Theroux, owner and handler.
3d—LEDGE HILL CHIPPEWA, 1675025, setter male, by Lightning Flash Abe-Grouse Ridge Lazer. James W. Levesque, Jr., owner and handler.

Judges: Bailey Arkley and Tony Leone
NEW ENGLAND AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC – 1 Pointer, 8 Setters, 1 Brittany, 1 Irish Setter and 1 German Shorthair

- 1st—PEAT, 1686939, setter male, by Long Gone Wallace-Christy Grouse Ridge Girl. Robert Urban, owner and handler.
2d—PINE TOP PRETTY BOY, unreg., Brittany male, by Shining Bright Oakley-Mossberg Molly Gingrich. Kristopher Nordby, owner and handler.
3d—LEDGE HILL MIA, unreg., setter female, by Backwoods Remmy-Flags Up Stella. James W. Levesque, owner and handler.

FIELD TRIAL REMINDER / ATTENTION: CLUB OFFICIALS

Trial dates that have been scheduled and confirmed for the season may be submitted for inclusion in the Kennel Fixtures column to provide an early notice of the club's trial before the formal announcement appears. To comply with the minimum ad requirements, copy should be submitted at least 30 days before the start of a trial. All field trial ads appear on the website Calendar at www.americanfield.com. To be included in print, please see deadlines on page 62.

“AND SO IT BEGAN”

A Short Story

By Darron Hendley

It was the golden age of plantation-style quail hunting in the South. This almost true story occurred in the small blackbelt town of Union Springs, Ala., later crowned the “Field Trial Capital of the World. There was a small café on a side street in town, aptly named “Holmes Café,” where two brothers served breakfast, lunch, and dinner seven days a week. It was a free-standing brick structure, long and narrow. The only windows framed the front door. Turkey and dressing were on the menu every Sunday. It was always packed with locals after church. The homemade pies would make you drool. During hunting season, the big booth beside the kitchen was surreptitiously reserved for local bird dog enthusiasts, plantation owners, and farmers to share a hot breakfast and chit-chat. Rumor has it that the biggest tipper got to take all the morning’s leftovers home for dog food. You can only imagine the tall tales woven over the years by these characters. Off the subject, Union Springs has more “characters” per square mile than any other place on Earth! Local celebrities like Bill Hembree, Henry P. Davis, George and Bubba Harden, Herb Holmes, and Lewis B. Maytag were regulars.

Both Herb Holmes and Lewis Maytag were Yankee transplants. They purchased adjoining quail plantations just outside of town. Herb owned Gunsmoke Plantation, and Mr. Maytag owned Sedgewilds Plantation. Herb and Mr. Maytag were both consummate sportsmen of the highest caliber. Both had taken to the local culture like ducks to water. Even though they were both fiercely competitive, they were true gentlemen to the core.

Most bird dog men know better than to brag about their bird dogs, for they will inevitably prove you wrong. But neither Herb nor Mr. Maytag adhered to this unwritten rule of thumb. One morning they went on and on, bragging about their bird dog and arguing about who had the best. After much discussion with some insightful input from the peanut gallery and a flip of a coin, they came up with the best way to decide who had the best bird dog.

They would turn loose behind the kennels on Sedgewilds and hunt three straight hours, stopping only twice for short ten-minute recesses. Each man was to carry a 20-gauge

double barrel and one box of shells. They would turn ‘em loose at 8 a.m. the following morning.

Both men were saddled and ready to go the following day, Herb with his scout Marion and Mr. Maytag with his scout Little Roy. His daddy, Big Roy, had the mules hitched and would follow with the dog wagon. The weather was pleasantly cool and slightly overcast. Scouting conditions were ideal—a good day to bird hunt. The Holmes Café peanut gallery had shown up to watch and crack jokes non-stop for three hours. Sedgewilds Plantation was like a sea of sage and towering pines, broken up only by small feed plots which were once sharecropper gardens. Wild quail were everywhere. Wildlife biologists had recently estimated a covey of wild quail every 20 acres over the entire plantation.

By the time the dogs were picked up, the men had hunted all the way to the Avant Line, nearly to Thompson Station. Both dogs had 22 finds and backed his bracemate seven times. Herb had picked up 24 birds. Mr. Maytag had picked up 24 birds also. Neither dog had a single flaw or bobble. It was a dead tie!

The group retired to the lodge for some of Mamma Jean’s fried chicken and collard greens. There would have to be a tiebreaker. This time they would hunt Herb’s Gunsmoke Plantation and carry 16-gauge double barrels with one box of shells each. They would turn loose at 8 a.m. by Herb’s horse barn the following day and go for another three hours.

Word had spread around town. Better than 30 mounted riders had shown up to watch the tiebreaker. The weather had not changed much, just a bit more sunshine. Scouting conditions were still favorable—another good day to bird hunt. The grounds at Gunsmoke were very similar to Sedgewilds, an abundance of quail with a few more old fence rows and Cedar trees, which made some shots a little more arduous, and the same scouts, except Herb, who had his helper Willie Mac Davis on the dog wagon.

The duo hunted due west into the breeze most of the morning. They turned south for the last 45 minutes after hitting the property line. When time was called, both dogs had

tallied 25 perfect finds; each had backed his bracemate nine times. Herb had picked up 18 birds. Mr. Maytag bagged 18 too. Neither dog had a single flaw or bobble. What a hunt, but they were still deadlocked!

The pair decided to go into town for lunch at The Grill. Mrs. Rhodes served them up some of her world-famous barbeque, french fries, and a Sundrop on ice with some strange brown coloring in it. They had to break the tie, so it was decided to take the dogs to a neutral site. They agreed on Sehoj Plantation. Sehoj had more big fields and a lot more edge country. The dogs would have to dig to find game. To make it even more interesting, only double barrel .410s were permitted this time! The dogs needed rest, so they would turn loose at 1 p.m. behind the Big House. Permission was obtained using Mrs. Rhodes’ baby-blue rotary telephone that hung next to the “to-go order window.”

Word had spread like wildfire around town. In those days, talking about something in The Grill within earshot of Mrs. Rhodes was akin to putting it on the internet! Close to 100 spectators showed up at Sehoj to watch! The sun was shining bright, not a cloud in the sky. The temperature was a little warm for February. But still, a good day to hunt. Sehoj’s plantation manager was there to marshal. He had kindly provided Sehoj’s best mule-drawn dog wagon with refreshments for the gallery. It was time to go.

Mr. Maytag and Herb had their dogs on leashes, leading them to the breakaway point. As they walked through the crowd, Herb’s dog wheeled around and staunchly pointed a young lad standing patiently by his horse, reins in hand. The dog’s head was held high with his tail poker straight. He was focused like a laser on the lad with a bit of slobber forming on his lips. Curiously, Herb asked the young man, “Son, do you have a quail in your pocket?” The young man replied, “No, Sir.” Herb asked him, “Have you been cleaning birds this morning or something?” He replied, “No Sir, I ain’t, Sir.” Herb said, “Well, I’m so sorry young man. I apologize.” Herb reached to shake his hand and said, “What’s your name, young man?” The young lad replied, “My name is “Bob...Bob White.” Mr. Maytag turned around to leave and said, “You win.”



Nominating a dog or person for the Field Trial Hall of Fame?

Email your nominations to: Dinora Wellmann • dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

[Nominations will be updated weekly at www.americanfield.com]

SETTER SPRINGS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Canyon Creek High Tide Wins Can/Am Open Shooting Dog Classic

By Bill Owen | Payette, Idaho | April 3, 2023



Can/Am Open Shooting Dog Winners (front, l-r): Tami Larrondo with Canyon Creek High Tide, Sergio Velez with B K Bonafide Stallion, and Bridget Ledington with Elhew Charming Primrose. (Behind): Ray Larrondo, Bill Owen, Jim Ledington (judge), Talmage Smedley (judge), Mel Lueck, Emily Deasy, and Courtney Bastian (Purina rep).

The Can/Am Open Shooting Dog Classic was held starting April 3 at Prairie Wind Ranch for the third time. With a return to Canada looking very unlikely, Prairie Wind looks like our home for as long as they are willing to allow us to hold the trial there. Everyone involved is very grateful to Keith and Bobbi Richardson for making Prairie Wind available to us and many other clubs. The clubhouse and associated facilities are as good, if not better, than any I have seen in the country. During the trials, in addition to finds on released chukar, there were finds on wild Huns, pheasants, and quail.

The Can/Am is also very grateful for the continuing support of our sponsors, Purina and SportDOG. Their support helps us ensure that

it is a high-quality trial worthy of qualifying for the National Shooting Dog Championship and Purina points.

Many people contributed to making the Can/Am successful. A big thank you goes out to our judges, Jim Ledington and Talmage Smedley, who endured difficult weather and riding conditions while giving every dog their full attention. Mike Wilkin and his lovely wife, Gail, took on the dog truck responsibilities and did a great job of getting to where they needed to be when they needed to be there. Kristina Wall (Alex Mauck's better half) and Terry Reinke (aka "Field Trial Mom") did an outstanding job of making sure that everyone was well-fed three times a day. Breakfast burritos and coffee were on

the dog truck at the end of the first brace of the day every morning. Lunches and dinners were delicious multi-course meals with a hot soup or stew every meal. This was very well received as it was unusually cold, wet, and windy for most of the trial. The great food and a comfortable clubhouse created a warm social atmosphere that counterbalanced the difficult weather and riding conditions.

The conditions for the trial were challenging. Cold weather, rain, snow, wind, mud, rocks, and steep hills combined make it hard to get around and uncomfortable. Our reporter was diverted to driving the dog truck, so this write-up is limited. First place was awarded to Canyon Creek High Tide, a German Shorthair owned by Ray and Tami Larrondo and handled by Ray. Second place went to B K Bonafide Stallion, a male pointer owned and handled by Sergio Velez. Third went to Elhew Charming Primrose, a female pointer owned and handled by Mel Lueck. Thanks to all owners and handlers for participating in the 2023 Can/Am.

Payette, Ida., April 3

Judges: Jim Ledington and Talmage Smedley
CAN/AM OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 8 Pointers, 9 Setters
and 1 German Shorthair

1st—CANYON CREEK HIGH TIDE, 1672987, German Shorthair female, by H K's Prime Cut-Uodibar's Waiting For Daylight. Ray & Tami Larrondo, owners; Ray Larrondo, handler.

2d—B K BONAFIDE STALLION, 1692825, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-Wiggins Miss Stella. Sergio Velez, owner and handler.

3d—ELHEW CHARMING PRIMROSE, 1681091, pointer female, by Elhew Snakecharm-Xenia Elhew Sinbad Jesse. Mel Lueck, owner and handler.

GRAND NATIONAL PUPPY CLASSIC

Chasehill Snoop Dog Wins 74th Running

By Thor Kain | Philipsburg, Pennsylvania | April 7, 2023

April 7th was the date that those with nominated puppies would put on their calendar for the chance to run their prospects in the premier Puppy Classic in the country. The breeders of the puppies have to nominate litters, and the owners pay a forfeit to be eligible to run, making this a true breeders' stake. This year's host grounds, located in the scenic Black Moshannon State Forest in central Pennsylvania, would be new to all as it has never hosted a grouse trial.

Joining me in judging duties was Russell Ogilvie from Maine. Russell's dog, Spring Brook Maximus, won the Grand National Grouse Championship last fall, earning him a spot in the Invitational. Russell is no stranger to grouse trials or judging. We both agreed we

wanted to see a hard-driving, fancy pup who laid to the front and handled. The course was tight and thick in spots and only had two good spots to show a dog, the beginning and the end. This separated a lot of really nice puppies that may have placed had their handler been able to show them better this day.

The running started around 10 a.m. as we had to wait for the Grand National Grouse and Woodcock Invitational callbacks to be run before starting. After the Invitational winners were announced, we headed to the puppy course and broke away under partly cloudy skies and cool conditions. The first dog to catch our eye was Rockland Ridge Rocky, a setter male handled by Robert Ecker, owned by Gary Chlapaty, and bred by Evangelos

Aposporis. He ran in brace No. 2 and kept the front with little to no handling. As we rounded the bend to head through the open woods and finish, Ecker was able to sing him around from our front, and Rocky swung up through the pole timber and caught the front just how you'd want them to do it. His efforts earned him third place when the announcements were made.

The next dog that stood out was Grouse Hill Princess, handled by Christy Forman, owned by John Capocci, and bred by Evangelos Aposporis. This fancy female ran after her littermate Rocky and burned up the course with plenty of running style. She got a little behind in the first piece of cover, or she may have placed higher. Her run earned her the

honor of fourth place.

The winner came out of brace No. 5. Chasehill Snoop Dog is bred, owned, and handled by Rhode Island pro John Stolgitis. Snoop is out of the famous Panola Bacon x Chasehill Little Izzy breeding. Prior breedings of this pair have produced multiple champions and kept on with the tradition of Chasehill breeding being superior grouse trial dogs. Snoop made a big breakaway cast but showed nicely going down the hill before the first turn. He hunted the cover in the bottom, and Stolgitis was able to show him when the course allowed for it. This promising young prospect runs with a high cracking tail, light-footed gait, and blistering speed. All those qualities were what fellow judge and I wanted to see, and Stolgitis's ability to get the dog back and show him at key parts of the course set him apart and earned him first place in this year's renewal.

The second-place dog came from brace No. 6. Hog Hill Open Meadow is owned, bred, and handled by Connecticut amateur Tim Cavanaugh. Meadow is as hard-charging as they come, with an easy gait. She made a big move going down the first hill and showed back up just in time to make the first turn. She got sticky on the last turn, separating her



74th Grand National Puppy Classic Winners (l-r): John Stolgitis with Chasehill Snoop Dog, Tim Cavanaugh with Hog Hill Open Meadow, Russell Ogilvie (judge), Thor Kain (judge), Robert Ecker with Rockland Ridge McGraw, and Kristy Helmes with Grouse Hill Princess.

from the winner. We saw several nice puppies this day that will undoubtedly go on to do big things.

I want to thank Russell Ogilvie for judging with me, all the breeders who continue to support the Grand National Grouse Futurity, and the owners as well. The Grand National owes a big thank you to Greg Blair and Purina for their continued support of our events. Also, Garmin International for their gifts of Garmin products for the winner. I hope to see everyone this fall at the Grouse Futurity.

**Philipsburg, Pa., April 7 – One Course
Judges: Thor Kain and Russell Ogilvie
74TH GRAND NATIONAL PUPPY CLASSIC – 10
Pointers, 13 Setters and 1 Irish Setter**

1st—CHASEHILL SNOOP DOG, 1703110, pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Erin Stolgitis, owner; John Stolgitis, handler.
2d—HOG HILL OPEN MEADOW, 1700607, pointer female, by Trumped-Campbell's Hog Hill Remi. Timothy & Gabriel Cavanaugh, owners; Tim Cavanaugh, handler.
3d—ROCKLAND RIDGE ROCKY, 1700815, setter male, by Grouse Hill Bullet Proof-Spata Setters Sally. Gary Chlapaty, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.
4th—GROUSE HILL PRINCESS, 1702135, setter female, by Grouse Hill Bullet Proof-Spata Setters Sally. Giovanni Capocci, owner; Christy Helmes, handler.

ONTARIO GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

Dick Brenneman's Full Breeze Captures Her Second Ontario Grouse Championship

By David A. Fletcher | Marienville, Pennsylvania | April 11, 2023

The 29th running of the Ontario Grouse Championship was completed on April 13 over historic courses at the Allegheny National Forest near Marienville, Pa. Full Breeze, the 2023 champion, is owned by Dick Brenneman of Port Matilda, Pa., and handled by veteran cover dog trainer and handler Dave Hughes of Grampian, Pa. No runner-up was named. The event most certainly was conducted in perhaps the most devastating conditions ever experienced in the nearly three decades of running this Championship.

The Ontario Grouse Championship started in Ontario, Canada, when Jack Clark, Dan Mansell, Tim Tufts, and Bill McClure wanted to begin wild bird grouse and woodcock events on their home turf. This would be in addition to the Ontario Bird Dog and Conservation one-course liberated bird events in London, Toronto, Oshawa, and Ottawa, some of those clubs in existence since the late '40s. The initial events were held near Norwood, Ontario. Scribe was born and raised in Ontario, field trialed there beginning in 1957, and joined the Ontario Grouse Dog Club in 1987. On behalf of the Club, to petition for a wild bird Championship, I met with William F. Brown, American Field editor, at his office in Chicago, and with good documentation of club history in writing, came home with the Ontario Grouse Championship approval,



Ontario Grouse Championship Winner (front): Mark Hughes with Full Breeze and the Ontario Grouse Championship trophy. (Behind, l-r): Scott Forman, Christy Helms, Patti Chelednik, John Capocci, Dave Fletcher, Steve Chiappini, Dr. Tim Perschke, Bob Wheelock (judge), Dave Duell, Eric Munden (judge), Norm Meeder, Dave Hughes (handler) with the winner's plaque, Joe Cammissa, Bob Smith, Deb Nihart, Bob Smith, Jr., and Marc Forman.

coming into effect after three years of running classics. The Club had moved to the Copeland Forest grounds near Barrie, Ontario, but after several years of successful Championship running there, factors hindered the Club's efforts. Many of the original supporters faded from membership. Additionally, the grounds were open to public hunting, even during the trial dates, and there was no cutting program to bring aspen or any cover areas into

regrowth habitat. Secretary Tim Tufts was virtually left alone with Club management, and for nearly half a century, he put on the Championships enlisting Directors in the persons of Joe Cammissa, Dr. Tim Perschke along with himself; Dave Fletcher was involved at the beginning and was re-enlisted as president when, after working for The FIELD, was able to rejoin the group.

The weather was a huge factor at the

Championship, with temperatures over 80 in the middle portion of the day, every day of the running. Although there were puddles here and there on every course, the dry leaf-scattered woods floor where dogs were using their noses to find scent was terribly dry. No rain fell, and winds may have helped disperse any scent that may have been available.

The lack of birds in the Ontario Championship and its 16 hours of running puzzled everyone in attendance. Were there no birds left on the courses? That seemed impossible. All the spring trials here expect lower bird contact in the spring because there is no new cover, just a layer of dead leaves on the ground. Was there anything on the grounds for them to eat, as the spring plant growth had likely not started? Grouse winter on aspen buds and the buds of many trees and shrubs. Were they flying up into the branches to feed on buds already opening to the spring warmth and not walking to feed, leaving scent trails? Because of the many 70 degrees or better days in early April, were woodcock and grouse hens on nests incubating eggs, giving off very little scent, and not walking anywhere on the woods floor? Likely the primary reason was the extremely dry woods floor, with no moisture in the leaves and ground covers, severely limiting scenting. As hard as almost every dog was hunting and not finding birds, bird scarcity was a huge question. Were we into another population cycle of ruffed grouse numbers, which this sport has experienced several times over the years?

Tim Tufts, of Orono, Ontario, carried this Club on his back dedicatedly and willingly for a half-century until his death from cancer on July 17, 2022. It was a great blow to the Club, and this year the Ontario Championship was an opportunity to remember and voice what Tim had done for his favorite Grouse Championship. Tim Tufts's plaques were hung during the Club dinner on Wednesday evening at the clubhouse. President Fletcher composed and read a written presentation of the history of Tufts and the Ontario Grouse Club. After day two, on Tim's favorite spot of all the courses at Marienville, club officials performed a ceremony. Joe Cammisa and Dr. Tim Perschke read a wonderful testimony written by Tim's wife, Frances, and Dave Fletcher scattered Tim's ashes as he had requested. Everyone at the trial was solemnly present.

Every club currently staging a championship has a roster of club officers and helpers that virtually make the event happen. Club Secretary/Treasurer Joe Cammisa is the key man in the Ontario Grouse Championship. In addition to the tasks such as the club ad, trophies, awards, securing the judges, lodging arrangements, evening dinners, and noontime lunches on the grounds, he also directs the movement of the road gallery from course to course. Giving their time and effort were the likes of Dick Brenneman, Dave Duell, Norm Meeder, George Tickerhoof, club officials Perschke and Fletcher, and others

that attended, marshaling and using the two-way radios to keep tabs on the progress of the courses.

Providing delicious tailgate food items were Suzie Cammisa's tarts and cookies, Helen Brenneman's whoopie pies, the Powell's Amish pies, and the Tim Perschke and Joe Cammisa salads. The mainstay of the tailgate noon luncheons was the excellent subs from Bettina's eatery in Marienville. A further thank you goes to Purina for their product donations and to Greg Blair for his help. Lion Country Supply helped with judges' gifts, and Sharon and Tim Perschke hosted your scribe at Sharon's Horse Haven facility, great lodging near the clubhouse.

Judges for the 29th running were Bob Wheelock of Michigan and Eric Munden of Pennsylvania. Both are experienced pointing dog men and were attentive to the dogs' performances. Eric Munden is the business manager for Lion Country Supply in Port Matilda, Pa. As a boy, he began hunting small game and deer, read about bird dogs and acquired a Gordon setter as his first bird dog. Later, he and pro Dave D'Hulster met, field trials were discovered and attended, and Eric began to compete in trials. He has owned and handled his dogs to many field trial wins.

Bob Wheelock has been a field trialer for 23 years and has owned, trained, and handled his setters to 90 placements. It all began when Bob purchased a puppy when Dave Hawk bred his great female Quail Trap Sadie to Shadow Oak Bo, who had just won the National Championship at Grand Junction, Tenn., two years running; a remarkable feat. Out of this, the Wheelock string started. In the ensuing years, two notable winners emerged in Nobody's Shadow and Out of the Shadows, accumulating four championships and four runner-up championships in cover dog events.

The Winner and Others

Full Breeze, a 7-year-old setter female, captured the Ontario Grouse Championship for owner Dick Brenneman and handler Dave Hughes for the second successive time. Breeze had a remarkable hunting effort capped by a superb woodcock find. Her overall performance also overcame a pair of unproductives. This hard-hunting female has previously stood in the winners' circle and recently earned a callback berth in the Grouse and Woodcock Invitational Championship. Some of her other wins include runner-up at the Pennsylvania Grouse Championship and a first at the Pennsylvania Grouse Open All-Age. Full Breeze is a stylish moving dog, reaching over the courses and standing on point. She is very focused on finding birds and visits all the likely places on her course. A product of the 40-year partnership of Bob Watts and Dick Brenneman, she takes her place among the likes of Body Guard, Northern Anndee, Pennstar, Full Tilt, Full Blast, Straight Forward, and Blast Zone, which this pair have developed, campaigned and won with. Were there other dogs in the stake that challenged for a placement? There

were several that had superb hunting efforts without bird contact. The top dog among those was Ken Moss's Moss Meadow Seeker, perhaps the finest hunting effort in the entire stake without a bird.

The Running

The initial breakaway came Tuesday morning at 7:15 on the Lamonville side of the extensive grounds. It was a totally clear sky, with the thermometer reaching the 70s at midday. The wind stirred a bit in the afternoon. The forest floor was extremely dry.

Rowling's Star (Scott Forman) and Braggabull (Mark Hughes). Star wanted the far places and hit the front with speed and determination, edging every good-looking cover as she hunted. Braggabull, on the other hand, seemed to have a touch of indecision about where to hunt. Both dogs failed to find birds. One grouse was heard leaving the course route; neither dog in the vicinity.

Blast Off (Mark Forman) and Doodle Ridge Elroy (Mark Hughes). The former's effort was solidly applied. Always forward, and there was never a letup. Elroy also put great effort into his hunting, getting behind briefly a time or two. The tracking collar was called for at 50 for Elroy. No birds moved.

Grouse Trails Warrior Cat (McKellop) and Miller's Hopped Up Version (Mark Hughes). Cat was handled by her owner John McKellop. Cat was stylish in motion, and she had a very strong gait. She hunted hard and went deep in the course, all without the reward of a bird. Hopped Up was also very wide from the breakaway, and the tracking collar came into use at 28. No birds.

Game Winner (Mark Hughes) and Moss Meadow Seeker (Moss). Handled by owner Ken Moss, Seeker ran surely the best race of the first day of the stake and, in review, perhaps the best hunting in the entire stake. She was always forward, hitting the good cover with purpose. No letup, but no birds. It was getting warm, and the heat was beginning to affect performances slightly. The winner was let loose in 82-degree heat, and it showed in his speed and drive. No birds.

Double Deuce Sage (Dave Hughes) and Grouse Ridge Mags (Scott Forman). Sage had some lateral hunting early, and both dogs were heated near halftime. It appeared they got to some water at that juncture, and both rallied for some far-forward hunting near the close of the hour.

Thunderhills Back In Black (Mark Hughes) and Full Breeze (Dave Hughes). Black went hard and out of sight from the breakaway, and the tracking collar was used at 21. From the time she was released, Breeze hunted with good purpose and pointed woodcock at 5, in the edge of the breakaway field. Stylish and mannerly throughout, the judiciary saw another woodcock take wing on the far side of the opening in good cover; Breeze recorded unproductives at 25 and 48. She was still hunting hard at pickup.

A Distant Spec (Mark Hughes) and Pistol Patch Bullet (Scott Forman). They were both strong afoot and well forward most of the hour, all without birds.

Wednesday was a repeat of Tuesday, very sunny, hot, and over 80 degrees from mid-morning on, and the dry cover was not yielding any scent.

Suemic's Sashay (Mark Hughes) and Caliber Peak Storm Warning (Gomes). Owner Sarah Gomes handled the latter. Sashay hunted moderately to begin, backed her brace mate, making more reaching casts later, but was taken up near time. Storm Warning hunted and handled well but logged two unproductives.

Grouse Hill Bullet Proof (Scott Forman) and Double Deuce Zeke (Mark Hughes). Both dogs hunted hard and chose good places up front but were birdless for the hour.

I'll Be Back (Mark Hughes) and Deciding Point (Dave Hughes). Both dogs hunted steadily, making nice forward casts, the former a little bit here, there, and everywhere on the course, but neither found birds for their effort. Gallery flushed a Grouse at 54, with no

dog in the vicinity.

Wayward Flyin Tomato (Dave Hughes) and Cal Peak Hundredth Meridian (Gomes). Tomato hunted strongly, hitting the good places, a bit lateral at times, but a good effort overall. Meridian reached into the far places, all over the course route. No birds for either

Warrior Zeke (Mark Hughes) and Baker River's Mountain Man (Mark Forman). The temperature had reached 82 degrees. Both dogs were having a bit of a hard time in the heat, yet they kept hunting. Man was gone 15 minutes late in the hour and was found lying in a big mud puddle. As we neared, he rose, dug himself a deeper place, and laid down again in the cooling water.

Double Deuce Oscar (Mark Hughes) and Thunderhills Storm Rider (Dave Hughes). Great hunting from the breakaway for Oscar, but he was gone from judgment at 50. Rider was leashed early in the hour, handler's choice.

Miller's Special Upgrade (Mark Hughes) and Grouse Ringer Pappy (Scott Forman). Both hunted well early in the hour and, despite the heat, got stronger as they went. Pappy

logged an unproductive at 52. Nothing with feathers moved.

Thursday was another repeat of sun and heat by mid-morning. The initial morning breakaway, in the 60s, afforded the dogs some relief from the heat.

Pistol Grip (Mark Hughes) and Jar's Way Leroy (Dave Hughes). Grip hunted hard from his first cast, went on well, but suffered an unproductive. Leroy hunted a big pattern, kept to the front, and finished very strong. No bird contact for either dog.

Backwoods Wildfire (Mark Hughes) and French's Grouseringer Woody (Mark Forman). Wildfire hunted his course at medium range, but his attention was certainly on trying to find a bird to point. Woody was fast, wide, and full of go. He hunted hard despite the heat rising and finished well. No bird contact for either dog.

Marienville, Pa., April 11

Judges: Eric Munden and Bob Wheelock

ONTARIO GROUSE CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] - 16 Pointers and 16 Setters

Winner—FULL BREEZE, 1667989, setter female, by Full Blast—Straight Forward. Richard Brenneman, owner; Dave Hughes, handler.

VENANGO GROUSE TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial Held In Conjunction With The Ontario Grouse Championship

By Joe Cammisa | Marienville, Pennsylvania | April 13, 2023

The Venango spring Open Puppy and Open Derby ran in conjunction with the Ontario Grouse Championship, which the Venango Grouse Trial Club hosted.

Judges for the Open Puppy were Brian Ralph of Sandy Lake, Pa., and Bob Smith of Clinton, N. C.

The Open Derby was judged by long-time veterans of the grouse woods, the duo of Dr. Timothy Perschke, Butler, Pa., and Gerry Mercatoris, Brookville, Pa.

In the Derby, Parkway, a pointer male, was the first-place winner, besting a field of 15 others by laying down a blistering race in the last brace of the day. Parker is owned and handled by Mark Hughes. Pretty Boy Leo, a pointer male owned by Ted Mappas of Staten Island, N. Y., and handled by Mark Hughes, ran in brace No. 2 and stayed in the winners' circle by being front running and hitting all

the right objectives. Third place went to a fancy setter, Sam. He ran in brace No. 6 and is owned by Scott Johnson of Trufant, Mich., and was handled by Scott Forman. The judges noted that there was a lot of talent in the stake.

The Venango Puppy Classic saw this year's blue ribbon go to Grey Eagle Molly, a classy and fancy moving setter female owned and handled by William Drawl. Grey Eagle, hot off a win at the Nittany Valley field trial, came back to show that she meant business. The red ribbon went to Grouse Hill Princess, a gracious moving, front-running, and stylish setter owned by John Capocci and handled by Christy Helms. Shady Hills Zeeva garnered the yellow by staying forward and looking good at it.

As always, the Venango Club would like to thank all that made the trial a success, and to our sponsor, Purina and Greg Blair, a special thank you for allowing us to live this dream of

field trialing.

Marienville, Pa., April 13 – One Course

Judges: Gerry Mercatoris and Dr. Timothy Perschke

OPEN DERBY – 10 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st—PARKWAY, 1701708, pointer male, by Grouse Trails Tuscarora-Halestorm. Mark Hughes, owner and handler.

2d—PRETTY BOY LEO, 1699782, pointer male, by Grouse Ridge Smokey-High Desert Storm. Theodore Mappas, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

3d—SCOTTLAND COUNTRY BOY TOO, 1699777, setter male, by Long Hair Country Boy-Scotland Winnie Too. Scott Johnson, owner; Scott Forman, handler.

Judges: Brian Ralph and Bob Smith

OPEN PUPPY – 3 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st—GREY EAGLE MOLLY, 1700978, setter female, by End Game-Riverside's Honey Howard. William R. Drawl, owner and handler.

2d—GROUSE HILL PRINCESS, 1702135, setter female, by Grouse Hill Bullet Proof-Spata Setters Sally. Giovanni Capocci, owner; Christy Helms, handler.

3d—SHADY HILLS ZEEVA, 1703773, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Shady Hills Zeena. Debra Nihart, owner; Marc Forman, handler.

— REGISTER PUREBRED DOGS —

Every breeder of purebred dogs should make sure that all litters are enrolled in the *FIELD DOG STUD BOOK* and should urge purchasers of puppies to register them at once. *FDSB* litter enrollment assures authenticity of breeding; it sets up a permanent and always accessible record, and insures against any future accidents to the pedigree papers. Litter enrollment fee is only \$25.00 plus \$2.00 per puppy.

Registration of individual dogs assures that the dog's win and production records will be completely preserved. Fee for registration of an individual dog is just \$25.00. All that is required is an application form accompanied by a breeding certificate that has been filled in and signed by the owner of the dam.

The necessary forms are available upon request and may also be accessed at www.americanfield.com.

GRAND NATIONAL GROUSE & WOODCOCK INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Chasehill Poison Ivy Named Champion; B K Rolling Dice, Runner-Up

By Bob Watts | Philipsburg, Pennsylvania | April 12, 2023



Grand National Grouse & Woodcock Invitational Championship Winners (front, l-r): Allen Raiano, John Stolgitis (GNG director) with Chasehill Poison Ivy, and Bruce Minard (GNG director) with B K Rolling Dice. (Behind): Mark Hughes, Scott Forman, Christy Helms, Mary Moss, Brian Ralph (GNG secretary), Tammy Chaffee, Dick Brenneman (GNG director), Joe Cammisa (GNG Invitational secretary), Marc Forman (judge), Bill Siemer, Jennie Minard, Deb Nihart, and Helen Brenneman. (Third row): Mike Flewelling, Dave Hughes (GNG director), Jeff Keller, Ken Moss, Russell Ogilvie, Scott Chaffee (GNG director), Dave Duell (GNG director), John Stegman, Bob Watts (reporter), Dr. Bruce Mueller (judge), Ed Graddy, and Greg Johnson.

The 32nd Annual Grouse and Woodcock Invitational Championship was held April 12-14 at Black Moshannon State Forest, hosted by the Black Moshannon Grouse Trial Club and sponsored by Purina and Garmin. The grounds were new to the Mid-Atlantic Region after Jeff Keller, Dick Brenneman, and Rob Boos finished the work that Jeff Keller first took on by himself. They worked hard and made nine courses, a Puppy and a Derby course. The area comprises approximately 6,500 acres. This area holds a good number of birds, making the trial a great success.

The venue was a good one to show off running, hunting, and bird-finding abilities. The venue is an oak surrounded by short timber, young cuts, and mountain laurel. The area was well suited for trialing with nearby accommodations of bed and breakfasts, Airbnb, hotels, and restaurants. Nearby State College offers the finishing touches.

An upfront thank you goes to Allen Raiano, owner of Chasehill Poison Ivy, who provided appetizers for the drawing in honor of last year's runner-up championship placement. Additionally, to Bill Siemer, who provided lunches both days for the running in honor of his championship win last year. Helen Brenneman and Suzie Cammisa came with baked goods for the morning breaks and lunch desserts.

The drawing was held Tuesday, April 11, at RJ's Pub in Philipsburg, and after social hour, Invitational Secretary Joe Cammisa started the draw. The list included the top 14 cover dogs in the country, with two of the originally nominated invitees declining to run, allowing the next two acceptances to get the nod. The 14 dogs who accepted and were drawn to compete were: B K Rolling Dice, owned by Bill Siemer and handled by Bruce Minard; Chasehill Poison Ivy, owned by Allen Raiano

and handled by John Stolgitis; Spring Brook Maximus, owned and handled by Russel Ogilvie; Moss Meadow Seeker, owned and handled by Ken Moss; Snyder's Fireside Ed, owned by Steve Snyder and handled by Tammy Chaffee; Sterlingworth Jack, owned by Jim Millet and handled by Robert Ecker; Braggabull, owned and handled by Mark Hughes; Duck Hook, owned by Dick Straub and Mike Flewelling and handled by Mike Flewelling; Daddy's Little Boy Butch, owned by Paul Scott and handled by John Stolgitis; Neo owned by David Theroux and handled by Adam Dubriske; Northwoods Atlas, owned and handled by Greg Johnson; North Slopes Allie, owned and handled by Ed Graddy; Full Breeze, owned by Dick Brenneman and Bob Watts; Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella, owned by Marty Festa and handled by Dave Hughes.

The judges for this year's event were Marc Forman of Prattsburgh, N. Y., and Dr. Bruce Mueller of Bedford, Pa. Both judges are highly knowledgeable in bird dog raising, training, trialing, and sitting in the judicial saddle. The two are outstanding sportsmen and bring a lot to the table. The reporter was Bob Watts of Lewisburg, Pa.

The morning meeting place was the Black Moshannon boat launch parking lot. All three days started there with a parade of cars lined up traveling to the start of the first brace, additionally the callbacks.

The Running

Day 1—Wednesday, April 12

(Brace No. 1) After meeting at the boat mooring #1 site, the field trial participants moved to the start of course eight for the first brace featuring Snyder's Fireside Ed (Tammy Chaffee) and Sterlingworth Jack (Robert Ecker) off at 8 a.m. under sunny skies and a temperature of 57 degrees. Both were strong

at the start, laying well forward. Ed, with his size and high carriage, makes one follow his every move through the woods. Jack was the wider running dog. He's a swift and attractive dog in motion. It took some calling for Jack to come around from his casts. He occasionally checked in with his handler. Both dogs were consistently driving throughout the hour. The temperature was rising fast and was near 70 degrees as the time for the brace to finish approached. Both dogs slowed a bit in the final minutes as they were ahead well in hand at the finish. No birds were pointed by either dog.

(Brace No. 2) B K Rolling Dice (Bruce Minard) and Northwoods Atlas (Ed Graddy) broke away with the temperature continuing to rise on this exceptionally warm day for early April, and dogs that spent the winter in their northern home state like Wisconsin (Atlas) had a major adjustment to make to the conditions. A significant snowstorm had hit the upper Midwest just days earlier, making it even tougher to prepare these dogs. Atlas, the tri-color setter, is owned by Greg Johnson. He was attractive in motion. Light on his feet, he was fleet through the woods. At 10, he stopped, but the stand proved barren, and he quickly moved on. Meanwhile, Dice was put on a clinic for what a hard-running dog could do in search of game. She laid out wide throughout the heat. She was in and out of bell range as Minard called to her and sang to let her know the direction the course was taking. A pair of grouse flushed wild at 30. At 40, Dice gave us a good look at her determined effort as she raced across an open field, pushing herself hard to the front. Atlas was putting forth a mature, moderate-ranged, serious hunting effort. He pointed in a likely spot. After a flushing attempt, Atlas was sent to relocate, and a close-by, tight-sitting woodcock was bumped, with Atlas stopping sharply to honor the flight. He was steady for the shot. At 55, both dogs were stopped. It was determined that Dice had the bird and Atlas was backing. Both dogs stood tall and steady as the woodcock was flushed and shot over.

(Brace No. 3) Seventy-degree temps greeted Braggabull (Mark Hughes) and Neo (Adam Dubriske). In this late-morning brace, Neo was off to a strong start demonstrating strong drive and speed. A leggy setter with a high tail carriage that was very straight, he demanded the gallery's attention as he flew to the front. Braggabull, the pointer, checked in early with Hughes and settled into a medium-range hunting effort. She's an exceptionally classy dog. Flashy, running with a cracking tail and animated gait, she applied herself diligently throughout the heat. Her pace was consistent, and her pattern was forward right to the end. Neo was in and out of bell range in the first half of the heat. He was scouted a couple of

times when he did not return promptly. At the halfway point, he seemed to get turned around and went back toward the breakaway, where he was picked up.

Brace No. 4 paired Full Breeze (Dave Hughes) and Daddy's Little Boy Butch (John Stolgitis). Temperatures were in the 70s at 12:45 p.m. as this brace broke away on course two. Butch went out strong and was laying out wide at the start. He's a powerful, smooth-running male. Back in hand at 5, he was athletic, gliding through the heavy cover that characterizes this course. Bree, co-owned by your reporter, took right to hunting in a mature fashion for Hughes. She was a bit lateral in her pattern at times. At 20, Bree reached out over 100 yards to an inviting cut and then hunted this cut forward to its end. This demonstrated her determination and savvy. Both dogs tore the dense cover apart. Bree stopped at 26 off the path but moved on without a flushing attempt. Butch had point called for him at 33, 30 yards off the path. Bree was also hunting on the same side of the course, and her bell stopped another 20 yards farther into the cover in this same area. Hughes flushed and fired as a woodcock erupted in front of Bree, who stood with super style and intensity. Meanwhile, Butch had let down his pointing style a bit as the woodcock Bree had nailed had apparently run away from his point. Stolgitis correctly fired over his dog, and the judges declared this a divided find. At 45, Butch had point called for him 30 yards from the path. Judge and handler fought their way through the dense underbrush and spied Butch standing with a level tail as a grouse blew out in front of his stand. Both dogs finished at a moderate pace as the clock wound down to conclude the hour.

(Brace No. 5) After lunch at the roadside, veteran Duck Hook (John Stolgitis) and North Slopes Allie (Craig Johnson) were off at 2:40 p.m. A brief shower over lunch did little to improve the hot conditions as temps were now in the mid-70s with full sun. Hook is co-owned by Mike Flewelling and the recently deceased Dick Straub, a bird dog enthusiast for more than 50 years. While he organized and ran local quail trials in his home area of southeast Pennsylvania, his first love was for grouse hunting and grouse trialing. Dick grew up in the center of grouse territory, and he and his brother returned to these roots to hunt virtually every season. Dick owned 20 cover dog champions, with Duck Hook most recently the winner of the coveted Pennsylvania Grouse Championship. Dick was highly respected and loved by the many friends made through grouse dogs and cover dog trialing. At the trial banquet, the prayer over dinner thanked God for the life and contributions of friend and fellow bird dog lover Dick Straub.

Hook acquitted himself well on the ground. Remember, each of these 14 competitors is an elite among cover dogs. Hook hunted like the veteran he is, with Mike Flewelling on hand to scout. At 23, he stood tall, but the flushing effort proved unproductive. Meanwhile, Allie made a good impression on the judges as she

ran hard and with great appeal. She's a classy moving girl, very snappy. She stopped at 8, but nothing could be produced. She swung with the handler as the course had some twists and turns designed to take advantage of good coverts worth hunting. Hook got a little rummy and was gone for a while at the 40-minute mark, but he was back in hand by 50. Allie continued driving on the ground, and her efforts took her in and out of bell range as she smartly sought out likely cover to hunt. Both dogs finished strong.

(Brace No. 6) Chasehill Poison Ivy (John Stolgitis) and Moss Meadow Seeker (Ken Moss). At 4:05 p.m., this pair would break away. Amateur Ken Moss guided his big, tri-colored male to the front. Seeker ran hard and carried himself with athleticism not commonly seen in a dog of his size. Through the middle of the course, Seeker came from a side cast and swung hard to the front. As Seeker made this move, he made a most indelible impression of what a big striding cover dog should look like. At times Seeker seemed to rely on his handler for direction as the territory was new to him. Ivy, a pointer female, was a thrill to watch in action. She's lithe and quickly moves over the ground. At times she seems to fly despite rocky footing and thick alder cover. How a dog can navigate under these conditions is often a wonder, and Ivy is a master at it. She was most consistent through the first half of the hour, responding well to her handler when he needed her to turn or come on. There's a clear connection and respect between Stolgitis and Ivy forged through many training sessions, hunting trips, and field trials. At 45, Ivy's bell stopped ringing, and soon the handler and scout were out looking for her. Seeker, too, was in that area, and after some minutes, his bell also stopped, and eventually, the handlers located their dogs with Ivy pointing and Seeker backing—a picture to thrill any bird dog owner. Both dogs stood steady for the wing and shot as the woodcock took flight. From here, both dogs went on to finish with plenty left in the tank.

(Brace No. 7) The last brace of the day featured Spring Brook Maximus with Russ Ogilvie and Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella (Robert Ecker). Harper put down a class performance. She can flat-out move over the ground with drive and determination. Flashy would describe her appearance in motion. Ecker had her hunting forward and in the pocket for the most part. At 8, Harper stood ahead with arresting style. She had a woodcock perfectly located, and all was proper for the flush and shot. Near the midway point of the course, Harper seemed to let down for just a couple of minutes. She quickly regained her form and continued with determination. At 56, she had an honest stop-to-flush. After being shot over, Harper finished going strong. She was given serious consideration for "Day Dog," with that very short letdown in the middle being a deciding factor. Meanwhile, Max got off to a powerful start. He had his running shoes on this day. He was rough handling. At times he got behind,

and it was tough to get him forward. His handler had his hands full, and at one point, Max was gone for 25 minutes, according to the judges' records.

Day 2—April 13

(Brace No. 1) The same courses were followed in the same order on day two as on day one of the running. Full Breeze (Dave Hughes) and Duck Hook (Mike Flewelling). Mike, co-owner, took the reins of Duck Hook today, relieving John Stolgitis; John scouted. An overnight shower helped quiet the walking on day two. Bree started and continued in a businesslike fashion. A 20, Bree made a 150-yard cast to an inviting cut. When she did not emerge for a while, Mark Hughes was dispatched to scout for her. He reported she had a woodcock pointed, and the bird flushed before he could get the judges' attention. This action was not under official judgment. Bree continued to hunt through this cut and showed to the front an impressive swing. Dick Brenneman took over the reins for his dog briefly until Dave Hughes caught up to the gallery. Hook ran with authority in the opening twenty minutes of this brace. His intelligence and experience showed as he picked objectives and traveled from one to the other. A grouse flushed wild at 10. At 55, Hook handled a woodcock with 10 o'clock pointing style, and he was steady to the wing and shot. Both dogs finished at moderate range, still moving with good drive.

Brace No. 2 paired North Slopes Allie (Ed Graddy) and Chasehill Poison Ivy (John Stolgitis). Right off the breakaway, both dogs were in a briar patch where they encountered a porcupine. Both had quills in their nose. Handlers tended to their dogs in fairly short order; they were clear and on their way. Both dogs may have been thrown off their balance for over the next 10 minutes or so; they were a little less than their usual selves. Both continued to pick up steam as they went along, and soon, the porcupine and its quill were forgotten. Allie was fancy and snappy for Graddy. She was in and out so far as her pattern on day two. She hunted hard at times in the cuts, then would ease off and come back in. Then out again and hunting hard, flying through the thickets. Ivy, too, fell back into her forward-searching, busy pattern. As the temps warmed up, she only got stronger. Perhaps she wasn't as spectacular as she was on day one when she was named Day Dog, but it was still a quality effort by the classy female. At 55, Allie pointed in a cut. Standing on a logging road, the gallery had a good look at her intense 11:30 style. Graddy flushed a woodcock with Allie mannerly for the shot and then took a step to mark the bird. The step was not a detraction. Allie finished hunting, but her efforts on day one may have taken some of her strength away. She is one of the dogs from up north who had a challenge getting ready for this event. Ivy finished giving it a good effort but wasn't as strong as on day one.

Brace No. 3 paired Moss Meadow Seeker (Ken Moss) and Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella (Robert Ecker). Two big running dogs dashed

to the front at the break. They were on the edge of bell range for a while. Seeker drifted out, and it took several minutes to get him rounded up and back on track. At times he struggled to stay in front. The agile female, Harper, pounded the ground, handling well for such a hard-running dog. At 30, point was called for Seeker. He was handsome, standing there with high intense style. As Moss flushed, a young woodcock was spotted by the gallery running from the point. Moss started after it, and it took off running even farther from the dog. Seeker lost some pointing intensity as the bird was now 30 yards from the original stand when it finally took to the air. At 50, Harper pointed. After Ecker gave a thorough flushing effort, she was sent to relocate. While she was engaged in this relocation, Ecker walked up a woodcock. From here, both dogs impressed with their strong finish.

Brace No. 4 paired Spring Brook Maximus (Russ Ogilvie) and Sterlingworth Jack. A front went through about mid-day with some light rain beginning and the temps falling into the 40s. Max ran a well-patterned, forward race, in contrast to his rough handling and more erratic pattern on day one. Strong and focused on finding birds, he made a lasting impression. At 32, he pointed, and a woodcock was produced, manners appropriate. At 55, he again handled a woodcock with perfect manners. On both pieces of bird work, his tail was relatively low. Had he pointed with more style, he may well have been a Day Dog. Jack was more powerful on the ground today in comparison to day one. He got sticky in some likely coverts and occasionally fell behind as the handler continued ahead. At 40, Jack had a legitimate stop-to-flush on a grouse. Jack and Max both finished ahead, hunting enthusiastically.

Brace No. 5 paired Snyder's Fireside Ed (Tammy Chaffee) and B K Rolling Dice (Bruce Minard). Ed went forward at the break and was not sent for a few minutes until he came slashing across the front, giving the gallery a good look at his smooth, ground-devouring gait. He's a beauty in motion. From here, he charged through the open woods reaching for more likely cover beyond. Dice was giving the gallery more of the same that she demonstrated on day one, more hard and fast hunting to the limits of bell range and sometimes beyond bell range. She knows what she's out here for, and nothing is going to get in her way. Just when you think that she's been lost, she will show up and go to the front. She and Bruce clearly have a rapport. He sings to her, and she's listening to his singing, swinging from one cover to another. At times she could have been more forward. At 33, Dice had a woodcock pointed with style and handled with ideal manners. Ed properly backed this stance. As we went on, Ed's bell stopped in thick cover at the 45 mark. When Tammy found Ed, he was in a twisted, low-pointing stance with the woodcock close by. Dice was there as well, backing. All in order for the shot. Both continued in the final minutes hunting some of the thicker and most attractive covers of the course.

Brace No. 6 paired Northwoods Atlas (Ed Johnson) and Braggabull (Mark Hughes). Atlas took off at a fast pace, headed to the front. He was forward throughout his hour of hunting. The longer the hour wore on, the stronger Atlas became. He's a powerful dog, and at the same time, he exudes class. Driving hard, especially in the second half of the hour, Atlas could be described as fancy and, with that, had the gallery riveted on his performance. At 55, Atlas pointed, and his bracemate honored his stand. Unfortunately, no bird could be produced despite this being an inviting habitat. Braggabull hunted at a moderate pace. She was mature in her searching and stretched out on some casts. She was very attractive running. Snappy, light on her feet, and cracky-tailed, she backed Atlas properly at 55 but couldn't turn up a bird of her own today.

Brace No. 7 paired Neo (Adam Dubriske) and Daddy's Little Boy Butch (John Stolgitis). Butch ran to the limits on this day. He was powerful on the ground. Neo gave a solid effort with a more measured pace than on day one. He made a series of 4-5-minute casts aimed at good cover and objectives. Neo seemed to be paying more attention to his handler. The judges noticed a tendency to stop and start, apparently looking to his handler for direction. The dogs continued on, and at 48, Butch's scout reported that he was found pointing a grouse. By the time the judges arrived, the grouse was reported to have left. Stolgitis flushed in front of Butch, hoping another grouse had stuck around, but no bird was produced, and the officials could not credit Butch with a find as they had not seen the grouse flush. At the boat mooring that evening, a dinner of tasty leftovers was served, and B K Rolling Dice was named Day Dog for day two. Also, the judges announced that they wanted to see four dogs on day three, with two more dogs in reserve. In the first brace of day three, they wanted to see the two female Day Dogs—Chasehill Poison Ivy and B K Rolling Dice. In the second brace on day three, they wanted to see Full Breeze and Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella. The reserve dogs were Moss Meadows Seeker and North Slopes Allie.

Day 3—Friday, April 14

Brace No. 1 paired Chasehill Poison Ivy (John Stolgitis) and B K Rolling Dice (Bruce Minard). Both owners of the contenders were on hand; Allen Raiano for Ivy and William Siemer for Dice. Both owners had followed the running closely throughout the event. At 8 a.m., the first brace was released on course five. From the start, both dogs were giving their best as if they had saved it for day three. They were also both true to their former hunting strategies. Dice ran to the limits with Bruce Minard singing to her as a guide as to where the course was going. She would be seen only occasionally before heading out searching. Ivy was also hard driving with a traditional pattern which found her crossing in front and almost always within bell range. Ivy again ran with pretty style and a quick, smooth gait. Dice is also an attractive moving

girl. At 5, Ivy had a neatly handled woodcock pointed directly in front of the gallery. She had high style and intensity throughout the flush and shot. Dice continued as the wider running of the twosome. On a turn, Dice fell behind, and she independently found a woodcock and handled it with sharp style and correct manners. At 20, Dice and Minard caught up to the forward party, and then she lit out, as is her independent manner, firing on all cylinders. At 30, Ivy impressed as she reached out in more open pole timber. Fast and furious, she reached forward and pointed ahead some 200 yards. Stolgitis got to her and produced a woodcock in short order. Dice again joined up with Ivy at 40. It took some smart handling by Minard to keep her on track, but the two of them are a team, and they work their strategy well. As time expired, Dice was back out in front, still driving, still hunting. Stolgitis was looking for Ivy, and at the 58-minute mark, she was spotted standing. Stolgitis went to Ivy, and Judge Mark Forman followed to observe the action. Forman heard a grouse take off as they approached the scene, and Stolgitis shot over his charge to conclude the running—a perfect conclusion to a terrific performance by Ivy.

Brace No. 2 paired Full Breeze (Dave Hughes) and Blue Ribbon's Harper Bella (Ecker). Bob Watts and Dick Brenneman, co-owners of Full Breeze, were on hand to see Bree run, and owner Marty Festa was there to scout his pointer female. Full Breeze, the only setter to run on day three, went off with plenty of jump and surprising energy. She crisscrossed the front a few times in the opening 10 minutes. Then she got a bit in her teeth and was a bit rough handling. Hughes stopped, calling for her, and worked to get her ahead. Ecker, handling Harper for owner Marty Festa who was scouting, moved on. The two handlers became separated and never rejoined. Harper was rolling and exhibiting a good forward pattern executed with the same appealing style she'd shown on the previous day's running. Harper held nothing back, running with speed and plenty of eye appeal. We continued and, at 35, came to an opening in the woods where we were met with Full Breeze standing majestically 150 yards ahead on the edge of a weedy section. Mark Hughes took charge of flushing in Dave's absence. All was in order as a woodcock took flight 30 feet in front of Bree. At this point, Hughes chose to pick up Bree. Harper continued and attacked the thick cover that dominated the last 15 minutes of the course. This looked to be prime cover, but no birds were home today, and Harper's diligent effort went unrewarded. She finished charging hard in the open woods in the final minutes. The field trial party drove to a clearing near where the companion Grand National Grouse Puppy Classic was beginning. The judges and reporter were thanked for their work. The announcement was then made by Cammisa, Grand National Grouse and Woodcock Invitational Championship Secretary, that the champion was Chasehill Poison Ivy. The worthy runner-up champion was B K Rolling Dice.

Thank you to our sponsors, Purina and Garmin, for their support in making the field trial dream come true.

The Purina banquet was held in Sandy Creek, Pa., at Saint Paul's Methodist Church, and a special thanks go out to the church and its members for their consideration and opening their facility to us.

A special thank you to Forrester Brian Salvato and Forrester Zak Miller for their help and continued support in acquiring the grounds.

Additionally, thank you to all who moved

cars and to all who helped make this Grand National Grouse and Woodcock Invitational Championship a huge success.

Next year the Championship is in Michigan; see you there!

Philipsburg, Pa., April 12
Judges: Marc Forman and Dr. Bruce Mueller
GRAND NATIONAL GROUSE AND WOODCOCK
INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats on Consecutive days; One-Hour
Finals] – 6 Pointers and 8 Setters

Winner—CHASEHILL POISON IVY, 1694453, pointer
female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Allen Raiano,
owner; John Stolgitis, handler.

Runner-Up—B K ROLLING DICE, 1685683, pointer
female, by Railhew Explorer-Railhew Mrs. McGoo. Bill



NORTHEAST KANSAS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Worsham's Super Sport Wins 33rd Renewal Of The Midwest Amateur All-Age Classic

By Joe Worsham | Onaga, Kansas | April 13, 2023

The Northeast Kansas Field Trial Club held its spring field trial on April 13-16 at our home grounds near Onaga, Kan. The weather was terrible, with huge swings in daytime temps during the running. Friday afternoon hit the mid-80s, and then a cold front moved through Saturday mid-day and brought very high winds, rain (1.3 inches of much-needed moisture), and hail. Wind gusts were in the mid-30s to 40 mph, alas, the Kansas Wind. We were later than usual due to the late Easter date. Sunday proved to be a nice day despite continued gusting winds.

The first of April is the traditional pasture burning time. Several landowners delayed their efforts for the field trial to run as usual. We had a number of landowners advise that they were seeing more native quail this year. We did not see any Greater Prairie chickens this year as we did not route the courses through the pastures containing leks.

We are blessed with the use of a comfortable, renovated, and well-maintained "One Room Schoolhouse" that serves the area well. Funds collected from the field trial meals and assorted gatherings throughout the year, in addition to the semi-annual biscuits and gravy breakfasts, defray the ongoing costs of the schoolhouse. The walls are adorned with 4-H and field trial memorabilia of bygone days and retired Kansas Field Trial Association Dog of the Year retired plaques. Longtime stalwart Jana Otwell (Queen Bee) passed away last summer, and we missed her smiling face and wonderful conversations. In past years we were fed breakfast and lunch by the locals, but no more. The Club provided daily lunches and well-consumed dinners each day. I prepared a large pot of soup and was concerned with the choice on Friday during the heat wave; Saturday and Sunday, it was in great demand.

The traditional Friday night Landowners' Banquet was held on Friday night, well attended by local ranchers and spouses. It is

not exactly The Cattleman's Ball, but a great time was had devouring the meal and getting caught up with the landowners. Donnie Jeffrey, a longtime field trialer, volunteered to bring walleye and crappie fillets with all the trimmings and also would fry and serve; what a great hit that was. He never slowed down, and thanks to Doug Meyer's assistance, the fish and potatoes were fried and served to a well-appreciated bunch; Donnie and Doug, well done.

Special thanks to our judges; their opinions were well received. Mark and Hunter Livingston of Cedar Rapids, Ia., teamed up as arbitrators of all the stakes but the Shooting Dog Derby. A fine job was done by the father and son duo. Their jobs were made easier by the plentiful bird work in all stakes. Eddie Berendzen and Laney Berendzen of Higbee, Mo., presided over the Shooting Dog Derby. This was Laney's first time judging; she handled the assignment with distinction. It helps to have counsel with your dad, a well-traveled and respected judge. All were very attentive to their duties, and little escaped their view. We appreciate the fine job they did and appreciate their dedication to the sport.

Richard Lewis was on hand as the Chief Dog Wagon Master, always in the right place and ever helpful to all the details of managing a field trial. Richard is one of the "good ol' boys" you can count on. The Club is enjoying the use of the dog trailer on loan from the Whetstone Field Trial Club via Jay Lewis.

We changed the courses and bird planting routine from the past. Everyone appreciated the changes. We used a two-hour continuous loop of the most birdy pastures. Dr. Pat McInteer brought his Mule for bird planting chores, and Jim Otwell loaned the use of his Polaris Ranger. We salted the course with liberated quail each morning. We were happy in that most dogs had bird work of some description. Many dogs had multiple finds,

pretty good in lieu of the terrible weather conditions.

A great big shout-out to Steve Auxier and Dr. Pat McInteer, who went the extra mile to secure the birds and get them delivered to the grounds above and beyond the call of duty for these guys.

Special thanks go to Nutri-Source for the generous donation of dog feed for the winners of each stake; we appreciate Dave Merritt's assistance in organizing this effort.

We hosted the 33rd renewal of the Midwest Amateur All-Age Classic. The inaugural event was held at the Pony Express Wildlife Area in Osborn, Mo., on March 18, 1990. Winning the inaugural event was Garvin Collins's popular Lamppost Master Rail ("Saddle"), while the runner-up was awarded to Snapjax's Prairie Fire, owned and handled by Joe Worsham. Worsham's Super Sport won the stake this year with a far-flung all-age race coupled with two pretty finds. Bocomo Cherry was second with a four-find effort; her ground application separated her from the winner.

The advertised Dr. Boucher Amateur Derby Classic, a sponsored Midwest Field Trial Association event, was canceled due to a lack of entries. The Classic was won last year by Jim Corpening's pointer male, Warjam's Big Mac Daddy, who has continued his winning ways.

Jay Lewis's pointer male, Bocomo Dutchman, won the Northeast Kansas Amateur All-Age Classic. His was a good solid effort with a fine upfront race and three pleasing finds. Second was Worsham's Spitfire, a derby dog just having competed in the United States Amateur Derby Invitational. His time on the ground reflected a good, well-applied, pleasing prairie race. He backed his brace mate and scored an unproductive late in the stake. Steve Auxier's Intensive Spinal Tap showed well on these Kansas

prairies. His was a well-done ground race with a single piece of bird work. Birds were at a premium and hard to get pointed due to the passing of a cold front during the running. It rained one and three-tenths inches of much-needed moisture, winds gusting to 40 mph, and very tough conditions. Joe Worsham lost his Worsham's Super Sport dog during the running of the stake. He was found dead by using the Garmin tracking collar. We suspected hypothermia as the temperature had dropped to the low 40s, and he was soaked. "Dave" had made his mark on the field trial scene, winning numerous stakes, open and amateur, as well as Dog of the Year titles and the Midwest Classic the day before.

The Open Shooting Dog Stake featured some good performances with solid races. Fourteen dogs toed the starting line for this stake. Dr. Pat McInteer's Nemaha Magic Marker had a very good performance with three stylish finds on quail. His was a very good effort on the ground, always to the front and searching. Dr. Pat continued his winning ways by handling his pointer male, Nemaha Tap Water, to a well-deserved second place based on his outstanding hunting effort and a great piece of bird work. Third was Beeler's

Black Jack (Scott Beeler). Jack had a strong effort and had a single find just before pick-up time. Also noteworthy was Jim Corpening's entry, Warjam's Big Mac Daddy; he scored three times on game and was doing a great job, only to be lost late in the stake. He reappeared just after the tracking collar came into play.

Special shout-out to Cameron Schultz and Chip Martin, who get the long-distance award for coming from Bryan, Tex., and Abilene, Tex., respectfully. Great to see some new faces. Even though they were not in the winners' circle this time, they said they looked forward to coming back. Mike Rost was a new face, as was Doug Watt. We look forward to seeing more of these guys through the years.

The Northeast Kansas Club appreciates the entry from those attending and the judges, who were attentive in their official roles.

Onaga, Kan., April 13

**Judges: Hunter Livingston and Mark Livingston
MIDWEST AMATEUR ALL-AGE CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 4 Pointers and 1 Setter**

1st—WORSHAM'S SUPER SPORT, 1680553, pointer male, by Touch's Knight Rider-Touch's Maswood Anne. Joe Worsham, owner and handler.
2d—BOCOMO CHERRY, 1677071, pointer female, by Westfall's Black Cloud-Bocomo Hot Doty. Jay S. Lewis, owner and handler.

NORTHEAST KANSAS AMATEUR ALL-AGE CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats] – 7 Pointers and 1 Setter
1st—BOCOMO DUTCHMAN, 1691795, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Cloud-Bocomo Miss Molly. Jay S. Lewis, owner and handler.
2d—WORSHAM'S SPITFIRE, 1701266, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Erin's Miss Daisy. Joe Worsham, owner and handler.
3d—INTENSIVE SPINAL TAP, 1697202, pointer male, by Broken Halo-Rocky River Snow Bird. Steve Auxier, owner and handler.

NORTHEAST KANSAS OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats] – 17 Pointers and 3 Setters
1st—NEMAHA MAGIC MARKER, 1687208, pointer male, by Nemaha Night Hawk-C E K's Meaculpa. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.
2d—NEMAHA TAP WATER, 1696256, pointer male, by Coldwater Spectre-Coldwater June. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.
3d—BEELER'S BLACK JACK, 1679751, pointer male, by Wilson's Hammerin Hank-Wilson's Josephine. Scott Beeler, owner and handler.

**Judges: Eddie Berendzen and Laney Berendzen
OPEN DERBY – 6 Pointers**
1st—NEMAHA TOUCH A GREY, 1700806, male, by Touch's Grey Street-Touch's Wimbledon. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.
2d—NEMAHA LIMA BEAN, 1700804, male, by Touch's Grey Street-Jackson's Teardrop. Dr. Pat McInteer, owner and handler.
3d—WAUBEEK SIN AGAIN, 1698168, pointer male, by Waubeeek Riff Raff-Brown's Moonrise. Mark Livingston, owner and handler.

RUFFED GROUSE FIELD TRIAL CLUB
Highbank's Down 'N' Dirty Wins Jack Secor Memorial Open Shooting Dog
By Tamara Chaffee | Gladwin, Michigan | April 14, 2023



Jack Secor Memorial Open Shooting Dog Winners (l-r): Bryan Wood (chairman), Scott Chaffee, Jeff Secor with the Jack Secor Trophy, Bill Nelson with Highbank's Down 'N' Dirty, Dave Heavlin (judge), Tammi Savage, Ken DeLong with K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot, Jim Johnson (judge), Lonnie Rademacher, Ken Moss with Moss Meadow Maverick, and Bert Benschof.

The Michigan Ruffed Grouse Field Trial Club held its spring events April 14-16 at the Gladwin Game Refuge near Meredith, Mich. The weather was unfavorable for dogs, birds, and humans, as the temperatures reached the mid-80s each day, unheard of weather for northern Michigan in mid-April. The Ruffed Grouse Field Trial Club would like to thank all who pitched in to make this trial run smoothly despite the dry conditions and high temperatures. As always, we thank Purina and Greg Blair for their continued support. Dave Heavlin of Grayling, Mich., and Jim Johnson of Ravenna, Ohio, performed the

judicial duties for the Jack Secor Memorial Open Shooting Dog stake, reviewing a starting lineup of 37 hopefuls. Coming out on top was Highbank's Down 'N' Dirty, a female pointer owned and handled by Bill Nelson. "Sadie" ran in brace No. 18 in scorching heat and handled a perfect limb woodcock find coupled with a hard-charging race. Second place was K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot, a Brittany male owned and handled by Ken DeLong. "Shooter" is no stranger to the podium, and he coupled a nice race with a grouse find at the end of course six. In third was Moss Meadow Maverick, a male English setter owned and

handled by Ken Moss. Maverick ran in the relatively cool (60+ degrees!) morning on course two and combined a hard-searching race with a grouse and woodcock find.

Grouse dog veterans Craig Merlington of Howard City, Mich., and Mike Bentley of Brighton, Mich., handled the John R. Stuart Memorial Open Derby stake and pronounced Meredith Grade Penny, a female setter owned by Dennis Keyser and handled by Scott Chaffee, as the winner. Penny had an outstanding race coupled with a finished woodcock find. In second was Anna Lake Klark, a male setter owned by Rob Matson and also handled by Scott Chaffee. Clark combined a hard hunting 30 minutes with a grouse find. In third was Northwoods Dexter, owned and handled by Mike Rosario. Mike is a newcomer to cover dog trials and is making his mark with this young, 9-month-old male setter. He was awarded third based on a nice ground race.

Leeann Parnell of Gaines, Mich., and Lonnie Rademacher of Lake Leelanau, Mich., viewed 19 grouse dog prospects entered in the Ruth Stuart Memorial Open Puppy stake. They chose Moss Meadow Ellie as the best of the bunch. Ellie, a female setter owned and handled by John Stegman, showed the desired traits as a potential field trial contender. In second was Northwoods Dexter, a setter male owned and handled by Mike Rosario. Dexter

also placed in the Derby stake and showed his consistency with this placement in the Puppy stake. In third was Mi Henry, another male setter, owned and handled by newcomer Greg DeWald. Henry handled to the right spots and finished strong. The judges said they were impressed by the number of dogs that did well despite the very dry conditions and extreme temperatures.

Gladwin, Mich., April 14

Judges: Dave Heavlin and Jim Johnson

JACK SECOR MEMORIAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC – 3 Pointers, 31 Setters, 2 Brittans and 1 Irish Setter

1st—HIGHBANK'S DOWN'N'DIRTY, 1674795, pointer female, by Nelson's Van Max-Highbank's Sugar Coated. William Nelson, owner and handler.

2d—K DEL'S EAGLE MAGNUM HOTSHOT, 1685770, Brittany male, by Magnum High Velocity-K Del's Eagle's Chance To Soar. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.

3d—MOSS MEADOW MAVERICK, 1686016, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Moss Meadow Lil. Ken Moss, owner and handler.

Judges: Mike Bentley and Craig Merlington

JOHN R. STUART MEMORIAL OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 4 Pointers, 18 Setters and 1 Brittany

1st—MEREDITH GRADE PENNY, 1694628, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Eldridge's Beauty and Beast. Dennis Keyser, owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.

2d—ANNA LAKE KLARK, 1695030, setter male, by Grouse Ridge Whitestone-Meredith Grade Annie. Robert A. Matson, owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.

3d—NORTHWOODS DEXTER, 1701733, setter male, by Snyder's Pioneer Scout-Northwoods Cedar. Michael Rosario, owner and handler.



John R. Stuart Memorial Open Derby Classic Winners (l-r): Bryan Wood (chairman), Dennis Keyser with Meredith Grade Penny, Craig Merlington (judge), Scott Chaffee with Anna Lake Klark, Mike Bentley (judge), and Mike Rosario with Northwoods Dexter.



Ruth Stuart Memorial Open Puppy Classic Winners (l-r): Bryan Wood (chairman), Lonnie Rademacher (judge), John Stegman with Moss Meadow Ellie, Lecann Parnell (judge), and Mike Rosario with Northwoods Dexter. (Not pictured): Greg Dewald with Mi Henry.

Judges: Leann Parnell and Lonnie Rademacher
RUTH STUART MEMORIAL OPEN PUPPY CLASSIC – 1 Pointer and 18 Setters

1st—MOSS MEADOW ELLIE, 1700382, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Moss Meadow Lil. John Stegman, owner and handler.

2d—NORTHWOODS DEXTER, 1701733, setter male, by Snyder's Pioneer Scout-Northwoods Cedar. Mike Rosario, owner and handler.

3d—MI HENRY, 1701205, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Grouse River Patti Cakes. Greg Dewald, owner and handler.

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REGION 1 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Little Miss Bella Named Champion; Super Storm, Runner-Up

By Richard Giuliano | Exeter, Rhode Island | April 15, 2023

The 2023 Region 1 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship, hosted by the Arcadia Field Trial Club, took place at the Arcadia Management Area in Exeter, R. I., on the weekend of April 15-16. The stake drew 20 entrants consisting of nine setters and 11 pointers.

Sarah Conyngham from Hope Valley, R. I., and Mitch Swierczynski from nearby Griswold, Conn., judged this year's event. Both train and handle Brittans in competition and know firsthand what a championship performance should be. They were attentive to each participant, and their decision was well received.

It takes plenty of work to host an event of this importance, and the Region can be proud of those individuals that rose to the challenge. Bob Fleury was in charge of having water on the course, Dick Bembenek released birds and drove the gallery truck, and Jane Fogarty helped prepare our lunch and made sure the cocktail party went off without a hitch. Our club members, Lanny Dellinger and Jaime Nee, ran dogs and filled in wherever needed. All in all, the trial was well organized and,



Region 1 Amateur Walking Shooting Dog Championship Winners (front, l-r): Little Miss Bella with Tim Cavanaugh (owner) and Super Storm with Thor Cain (owner). (Behind): Sarah Conyngham (judge) and Mitch Swierczynski (judge). [Photo by Jennifer Broome, Artistry Afield].

truly, a fun-filled event. Thank you all.

The Nestlé Purina Company provided the winner and runner-up with complimentary Pro Plan Performance dog food. Thank you to

Purina and rep Greg Blair for their continued support.

The champion and runner-up were repeats from last year's event. Winning, again, was Little Miss Bella, a pointer female owned, trained, and handled by Tim Cavanaugh from East Hampton, Conn. Tim is active in all phases of the sport and is a force in our area. Thor Kain, from Carbondale, Pa., is also heavily involved as a competitor, an officer in the U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association, and a club official. Thor handled his setter male, Super Storm, to the runner-up position.

On behalf of Region 1, we want to thank everyone who participated in this year's event and hope to see you next year.

Exeter, R. I., April 15

Judges: Sarah Conyngham and Mitch Swierczynski
REGION 1 AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 11 Pointers and 9 Setters

Winner—LITTLE MISS BELLA, 1664328, pointer female, by Chasehill Little Bud-Shaula. Tim Cavanaugh, owner and handler.

Runner-Up—SUPER STORM, 1675530, setter male, by Pennstar-Straight Forward. Thor Kain, owner and handler.

Visit www.americanfield.com for more news!

FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME

Nominations For Candidates Readers Deem Deserving

As is well known, there are two categories of honorees — *Dogs and Persons*. The hallmark of a candidate for Hall of Fame recognition is contributions to the sport.

For *Dogs*, the win record of a canine candidate should be impressive. Performances by a deserving nominee should be such that they elevated the quality of a stake in which they competed. Likewise, emphasis is also placed on production (i.e., the number of winners produced and the quality of the wins these dogs earned.)

Insofar as *Persons*, contributions to the sport is paramount — club official, breeder, owner, handler, correspondent, patron of the sport, and usually a combination of these facets and over a goodly span of time.

The deadline for Hall of Fame nominations and ads is August 5. Voting instructions will appear in the September issue.

Rivertons Funseek'n Scooter

As a handler, I love to see great performances. As a breeder, I look for a dog that should vastly improve my kennel. Rivertons Funseek'n Scooter handily exhibited both. Not one dog has ever made a bigger impact on my kennel or success. In my kennel alone, Scooter has sired or grand-sired over 12 different champions who have won the most prestigious field trials that there are. In my opinion, he is the most overlooked sire to date. He is the foundation of three of this year's Purina Dog of the Year recipients.

From a competitive standpoint, I have watched him successfully run from the northern prairies to the piney woods of the Deep South. A field trial was never over until Scooter ran. His uncanny ability to find and handle every type of game was one of the main reasons I chose him as a stud dog. He is one of, if not the best, natural bird finders I have ever seen.

I proudly nominate Rivertons Funseek'n Scooter and ask you to please join me in supporting this very deserving dog by putting him into the Field Trial Hall of Fame, where he belongs.

— *Jamie Daniels*

True Confidence

I proudly nominate Frank LaNasa's Champion True Confidence for the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

True Confidence ("Bob") garnered six championships, 11 runner-up titles, and numerous other wins over his 10-year career. The first half under his owner's whistle, then in the capable hands of Luke Eisenhart, who handled Bob to prestigious wins across the

open all-age circuit from 2015 until Bob's retirement from his string in the spring of 2020. Frank guided Bob, age 11, to one more convincing win, the Hawthorne Open All-Age Border Classic, concluding his illustrious career.

True Confidence was the very definition of class. A gifted bird dog, style running, stunning on point, highly intelligent. He won from the prairies to the piney woods and on five different wild game birds. His endurance proven, competing in the National Championship five times and twice being named runner-up in the Quail Championship Invitational.

A cornerstone to a dog's admittance to the Hall of Fame should be proof that its winning characteristics are passed to its progeny. True Confidence is a sire and grandsire to winners and champions around the country—his positive influence on the pointer breed is indisputable.

Join me in securing True Confidence's rightful entry into the hallowed Hall.

— *Chris Mathan*

Gary Lester

Gary Lester has contributed to our sport as a competitor, a breeder, and a developer of young dogs and, before turning pro, as a sought-after judge.

Significant achievements include six National Championship titles with five different dogs, plus developing two more dogs that won the National title. Lester's Snowatch, Gary's first National Champion, is in the Hall of Fame.

Gary has handled the Purina Dog of the Year twice and Amateur Dog of the Year once. His dogs have excelled in endurance stakes, winning 13 open titles with heats over an hour. Lester dogs win in the piney woods and in their more familiar edge country.

Gary Lester has won three National Derby Championships, the Continental Derby Championship, plus multiple All-America Derby and Invitational Derby Championships. Gary also has an impressive amateur record. He won the National Amateur Quail Championship, the National Amateur Invitational Championship, and multiple regional titles.

A major contribution of Gary's has been the breeding and development of dogs with stamina that run and point birds with style. These dogs are continuing to improve the pointer breed.

Gary Lester deserves to be in the Hall of Fame for his contributions over time.

— *Dr. Ron Deal*

I would like to nominate Gary Lester for the Field Trial Hall of Fame. I have personally known Gary for over 25 years. He more than meets the qualifications for this honor. He has much knowledge about handling champion bird dogs and is always willing to share his insights with others. Gary has campaigned many champion dogs in his distinguished career. He is consistently giving back and showing his dedication to the continuation of the sport of field trialing, which he has been involved with for the past 20 years. Gary has won most of the larger trials in the United States, including The National, more than once. He has been involved in managing trials and judging field trials at all levels.

— *Joe Don House*

During the 20 years I have known and observed Gary Lester, I have come to appreciate his knowledge and dedication to the sport. Gary has won six National Championships. He conducts himself as a gentleman and is always willing to help others. Gary is qualified and deserving to be in the Field Trial Hall of Fame. I ask you to join me and honor Gary Lester's dedication and success by voting for him to be elected into the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

— *Jack Griffin*

I would like to nominate Gary Lester to the Field Trial Hall of Fame. For more than 30 years, Gary has participated in this sport. He has served as a club official, a breeder, a handler, and a dedicated friend/mentor to many. He has bred and handled dogs which are currently in the Hall of Fame. Gary has worked hard through the years to improve the pointer breed and has had much success in winning field trials. Gary has won the National Open All-Age Championship at the Ames Plantation six times. Thank you for your time and consideration.

— *Phil Morgan*

Richard Robertson, Jr.

This letter is in support of the nomination of Richard Robertson, Jr. for the Field Trial Hall of Fame. I have known Richard for over 40 years, during which he has demonstrated qualities not only as a trainer and handler but also as a mentor, judge, club member, and trial organizer. We were together on the Canada prairies where I saw his wizardry with the dogs he later campaigned throughout the U. S.

His skills have led to 32 appearances at the National Championship, where he has handled 64 separate dogs, including Tekoa Mountain Hope, Tekoa Mountain Knikki, Tekoa Mountain Sunrise, Hicks Rising Sun, Alamance Little Rock, Brick Church Sundrop,

Desert Rambler, Pacesetter's Equinox, Tommy B, and T's Gunrunner; two of these are now in the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

Although he has competed with other pointing breeds, Richard's dedication has been to the all-age English setter. As a result of the Robertson's breedings, their dogs have become the foundation of the modern setter. He has been a sound and encouraging voice for novices to the sport and a resource of wisdom for those more knowledgeable.

Richard Jr. represents the best qualities that serve to perpetuate the essence of field trialing.

— Stephen Asher

This letter is in support of the nomination of Rich Robertson, Jr. for the Field Trial Hall of Fame. Rich has devoted his entire life to bird dogs. He has unselfishly given his time and made many efforts to make sure clubs around the country succeed. Rich is very generous with his time and knowledge; he will help everyone from the first-day amateur to the seasoned pro and is the first person always to lend a hand when someone is in need. He's been a pretty good dog trainer over the years as well. A person doesn't get lucky that many times! His skills have put over 150 championships on dogs from coast to coast; that takes a little more than luck. I cannot think of a better, more deserving person to be elected to the Bird Dog Hall of Fame.

— Dan DiMambro

There is no one more deserving of this honor than Richie. We were clients of his for many years and watched him take wonderful care of many of his clients and anyone who needed some advice or help with either dog or horse. Richie always kept one eye out for the honorable Herb Anderson to ensure he could enjoy our sport to the very end of his life. He was equally willing to help a newcomer feel welcome in the sport.

No one is a harder worker and a real example of a great family man. Brutally honest to customers so they weren't disillusioned about the prospects for their dogs.

I'm proud to call Richie a lifelong friend and a fine example of what we need in this sport for years to come. Richard Robertson, Jr. has our vote!

— Julie and John Files

I wish to nominate my field trial dad, Rich Robertson, Jr., for the Field Trial Hall of Fame. Rich has been a father and a mentor for me growing up in this sport. He is one of the hardest working, devoted, selfless, and caring men I have had the privilege of knowing. Whether you are a pro, amateur, or hunter, Rich loves to teach and share his passion for the sport.

Rich has been instrumental in developing two sets of grounds out west for the field trial community—the wild chukar grounds at Mile Post 7 and Payette, Idaho, now Prairie Wind

Ranch. Both these grounds have been and are still used by many field trial groups. Payette, Idaho grounds are home to Rich; on these grounds, you can find four species of birds (chukar, quail, Huns, and pheasant).

Rich has bettered the sport not only as a competitor but as a judge. He has done both of these from west to east to the prairies of Canada. Not many others have been willing to travel and give a life dedicated to the betterment of the sport and numerous breeds of dogs he has done.

— Bridget Ledington

I want to nominate Richard Robertson, Jr. for the Hall of Fame. I have known Rich for over 40 years. Rich's first trip south and to The National Championship was around 1985. Tekoa Mountain Hope was one of two dogs Rich had qualified. That trip left us with a lifetime of stories but, more importantly, launched Rich's career as one of the best trainers/handlers of all time. Rich would take English setters to The National for over 30 years, and many prominent pointers. Two of those setters are in the Hall of Fame—Tekoa Mountain Sunrise and Hicks Rising Sun. Over 90% of setters that have made it to The National from 1988-2023 will have Tekoa Mountain Sunrise in their pedigree within four or five generations. Rich played a big part in many of their breedings.

Rich has won over 150 championships in 17 states and two Canadian provinces. Who knows how many champions he has scouted, often beating himself. He has judged many major trials and offered his ranch, now owned by Keith and Bobbi Richardson, for trials. Rich is always available to mentor or help anyone in the sport.

However, with all of Rich's accomplishments and contributions to our sport, what is of equal importance to me is his and his wife Penny's generosity and willingness to open their house and hearts to anyone in need of a helping hand, often when being so generous created a financial hardship for them.

I cannot think of anyone more deserving to be in the Hall of Fame than Richard Robertson, Jr.

— Alex Mauck

When I think of bird dogs and hard work, a few names come to mind, and while this may come off as biased, the first that comes to mind is Rich Robertson, Jr. He has trained two Hall of Fame inductees, and it's time he joins them.

Rich has a growing win record of 150 championship wins, not counting the ones he has helped other trainers win. Rich isn't just a trainer; he is one of the most selfless humans on this planet. He is always one of the first to lend a hand whenever needed.

From the West Coast to the East Coast, the prairies of Canada, and everywhere in between, this man has won or placed in just about every trial possible. He took a short

retirement before coming back. That is the thing about legends; you can't keep them from doing what they love.

I have waited my entire life to write this nomination. So, please join my family and all of his friends in this journey of inducting Rich Robertson, Jr. There is no one more deserving of this honor.

— Emily, Penny, and April

Sandy Walker

We would like to nominate Sandy Walker for the Field Trial Hall of Fame. He had been a competitor and a huge supporter of our sport for over 30 years and continues to this day as a supporter. Even though we lost Sandy in 2022, his wife and son still carry on his tradition. Three trials are held on his grounds—the National Invitational Shooting Dog, Robin Gates Memorial "Big" Derby, and the Round Pond Amateur Shooting Dog Classic. Even with Sandy's passing, the tradition is still being carried on. Please join us in nominating Sandy Walker for the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

— Christy Swearingen

David Williams

I have had the amazing privilege to have been exposed to and encouraged to participate in our great sport since I was born. I am forever grateful and have my father, David Williams, to thank for laying that foundation in my life.

My father's passion began at a young age, quail hunting around his home in West Tennessee. Since the 1980s, he has taken great pride in breeding, developing, training, handling, scouting, and judging dogs in amateur and open stakes in both the shooting dog and all-age circuits. He has given endless time and effort, volunteering on numerous boards and committees over the years — my dad has always served without hesitation.

The most significant and beloved part of my dad's involvement in this sport is hosting field trials at my family's farm in Carroll County, Tenn. Since the early '90s, he has graciously hosted in excess of 100 stakes on this land that he put together. The time, enormous financial commitment, and devotion to this part of his hobby are all for his love of the sport.

Through his extraordinary efforts, my father has been a true ambassador to field trials in every aspect for nearly the past half-century. I proudly nominate and ask for your support in electing this very deserving man, David Williams, into the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

— Allison Williams Daniels

Joe and I are delighted to recommend David Williams for the Hall of Fame. He has supported the Alabama Field Trial Club for many years by attending our trials and often judging and scouting. He also supports championships run in our region, as well as others.

David works hard to ensure his grounds

at Carroll County are impeccable and full of birds and that everyone in attendance at trials there feels welcome. David also generously welcomes other clubs to use his grounds to host their trials or championships.

David is a leader in our sport, having served as president of the Carroll County Field Trial Club, a Region 6 officer, and an AFTCA trustee and president. In this role, he has often been a quiet voice of reason for those who have raised concerns regarding sportsmanship and other rule disputes.

David has also served as an advisor to many of us and possesses a wealth of knowledge on rules and how to run a trial and championship.

For these reasons, there is no better candidate for induction into the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

— Joe and Tessa Hughes

Throughout my field trial experiences, I have had the honor of meeting many fantastic people. But I believe it is difficult to find a field trialer that gives more generously to our sport than David Williams. I want to draw your attention to two examples of that generosity that I have personally witnessed.

In the summer of 2020, military personnel at Fort Campbell Military Installation informed me that we would no longer have access to the grounds. In response to the situation, David invited us to permanently move the American Quail Classic Open All-Age field trial, along with the Clarksville Pointer & Setter and the Clarksville Bird Dog amateur field trials, to the Huntingdon, Tenn. grounds. Those three trials would no longer be in existence if it weren't for this wonderful gift. In May of 2019, I was elected to the position of Region 6 Secretary. During my tenure, I have relied upon David's insight and wisdom in various situations. I could not have asked for a better friend, mentor, counselor, and fellow competitor. I encourage each of you to support the nomination of David Williams into the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

— Lisa Corinne Suiter Little

I've known David for years and recently shared training grounds with David and Angie in Kennebec, S. D. David was a pleasure to work with, a true gentleman who never laughed at me or my dogs. However, he did grin really big a couple of times. He was courteous, enjoyable, and a competent dog man. David is not much about bragging about his dogs. He lets them tell their own stories, and they have done that successfully time after time!

At a time when field trial grounds are being lost, David has stepped up to fill the gap. This last season he hosted eight trials on his place. He put out 4,500 quail this past season. He pre-released and also put out 300 birds for each trial. The only cost to clubs was for the birds used at the trial, and if their treasury was low, he forgave that charge.

David is one of the most successful amateur

field trialers in the country. His dogs' successes are legendary! He deserves to be recognized for all he has given to the sport of field trialing!

— Dr. Pat McInteer

I bought a setter puppy from David Williams in 1979. Our first conversation was about bird dogs; over the last 44 years, 99% of our conversations have been about bird dogs. I'd wager our last conversation will also be about bird dogs. David is and has always been dedicated to the advancement and preservation of field trials and bird dogs. Looking at the field trial grounds he has bought and developed in Carroll County, Tenn., is proof. David has participated in all aspects of the field trial world. He breeds, raises, trains, and runs most of his dogs. He has offered his time and energy in many different capacities as an officer in numerous clubs, including past president of the AFTCA. David has exhibited all the qualifications expected of someone enshrined in the Field Trial Hall of Fame. Please join in his support of this honor.

— Gary McKibben

I would like to nominate David Williams for the Field Trial Hall of Fame. David was one of the first people I met when I began field trialing in 1987. My first trip to North Dakota was with David. I have ridden many horseback miles alongside David. He scouted my dogs many times over the years, often with more enthusiasm than the dogs. I have often judged with David and spent many nights on the road with him chasing placements; I know David. David has been a club official, regional officer, National trustee, and past AFTCA and Region 6 president. His family farm supports numerous club trials and has hosted Regional and National Championships. David prepares these grounds immaculately each year at his personal expense. David is humble and generous and asks nothing in return. He allows many to train on his grounds.

There are many contributors to our sport, and all are to be celebrated. But I believe it would honor our sport and the Hall of Fame to recognize David Williams, who has committed a lifetime to the betterment and support of field trials and trialers.

— Michael Shears

People like Mr. David are what Halls of Fame are designed for. His unselfish devotion to field trials over such a goodly period has been widespread. He has campaigned dogs with professionals and, as an amateur, raised and developed many noteworthy dogs. He has served as a Region 6 trustee, a director and past president of the AFTCA, and on the boards of countless field trial clubs and organizations. He has repeatedly served as an impartial judge. His generosity in providing some of the finest field trial grounds in the country may be his most important and lasting contribution. On top of all that, Mr. David is a genuinely nice person, nurturing relationships with newcomers and veteran field trialers

alike. It's a privilege and honor to formally endorse Mr. David Williams for the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

— Ike Todd

There are givers and there are takers in this sport. David Williams has given his time, land, money, support, and absolute dedication to the betterment of bird dog field trials. His commitment to the AFTCA and Region 6 are well noted. His perpetuation of the Rebel bloodlines is noteworthy. His support of the amateur and the professional field trialer is well documented. David is both a giver and a doer. This is what the Hall of Fame is all about. Please join me in support of David Williams for the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

— Kent Walker

Before I met David Williams, I had heard of his Carroll County grounds and all the work and money he puts into them and his pre-release program to ensure a top-quality field trial. Fast forward to when I went there for the first time to judge the Carroll County Open All-Age. I could instantly see there had been a lot of time and money invested into the grounds. The way I was treated by David while there judging was unbelievable. About the time I thought we judges were being treated special, I took notice he was treating everyone with the same respect!

David Williams is the epitome of the Hall of Fame as he has selflessly given as much or more back to the sport as anyone involved and never asks for anything in return. He and I had long talks, and he was a big supporter of getting the United States Amateur Derby Invitational off the ground and was full of advice when asked. I enthusiastically support David Williams for the Hall of Fame!

— Quintin Wiseman

For the last 20 years, I have had the pleasure and opportunity to participate in field trials nationwide. In that time, I have been to some wonderful places and met some wonderful people. Of all the places I have been to and all the people I have met, nobody has contributed more to the sport of field trialing than David Williams.

He has bred dogs, supported trainers and handlers, judged countless field trials, served the AFTCA, and hosted countless field trials on the farm in Carroll County, Tenn.

There has never been anyone more qualified for admission into the Field Trial Hall of Fame than David Williams. Occasionally a person becomes eligible for admission who is so deserving that one picks up the telephone and asks the question, "What can I do to help?" This is a prime example of that case.

Please join me in voting for the enshrinement of Mr. David Williams into the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

— Keith Wright



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"We're pleased to partner with Purina and launch this new program," said AFTCA President Frank LaNasa. "I'm confident that by delivering value and merchandise directly to member clubs, the **Purina Event Sponsorship Program** will be well-received. Purina repeatedly proves its commitment to the sport of field trialing with direct winning sponsorship for our clubs."

For decades, one way Purina provided support to field clubs was to pay for ads in American Field/UKC (magazine and online). Beginning at the start of the 2023-2024 field trial season, Purina will no longer pay the American Field/UKC for trial advertising. Instead, support will now be given directly to the clubs through the new **Purina Event Sponsorship Program**.

"This marks an important and positive evolution of Purina's ongoing support for the sport of field trialing," said Purina's Sr. Specialist Greg Blair. "We look forward to this exciting venture with AFTCA and thank the field trial community in advance for their patience, dedication and continued support."

Specific details about the program will be provided via the AFTCA website and social media platforms.

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