

UKC®

FIELD

May 2025

A Newsletter by United Ke





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ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION
We welcome articles on training, breeding, health and care, and other areas of interest. Material for publication shall include breed association columns, association columns, articles from state associations, veterinarians, etc., as well as regular columns of interest to field trialers. All photos should include the name of each person and dog shown, as well as each dog's FDSB number. Address all communications to UKC® Field, 100 E. Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49002-5584.

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UKC's MISSION STATEMENT
As an international dog registry, we celebrate the Total Dog through family-friendly events and programs highlighting canine bonds, instincts, and heritage while maintaining the virtue of our pedigrees. Through these efforts, we give Honor to Whom Honor is Due™.

UKC TEAM IN THE FIELD

— An update from Domenick Muoio



Spring is in full swing, and with the warmer weather finally settling in, it sets the stage for the end of the Purina Points season. Whether you're training or competing, this time of year always seems to bring renewed energy to the field.

As I mentioned, May also signals the final stretch of the Purina Points season. It's been an exciting run, and we're looking forward to wrapping it up on a high note. I'll be at the Awards Banquet again this year, and I'm eager to celebrate with many of you who've worked hard throughout the season. For clubs hosting the last few events, please make sure Essential Data forms are submitted promptly so everything's in order for year-end recognition.

On the horizon: the Hall of Fame nomination period is coming up soon. If you know someone who has made a lasting impact on the sport, now's the time to consider nominating them. These stories and tributes remind us why this community is so special!

Thanks again to everyone who continues to support American Field and the sport we all care so deeply about. Here's to a productive and enjoyable May.

Good luck out there!

— Domenick Muoio
Field Trial & Hunt Test Program Manager

National Champion



ERIN'S PERFECT STORM

Brad Woodie, Owner | Luke Eisenhart, Handler | Sean Derrig, Breeder
[Photo by Chris Mathan]

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ON THE
COVER

National Champion Erin's Perfect Storm

#F1692323 • Sire: Chelsea's Thunder Bolt • Dam: Erin's Bet On Me

Bradley Woodie, Owner • Judd Carlton, Scout • Luke Eisenhart, Handler • Photo by Jamie Evans



2025



Bird Dog Awards

JUNE 21, 2025 The Purina Bird Dog Awards will recognize this year's award winners from the 2024-2025 season! Join us as we honor the top handlers, dogs and owners! Relax and enjoy a ceremony, highlighted with awards, food, and fun in OKLAHOMA CITY, OK!



PURINA ALL AGE AWARDS

- 62nd Top All Age Dog Award
- 37th All Age Handler Award
- 18th Amateur All Age Dog Award
- 13th All Age Derby Award

PURINA SHOOTING DOG AWARDS

- 43rd Top Shooting Dog Award
- 37th Shooting Dog Handler Award
- 22st Amateur Shooting Dog Award
- 13th Shooting Dog Derby Award

Saturday June 21, 2025 • Social Hour: 5:30 pm • Dinner: 6:30 pm • \$60.00

Embassy Suites - Oklahoma City Downtown Medical Center

741 N. Phillips Ave. • Oklahoma City, OK 73104 • 405-239-3900

For a SPECIAL ROOM RATE, reservations must be made by Wednesday May 28, 2025.

To receive this rate, call 405-239-3900 and mention that you are with the Purina Bird Dog Awards,
or Click Here to Book!

BANQUET TICKETS

Tickets must be reserved prior to the event.

Contact GAIL INMAN at gail.inman@purina.nestle.com or 314-570-5732.

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Tribute to a Champion

— Shady Hills Zeena —

By Mike Husenits

Three-time Champion Shady Hills Zeena passed away on February 22 from complications caused by a stroke and a battle with inoperable cancer. She had just turned 9 a few weeks prior to her passing. Zeena was owned by Deb Nihart of Prattsburgh, New York, and was trained and handled by Marc Forman and Deb of Shady Hills Kennel throughout her entire competitive career.

Zeena's three championship titles were achieved on wild birds in grouse and woodcock events staged in Michigan, Pennsylvania, and New York. She won the Lake States Championship in 2021, the New York Grouse Championship, and the Michigan Woodcock Championship, both in 2024. Additionally, Zeena

added important wins at the Pennsylvania Grouse Open All-Age and the Hadaway Grouse Classic, plus 15 other placements starting as a puppy in 2016 and continuing consistently through 2024. Zeena was crowned Michigan Cover Dog of the Year for the 2021-2022 season.

Zeena was bred once to champion Double Deuce Zeke and whelped a litter that includes several promising youngsters including Shady Hills Lefty and Shady Hills Zeeva, both owned by Deb Nihart and trained by Marc Forman.

Zeena was whelped on January 11, 2016, from a litter bred by Mike Husenits and Dave and Mark Hughes. Her sire was 14-time champion and National Champion Erin's War

Creek, her dam Brave Heart Cassie, a Futurity and multiple-time winner. Deb acquired Zeena as an 8-week-old puppy in March of 2016. Marc Forman and Deb honed her natural qualities into the champion she became. Zeena was always Marc Forman's "go-to" whenever new territory was being explored for grouse. If grouse existed there, Zeena would find them every time. From the same litter as Zeena, several other wild bird champions were developed, namely Duck Hook, A Distant Spec, and Warrior Zeke, all with a combined championship win total of nine, all on wild birds.

A great champion has passed over the Rainbow Bridge, but her proud owner, Deb Nihart, states, "She leaves paw prints of love forever in our hearts."

FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME

The major circuit stakes have been completed. The 2024-2025 field trial season is winding down, signaling what might be termed the "summer phase" for the field trial community: in short, Field Trial Hall of Fame nominations and elections.

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, not just the number of wins but the significance of the wins. 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.

In some rare instances, a Dog may be elected to the Hall of Fame on the merits of one of these criteria alone, based on the overall excellence of a win record or as the sire or dam of an array of outstanding field trial performers.

Insofar as Persons to be considered for Hall of Fame honors, contributions to the sport are paramount — club

official, breeder, owner, handler, correspondent, patron of the sport, and usually a combination of these facets and over a goodly period. In short, the question is: Is the field trial pastime better for having this Person involved?

As in the past couple of years, June through September are earmarked for readers to submit endorsements for Dogs and Persons they deem deserving of election to the Field Trial Hall of Fame. To be included in the June issue, please submit your ads and endorsements before May 5!

Official online voting will take place in September.

126th NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Erin's Perfect Storm Crowned National Champion

By Tessa Hughes | Grand Junction, Tennessee | February 10, 2025



National Championship (front bottom row, l-r): Jennifer Braddock, a fellow spectator in the ballcap, Jonathan Burch, a curious spectator, Luke Eisenhart (handler), Brad Woodie (owner), Judd Carlton (scout) with Erin's Perfect Storm, Christine Woodie, Greg Blair, Greg Tapp, and Kerry Kimery. (Next row, l-r): Amy Weatherly, DVM, Zach Parsons, Darlene Rike, Jessica Price, Steve Hammons, Bill Mason (judge), Joey McAlexander, Pat Bryan, and Charlie Frank Bryan. (Top row, l-r): Tessa Hughes (reporter), Joe Hughes, Melissa Bain, Greg Bain (judge), Maylon Price, Rich Robertson (judge), and Matt Backus. [Photo by Jamie Evans.]

Our 2025 National Champion, Erin's Perfect Storm, stormed across Ames Plantation on the first day of a 14-day trial to sweep the Championship this year, overcoming 55 dogs to seize the win. Storm, a white, orange, and ticked 5-year-old pointer, scored seven beautiful finds in his three-hour race. He is owned by Brad Woodie of Waxhaw, North Carolina, handled by Luke Eisenhart of Leesburg, Georgia, and was scouted by Judd Carlton of Cairo, Georgia, for his win.

Perfect Storm ("Colt") was whelped in January 2020, and this was only his second year competing in the National Championship. Last year, he was a gallery favorite, scoring four finds and setting a blisteringly fast pace before he was lost at 2:43, so fans were delighted to see him seize the laurels this year.

Perfect Storm's sire is Chelsea's Thunder Bolt, and his dam is Erin's Bet On Me. Thunder Bolt is a son of National Champion Whippoorwill Wild Agin, and Bet On Me is a full sister to Erin's Redrum and Erin's Longmire, two highly competitive field trial dogs, so

Perfect Storm definitely has a bright pedigree. Accomplished field trialer Sean Derrig is the breeder of Perfect Storm. In June 2024, Perfect Storm took first place in the Missouri Open All-Age, which requalified him for the National Championship. His Missouri win came off the heels of Storm just having been crowned champion at the Masters Open Quail Championship in March 2024 as well.

The Championship Brace

[Monday morning, 8:01 a.m.
Bracemate: Rebel Cause, PM, David Williams.]

The Championship brace happened to be the very first of what looked to be an extraordinarily long trial for the National due to the high number of entries. We broke away at the morning course in rather grave conditions: overcast, muddy, and holding at 37 degrees. However, things in championships can sometimes line up with the stars, and that weather, while not pleasant riding weather, was perfect bird-hunting weather for the dogs in the first brace,

which between them scored 11 finds in three hours.

Both dogs were through the Out Front Field by :03. Eisenhart called point for Storm at :11 on the hill on the left before we crossed Buford Ellington. We arrived to find Storm looking beautiful on his birds, with his head and tail held high. Eisenhart flushed, and all was in order for both wing and shot. Storm moved quickly to cross over Ellington and into Morgan Field, rejoining his bracemate, Rebel Cause, at :13. Before we crossed over Turner, Williams had his dog at :27 by L. B.. Avent's cornfield, but Eisenhart was searching for Storm. At :35, point was called for Rebel Cause in Turner Field, and Rebel Cause handled his birdwork to perfection. By approximately :43, Storm had returned to the front, and at :46, both handlers called point for their dogs at Turner Pond. We arrived to find both dogs standing firm and intense on point, and both handlers went in to shoot. Both dogs held for their game with perfect manners for both the flight of the birds and the report of the gun.

Storm then showed well on the right after we left Turner Pines at :47, and Rebel Cause also made a strong cast on the right at :49.

At :54, Rebel Cause was sighted next on Giovan's Hill. At 1:06, Eisenhart called point for Perfect Storm at Wilson Dunn's, and Storm again looked beautiful when we arrived, and again, he was staunchly motionless for both wing and shot. At 1:09, both dogs crossed over Mary Scott at an aggressive clip. At 1:14, Rebel Cause scored an impressive find immediately on the left across Mary Scott Dam, again handling his bird work with immaculate manners. At 1:19, both dogs were seen making short work of No Man's Land.

At 1:41, Williams called point for his dog again at the far-right edge of the Tennessee Field, and Rebel Cause also handled this find flawlessly. Rebel Cause's manners on his birdwork were flawless. Both dogs then continued hunting hard, and at 1:57, Gary McKibben, scout for Williams, called point for Storm in the field past Kyle's Barn. Storm looked breathtaking on his birds, standing with his head and tail high and motionless, and Eisenhart flushed for his dog, sending quail flying in all directions. Upon release, Storm made an impressive cast in the big crop fields beyond and swept around at a lightning-fast pace to slam into paint again at 2:00 on the right in Edward Clark South. Again, he looked stunning on his game, and when Eisenhart flushed for him, he held well for both wing and shot.

At 2:07, Eisenhart called point for Storm with Rebel Cause backing. When we arrived, Eisenhart asked the judges if they had seen a rabbit leaving, but the judges did not indicate they had.

Both dogs then showed to the front at 2:09. At 2:19, Storm was located on point to the right side of the mowed path behind Ryan's House. He looked beautiful on point and handled his birdwork perfectly. At the same time (2:19), Williams called point for his dog on the left behind Ryan's House, and again Rebel Cause handled his find with perfect manners. At 2:25, both dogs were moving with intense forward motion at Jim Braddock, making beautiful casts. At 2:37, Eisenhart called point for Storm again at Edward Clark North, and again, Storm looked magnificent on his birds. He handled his bird work again without error. At



Luke Eisenhart with Erin's Perfect Storm pointed.

2:44, after a brief absence, Rebel Cause returned to the front, but Williams had drifted backward looking for him, so Tom Shenker, a gallery member, requested he be allowed to briefly run the dog in Williams's stead until he returned. At 2:46, Williams returned to the front. At 2:57, both dogs were still moving with alacrity as we were crossing over National Championship to conclude the brace. Storm finished well, still hunting hard and aggressively to secure his championship honors.

The Running of the 126th National Championship

Our Judges

We had an entirely new slate of judges for 2025. Making up our judging panel of three, first we had Greg Bain of Town Creek, Alabama. Bain has an over 40-year history with the sport of field trialing. He is the long-serving secretary of the Alabama Field Trial Club, a club well-known for hosting the Alabama Open All-Age Championship, the last qualifying trial for the National Championship, and the Alabama Amateur. The club also frequently agrees to host other trials, including the Region 6 Amateur All-Age and Shooting Dog Championships, held on the Hell Creek Wildlife Management Area in Blue Mountain, Mississippi. Bain has had much success field trialing over the years, including owning the multi-champion, two-time Region 6 and Mid-South Shooting Dog of the Year, Parker's First Lady, and Parker's Cheveyo, Region 6 and Mid-South Derby of the Year. Bain is also known to be a trusted scout and is a judge to be counted upon. Bain is renowned for having an eagle eye, and he is also well-respected by handlers for being calm under pressure and hosting a well-run, fair-to-all-participants field trial. Those who know Bain know he is also difficult to unseat from a horse and is as comfortable on a roping horse as a Tennessee Walker. Over

the years, Bain has judged many trials including the Ames Amateur All-Age and Derby, the Hobart Ames Open All-Age, the Amateur All-Age Invitational Championship, the Alabama Open All-Age Championship and Alabama Open Derby Classic, the Southern Championship, the Carroll County Open Championship, the Kentucky Lake Open Championship, the Hell Creek Open All-Age Championship, the Sunflower Open All-Age Championship, and the Mississippi Open All-Age Championship. We were delighted to have Melissa, Greg's wife, join us for much of the trial, and she joined us in the gallery for part of the time, too.

Next, we have Rich Robertson Jr. of Payette, Idaho. Robertson also brings a wealth of knowledge, given that he has been a professional field trial dog trainer for over 50 years. Robertson was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2024. Robertson's father, Rich Robertson, was also a professional field trial trainer, so Robertson was born and raised into this world. Robertson has handled dogs to wins in over 150 championships and has handled a total of 64 dogs in 32 prior National Championships. He has also trained and handled two dogs that have since been inducted into the Hall of Fame, the fabled English setters, Tekoa Mountain Sunrise and Hicks Rising Sun. He is also known for his handling of the great Ch. Rivertons Funseek'n Scooter, an English pointer field trial dog that served as foundation stock for a strong line of dogs; Scooter sired, among others, HOF Ch. Just Irresistible, Ch. Dominator's Rebel Heir, Ch. Funseek'n Hit Man, and Ch. Willow Little Aaron. Robertson is known and loved throughout the field trial community for his generosity of spirit, genuine kindness, and willingness to mentor those just starting in the sport. He is well respected for his knowledge of dogs and horses and his ability as an accomplished equestrian. He has judged countless trials prior to judging the National, with some of the more significant stakes being the Florida Open All-Age Championship, the Continental Open All-Age Championship, the Quail Invitational Championship, the National Derby Championship, and the Derby Invitational Championship. Rich's lovely wife, Penny, was able to join us for part of the trial, and we were happy to have her with us; unfortunately, Penny's father passed away during the trial, and she returned to Idaho during the last



Angie Rose and Squeaky Powell at the Rhea Building during an evening reception.

days of the National. We were sorry to hear this tragedy happened to her and the entire Robertson family.

Finally, we have Bill Mason of Moundville, Alabama. Mason is known far and wide for his great knowledge of field trial dogs and good-humored, affable temperament. Mason has run such great dogs as Greensboro's Hardhead, which won the Alabama Open All-Age Championship in 1998 and the Memphis Amateur in Como against 48 dogs. Hardhead was the three-time runner-up Alabama All-Age Dog of the Year. Mason also owned and handled Gus Delight, the three-time Alabama Amateur All-Age Dog of the Year. In addition, he owned Greensboro's High Point, a dog named Alabama Amateur Derby of the Year and Amateur All-Age Dog of the Year. Mason is also well-known for knowing and riding very nice field trial horses, and he brought some of those impressive horses with him to the National this year. For many years, Mason managed the M. Barnett Lawley Forever Wild Field Trial Area, also known as the "Cattle Ranch," in Alabama, a well-known field trial venue. During Mason's tenure at the ranch, such trials as the Prairie Open All-Age, the Pelican Open All-Age, the U.S. Open Championship, the National Derby Championship, and the National Open Free-For-All Championship have all been held there. Mason has judged many trials prior to judging the National, including the Southwestern Championship, the Region 16 Amateur All-Age Championship, the National Amateur Derby Invitational, the Missouri Open All-Age Championship, the U.S. Open (3x), the National Amateur Quail Championship (2x), the National Open Free For All (2x), the National Derby Championship (3x), the Continental Derby Championship, and the National Open Shooting Dog Championship.

Henrietta Mason, Bill's wife, also

joined us for part of the trial, and we enjoyed her good sense of humor and learning more about her nickname, "The Hornet." Their daughter and son-in-law, Jennifer and Jamie McKemie, were also on hand and rode in the gallery on the first Saturday of the trial. They were absolutely delightful, as well.

Coordination of the National Championship – Behind the Scenes

There is a great deal of complexity and effort that goes into putting on a trial of this magnitude. It is a complicated endeavor to ensure that the judges and the reporter have horses saddled, fed, and trailered from place to place. In addition, all of these people need to be fed, have a place to stay, and know where they are supposed to be each hour of the day. On top of that, all the handlers, scouts, and owners need to know where they are putting their horses and dogs, when they are breaking away, if there will be a delay, etc.

People who have never served in an official capacity for this trial may wonder why the Ames group goes to all the effort of saddling, washing, and trailering club officials' horses—the answer lies in part in the length of the trial and the braces, plus the extra time those in any official capacity spend meeting with the public.

Thus, Ames envisions all of this work and ensures it is done for the club officials, which is a remarkable act of grace. There is a great deal of tireless work the Ames team does behind the scenes, rising early at 3:30 a.m. and staying late in the evenings taking care of stock and grounds. There is even an on-site veterinarian, Dr. Amy Weatherly, who checks on the health of all the horses and administers medications. The Ames crew works like a well-oiled machine—if you notice, each morning, at the far left end of the red barns, the Ames's horse trailers roll in, and the barn crew start unloading horses well before the morning breakaway and neatly tie them to the trailers. What you may not see is that if the dogs pick up early, those trailers magically show up at road crossings and pick us up, which saves us valuable time and saves our horses, which are going every day, all braces, in all conditions. It also allows this reporter to handwrite (in a truck on the way back to the Manor House) those brace synopses you see on the Ames Plantation website and hand them over to Jamie and Dee Evans for posting.



Judge Greg Bain explaining a matter to NFTCA Vice President Joey McAlexander and Michelle Clark.

The Evanses have retired after working as part of Ames Plantation Cultural Resources but returned from retirement to assist again this year.

This year, we also had our new NFTCA President, Dr. Stan Wint, in the saddle with us showing good humor and a servant heart as he sought to make sure everyone had what they needed. He was also at the Rhea Building in the evenings, joining handlers, owners, breeders, and gallery members as we relived the running each evening. We were also pleased to have Angie and Lou Rose, Greg Tapp, Darlene Culver Rike, Maylon and Jessica Price, Bill and Rob Rhea, Colin Rosser, Matt Rhea, and the NFTCA (Dr. Wint and Matt Backus) hosting receptions many evenings at the Rhea Building, and Angie Rose's help was invaluable in organizing other Rhea reception sponsors. In addition, our new NFTCA Vice President, Joey McAlexander, was present several days in the gallery and at lunch, and he was on hand several evenings at the Rhea Building, as well, ensuring the smooth running of the trial and pitching in to make sure the trial was on course.

Ryan Braddock and Chris Weatherly were also in the field with us, ensuring we remained safe and stayed on course, ensuring the gallery was not straggling or running over the judges or the dogs, and also quietly helping me identify the many fields, house places, and crossing points on the courses. We are also grateful to have security staff, such as Zach Parsons, on horseback herding gallery members who ensure the road crossings are safe for dogs, horses, and humans. We also have paramedics, including Greg Tapp, who ride and are very much needed.

And, last but not least, for me personally, I am grateful, and I think we all enjoyed having Joe, my husband, join us to ride, help me get tacked up, too, and also celebrate his birthday with us

again this year.

Opening Reception and Drawing for the Championship

At 7 p.m., we convened at Bryan Hall to conduct our drawing for the running of the Championship. We were grateful to McAlexander and his wife, Elise, for hosting the reception accompanying the drawing. First, the NFTCA Secretary, Matt Backus, welcomed us to the drawing and explained the order of events. He then acknowledged the following:

• Acknowledgment of Ames Staff, Volunteers, Directors, and Attendees

Backus recognized the Officers and Directors of the NFTCA: Dr. Stanley Wint, President; Joey McAlexander, Vice President; Matt Backus, Secretary/Treasurer; Dr. Terry Terlep, Dr. Fred Corder, John Ivester, Matt Rhea, Keith Wright, David Williams, Tom Shenker, and Larry Garner.

Backus also commended the newly named Archivist, Steeple Bell, for his invaluable assistance in providing detailed notes regarding each nominated contender's registration, coloring, DOB, owners, handler, breeder, win record, and detailed pedigree. Bell also provides a wonderful write-up for amesplantation.org on each dog's history and pedigree. The pedigree and win information I supply regarding any competitor is based almost entirely on the wealth of information Bell generously provides.

Backus recognized Jamie Evans as the Official Photographer. Jamie and Dee work with this reporter to ensure this reporter's morning and afternoon brace synopses are posted to www.amesplantation.org and the Ames Plantation Facebook page.

Backus also noted that Braddock would serve as Front Marshal and Weatherly would serve as Back Marshal.

Also joining us was Dr. Allan Houston, a cultural biologist with Ames, who provided the detailed and helpful announcements at each breakaway, and James Morrow, who drove the truck with the medical equipment and dog boxes.

Backus recognized the security group of Parsons, Chris Kelley, and Jacob Jenkins (FCSO) and the Fayette County Sheriff's Department for allowing two deputies from the Sheriff's Department, Deputy Moses Allen and Deputy Ricky



Greg Tapp and Larry Garner at an evening Rhea reception.

Wilson, to assist us at times with road traffic. Backus also recognized our faithful paramedic on horseback, Tapp.

Lauren Abbott of Hunt & Field Magazine was also commended for her generosity in providing the program for the event and all her publicity and coverage of the National Championship.

• Memorabilia, Awards, Prizes, Gifts, and Hospitality for the Championship

Backus also paused to recognize those who had donated memorabilia, awards, prizes, gifts, and hospitality for the Championship:

The family and friends of Mike Perkins for the donation of the M.G. "Mike" Perkins Memorial Trophy.

The family and friends of Barry H. Saunders for the donation of the Barry H. Saunders Memorial Trophy for permanent possession by the winning handler.

The Waldo and Pearl Dodge Commemorative Belt Silver Belt Buckle is given to the winning owner.

Greg Dennis Designs for donating a custom engraved Acme Thunderer whistle.

Whippoorwill Wild Card Memorial Breeders Award to the breeder of the winning Dog.

Nestlé Purina PetCare, the Exclusive Pet Food Sponsor, which provides a year's supply of pet food to the winner, a National Championship Oil Painting by Ross Young, and a one-of-a-kind 2025 National Championship Souvenir Cap to the handlers, owners, and club officials.

The Bank of Fayette County provided a cash supplement to the purse.

Spalding Labs for providing bio-beneficial fly predators to Ames throughout the year.

Tucker Trail Saddles awarded a Custom saddle to the winning owner.

Jeff Haggis provided a Haggis Trooper Saddle to the handler of the National Champion.

John and Susan Ivester provided owners, handlers, and officials of the 124th Running with a commemorative hat pin of a one and only original design by Barry Saunders.

Tennessee Tractor also provided two John Deere Gator Utility Vehicles for officials to use during the trial.

SportDOG Brand and Gun Dog Supply, Inc. provided a SportDOG Brand SD-1825 Sport Hunter to the handler of the 2024 Champion.

Sportsman's Pride Pet Food sponsored a Brunswick Stew and Barbeque Dinner on Thursday night during the running.

The Saddle Guy provided a hand-crafted Trooper Saddle to the winning scout.

SportDOG and Gun Dog Supply provided the winning handler a SportDOG SD-1825 Sport Hunter.

Garmin International provided three Garmin 430 Receivers and T20 collars—one each to the winning owner, handler, and scout; a Tri-Tronics Pro555 Remote Trainer and Bark Limiter Deluxe to the winning handler; and four Garmin units for use during competition.

Area Wide Communications donated six two-way radios for use by Ames Security patrol during the National Championship.

David Kelley Jewelers provided a handcrafted Joe Hurdle lapel pin.

Glovers' Eats-N-Sweets, Somerville, Tennessee, furnished lunches daily in Bryan Hall from 10:45 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Backus also recognized the First Baptist Church, Grand Junction, Tennessee, which continued its tradition of providing sausage and biscuits every morning.

Cindy Krag Catering for the closing reception and the dinners for the officials.

5 Star Equine Products for the provision of three saddle pads, one each to the winning owner, handler, and scout.

Predator Management Solutions provided two weeks of professional trapping by Doug McKenzie.

Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' and Exhibitors Association (TWHBEA) donated a cash supplement to the

winning handler, provided the handler is riding a registered Tennessee Walking Horse.

Park Cities Quail Coalition made an in-kind contribution to help fund the event.

Mid-South Farmers Co-Op also provided two tons of 11% protein horse feed for use by Ames Plantation for their horses during the trial.

• **Haney's All In, 2025 Winner of the Joe H. Hurdle Top Dog Award**

Backus then announced the winner of the 2025 Joe H. Hurdle Top Dog Award, a memorial awarded to honor Mr. Hurdle and given to the dog that acquired the most points each year to qualify for the National. The owner of the dog receives a pin handcrafted by David Kelley of Kelley Jewelers, Somerville, Tennessee. The 2025 Winner was Haney's All In, owned by Stacey and Steve Croy and handled by Mark McLean. All In accrued 1,415 points in the 2024-25 season to secure this award. This is a significant accomplishment because All In won this award last year. In 2024, he accrued 2,492 points in the season to win the Hurdle Award. He is one of the few dogs in history to win the award twice. Dr. Corder graciously accepted the award in the stead of the Croys and McLean.

• **Additional Comments**

Backus noted that Ames would provide tracking collars for competing dogs. He then conducted our drawing, which we also videoed and aired on social media, with Backus announcing the running and cataloging the running order. Backus explained that he had employed a new computer program to shorten the length of the drawing. This greatly shortened the drawing, and so, once all the names were entered, we had our drawing conducted within approximately 30 seconds, and our meeting was largely concluded.

Backus did read the rules of conduct for the running of the Championship, and he also indicated that running would begin Monday at 8 a.m. for the morning brace and at 1:15 for the afternoon braces at the appropriate breakaway sites unless otherwise provided by the judges and officials.

Kick-Off Party Hosted by Purina

At the Kick-Off Party Sunday evening, which was generously sponsored by Purina and Greg Blair, a silent auction was well attended by guests, with

proceeds going to fund the important work of the Bird Dog Museum. Several items were available for bidding, including jewelry, tracking and training collars, handmade baskets and pottery, glassware, and many other noteworthy and valuable items. Last year's National Champion, Touch's Gallatin Fire, was recognized, and Greg Blair stepped up to the podium to make a few remarks about this wonderful dog and his talented performance. Purina also provided a delicious taco dinner for all attendees, and the event was much enjoyed.

The Braces of the 126th National Championship

[Brace 2: Monday afternoon, 1:11 p.m. B M B's Free Ride, GSHM, Brandon Blum, and Bonner's Hot Rize, PM, Patrick Siebels. Clear, 48 degrees.]

B M B's Free Ride, handled by Blum, made history by being our first German Shorthaired pointer to compete in the National Championship. Both Free Ride and Hot Rize left the East Pasture with alacrity and were sweeping around to the left in the next green field by :03. Both dogs were to the front crossing over Buster Graves at :16. At :17, point was called for Hot Rize and Free Ride at Buster Graves, but no birds were flying, although both dogs held well for the flushing. At :24, Blum called point for Free Ride again, with Hot Rize again backing. Again, Free Ride looked very nice when the judges arrived. Blum flushed extensively and then asked Free Ride to relocate, but Free Ride at first indicated he was loath to do so. He eventually agreed to relocate, but no birds were produced. At that point, much to the gallery's disappointment, he suffered his second unproductive and was in the harness. Hot Rize continued across Ames Road, but he was not seen after :30. Siebels requested his tracker at 1:03, thus concluding his brace, as well.

[Tuesday Morning: The morning brace was delayed until the afternoon due to extremely stormy conditions. Brace 3: Tuesday afternoon, 1:33 p.m. Southern Thunder, PM, Tom Shenker, and Painted Owyhee Toad, PM, Bridget Ledington. Raining, 43 degrees.]

Point was called for Southern Thunder at :02 in the middle of the East Pasture with Toad backing. Upon arrival, the gallery pointed out that birds were flying. Judge Mason indicated he had seen birds flying but could not confirm

they were quail and told Shenker to go ahead and flush for his dog. Shenker did flush but produced no quail, then shot, and continued on with his dog. At :04, point was called for Thunder again with Toad again backing. This time, quail were flying, and Thunder stood firm, head and tail held high, for his birdwork. Shenker next pointed out Thunder at Buster Graves to the front, making a nice cast on the left at :18. Both dogs were seen to the front crossing Buster Graves's driveway at :19. At :26, they were seen at Buster Graves's mailbox. At :31, Ledington called point for Toad at George Kemp, and, as we approached, Ledington pointed out the birds flying to the left away from her dog, who stood firmly, tail high. Ledington walked in front and shot for her dog, who stood perfectly for that as well. At :37, Toad was seen to the front at the Horseshoe Field. At :45, Toad showed to the front as we were passing Giovan Hill. At :56, Shenker called point for Toad, who was standing near the Agronomy Unit. Ledington arrived to flush a woodcock for Toad, who again handled his birdwork impeccably. At some point shortly after 1:00, Shenker requested Thunder's tracker, thus concluding his brace.

At 1:06, Korry Rinehart, scout for Ledington, called point for Toad at the Agronomy Shed, and Ledington, after extensive flushing, relocated Toad, who then had a stop to flush.

Toad scored another find at 1:09 near the Demonstration Farm Pasture, handling his birdwork again with excellent manners. At 1:26, Ledington again called point for Toad, this time at Prospect Church, and once again, he stood up well for both wing and shot. At 1:41, Toad was showing well to the front in Turkey Bottom. By 1:52, Toad was pointed again, scoring an excellent find at 1:52 on Pine Hill. At 2:23, Toad showed to the front in the field beyond Jack Harris Cemetery. Toad's final find was at 2:28 at Jack Harris. Toad finished his three-hour brace to the front, still running hard.

[Brace 4, Wednesday morning, 7:58 a.m. Highground Gidget, SF, Lori Steinshouer, and Ramblin Rivers Unplugged, PF, Brian Gingrich. Cloudy, 42 degrees.]

Both dogs were out of the field after the Out Front Field by .04, running hard and to the front. At :09, Unplugged showed well at Heartbreak Hill. Both

dogs were across Buford Ellington and into Morgan Field by :13. At :17, Steinshouer's dog was seen on the left at Morgan Basin, and then both dogs were seen in Morgan Basin, making impressive casts to the front.

At :22, Unplugged was seen on the left at Turner Road. He was next seen at :26, moving into Turner Field. At :30, Unplugged was impressively rimming Turner Field. At :32, Rinehart, Unplugged's scout, called point for him but waved it off. At about the same time, Gidget, who had suffered a brief absence, returned to the front. At :35, both dogs had swept around Turner Pond and moved swiftly through Turner Pines. However, the setter was again absent thereafter. At :54, Gingrich called point for Unplugged at Turner Ditch, but even after relocation, no birds were flying. At 1:00, Gidget returned to the front after another absence. At 1:10, Gidget was spotted across Mary Scott Dam, and then both dogs showed to the front in No Man's Land. Gidget moved into the Locust Fork Turn at 1:24. Both dogs came out of Locust Fork Turn, but at 1:36, Gingrich chose to put Unplugged into the harness. Gidget moved through the Tennessee Field and the Big Oak Field, and just beyond it, she pointed, but even after relocation, she moved no birds. At that point, at 1:45, Steinshouer chose to put her in the harness.

[Brace 5, Wednesday afternoon, 1:15 p.m. B M B's Freeloder, GSHM, Brandon Blum, and Bonner's Bulletproof, PM, Randy Anderson. Light rain, 49 degrees.]

Freeloder is the second GSP to ever compete in the National Championship and is the son of the other GSP competing this year. Freeloder broke away hard, blazed a fast trail out of the East Pasture, and made an impressive, eye-catching rapid cast in the big green soybean field on the other side, taking it all the way around and out of sight. Freeloder had the gallery sitting up and watching by this time, as Blum dispatched scout Kyle Graves to ensure Freeloder made it around the bend and back to the front. Meanwhile, Bulletproof, also casting in the same general path, made the bend of the course and swept around to point at :17 at Buster Graves. Bulletproof looked very intense on his game, and when Anderson went in to flush, Bulletproof never moved a muscle. Continuing on, at :25, Bulletproof swept into George Kemp, while Freeloder was spotted



Handler Chris Cagle watching as Judge Rich Robertson began a downward descent on foot to a find.

at Cedar Hill at :31. Freeloder and Unplugged were spotted right before the Horseshoe Field running hard and to the front at :33. Freeloder then made another eye-catching and rapid cast all the way around the Horseshoe Field. At :43, Freeloder suffered an unproductive to the right of the lane in heavy cover. At :47, point was called for Bulletproof near the Agronomy Unit with Freeloder backing. Both dogs looked impressive, and Anderson flushed birds for his dog. After that point, Freeloder was not seen again, and Blum requested his tracker at approximately 1:25.

Bulletproof continued, scoring a very nice find at 1:33 at the entrance to Marshall's Jack Harris. He also had another beautiful find at 1:55 at the Jack Harris Cemetery. At 2:03, Bulletproof had another excellent find at Jack Harris CRP. At 2:30, Bulletproof showed to the front at Cox's Ridge. As we moved into John Fason Bottom at 2:33, Bulletproof showed nicely to the front. At 2:46, Bulletproof scored yet another find in the field beyond Kyle's Barn, again handling his bird work to perfection. Bulletproof finished the three hours running hard and to the front.

[Brace 6, Thursday morning, 8 a.m. Touch's Malcolm Story, PM, McLean, and Haney's Silver Dollar, PM, Chris Cagle Sr. Cloudy, muddy, 36 degrees.]

Silver Dollar was seen leaving the breakaway and then was not sighted again. His handler requested the tracker at :30 at Turner Road.

Touch's Malcolm Story showed well in Morgan Field, making a beautiful cast at :14, and proceeded well across into Turner. His handler called point for him at :50 in Turner Pines, but even after relocation, no birds were flying, although Story looked beautiful. Story continued hunting hard and to the front, but McLean chose to pick him up at 1:10 at National Championship Drive.

[Brace 7, Thursday afternoon, 1:15 p.m. Late Hit, PM, Shenker, and Miller's Heat Advisory, PM, Judd Carlton. 35 degrees, cloudy.]

We had a large gallery on hand for the afternoon running, as we had two popular contenders the crowd had turned out to see, Late Hit (scout Kirk Law) and Miller's Heat Advisory (Eisenhart, scout). Late Hit was fresh off winning the Hobart Ames Open All-Age, the Alabama Open All-Age Championship, and the National Open Shooting Dog Championship, and Miller's Heat Advisory has been a contender this year as well, winning the Lee County Open All-Age and taking a runner-up at the United States Open Championship. Both dogs were away and flying in the East Pasture, and both rimmed it with alacrity. They were then spied spinning out into the soybean field by :04, sweeping around it on the left and then into the next field beyond it quickly. Both dogs then swept on across Buster Graves by :12, were across Ames Road by :19, and Late Hit was seen going past Cedar Hill by :21. At :22, both dogs were seen streaking around the Horseshoe Field. As both dogs swept on to the right and down the path away from that field, we started scanning for them in the fields in the Chute on either side up ahead of us. At approximately :30, Gary Lester, who was riding in the gallery, called out behind us in that clear, exciting voice of his, "Dog's going away out there up on that right-hand side now!" It added a little umph to have our favorite showman back in the gallery, and everyone laughed happily! We should never forget that field trialing should be done just for the sheer joy of it, and it was good to have Gary, a true sportsman, remind us that sometimes we should remember to enjoy the pure beauty of it!

Business picked up for us by the time we were out of the Chute from a bird perspective, as Eisenhart called point for Heat Advisory at :56 to the east of the Agronomy Shed with Late Hit backing. Both dogs looked stunning on their game and held perfectly for wing and shot. Both dogs swept through the countryside, making beautiful casts at various points, and then point was called at 1:26 above Turkey Bottom. When we arrived, the beautiful strong dog that is Late Hit was standing firmly with head and tail high, and Heat Advisory was backing. Shenker flushed for his dog, and birds boiled out. Late Hit stood

motionless for both wing and shot. The dogs were released and flew through Turkey and Alfalfa Bottoms and up Pine Hill. We saw them again at 1:53 when Heat Advisory scored a find east of the Agronomy Shed with Late Hit backing. Both dogs' game manners were again immaculate. Six short minutes later, point was called again at 1:59, west of the Agronomy Shed, and we again found Heat Advisory pointed and Late Hit backing. Heat Advisory looked outstanding on his game, a beautiful dog who is magnificent on game.

As we turned back and were riding away from the Agronomy Shed, at approximately 2:05, we began to hear someone calling point in the distance. As the marshals began to lead us to the sound, we realized we would have to go downhill to a significant draw and then ease across a section of creek bed that was at least 3 feet high in places and not particularly stable from a horse footing standpoint. We did make it across the creek in various places and up the other side to find both dogs in the Chute, with Heat Advisory pointed and Late Hit backing. Both dogs looked beautiful and stood well for the flushing and the report of the gun. We then proceeded to return down the hill the way we had come to re-cross the creek, which was not an easy feat, and return to the course. We resumed the running at approximately 2:20, as it took some time to get all the officials' horses to cross and negotiate up the other side of the hill.

Both dogs then continued hunting with a strong forward race, but before we reached Caesar's Ditch, Shenker was out looking for his dog, and he requested his tracker at approximately 2:38.

Heat Advisory was looking strong as we proceeded up the hill on the other side of Caesar's Ditch, and at 2:40, point was called for him at Cox's Ridge. However, even after relocation, no birds were flying. Heat Advisory had no further bird contact in his brace, but he did have a strong finish, still running with speed and intensity at the three-hour mark.

[Brace 8, Friday morning, 8:04 a.m., Touch's Breakaway Fred, PM, McLean, and Westfall's Mandalay, Andy Daugherty. Cloudy with ice in the puddles at 27 degrees.]

Both dogs left the Out Front Field with rapid intensity by :02. At :06, Fred



Gary Lester flushing for one of his dogs while Judge Mason looks on.

was spotted in the curve on his way to Heartbreak Hill. Unfortunately, he was not seen again, and McLean requested his tracker at :32.

Mandalay showed well at :11 at the top of the hill before Buford Ellington; he then showed again at :19 in Morgan Basin and had a beautiful find at :42 in Turner Neck. All was in order with his birdwork, and he then journeyed on, hunting well to the front. Point was called for him beyond Turner Ditch, but Daugherty waved it off. At the road crossing before Mary Scott at :47, Daugherty chose to put him in the harness.

[Brace 9, Friday afternoon, 1:14 Lester's Storm Surge, PM, Gary Lester, and Game Heir, PM, Corder. Cloudy, 46 degrees.]

Ch. Storm Surge is a brother to former National Champion Lester's Shockwave and is this year's top sire. Storm Surge is always a contender, and it seems everyone in the field trial world owns or wants a "Storm Surge" puppy. Game Heir, his brace mate, took two third placements this year to requalify, at the Rend Lake Open All-Age and Hobart Ames Open All-Age, but he had also just battled it out two months prior in this year's hard-fought Ames Amateur All-Age on the same grounds to seize first place over 44 other dogs (some of these being other National competitors), so he was known to be yet another significant competitor this year.

Point was called in the middle line of pines in the East Pasture for Game Heir at :04. He looked outstanding on point, head and tail absolutely vertical, and this is where Heir showed us why he can sweep a field trial. He doesn't move for Doc until Doc releases him from this extremely stylish position. This time, unfortunately, even after relocation, no birds were flying. Both dogs then made impressive casts in the

East Pasture before moving into the green soybean field beyond, carrying the field all the way around and out of sight. At :18, both dogs were across Buster Graves's driveway. At :22, Lester called point for Storm Surge in Buster Graves, but even after relocation, quail were not produced. At :24, across Ames Road in the Old Mounting Block Field, point was called for Game Heir, and, when Corder relocated him, Heir had a stop to flush as birds got up. Both dogs continued hunting hard and to the front, past Cedar Hill. At :38, Surge was proceeding up the hill in the field beyond Horseshoe Field at a fast clip. At :51, both dogs were found on point east of the Agronomy Shed, but the handlers decided they might be backing each other and chose to go on. Storm Surge showed to the front at 1:11 as we were going across the Pond Levee. Both dogs were seen hunting well to the front in the Turkey Bottom at 1:23. At Pine Hill, Storm Surge was still to the front at 1:27. At 1:30, Surge was making a nice cast to the left at the top of Pine Hill. Game Heir was sighted to the front at 1:40 west of the Agronomy Shed.

At 1:46, Lester chose to pick up Storm Surge. At 1:48, as we were heading away from the Agronomy Shed area, Game Heir was sighted again to the front. At 2:02, Heir was moving quickly up the hill away from Caesar's Ditch. At 2:22, Heir was found on point in John Fason's Bottom. He looked outstanding again, on point and held well for wing and shot. Unfortunately, as we were heading downhill to the find, a horse and rider fell into the slippery mud slope, but the rider managed to fall in a way that prevented the horse from rolling onto him. Luckily, the rider was not seriously injured. Heir crossed into the field behind Kyle's Barn and swept on into the Tennessee Field at approximately 2:20. He was found pointed in Morgan Swamp at 2:44. As we were riding up, a large covey of birds got up in waves around Heir, but he stood without moving a muscle. He once again looked magnificent on his birds, and he had his head and tail held high just as firmly for the flight of the birds and the report of the gun as he did when we rode up. He kept his pose until Doc released him to return to hunting.

Game Heir finished his three hours hunting hard and to the front.

[Brace 10: Saturday morning, 8:00 a.m. Woodville's Yukon Cornelius, SM,

McLean, and Erin's Code of Honor, PM, Eisenhart. Cloudy, breezy, 55 degrees.]

Cornelius and Code of Honor led us into the final day of the first week of running. The day dawned with a strong threat of thunderstorms, but this threat thankfully did not materialize. Both dogs left the breakaway running hard and were out of the Out Front Field by :03, and Honor was out of the field beyond it by :04. Both dogs were seen to the front by :11 before we crossed over Buford Ellington. Yukon Cornelius showed at :15 in Morgan Basin, far to the front, making a nice cast. Both dogs were next seen at :24, crossing Turner into Turner Field. At :33, both dogs were seen making impressive casts in Turner Neck. At :47, Code of Honor had a find on the right-hand side of Turner Pines. He looked beautiful on his birds. We then took a short cut through the woods to catch the gallery at the Turner Ditch crossing, and the remaining judge with McLean's dog advised he was still to the front when we returned at :49. At :55, Cornelius was crossing to the front at Wilson Dunn. At 1:07, Yukon Cornelius had a stunning find at Mary Scott Pond, with his head and tail held high. He held perfectly for wing and shot. After release, the setter shot across the pond dam and flew to the right into No Man's Land. Both dogs worked cover nicely through No Man's Land at 1:12, and both were to the front at the Ames Road crossing at 1:16. At the Locust Fork Turn at 1:19, both were still to the front. In the field beyond at 1:28, both dogs were still moving on quickly and making strong casts. At 1:33, point was called for Code of Honor near the Big Oak. He looked beautiful on point and stood well for wing and shot. At 1:37, both handlers chose to put their dogs in the harness.

[Brace 11 Saturday afternoon, 1:30 a.m. (due to the potential for inclement weather conditions and the shortened morning brace, Brace 11 was moved up). Miller's King Poast, PM, Lester, and Barshoe Forget Me Not, PM, Allen Vincent. Cloudy, 61 degrees.]

Both dogs were away at a fast clip from the afternoon breakaway. The weather was perfect bird-hunting weather, cool, drizzling, and ever so slightly breezy. The ground was muddy but not miserably so. At :06, point was called for Forget Me Not in heavy cover on the left of the East Pasture. However, when quail were flushed for him, they flew directly into his face, causing him to

mark flight too much. He was thereafter in the harness.

King Poast made a strong cast in the East Pasture and swept on through into the green soybean field beyond. Lester found him pointed in Buster Graves at approximately :20. After flushing, Lester commented that his dog was acting like the birds had flown on him. Even after relocation, the beautiful Poast could not produce any birds. Lester remounted, and Poast rocked along on the right-hand side of the field and repointed at :23. This time, he found his covey, and Lester dismounted and flushed for him. He looked beautiful on his birds, a big, strong, muscled dog with a high tail and classy head.

At :27, Poast had made the loop around Buster Graves and crossed over Ames Road to cast around the Old Mounting Block Field but rounded back to Lester to jump up in the air beside Lester's horse and get a treat from Lester. At :29, he was again seen leaving the Old Mounting Block Field at a rapid pace to the front. At :54, Lester called point for Poast on the right in heavy cover before the Chute. Although Lester flushed in the heavy briars, the quail were apparently running, and the judges did not see them. Lester relocated Poast, and Poast worked the cover thoroughly in the light rain. After some work, birds were produced, which Poast held well for, as well as for the shot.

At :59, Lester pointed out Poast in the Chute, running hard, going away to the front. At 1:08, Poast had a find at the Agronomy Unit, and he looked outstanding on his birds. At 1:15, scout Nick Thompson called point for Poast east of the Agronomy Shed. As we rode up, one of the judges said he saw birds running on the ground in heavy brush and for Lester to shoot, which he did. Quail flew out around the dog in all directions, but Poast stood firm for wing and shot, looking magnificent.

At 1:22, Poast was making nice casts in the fields after the Agronomy Unit. Poast was still to the front at 1:50 and remained that way all the way through Alfalfa and Turkey Bottoms and on up Pine Hill. Point was called for him at 1:56 on Pine Hill. Once again, he looked outstanding on his game.

To the west of the Agronomy Shed, we sighted Poast again at 2:20 to the front. After an extended absence, at 2:59, at John Fason Bottom, Poast appeared to the front. He finished the three hours

running strong.

[Brace 12: Monday morning, 8:01 a.m. Haney's Hurricane Seeker, PM, David Russell, and Coldwater Odyssey, PM, Gary McKibben. Sunny, 22 degrees.]

Weldon Bennett had been drawn as Odyssey's handler, but McKibben substituted for him after Bennett was injured in a horse wreck the week before.

Both dogs were through the Out Front Field and moving on at a fast clip by :02. At :10, McKibben called point for Odyssey at Heartbreak Hill. Odyssey is a wonder to behold on point, a heavily muscled, intense bird dog with a fine, high tail. He held his stance perfectly for the flush, a very mannerly dog, and all was in order for wing and shot. McKibben then released him, and he was away like a shot across Buford Ellington and into Morgan Field.

Odyssey showed to the front at :21, hammering on, before we reached L. B. Avent. Both dogs were then seen to the front, crossing over Turner at 26. Odyssey made a beautiful cast around Turner Field at 31, then struck birds at :33, swinging into a fine point on the far-right side. Again, when we arrived, he was staunch and beautiful on point and held well for the flush and report of the gun. When released, he immediately went to the front again at a fast clip. We next found him swinging through Turner Neck to begin crossing over Turner Levee, but he immediately snapped sideways and pointed again at :40. Once again, McKibben flushed for his dog, and all was in order, Odyssey once again exhibiting perfect manners.

At Turner Pines at :45, Hurricane Seeker showed to the front, and Odyssey was swinging to the right at the same time. By :49, both dogs were crossing Turner Ditch. At :54, Hurricane Seeker was on the left as we were passing Giovan Hill. He was then next sighted at Wilson Dunn at :56. As we neared the Ames Road crossing, we were sad to see that Odyssey's feet were bleeding from the icy puddles, and he had slowed considerably. McKibben chose to pick him up at that juncture at 1:05.

Once we crossed over into Mary Scott, Russell called point for Hurricane Seeker at 1:06 on the right, but no birds were flying even after relocation. Russell and Mike Lemons, Russell's scout, briefly conferred and appeared to decide to take Hurricane Seeker on further.

However, at 1:08, Russell decided it was time to put his dog in the harness as well, thus concluding the morning brace.

[Brace 13, Monday afternoon, 1:13 p.m. Lester's War Bird, PM, Lester, and Game Surge, PM, Corder. Sunny, 38 degrees.]

Both dogs were moving fast in the East Pasture, with Corder calling point for Surge and then waving it off at approximately :01. Both dogs were then out of the East Pasture by :02 but swiftly returned to investigate an edge or two. At :10, the handlers called point in Jim Miller Field, and when we arrived, we discovered Corder was choosing to flush on the find while Lester chose to accept his dog's position as a back. After Corder flushed for a few seconds, he suddenly said, "There is the bird right underneath the dog's head." It turned out, as he flushed, the bird was tucked up almost at the dog's nose. However, even when Corder flushed and the bird flew, the dog showed perfect manners, remaining motionless, head and tail still in the air.

Upon release, the dogs then shot quickly forward, and we discovered them at :17 at Buster Graves on what appeared to be either a divided find or two separate finds but very close together. Corder went in one direction, and Lester went in the other, flushing.

Unfortunately, Surge was not able to produce any birds even after relocation. However, War Bird worked the cover hard and produced a bird from across a small ditch within approximately one minute.

War Bird then had a find at :25 on the right side of Buster Graves with his head and tail looking outstanding, very intense, and pretty. All was in order from a manners perspective. At :36, point was called for Game Surge on Cedar Hill. Once again, he looked impeccable as he stood there for the flush and report, absolutely motionless with his nose held straight up and his tail straight up as well.

At :52, War Bird scored a nice find in the Chute and handled his birdwork perfectly. Both dogs were to the front at 1:00 at the Agronomy Unit, going around the curve. At 1:11, Lester's scout, Rinehart, called point for War Bird in a significantly overgrown place west of the Agronomy Shed. After relocation and extensive flushing through heavy briars, Lester was able to produce birds for War Bird.

At 1:25, at Lawrence Smith Houseplace, both dogs were pointed, but the handlers chose to go on, perhaps deciding the dogs were backing each other. At 1:29, War Bird was moving into Turkey Bottom at a smooth clip. At 1:47, Corder requested Game Surge's tracker, thus concluding his brace. At 1:58, War Bird pointed again at almost the same location as he had pointed at before, west of the Agronomy Shed. This time, Lester was not able to flush birds for him again, and War Bird suffered an unproductive. He then proceeded at a fast clip, and at 2:07, scored a beautiful find east of the Agronomy Shed. At 2:35, War Bird was on the left, hunting hard at Cox's Ridge. At 2:46, War Bird returned to Lester in John Fason Bottom. At 2:48, War Bird showed nicely at A. C.'s Houseplace. At pickup, War Bird swung into a stylish point at Joe Woody, and he handled his bird work impeccably for one final time.

[Brace 14 Tuesday morning, 8 a.m. Bandit's Hill Avenger, PM, McLean, and Highground Toby, ESM, Steinshouer. Wet, cold, and 31 degrees.]

Both dogs were through the Out Front Field by :02, and out of the second field by :06. By :12, both handlers were out looking for their dogs at the first road crossing. At :15, Toby returned to Morgan Field. Amy Spencer began to handle him until Steinshouer returned, but running remained suspended because the ambitious setter did not stay on course but went in the direction paralleling Kyle's Barn instead. At approximately :18, Toby returned, and Ike Todd requested permission to dismount and hold the setter, which he did. At about the same time, Avenger returned from his outing, and Todd received permission to secure him briefly, too. McLean and Steinshouer quickly returned to Morgan Field, and running resumed on course by :19. By :32, Toby was crossing over Turner Road into Turner Field. At :37, Bandit returned to Turner Neck, and Toby was seen thereafter making a sweeping cast from right to left at the far end of Turner Neck at about the same time. At :50, McLean pointed out his dog casting at the far end of Turner Pines. Shortly thereafter, Toby followed suit.

At :58, Toby came down the path past Tom Hurt, and at :59, Bandit was moving out of Tom Hurt. At 1:10, Bandit was heading into Mary Scott. McLean called point across the dam at Mary Scott,

but he waved it off by the time we got there, explaining that as soon as he yelled the word "Point," the birds flew, so he was taking the dog on. At 1:18, as we rounded into No Man's Land, both dogs were to the front. At 1:22, Bandit had a classy find in No Man's Land on the left, which he handled with excellent manners. However, thereafter, McLean chose to put him in the harness.

At 1:30, Toby was moving into the Locust Turn. At 1:45, he was moving into the Tennessee Field. At 1:46, Steinshouer determined it was time to pick him up also.

[Brace 15, Tuesday afternoon, 1:08 p.m. Game Star, PF, Corder, and Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Dallee, ESF, Alex Mauck. Partly cloudy and windy, 40 degrees.]

Conditions were rather harsh for this brace, as it was cold and the wind was whipping well above 15-20 mph, a foretaste of the winter storm about which we were receiving repeated warnings; i.e., that it was bearing down on the plantation for mid-week, with predictions of at least 2-3 inches of ice and snow.

Both dogs left running hard and fast from the East Pasture and exited it by :02. Thompson called point for Dallee in the East Pasture Hay Field at :14. When we rode up to see Dallee tucked under a large oak tree in heavy cover standing beautifully, birds began boiling out all around and under her, but she held her stance perfectly. At :16, both dogs were moving into George Kemp. By :30, both dogs were casting well at the front before the Horseshoe Field. At :44, both dogs were on the hill to the right, hunting aggressively in the cover.

At :45, Dallee was spotted to the left of the Chute. At :46, both dogs were rounding to the east side of the Agronomy Shed. At :49, both dogs were to the front as we passed the Strawberry Field. At 1:01, both dogs were still to the front, hunting hard and fast. At 1:05, both dogs were cruising past Prospect Church. As we were nearing Lawrence Smith's barn at 1:14, both dogs showed well to the front. At 1:16, Dallee suffered an unproductive at Lawrence Smith's Barn. At 1:34, Dallee pointed again at Marshall's Jack Harris with Game Star backing. Even after relocation, no birds were produced, and at this juncture, both handlers picked up their dogs, concluding the brace.

The predicted winter storm did indeed

materialize for Ames, and we saw snow, ice, and temperatures in the low teens arrive late Tuesday and Wednesday morning. The weather continued in the low teens to 20s through Friday morning, so running was canceled on Wednesday and Thursday and did not commence again until Friday afternoon.

[Brace 16 Friday, 1:30 p.m. (delayed from morning due to weather). Mayfield Storm Charger, PM, Vincent, and Lester's Shockwave, PM, Lester. Sunny, 30 degrees.]

Shockwave is a former National Champion, and Storm Charger is this year's winner of the Kansas Prairie Open All-Age and runner-up champion of the Oklahoma Championship. The dogs were away fast in the East Pasture with the handlers calling point on the left at :04, but then both dogs were in motion again, and then only Shockwave slammed into point again with Storm Charger continuing. Upon arrival, Shockwave looked beautiful and held well for both wing and shot. Upon release, Shockwave continued straight on the path and veered right into the East Pasture Hayfield to again point at :08. Again, he looked very nice on his birds, and all was in order for both the flush and the report of the gun. By :09, both dogs were to the front in the green soybean field, and by :16, both dogs were to the front at Buster Graves. At :18, Matt Cochran, scout for Vincent, was calling point for Storm Charger at Buster Graves's Mailbox, and when we arrived, we discovered Shockwave was also there backing. Both dogs looked very classy and handled the birdwork perfectly. The handlers then asked could they continue straight across Ames Drive rather than going backward to make the Buster Graves loop, and the judges indicated that plan was fine. Both dogs were into the Old Mounting Block Field by :20. By :26, both dogs were passing by Cedar Hill to the front.

At :30, both handlers called point for their dogs, and each dog was on point in a different location near the other at the edge of the Horseshoe Field on the right-hand side. Each handler flushed quail for his dog, and all was in order for both dogs. Both dogs moved on after the finds with alacrity, sweeping across the Horseshoe Field and then up the hill past it, heading toward the Chute. At :40, Rinehart, scout for Lester, called point for Shockwave to the right of the Chute. Shockwave once again

looked nice on his birds and stood stock still for the flushing and the shot. As Lester released his dog, Storm Charger moved through the area with Vincent in pursuit. Shortly thereafter, up ahead of that find, Charger slammed into point at approximately :41. Charger looked beautiful on point, also, and he handled his find in a very mannerly fashion.

By :52, both dogs were running hard and to the front by the time we were approaching the Agronomy Shed. At :54, as we rounded the bend to the Agronomy Shed, Vincent called point for this dog, and when we got there, he indicated a rabbit moving, which Judge Bain confirmed, and then Vincent chose to take his dog on without flushing.

At 1:08, both dogs were to the front in Sam's Water Truck, hunting aggressively. At 1:12, as we crossed the Levee, both dogs were still to the front and continued so at Lawrence Smith. Vincent called point for Storm Charger at 1:25 in Turkey Bottom. Once again, Charger's bird manners were impeccable. Charger then stayed to the front after Alfalfa Bottom and continued up Pine Hill while Lester was looking for his dog. At 1:35, Lester's scout, Rinehart, called point for Shockwave, and we accompanied him to Marshall Jack Harris. Upon arrival, Lester pointed out a rabbit and briefly grabbed his dog by the collar as if to remove him from the area. Then, Lester released the collar and flushed in front of him, producing quail. Shockwave handled this without a bobble. At 1:38, Storm Charger suffered an unproductive on Pine Hill, and Vincent elected to put him in the harness. At 1:45, at Marshall's Jack Harris, Shockwave scored his final find, which he again handled perfectly. At 2:04, Shockwave was to the front at Miller's Cove. At 2:26, at the far end of Cox's Ridge, Shockwave was still showing to the front. At A. T.'s Houseplace at 2:40, Shockwave was still running hard. At 2:55, Shockwave was to the front, passing by the Tennessee Field. He moved into Morgan Field at 2:58 and finished the three hours strong.

[Brace 17: Saturday morning, 9 a.m. Westfall's Pioneer Pete, PM, Daugherty, and Erin's High Note, PM, Carlton. Overcast, 29 degrees.]

We started at 9 a.m. to allow the temperature to warm sufficiently for the ground to hopefully thaw. Both dogs swept out of the Out Front Field and the field beyond it by :04. At :09, Carlton called point for High Note at the

top of the hill before Buford Ellington. High Note stood with head and tail high and perfectly motionless for the flush and the shot. Continuing, both dogs were across and in Morgan Field by :13. At :19, Graves, High Note's scout, called point for him in a thicket on the far right side of Morgan Field. Upon arrival, Carlton flushed for his dog, did not produce quail, but pointed out there were feathers and fresh blood at the site. At :26, both dogs were to the front at A. T.'s Houseplace. At :31, both dogs made beautiful casts in Turner Field, carrying the big semi-circle all the way around. At :38, both were to the front going by Turner Pond. Both dogs were then sighted at :45 at Turner Pines. At :53, Pioneer Pete was at Tom Hurt to the front.

At 1:00, at Wilson Dunn, both dogs were again seen to the front. At 1:08, Daugherty picked up Pete in Mary Scott. At 1:15, Carlton called point for High Note in No Man's Land, which second find Note handled perfectly again. However, Carlton decided his dog should not continue and put him in the harness.

Brace 18: Saturday afternoon, 1:09 p.m. World Class Instigator, PM, Cochran, and Dunn's True Reign, PM, Vincent. Sunny, 40 degrees.]

Both dogs were out of the East Pasture by :07. At :16 at Buster Graves, both dogs were to the front. At :21, as we made the Buster Graves Loop, both dogs were spotted ahead. After we had crossed over Ames Road, Cochran pointed out his dog in the Old Mounting Block Field at :24. As we passed Cedar Hill at :29, Instigator was still to the front. At :34, Instigator was moving through the Horseshoe Field. By :38, both dogs were in the Chute. At :44, True Reign showed to the front further along in the Chute, as well. At :49, east of the Agronomy Shed, Reign was still moving fast to the front. At 1:04, Cochran decided to pick up Instigator. At 1:08, Vincent requested True Reign's tracker, thus concluding the brace.

[Brace 19: Sunday morning, 8:37 a.m. Misty Morn Masked Man, PM, Joey McAlexander, and Haney's All In, PM, McLean. Sunny, 32 degrees.]

Both dogs left the breakaway at a rather unusual clip, slipping a little in the frozen mud. However, both dogs are known for their swift field trial pace, and they both quickly found their footing, and All In was not seen again for some time. Masked Man was out of the Out

Front Field and the field beyond it very quickly, clearing both by :03. At :08, we caught another glimpse of Masked Man, but All In was not to be seen. When we crossed over Buford Ellington into Morgan Field, both dogs were present, with Masked Man proceeding to cast well and head quickly toward Morgan Basin. All In headed straight across the far-right end and then McLean got him turned and sweeping forward at :14. At :15, a gallery member warned McLean that All In was headed toward Kyle's Barn. At :17, All In was seen making a beautiful cast across Morgan Basin. At :25, Masked Man was heading toward Turner Road by Avent's Houseplace. At :31, both dogs were sighted in Turner Field. By :38, both were seen to the front at Turner Basin, and at approximately that point, McAlexander called point for his dog before we reached the Turner Levee. Unfortunately, no birds were flying for the Masked Man in the heavy cover, although he looked beautiful on point and held well for the flush.

At :47, both dogs were to the front. At :52, at Giovan Hill, Masked Man crossed over into Tom Hurt, and both dogs were seen there by :54.

At Wilson Dunn, at 1:02, All In returned to the front, and Masked Man was still to the front at that juncture. At that point, McLean chose to pick up All In. McAlexander subsequently chose to pick up Masked Man at 1:08.

[Brace 20: Sunday afternoon, 1:13 p.m. I'm Gallant, PM, Vincent, and Touch's Fire Away, PM, Anderson. Partly cloudy, 54 degrees.]

Both dogs were away strong from the breakaway, exiting the East Pasture by :05. At :10, both dogs shared a beautiful divided find at Jim Miller. They then swept on through Buster Graves and across Ames Drive, with I'm Gallant slamming into point at George Kemp at the edge of Cedar Hill at :28. He looked outstanding on his game and stood well for wing and shot. As Vincent had his dog by the collar and was reaching toward something on his horse, Fire Away swept by, never seeming to see Gallant. Gallant, however, seemed to see Fire Away, and he immediately left Vincent as his competitive spirit seized him. At :49, both dogs showed well at the Agronomy Shed. When we crossed by the Strawberry Field, Gallant showed to the front at :52. Fire Away was at Sam's Water Truck at :58. Vincent pointed out Gallant at 1:00 on the left



Elise and Joey McAlexander after Joey's run of Misty Morn Masked Man.

at Sam's Water Truck. At 1:10, the scout for Fire Away called point for him across from Prospect Church, which he handled beautifully.

At Lawrence Smith, Anderson pointed out Fire Away at 1:17, and one minute later, Gallant appeared as we began descending into Turkey Bottom. At 1:25, both dogs were casting well into the depths of Alfalfa Bottom. Two minutes later, both dogs were moving swiftly up Pine Hill. One of the scouts then called point for the dog(s) at 1:35 on the off-side of Pine Hill. When the handlers arrived, both dogs were pointing down the side of the hill. Both handlers went on foot downhill into the heavy, wooded, brushy cover, and Judge Robertson elected to dismount and follow them to get a better view. Vincent chose to consider Gallant as backing while Anderson flushed for Fire Away. However, no birds were flying for Fire Away, and both dogs were soon underway again. At 1:40, Gallant had a find at Marshall Jack Harris and looked very nice for both the flush and the report of the gun. As we were moving past Kerry Kimery's Seven Acres at 1:44, Vincent pointed out Gallant moving away. At 1:47 on the left side of Marshall Jack Harris, Fire Away suffered his second unproductive and was up.

At 1:52, Gallant had a beautiful find east of the Agronomy Shed, which he managed quite elegantly. At Jack Harris at 2:03, Gallant was still to the front, and 20 minutes later at Cox's Ridge, Gallant was still hunting hard and aggressively. Ten minutes later, on the far side of Cox's Ridge, Gallant remained consistent in his pace. At 2:23, Vincent called point for him on the side of the hill before John Fason Bottom. As Vincent went in to flush, a flying squirrel and several baby flying squirrels ran up a tree right in front of the dog, and Vincent pointed this out to the judges and elected at that juncture to simply take the dog

on. In John Fason Bottom, Gallant pointed on the right-hand side. Although Gallant relocated, and Vincent flushed thoroughly in the area, no birds were flying; however, Vincent identified a spot where there were a lot of quail feathers on the ground. At 2:38, Gallant was sweeping up the hill out of John Fason Bottom. At the field behind Kyle's Barn at 2:48, Gallant was still moving on and hunting well. At 2:56, Gallant showed nicely on the right hand outside edge of the Tennessee Field. He then finished the three hours strongly in Morgan Field, sweeping up the left-hand side.

[Brace 21: Monday morning, 7:58 a.m. Nighthawk's Rebel, PM, Tracy Swearingen, and Southwind Joy's Resurgence, ESF, Steinshouer. Sunny, 27 degrees.]

At :07, Joy was already at Heartbreak Hill, and Rebel was temporarily out of pocket. By :18, Joy was seen moving around the hill past Morgan Basin, and Rebel was to the front, as well. At :22, Swearingen called point for Rebel at A. T.'s Houseplace but then waved it off. By :25, Rebel was crossing over Turner and moving quickly ahead, and by :30, Rebel was sweeping across the far end of Turner Neck. At :38, Rebel was hustling through the beginning of Turner Pines, but Joy was still out. At :39, Steinshouer and Joy returned to the front. At :46, both dogs were crossing Turner Ditch and moving on with speed. By :49, both dogs were sweeping the Tom Hurt field, making excellent casts on the left-hand side. At Wilson Dunn, we spied Rebel to the front, but Joy was not seen at this juncture with Steinshouer looking again. At 1:02, Steinshouer called point for her dog in a low-lying wide ditch on the left before Mary Scott. Judge Mason dismounted to follow Steinshouer into the cover for the flush. Joy looked beautiful in the dappled sunlight of the shady grove where she stood pointed, and she held there like a picture, head and tail high, for both the flush and the shot, as a large covey flew.

At 1:06, Rebel pointed opposite the levee at Mary Scott, but despite relocation by Swearingen, no birds were flying, and Rebel took an unproductive. At 1:11 in No Man's Land, Steinshouer called point for her dog but waved it off. At 1:16, Rebel had an excellent find in heavy cover on the far-left side of No Man's Land with several quail put in the air. He looked beautiful on his birds and held well for both wing and shot.

Both dogs continued through the Locust Turn and swept on into the Tennessee Field. At 1:37, Steinshouer called point for Joy with Rebel backing. However, no game was produced, and Joy took an unproductive. At this juncture, Swearingen elected to put Rebel in the harness, and Steinshouer followed suit, thus ending the brace.

[Brace 22, Monday afternoon, 1:11 p.m. Haney's Storm Warning, PM, Chris Cagle Sr., and Lester's Storm Chaser, PM, Lefty Henry. Sunny, 60 degrees.]

Both dogs made beautiful right-side casts in the East Pasture and moved into the East Pasture Hay Field by :10. At the Buster Graves' loop at :18, Warning was with Cagle. At :20, Henry turned Storm Warning toward the Ames Drive crossing and onto the course while looking for his dog. At :29, Storm Chaser moved past Cedar Hill, but Storm Warning was not in sight, although he had made the crossing near the Old Mounting Block field. At :30, Storm Chaser was to the front, headed to the Horseshoe Field with Storm Warning absent. At :37, Storm Chaser was to the front at the beginning of the Chute. At :45, Storm Chaser was making a cast far to the right near the Agronomy Shed (Storm Warning was still not to be seen). At :51, as we were leaving the Strawberry Field, Chaser was still to the front. At 1:06, Cagle requested his tracker for Storm Warning. At 1:13, Chaser was at Lawrence Smith. At 1:38, at Marshall Jack Harris, Henry was putting Storm Chaser in the harness, still not having had any bird contact.

[Brace 23: Tuesday morning, 8:01 a.m. Rester's Johnny Ringo, PM, Eisenhart, and Touch's Shadow Rider, PM, McLean. Sunny, 46 degrees.]

Both dogs were away fast from the Out Front Field, with Ringo out of the field by :02. Shadow Rider was not seen after the breakaway for some time period. At :12, the scouts called point in A. T.'s Houseplace, and we arrived to find Shadow Rider pointing and Ringo backing. Both dogs looked beautiful and handled the birdwork immaculately. Both dogs returned to the front across the back side of Morgan Field. At :23, point was called for Shadow Rider again, this time in the Tennessee Field. Again, he looked stylish on his birds and held well for wing and shot. As we went diagonally back across the Big Oak field to rejoin the remainder of the gallery, Shadow Rider slipped from sight. We

rejoined the gallery and saw Ringo crossing Turner at :28. At :33, Ringo was sighted in Turner Field. At :37, Ringo showed to the front at the far side of Turner Neck; Shadow Rider was still out at this juncture. At :53, Ringo was moving on, across Turner Ditch, hunting hard and to the front, but Shadow Rider had not returned to the front. At :59, Eisenhart chose to put Ringo in the harness. At 1:07, having reached the Mary Scott Road crossing and not having encountered Shadow Rider again, McLean requested his dog's tracker.

[Brace 24: Tuesday afternoon, 1:09 p.m. Miller's Speed Dial, PM, Anderson, and Miller's Blindsider, PM, Jamie Daniels. Sunny, 72 degrees.]

Tuesday afternoon brought us the return of two National Champions competing against each other, Speed Dial winning in 2020 and Blindsider being the 2022 winner. Speed Dial was out of the East pasture by :04, and Blindsider was sighted in the East Pasture Hay Field at :05. Blindsider showed to the front at the far end of the green soybean field beyond it at :10. At :16, Miller's Speed Dial had a find at the actual side of the muddy lane going into Buster Graves with Blindsider sliding in through a great crowd of gallery horses in the crush of the lane to smoothly pull up to a back that had the gallery gasping for a second (sometimes we forget that what is not on our eye level is, however, actually on the dog's). Both dogs handled the birdwork to perfection and stood immobile for the report of the gun as well.

At :28, Speed Dial was moving on past Cedar Hill and breezing through the Horseshoe Field by :33. At :38, point was called for Blindsider on the right before the Chute in heavy cover. When we arrived, he was standing up with head and tail high, looking like the magnificent champion he is, but no birds were flying, and he suffered an unproductive. At :42, both dogs were spotted on the right-hand side of the Chute, hunting hard in the thick growth. At :44, Daniels called point for his dog underneath an oak tree on the left-hand side of the Chute. Again, Blindsider looked beautiful, and birds were boiling out of the brush all around Blindsider when Daniels flushed, but Blindsider stood the pressure well.

At :46, both dogs were sweeping around the curve east of the Agronomy Shed. At :49, Anderson called point for Speed Dial west of the Agronomy

Shed. When we arrived, Speed Dial relocated on his own and firmed his head and tail up, looking magnificent. It was impressive to see that well-trained, intelligent bird dog work game so prettily in the crop field in the bright early spring sun. Anderson, to his credit, let him work and then bumped him forward a couple of times by tapping him on the head until Speed Dial completely locked down. At that point, Anderson flushed and shot for him. Speed Dial handled all of this bird work exceptionally well. During this time, Blindsider had started toward the road running alongside the course, but his scout, Eisenhart, rounded him up and returned him to the course. At 1:03, both dogs were at Sam's Water Truck. At 1:14, at Lawrence Smith, Speed Dial was moving quickly by Lawrence Smith. In Alfalfa Bottom, at 1:21, both handlers pointed out their dogs making nice casts. Speed Dial was still to the front at 1:30 west of the Agronomy Shed, but his handler chose to pick him up at 1:44.

Blindsider scored another find at 1:44 in the same general location as his previous find left of the Chute. He handled it looking beautiful and mannerly again. However, at this juncture, Daniels elected to pick him up.

[Brace 25: Wednesday morning, 8:02 a.m. Como Thunder, PM, Russell, and Como Rain, PM, Brody Byrd. Sunny, 47 degrees.]

Thunder swept out of the Out Front Field and the field beyond it by :03, and moved onto the hill before the Buford Ellington crossing before :10. Both dogs were in Morgan Field by :13. Rain made a beautiful cast in that field at :14, and was moving through Turner crossing at :25. At :28, Como Thunder was crossing over into Turner Field. By :32, Russell was calling point for Thunder on the left side of Turner. As he went in to flush for his dog, quail flew in all directions, but Thunder held firmly for the flight of the birds and the shot. Both dogs were then sighted at the far end of Turner Neck at :40. At :46, Como Thunder showed well to the front at Turner Pines. Rain also showed to the front at the end of Turner Pines at :49. At 1:02, point was called for both dogs at Wilson Dunn, and both handlers shot for their dogs. At 1:14, both dogs were to the front at No Man's Land, and at 1:18, scout Lemons called point for Thunder in the far-left section of that area in heavy cover. Once again, Thunder looked beautiful on his



Judge Rich Robertson, NFTCA Vice President Joey McAlexander, and Judge Bill Mason watching the winner announcement.



Judge Bill Mason and handler Luke Eisenhart at the win ceremony.



The judges and handler Luke Eisenhart with newly named National Champion, Erin's Perfect Storm.

birds and held firmly for wing and shot. We were then proceeding to return to the gallery through Edward Clark South when Russell called point for his dog again at 1:22. As the judges came around a curve, they did not see any birds flying, but Russell shot for his dog. Ryan Braddock, the marshal, who had been riding ahead with Russell, advised the judges that he had seen the birds lift, apparently when the birds heard/saw riders approaching before anyone even dismounted. We then proceeded again to return to the gallery and eventually caught up with the gallery at the opening of the Locust Turn. Upon exiting the Turn, we crossed into the Tennessee Field, and at the crossing, at 1:40, Byrd indicated he was picking up Rain. At 1:43, Russell called point for his dog again in the Tennessee Field. As we approached, this reporter saw a bird lift and settle behind a cedar bush on the far side of the hedgerow, approximately 15 feet in front of Thunder. As Russell flushed without producing quail, I briefly advised Russell of what I had seen, and he replied affirmatively. At about the same time, a rabbit jumped from cover into sight approximately 3-4 feet in front of the dog. Thunder then relocated on his own and pointed again. Shortly thereafter, Russell picked Thunder up, thereby concluding his brace.

[Brace 26, Wednesday afternoon, 1:09 p.m. Lester's Front Porch, PM, Siebels, and Touch's Midnight Rider, PM, McLean. Sunny, 75 degrees.]

Both dogs were away fast from the breakaway, with Front Porch in the East

Pasture Hay field by :06. Rider was seen making a beautiful cast in the soybean field past the East Pasture at :08. Point was called for Front Porch at :12 in the East Pasture Hay field, but no birds were flying. Both dogs were then seen moving at a fast pace, so they reached Buster Graves Loop at :21. Siebels then called point for Front Porch in the Horseshoe field at :32 but then waved it off. At that point, McLean was out looking for Midnight Rider. At :33, Front Porch made a beautiful cast in the Horseshoe Field. Both dogs were spotted on the right before the Chute in heavy cover at :36, hunting hard. At :39, Rider was to the front in the Chute. Front Porch then showed to the front to the far right across the big green field at :46 near the Agronomy Shed. As we were approaching the Strawberry Field at :48, McLean pointed out Rider to the front. At :56, at Sam's Water Truck, both dogs were to the front. At 1:00, both handlers chose to pick up their dogs, neither having had any bird contact.

[Brace 27, Thursday morning, 8:09 a.m. Westfall's True Grit, PM, Daugherty, and Whippoorwill Vette, PM, Larry Huffman. Sunny, 50 degrees.]

Both dogs were fast leaving the breakaway and were out of the Out Front Field by :03. At :07, both dogs were to the front at Heartbreak Hill. At :13, True Grit was moving at a blistering pace in Morgan Basin with Vette showing on the far right in the same area at :14. As we were circling the hill at A. T.'s Houseplace at :22, True Grit showed to the front. At :24, both dogs

were crossing over Turner.

At :32, Vette made a perfect cast all the way around Turner, but True Grit was no longer in sight. Judge Robertson thus remained behind with Daugherty, who was out looking for his dog. At :43, Vette was heading toward Turner Pines, but True Grit was still not to be seen. At :45, Judge Robertson returned to the gallery, reporting that Daugherty requested the tracker for True Grit. At :52, Vette was to the front at Giovan Hill. At :59, he was moving quickly across Wilson Dunn. At 1:06, at the Mary Scott crossing, Huffman put his dog in the harness.

[Brace 27, Thursday, 11 a.m. (moved up to facilitate the timely announcement of the Champion). Superstition's Jake, PM, Brody Byrd. Bye-Dog. Sunny, 59 degrees.]

Jake was away fast in the East Pasture and moved with a fast clip through the green soybean pasture beyond it, out of it, as well, by :11. However, he had not struck birds by the time we went through the Buster Graves Loop at :21, and his handler, Brody Byrd, after conferring with his owner and scout, Ric Peterson, made the decision to pick him up at the first road crossing, thereby concluding both his brace and the 2025 National Championship.

**Grand Junction, Tenn., February 10
Judges: Greg Bain, Bill Mason,
and Rich Robertson Jr.**

**NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP [Three-Hour Heats]
– 51 Pointers, 5 Setters, and 2 German Shorthairs
Winner-ERIN'S PERFECT STORM, F1692323, pointer
male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Erin's Bet On Me.
Brad Woodie, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.**

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NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Late Hit Wins 64th Running

By Elton Bray | Union Springs, Alabama | February 3, 2025

The 64th renewal of the prestigious National Open Shooting Dog Championship began Monday, February 3, and concluded Sunday, February 9. A string of 54, which included 46 Pointers and eight Setters, were drawn to compete for the best of the best. Nineteen of the most renowned, professional, and amateur dog handlers vied for the title of their dog to be named champion. There were handlers from as far as New Mexico, California, Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia.

The venue for this historical event was none other than the famous Sedgefields Plantation near Union Springs, Alabama. If one has never visited there, you should add it to your list. The towering pines and native grasses make for the perfect Bobwhite habitat. Sedgefields is owned by Raymond and Katheryn 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 also 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. Another notable board member and newly elected board president, Bill Lee, is a major part of the Sedgefields operation. He is on hand daily and does whatever it takes to make the trial run fluently. 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.

Most 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 schedules the 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



National Open Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Mike Jackson (judge), Tom Shenker with Late Hit, Jonathan Burch (judge), Hunter McDuffie, and Kevin Stuart (judge).

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 is also in charge of making sure the wagon is



(L-r): Link Howard and Jason Howard.

stocked full of snacks and drinks each day.

Minding the marshaling duties were Harrison Lee, Squire Lee, and Harold Johnson. With these men in attendance, no handler took wrong turns, and judges were never left behind. Other board members helping with the day-to-day duties were Perry Hicks and Pete Del Collo.

Annie Buce was in charge of washing off the officials' horses. She does an excellent job and is very much appreciated. Annie was also seen on horseback throughout the trial.

As advertised, the judges for this year's competition were Mike Jackson, Battle Ground, Indiana; Jonathan Burch, Holly Springs, Mississippi; and Kevin Stuart, Schenectady, New York. Each gentleman has a rich history with bird dogs, and they watched each competitor

with careful intent.

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 senior 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, The Saddle Guy, Cook Chevrolet, Thompson Cat, AmeriFirst Bank, Phillip's Feed and Seed, Eater Plantation, the Whithurst family, Embrace Alabama Kids, Adams Motorsports, Mac Stidham and the Alabama Field Trial Association. Sponsoring the cocktails this year were Becks Turf, Blackbelt Land Management, Dykes Quality Automotive, Greenway Sportsman Club, Betsy and Ed Holland, Harrison Lee, Ted Roach, Justin Clark with Jackson Thornton Wealth Management, Three Notch Lodging, TJ Williford Partners Realty, Tracey McPherson with ALFA, Union Springs Home Center, Walking on the Moon Animal Hospital, Shenandoah Plantation, and Frank Moorier. The help and support of these sponsors from all over Bullock County sure gives everyone a welcoming feeling.

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. A delicious lunch was prepared and served each day by Ban Stewart, which included a wide variety of options for everyone.

A function was held every evening during the running. Sunday night's kickoff party was at the Field House. Monday night, everyone was invited to the Country Club for a delicious steak dinner sponsored by Purina. Tuesday, we enjoyed a delicious meal at the Field House. Wednesday night, everyone was invited to the Union Springs Country Club for a dinner and party celebrating the 2024 National Open Shooting Dog Champion, Grand Prairie Thrill. The meal and celebration were sponsored by her owner, Mac Stidham. A beautiful portrait commissioned by Ross Young was presented to Mac. Thursday evening, we were treated again to another delicious meal at the



(L-r): Judges Kevin Stuart, Mike Jackson, Jonathan Burch, and Elton Bray (reporter).

Field House prepared by Ban Stewart and sponsored by the Alabama Field Trial Association. Friday night, everyone enjoyed dinner prepared by Taco Mama. Saturday evening, everyone gathered one last night for another delicious meal by Ban Stewart.

This was the second year of releasing wild birds on the afternoon courses. The program that Tall Timbers has set seems to be working. Six years ago, Tall Timbers started the wild bird project on the morning courses. As you will find out from the brace-by-brace report, it was very successful. Sedgfields is at the very top of venues for bird dogs.

The Champion

The 2025 National Open Shooting Dog Championship was won by the white, orange, and ticked Pointer male, Late Hit. "Jay" is owned by Christopher Campbell of Shreveport, Louisiana. The Campbell family is no stranger to Bullock Co., Alabama, as they own the Easter Plantation in nearby Hurtsboro. Jay was whelped on 1/18/19 at Abigail Plantation with the direction of their dog man, Willis Wright. He is by National Ch. Miller's Blindsider and out of Abigail Lil. Late Hit has been with Tom Shenker since he was a puppy. Lee Philips had a large hand in Jay's training. Lee took him to the prairies, his puppy, derby, and first-year summers. Late Hit has 16 placements, which include winning the Continental Derby Championship, runner-up at the All-American Derby Championship, and, most recently, winning the Alabama Championship. He also won the Hobart Ames Memorial in January of this year. This National Open Shooting Dog Championship win gives Jay three championship titles covering All-Age and Shooting Dog stakes.

Late Hit was braced in No. 16 with Jolene Jolene (Mike Tracy). They broke away at the end of Bill Lee's driveway, which is the second afternoon course. Jolene was not seen at 32, and Mike asked for the tracker at 47. Just after the breakaway at 4, Jay styled up on the edge of the clump of trees on the right side of the Duck Pond Road. Shenker only took a few steps, and the large covey lifted. He stood proud and poker-tailed before, during, and after the flush. After crossing the Duck Lake in the Big Woods, Jay put on a show. He was always seen just over the next hill, hunting exactly where he needed to be. We crossed the Field Trial Road at 53, and just after crossing by the power line at 1:14, he styled up again. He stood just as staunch as before as the birds lifted, crediting him with a second impressive find. We were crossing Bill Lee's driveway when the judges called time. As Shenker rode in to gather his dog, he found him on point for a third time. Jay was standing majestic and tall as the judges arrived. Shenker flushed a very nice covey of Bobwhites, crediting Jay with a third spectacular piece of birdwork. Jay hunted with a strong drive and style to the front the entire hour and a half. This was a top championship performance, which earned Late Hit the title of the 2025 National Open Shooting Dog Champion.

Christopher Campbell was not able to be present at the announcement due to a prior obligation. He asked Jimmy Bassett to please read this statement for him in his absence (2/9/2025):

"As you well know, I would not have missed this for anything except for a promise I made to my son to take him to the Super Bowl in New Orleans months ago. Today is my deceased father's 84th Birthday, and we try to celebrate it every year. What better way to celebrate than going to the Super Bowl?"

Shoutouts to:

- The Bullock County citizens and elected officials. In my 57 years of life coming and going from Bullock County, they have always been so supportive and encouraging of the field trial community.
- The Shooting Dog Field Trial Association and all its officers/officials. Please keep doing what you do and continue to always bring the National Open Shooting Dog Championship to Bullock County. What an awesome experience it is every year!

- The Harbert family, the Jason Howard family, the Bill Lee family, and all the staff at Sedgfield Plantation. What a blessing you all are to the community surrounding Union Springs and, most especially, the field trial community.

- Tom Shenker and your wonderful family of Melody, John Samuel, Ann Jackson, and Garrison Shenker. What a blessing you all have been to our family. And what a dog whisperer you are, Tom! I knew it would happen at some point, as you are the epitome of excellence in all that you do!

- The staff at Easter Plantation who continually support Tom in his quest to raise the standard in bird dogs to the highest level in the United States.

- The horses, dogs, and wild quail that make all this such a gift to our community of upland hunters and field trial enthusiasts.

- And finally, to our Lord and Savior, Jesus, who makes each and every day a gift to enjoy his beautiful outdoors.

On behalf of Easter Plantation, my family, and the Shenker family, we humbly accept this amazing championship trophy!"

The Running

Starting off the championship on Monday morning, in brace No. 1 were Hale's Smooth Touch (Shawn Kinkelaar) and Miller's Extreme Heat (Mike Tracy). They broke away at 8:01. It was a chilly 39 degrees, but the sun was shining brightly. Touch was absent just after crossing the road, and Kinkelaar requested the tracker at 31. At the hour mark, just under the Eagles Nest, scout George Tracy called point for Heat. Mike was unable to produce game for his classy female. She finished the 90 minutes behind the Big Lake.

Pine Straw Hot Chocolate (Mike Tracy) and Mauck's Wyeast Molly (Alex Mauck) were drawn in the second brace. They were released at the Coke Barn. Coming off Bi-Color Hill at 18, Chocolate was seen on point under a group of cedar trees. Tracy flushed a nice covey in front of his female setter. Her second nice piece of birdwork came at 32. She pointed once more at 59 just before crossing the big pipe and was awarded her third find. Molly came in from the side and honored. Both female Setters completed the 90 minutes just before crossing the New Bridge.

Monday afternoon drew Grand Prairie



(L-r): Harrison Lee, Bill Lee, and Squire Lee.

Thrill (Tommy Rice) and Thunder Bolt's Storm (Shawn Kinkelaar) for brace No. 3. The temperature had risen to 71 degrees by 1:15 when the dogs were released from the Field Trial Barn. Thrill was not seen after the Dove Field, and Rice requested the retrieval device at 17. Storm was birdless but completed the heat on Turkey Ridge.

Minnesota Red Confidence (Tommy Rice) and Lester's Another Shockwave (Shawn Kinkelaar) were released at the end of Bill Lee's Driveway in the fourth brace. Red pointed nearing the Duck Lake levee at 9 but was unsuccessful. Shockwave was not seen at 15, and Shawn asked for the tracker at 30. Red suffered his second unproductive at 1:10 and was harnessed.

Tuesday morning, in the fifth brace, were Miller's Concealed Weapon (Bill Owen) and Nonami's Johnny Come Lately (Ray Pearce). Weapon was credited with a nice find at 17, nearing the Old Bridge Road Crossing. His second find came just up the hill on the left side at 24. At 49, after crossing the New Bridge, Weapon pointed again. Owens relocated his Setter two times but was unsuccessful. Riding behind the Cemetery at 53, Owens called point again; this time, a nice covey was flushed, crediting him with a third find. At 1:11, Pearce called point coming behind the Big Lake. As the judges rode across the Trash Crossing, they could see him staunchly standing. A large bevy flew as Pearce made only a few steps. He scored again at 1:19, just before the Coke Barn Road. Weapon had his fourth find at the Coke Barn Road at 1:23 and scored once more at 1:27, thus awarding him five successful game contacts and a nice finish. Pickup was called, and Pearce and his scout, Cody McLean, struck out in search for Johnny.

After two minutes, Pearce called point, crediting him with his third nice piece of birdwork.

Cheap Thrill (Tommy Rice) and Chelsea's Mae West (Shawn Kinkelaar) were drawn in the sixth brace. At 17, Mae was found on point on the Joe Varner Line, and Thrill was there backing. Unfortunately, no Bobwhites were found. Thrill pointed at 1:21 at the North Kelly Thomas, but she, too, was unsuccessful and was harnessed. Mae was not seen at pickup.

Waybetter Rebel (Mike Tracy) and World Class Terminator (Squire Lee) ran in the seventh brace on Tuesday afternoon. It was overcast and 72 degrees. Terminator scored a nice find just off the breakaway at 3 and again just up the hill at 6. At 57, scout Matt Basilone called point for Terminator on the west side of Bill Lee's Driveway, and a nice covey was produced. He was not seen at 1:04, and Lee asked for the tracker at 1:19. Tracy also asked for the tracker after Rebel's extended absence at 1:17.

Competing in brace No. 8 were Trumped (Mike Tracy) and Sandridge Big Iron (Allen Vincent). Trumped was unable to produce game at 7 just before the Duck Lake levee. He was not seen at 20, and Tracy called for the retrieval device at 33. Iron was birdless but was a very strong competitor. He hunted the front the entire 90 minutes with enthusiasm and style.

Starting Wednesday morning with the ninth brace were Ramblin Rivers Natural (Brian Gingrich) and Mayfield Storm Charger (Allen Vincent). It was sunny and 57 degrees. Natural pointed behind the Big Lake at 1:19. He was relocated twice but was unsuccessful. He and Charger both completed the hour-and-a-half heat.

Breaking away from the Coke Barn with the 10th brace were Awakened (Tony Reynolds) and Faithful (Mike Tracy). At 25, after passing the Joe Varner Line, scout Squire Lee called point for Awakened. She was styled up on the right side when Reynolds arrived. A large covey was flush as she stood proud. Her second nice find came at 33, just after crossing Whaley Road. She completed the 90 minutes. Faithful was not seen at 1:17, and Tracy asked for the tracker at 1:28.

Running in the 11th brace were BK Locked N' Loaded (Sergio Velez)

and Miller's Southern Gossip (George Tracy). Coming out of the Dove Field at 17, Loaded pointed on the right side of the course. Sergio relocated her twice, but no birds were found. At 49, after crossing Bill Lee's Driveway, Sergio called point for a second time. As Loaded was standing staunchly, a nice bevy was flushed by her handler. At 1:27 on Turkey Ridge, scout Harrison Lee called point for Loaded. There, she was credited with a second nice piece of birdwork. She and Gossip both completed the heat.

In brace No. 12 was Miller's High Heat Index (Mike Tracy) and C S Dirty Harry (Steve Hurdle). Index suffered an unproductive at 1:17 but completed. Harry was unable to make game but hunted the front with style the entire heat.

Thursday morning started off with C S Snapdragon (Steve Hurdle) and Miller's Heat Seeker (George) Tracy, with brace No. 13. It was 63 degrees and overcast. Seeker had his first nice find at 24, just topping the hill past the Old Bridge Road Crossing. Snapdragon had an absence, and Hurdle retrieved the tracker at 31. Mr. George called point again at 33 just before dropping off the hill towards the New Bridge. Seeker stood tall and proud as the birds flew. He was credited with his third pretty find at 53, just below the cemetery. Seeker completed the hour and a half hunting the front behind the Big Lake.

Turning loose at the Coke Barn with the 14th brace were Melrose Big John (Terry Chastain Jr.) and LMD's Can't Touch This (Virgil Moore). Touch was found on point at 37 after crossing the Whaley Road. Moore dismounted and flushed a nice bevy. Both dogs were picked up at 54.

Drawn in the 15th brace were Bittersweet War Cry (Mike Tracy) and Wynona's Nickleback Sugar (Allen Vincent). At breakaway, it was sunny and 78 degrees. Vincent requested the tracker at 45, and Cry was picked up at 47.

The 16th brace produced the champion and was previously reviewed.

Starting out Friday morning with overcast sky and 65 degrees was the 17th brace with Steel Valley Raven (Mike Tracy) and Thunder's Wild Agin (Shawn Kinkelaar). At 19, before the Old Bridge Road crossing, Agin was awarded a nice find on the left side of the course.

Tracy requested the tracker at 22, and Kinkelaar called for his at 29.

Running in the 18th brace was C S Code Blue (Steve Hurdle) and Mohawk Mill Gangster (Matt Basilone). At 3, Hurdle already has his hat in the air for Blue. As the judges arrived, Blue was standing proud. Hurdle produced game and shot. At 22, scout Squire Lee called point for Gangster on the Joe Varner fence line. The birds were not easy to find in the cedar thicket, but after two relocations, he pinned them. Blue was credited with a second find near Whaley Road at 25 and a third at 40. At 52, scout John David Smith called point for Blue. Hurdle relocated twice, but no game was produced. He had an absence at the hour, and Hurdle requested the tracker at 1:17. Gangster was picked up at 49.

Friday afternoon was sunny and 72 degrees as brace No. 19 turned loose at the Field Trial Barn with Miller's Lock and Loaded (George Tracy) and Fort River's Lucky Charm (Matt Basilone). At 33, Loaded was credited with a nice find behind Bill Lee's House. Both dogs were harnessed at 50.

Turning loose in the 20th brace at Bill Lee's Driveway were Miller's Automatic Upgrade (Mike Tracy) and Touch's Steely Dan (Virgil Moore). Mr. George requested the tracker at 20; Dan was picked up at 53.

The 21st brace broke away Saturday morning at 8:01 with Real Thing Dolly (Tommy Rice Jr.) and Calico's Sky's The Limit (Mike Tracy). Dolly was found on point at 15 just after the road crossing along the fence. She was quite stylish as the birds flew to the west and Rice shot. She suffered an unproductive at 31 and was harnessed at 1:02. Limit was also picked up at that time.

Drawn in the 22nd brace were Circle B Wanted Ryder (Sergio Velez) and CS Four Season's Gunner (Steve Hurdle). Ryder had a very nice find at 29 on the Joe Varner line, with Gunner there backing. The birds were difficult to find, but after crossing the fence twice, Velez made them fly. Both were picked up at 48.

Brace No. 23 was Mohawk Mill King Pen (Matt Basilone) and Levi Express Visa (John Van Horn). Pen suffered an unproductive at 9 and another at 33. He was then harnessed. Visa was also harnessed at 33 after failing to back his brace mate.

Running in the 24th brace breaking away at Bill Lee's Driveway were Smoke

'N' Mirrors (Matt Basilone) and Upfront's Southern Star (Shawn Kinkelaar). Just before crossing the Duck Lake levee, the dogs were not seen, and the handlers were checking the field to the right when they both called point. The judges arrived, and both dogs were standing side by side. Both handlers flushed and shot, crediting their competitors with a nice divided find. Star was not seen after making the turn in the Big Woods, and Kinkelaar asked for the tracker at 33. At 44, just before nearing the Deer Stand, Basilone called point. He relocated his Pointer female twice but was unsuccessful. She was picked up at 55 at the Field Trial Road Crossing.

Competing in the 25th brace on Sunday morning were Hirollins Bad Boy (Matt Basilone) and BK's West Coast Remington (Sergio Velez). Remington was picked up at 31, and Boy was put on the wagon at 59.

Breaking away at the Coke Barn with brace No. 26 were Panther Creek Rosie (Tommy Rice) and B K Pablo Escobar (Sergio Velez). Escobar pointed at 11, but no game was produced. Rosie was found on point at 23 under the cedar thicket on the Joe Varner Line. She was bold and tight as the birds lifted. Escobar was credited with a nice find at 41 after the Whaley Road Crossing. Unfortunately, Escobar suffered his second unproductive at 1:27 and was harnessed. Rose was standing behind, honoring. She completed her 90-minute heat hunting the front near the Old Bridge Road Crossing.

Drawn in the last brace, No. 27, was Erin's Johnny Walker (Squire Lee) and BK Bulletproof (Sergio Velez). They were both picked up at 26 at the crossing behind Bill Lee's House.

Union Springs, Ala., February 3

Judges: Mike Jackson and Jonathan Burch

**NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[Ninety-Minute Heats] – 46 Pointers and 8 Setters**

Winner-LATE HIT, F1687601, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Abigail Lil. Christopher Campbell, owner; Tom Shenker, handler.

ROUND POND AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock Declared Winner

By Cayla Key | Leslie, Georgia | January 16, 2025

The Round Pond Amateur Shooting Dog Classic was held in its usual time frame, the third weekend in January.

The judicial saddles were ridden by two well-known and very successful people in the bird dog world, Dan DiMambro and Sergio Velez. This great duo judiciously watched all the contenders during the whole trial. Their time and effort to come out and judge were greatly appreciated. Round Pond was in wonderful condition. There were plenty of Bobwhite quail throughout the entire plantation. Tracy Swearingen and Neil Walker did a great job getting the grounds ready for this trial. Many thanks go out to Tracy Swearingen for marshaling every brace and Clayton Cook for driving the bird buggy and keeping the cooler stocked with fresh beverages. I would also like to thank Purina and Greg Blair for all that they do for our sport. Christy Swearingen and Debbie Hofer helped prepare all the meals. We would also like to thank Riley Anderson for coming out and putting on a great performance Saturday night. We would also like to thank the Walkers for allowing us to keep this trial going on their beautiful grounds. If it weren't for them, we wouldn't be able to put on this wonderful trial.

Erin's Three Leaf Shamrock, handled by Stephens Walker, was declared the winner with four outstanding finds. He had a find at 25, 35, 38, and 43. He suffered an unproductive at 58. His performance kept you high in the saddle as he impressed everyone with each step he took. The judges didn't want to take their eyes off him. Each step displayed strength, high style, and lots of class. He hunted diligently and pointed

birds with perfect manners. He also had a strong forward race and always stayed to the front of the gallery. At the end of his performance, the bar had been set, and a true winner was on top.

Erin's Young Offender, owned and handled by Alan Atkins, was declared second with one find at 33. He stood with great class and manners. He had a solid drive hunting with each step he took. He was all class with an overall nice performance throughout the hour. He had impeccable manners and stood beautifully. He also had a strong forward race and finished in the front.

Late Hit, owned by Christopher Campbell and handled by Hunter McDuffie, was declared third with one find at 17. He gave an outstanding performance on the ground. He displayed excellent manners. He had a strong, forward race with amazing birdwork.

Thank you to everyone who came out and supported this trial. Thank you to all the handlers and scouts who came out to participate. We couldn't do this without you all.

Leslie, Ga., January 16

Judges: Dan DiMambro and Sergio Velez
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 23 Pointers and 6 Setters

1st-ERIN'S THREE LEAF SHAMROCK, F1669152, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Northwoods Chardonnay. S. Tucker Johnson, owner; Stephens Walker, handler.

2d-ERIN'S YOUNG OFFENDER, F1692325, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Erin's Irresistible Bess. Alan Atkins, owner and handler.

3d-LATE HIT, F1687601, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Abigail Lil. Christopher Campbell, owner; Hunter McDuffie, handler.

2025 Annual Round Pond Youth Trial

The second annual Round Pond Youth

Field Trial ran on Sunday, January 19, 2025. The trial is run over three beautiful courses that meander over the beautiful grounds of Round Pond Plantation.

A special thanks to everyone who put in time, dedication, and energy into making this youth trial possible. We would also like to thank everyone who sponsored this trial. Dustin Kirby made a contribution. Youth Field Trial Alliance provided the rosettes, ribbons, winner prints, and judges' gifts. Greg Blair with Purina provided a bag full of goodies for each handler. Thank you, Neil and Pam Walker, for providing lunch. Dan DiMambro and Sergio Velez handled the difficult task of judging this highly contested trial. The first brace broke away at 9 a.m. under blue skies and a cool breeze. Each handler showed excitement and determination. The judges expressed how this was a very hard trial to judge due to all the handlers and dogs doing such a wonderful job.

The Winners

First place was awarded to "Rick," handled by Hayes Green. Rick laid down an impressive ground race, highlighted by one find at 30. At the end of his performance, the bar had been set, and a true winner was on top. Second place was awarded to "Patch," handled by Montana McLean. Patch displayed high class with a strong forward ground race with a find at 15. He suffered an unproductive at 8. Third place was awarded to "Dianne," handled by Owen Burson. Dianne handled nicely with finds at 7 and 15. Junior Division was awarded to "Pickles," handled by Loretta Cook. Pickles chalked up a good find at 10, with a strong forward race.

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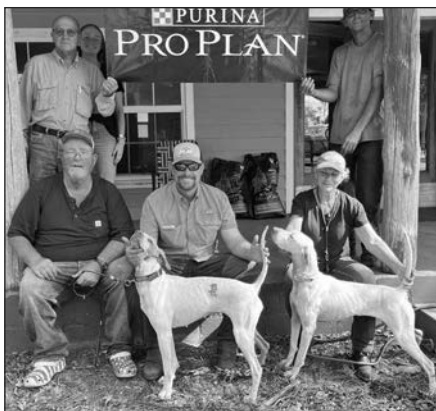
Piney Woods Trial

By Petie Brown | Punta Gorda, Florida | January 18, 2025

We were graced again this season with the presence of Robert Franks from Arkansas, who usually spoils us by flying in with catfish for the night of the drawing. Thankfully, Robert knows how much the club members enjoy his company, even without a fish fry, and it's dry enough that he could not stick the dog truck.

A drizzle of rain came on Friday evening around the time of the drawing announcing a front moving in. Judith Hamilton, the trial's chair, set up the All-Age judges, who were looking forward to running their dogs in other stakes; however, with bad weather moving in, creating high winds and gusts, they decided to scoot out. Deb Ozner and George Hickox from Georgia judged the All-Age Saturday with Tom and Tiffany Bass of Fort Myers, Florida, taking on the Shooting Dog, rounding out the judicial saddle. Their expertise was much appreciated, as were their decisions. Sunday became a day of scratches as competitors headed home, many driving through the mess. Out of an abundance of caution, due to the lightning alerts, the Derby stake was cancelled. Kindly, the Muzynskis, who carry dogs for the field trialers, took out anyone who wanted a fun run once the weather calmed.

Saturday evening's festivities included the acknowledgment of the two rotating trophies for this trial and the generosity of Purina and Greg Blair. Purina kindly donates hats, judges' gifts, and Purina Pro Plan to the winning placements. The Lester White Memorial Trophy went into circulation in 1954 for the Piney Woods Field Trial Club, becoming the Lester Alford Memorial Trophy in 1984, and is awarded to the All-Age winner. The Shooting Dog trophy was recently put into circulation in honor of Don and Sharon Wood and Frank and



Open All-Age (l-r): Paul Daniel, Justin Muzynski with Checkmates Country Sunshine, and Judith Hamilton with Higby Mattiel. (Back row): Vince Feltner, Page, and John Castelli.

Mercy Fonseca. Many of the Funseeker prodigy are still running today, and this reporter distinctly remembers Don exclaiming, "I'm eighty with the best dogs I've ever had in my life!" We all witnessed and enjoyed the friendly rivalry as Don would exclaim, "I just want to beat Beth!" or Dave Vernasco, "I just want to beat Don!" Excuse me, but isn't it a competition of dogs? May the best dog win!

Thankfully, we have someone who will muck stalls for us at a nominal fee, making clean up less of a chore, so we can focus on saying goodbye to new and old friends. Our Georgia judges departed impressed with the grounds and hospitality, saying, "We'll be back!"

The Winners

The one-hour All-Age Saturday morning under windy conditions didn't seem to bother the birds or the numerous pigs that caught several dogs' attention. Within 15 minutes of the breakaway, we were onto the second brace. Just after the one-hour turn, Beth Brown asked for her tracker as her scout had made a wide cast to no avail. The tracker showed Myakka Time

Shifter standing just beyond the wide cast behind palmettos. The only thing you can do is honor your dog. Coming in third was Higby Mattiel, owned and handled by Judith Hamilton, with her brace mate Checkmates County Sunshine placing second, owned by Vince Feltner and handled by Paul Daniel. Both dogs were more lateral, understandably, due to the hellacious windy conditions. First place went to Arnold's Notorious Ranger, owned by Jeff Arnold. "Joe" had a strong all-age run with a finish that said he wasn't.

The judges had plenty to see and discuss on the Shooting Dog stake with birds moving ahead of the front and the persistent windy conditions. Manatee Sam pleased his handler, Justin Muzynski, with a strong performance, earning third. At the one-hour turn, Myakka Rebel, owned and handled by Petie Brown, placed second with a stylish find backed by her brace mate, Higby Bon Hiver ("Bonnie"), owned and handled by Judith Hamilton. Rebel pointed a single five minutes later as she was coming in from the front. First place was well earned by Myakka Maxed Out, owned and handled by Beth Brown. Max is an all-age dog, and Beth kept him in check for a big shooting dog run, where he beautifully handled a huge covey with style as his brace mate failed to back. All those birds exploding and the other dog moving created a lot of tension.

Punta Gorda, Fla., January 18

Judges: Deb Oxner and George Hickox

OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats] – 12 Pointers

1st-ARNOLD'S NOTORIOUS RANGER, F1696986, pointer male, by Erin's Country Rebel-Notorious Lola. Jeff Arnold, owner and handler.

2d-CHECKMATES COUNTRY SUNSHINE, F1702591, pointer female, by Nacho's Texas Rebel-Nacho's Drama Ma Ma. Vince Feltner, owner; Paul Daniel, handler.

3d-HIGBY MATTIEL, F1699678, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Higby Bon Hiver. Judith Hamilton, owner and handler.

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Jeff Arnold with AFTCF Piney Woods All-Age winner, Arnold's Notorious Ranger.



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Beth Brown with Myakka Maxed Out, Petie Brown with Myakka Rebel, and Justin Muzynski with Manatee Sam. (Back row): Judith Hamilton, Tiffany Bass (judge), Vince Feltner, Tom Bass (judge), and John Castelli.



Katie McEwen and Miller.

**Judges: Tom Bass and Tiffany Bass
OPEN SHOOTING DOG [30-Minute Heats]
– 18 Pointers**

1st-MYAKKA MAXED OUT, F1670323, pointer male, by Elhew G Force-Myakka Hey Jude. Beth Brown, owner and handler.

2d-MYAKKA REBEL, F1669365, pointer female, by Elhew G Force-Myakka Hey Jude. Petie Brown, owner and handler.

3d-MANATEE SAM, F1690412, pointer male, by Holopaw's Axel-Hot Digity Dot. Kenneth & Justin Muzynski, owners; Justin Muzynski, handler.

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), contact information (name, phone number, email address) and trial affiliation (ABHA, NBHA, SBHA, USCSA, etc).

Previous ads may be downloaded from the Calendar at www.americanfield.com

PRAIRIE & PELICAN OPEN ALL-AGE

Westfall's Mandalay Wins Prairie Qualifying Trial; Westfall's Wheels Up Wins Pelican

By Steve Messick | Mayflower, Arkansas | January 20, 2025

Two National Qualifiers took on the Camp Robinson trial area in the cold weather that came with it. First on the bill was the Prairie Open All-Age. Daniel Bolton from Mississippi and Steve Auxier from Nebraska were in the saddle. Veteran Westfall's Mandalay, under the guidance of Andy Daugherty for owner Jim Santarelli, claimed top honors. In the No. 2 spot was Wynona's All Business for Allen Vincent and owner Robert Rankin. Third was Dunn's True Reign, under Allen Vincent and owner Norris Sims. They ran to the limits and birdwork top-notch.

The Open Derby followed. Local Mike Lemons and Arkansas' Headliner earned first, DS Raising Kane for Ike Todd and owner Alex Richert was second, and in third was Miller's Family Tradition for Korry Rinehart. All should be in the all-age circle next year.



Prairie Open All-Age (l-r): Onlookers joining Matt Cochran with Westfall's Mandalay, Steve Auxier (judge), Allen Vincent with Wynona's All Business, Daniel Bolton (judge), Andy Daugherty with Dunn's True Reign, and Joyce Taylor.

**Mayflower, Ark., January 20
Judges: Steve Auxier and Daniel Bolden
PRAIRIE OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]
– 24 Pointers**

1st-WESTFALL'S MANDALAY, F1682881, pointer male, by Strut Nation-Erin's Amazing Grace. Bill Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

2d-WYNONA'S ALL BUSINESS, F1704053, pointer male, by Miller Unfinished Business-Phantom's Sangria. Robert Rankin, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.

3d-DUNN'S TRUE REIGN, F1680537, pointer male, by Dunn's Tried'n True-Dunn's Get Out Sue. Norris Sims, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.



Prairie Open Derby (l-r): Daniel Bolton (judge), Mike Lemons with Arkansas' Headliner, Ike Todd with DS Raising Kane, Korry Rinehart with Miller's Family Tradition, and Mrs. Todd, joined by onlookers.

**Judges: Daniel Bolden and Steve Messick
PRAIRIE OPEN DERBY – 17 Pointers**

1st-ARKANSAS' HEADLINER, F1704230, pointer male, by Arkansas Warrior-White River Jade. Mike Lemons, owner and handler.

2d-DS RAISING KANE, F1717824, pointer male, by Rester's Cajun Spirit-Awakened. Alex Rickert, owner; Ike Todd, handler.

3d-MILLER'S FAMILY TRADITION, F1718205, pointer male, by Miller's King Poast-Bryson's Dialing On Line. Al Bryson, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.

Next up, the Pelican trials. Andy



Pelican Open All-Age (l-r): Roger Martin, Andy Daugherty, Matt Cochran with Westfall's Wheels Up, Korry Rinehart with Bonner's Hot Rize, Jon Davis (judge), and Allen Vincent with Sandridge Big Iron.

Daugherty was back in the top spot with Westfall's Wheels Up for owner Bill Westfall, in second was Bonner's Hot Rize and Korry Rinehart, and in third was Sandridge Big Iron and Allen Vincent for owners Dr. Jim Mills, Steve Lightle, and Dr. Natalie Cooper.

The Derby followed with Wynona's Rebel, owner Bruce Sooter, and handler



Pelican Open Derby (l-r): Jon Davis (judge), Allen Vincent with Wynona's Rebel, Korry Rinehart with Miller's Family Tradition, Matt Cochran with Blackhawk Little Liz, and Joyce Taylor.

Allen Vincent in the top spot; in second was Miller's Family Tradition and Korry Rinehart, and in third was Blackhawk Little Liz with Allen Vincent for owners Dr. Jim Mills and Steve Lightle. All did a good job for a tough stake. Jon Davis was in the judge's chair. Thanks to Roger Martin and all his help. Chairman Dr. Fred Corder could not be there;

hopefully, he will return next year. Thanks to all the owners and handlers who supported these events.

**Judges: Jon Davis and Steve Messick
PELICAN OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]
– 19 Pointers**

1st-WESTFALL'S WHEELS UP, F1680653, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Ace-Westfall's Quick Trick. Bill Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

2d-BONNER'S HOT RIZE, F1687893, pointer male, by Miller's Speed Dial-Miller's Martha White. Jannie Chapman & Jay Henley, owners; Korry Rinehart, handler.

3d-SANDRIDGE BIG IRON, F1700919, pointer male, by Westfall's True Grit-Gin Smoke And Lies. Allen Vincent, owner and handler.

PELICAN OPEN DERBY – 10 Pointers

1st-WYNONA'S REBEL, F1717783, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-White Smoke's Angel. Bruce Sooter, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.

2d-MILLER'S FAMILY TRADITION, F1718205, pointer male, by Miller's King Poast-Bryson's Dialing On Line. Al Bryson, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.

3d-BLACKHAWK LITTLE LIZ, unreg., particulars not given. Dr. Jim Mills & Steve Lightle, owners; Allen Vincent, handler.

ATLANTIC COAST OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

Miller's Extreme Heat Takes First

By G. B. Hatcher | Hoffman, North Carolina | January 21, 2025



Atlantic Coast Open Shooting Dog Classic (l-r): Hailey Moreland, Mike Tracy, Mark Hughes, Chad Adams (judge), Derek Bonner (judge), Tony Bingham, Dave Hughes, John Adsit, Gretchen Adsit, Barbara Harris, Carolyn Quinn, and Greg Robinson.

In the history of the Atlantic Coast Shooting Dog Championship, 2025 will go down as the year it was not a championship. Prior to the start of the championship, we had a very

respectable draw of 56 shooting dogs and six derbies. We had an excellent judiciary in Derek Bonner and Chad Adams. Derek is a respected breeder and amateur handler of Pointers, part of

The Company. Chad's primary profession is training and showing Tennessee Walkers, and many field trialers look to his stables for field trial mounts. This is what initially introduced him to field trialing, but he has since gotten much more deeply involved as an amateur handler and as a sought-after judge. With Derek and Chad working as a team, you know you have compatible judges who will be on the same page. As things eventuated this year, that was an important attribute.

Meals are a critical component in planning for a successful trial. The Duplin County Field Trial Club is beyond fortunate to have Carolyn Quinn. We can turn that responsibility over to Carolyn, knowing it will be taken care of and the meals will be excellent. Carolyn, as she often does, recruited her sister, Barbara Harris, to assist. They make a formidable team in the kitchen, and their presence brightens everyone's day.

Greg Robinson is our multi-tasking dog wagon driver. With Greg, you can count on the dogs being in the right place at the right time, but his services extend far beyond that. He always has a

supply of snacks and liquid refreshments available between braces, all personally taste-tested. His specialty is roasted peanuts, which he prepares every night. Anyone getting lost is advised to ride in a circle until they intersect the trail of peanut shells. Follow that, and you will eventually end up back at the clubhouse or in the rear of the dog wagon. Greg also serves as a liaison between the field trials and the grounds management staff. Cop a ride with Greg in the truck cab, and he will do his best to entertain you with stories and, if you're lucky (or unlucky?), maybe a song. Always worth the price of admission. In addition to all his other services, he's our unofficial chaplain. He prays for the safety of the dogs, horses, and trial participants before the start of the trial and says grace over the food before every meal. After Tuesday night's snow and accompanying frigid temperatures, I kidded him that maybe he was not as well connected as I thought with the man upstairs. His quick response was, "How do you know I didn't pray for snow?"

David Huffine, the club secretary, and stake manager, works for months taking care of the chores inherent in conducting a championship trial. He recruits the judges and does everything in his power to make sure all their needs are met. He handles all the pre-trial communications with the UKC including posting the ad for the trial. He also manages the all-important relationship with Purina, whose support means so much to the club. Judges' gifts and winners' trophies must be arranged as well. As the trial approaches, he takes entries, conducts the drawing, and communicates the running order to handlers, owners, and social media outlets. Within each of the broad categories there are myriad details that must be tended to all along the way. If this is not remarkable enough, he does the same for the U. S. Complete National Championship, which is scheduled only two weeks behind this trial on the same grounds. David does a great job of everything except managing the weather. Apparently, he is not very well connected to the man upstairs, either. I am reasonably sure he did not pray for snow.

Finally, kudos to Lee Criscoe and his NC Wildlife Resources Commission staff for their continued improvements to these storied grounds. Through their excellent stewardship, the natural cover continues to improve every year. This

ensures the bird program, spearheaded by John Ivester, stands a better chance at success. In a summer like last summer when the area experienced a severe and extended drought, feed plots fail. Natural cover and drought-resistant species like the warm season grasses established years ago become more vital to providing cover for the fall-released coveys. The coveys naturally get smaller this time of year, but there are still enough coveys to provide good competition. For the most part, when there were unproductives, they were in areas where birds had been seen in previous trials. Maybe the birds were more jumpy, or maybe they had been out to feed ahead of the incoming front.

We knew ahead of the drawing the 10-day forecast predicted frigid temps and a possibility of snow. We figured we could work around the low temperatures, and the forecast predicted little to no snow this far inland as late as the afternoon of the snow. By the end of the first day's running, we were beginning to see a few flakes of snow. By the next morning, everything was blanketed. The running was suspended until noon to see if we could safely continue. Ordinarily, the amount of snow on the ground would have only presented a minor inconvenience, but the lack of melting and the prediction of even lower temperatures overnight made for a more severe and unpredictable situation. We had one handler stuck in Georgia unsure when or if he would be able to get out. Two other handlers headed to another trial on the weekend would be impacted by any substantial delay. After much discussion, including seeking outside, more objective counsel, the decision was made to lay out the three possible options to the judges and let them make the final decision. They decided the best option was to downgrade the championship to a classic and name the top three dogs from the 14 that had been run to that point, canceling the remainder of the trial. The prime consideration was the safety of the people, dogs, and horses. This decision spelled financial loss to everyone involved. That is why it was imperative the decision be made by objective judges rather than club officials.

Judges Derek Bonner and Chad Adams named Smoke Rise Jake the third-place dog. He is owned by Fred Rose and handled by Tony Bingham. Tony runs in

both walking and horseback shooting dog stakes, but make no mistake about it, Jake can run horseback. He shows the same versatility as his grandsire, Chasehill Little Bud. He had no finds but did have a mannerly back of his bracemate. His race was strong, but the two dogs placed ahead of him finished a little stronger. Fred has had many good dogs over the years, both Pointers and Setters. It is sad that his health prevents him from enjoying seeing Jake run as much as his earlier winners.

Second place was awarded to Steel Valley Raven. She is owned jointly by Ted Foust with partners Bill and Muriel Primm. She is out of champions Waybetter Rocky and Steel City Karen. She was formerly trained and campaigned by Jeanette Tracy. When Jeanette retired from the circuit, Raven was added to the string of brother Mike. Raven had a find in the first four minutes of her heat, everything in order. At 56, both dogs were seen pointing in close proximity to one another. Both handlers flushed, but no birds were produced, so both dogs were assessed an unproductive. This could have been a case of a mutual back.

The top dog was Miller's Extreme Heat, and she is certainly no stranger to the winners' circle. She has won four championships to go with numerous runners-up and classic wins. "Doll" is owned by Joe McHugh of Pavo, Georgia, and handled by Mike Tracy. She is out of the third and last litter of Miller's Bring The Heat and Just Irresistible. The progeny and grand-progeny of this phenomenal nick has accounted for countless wins, and the total keeps growing. The unprecedented production of these three matings has, in large part, elevated both sire and dam to Hall of Fame status. It's obvious she has a great rapport with her handler, but when released, she is independent and all business. She ran the last brace of the day. It was the seventh brace of the day due to lost dogs and early pickups. She had two solid finds and a back during her hour. She ran a textbook shooting dog race, finishing far to the front in the waning daylight. Hers was a championship performance and a pleasure to witness.

Unfortunately, the 2025 edition of the Atlantic Coast Open Shooting Dog Championship will only be remembered for regrets and disappointments. It was a living testament to the fact that the

best-laid plans can be wrecked by things completely out of our control. We deeply regret we did not get to see whether the remaining 42 dogs could have challenged the performance of Miller's Extreme Heat. We regret we did not get to enjoy the fellowship that normally accompanies this championship. We regret that Smoot Carter and Worth Lewis came all this way and did not get to see their dogs compete. We regret the financial losses everyone suffered. While the disappointment stings, we

deeply appreciate everyone's support and faith. We will be back to try again next year. After all, isn't that what field trialing is about?

Hoffman, N. C., January 21
Judges: Chad Adams and Derek Bonner
ATLANTIC COAST OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 47 Pointers and 9 Setters
1st-MILLER'S EXTREME HEAT, F1685698, pointer female, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Joe McHugh, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.
2d-STEEL VALLEY RAVEN, F1696173, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Steel City Karen. Ted Foust & Bill & Muriel Primm, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

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.

CONTINENTAL OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Touch's Shadow Rider Named Champion; Woodville's Yukon Cornelius, Runner-up

By Tim Moore and Steve Standley | Greenville, Florida | January 25, 2025



Continental Open All-Age Championship: Cody McLean with Touch's Shadow Rider and Jerry Raynor with Woodville's Yukon Cornelius. (First row): John Fuller, Patty Sanderson Ewer, Maria Bassham, Shannon Nygard, Karen Norton, Katie McLean Summerlin, and Julie Ripley. (Second row): Til Hankley, Reese Birdeau, Vince Little, Jim Tande, John Michael McCormick, Mark McLean, Ben Melvin, Lee Phillips, Eddie Sholar (judge), John Lee (judge), David Melnick, Randy Floyd, and Steve Standley. [Photo by Chris Mathan].

Professional handler Mark McLean swept the 2025 Continental All-Age Championship amid stiff competition and challenging weather. Champion Touch's Shadow Rider, owned by Bruce and Karen Norton and Dr. Reuben Richardson, provided an exciting show during the 19th brace of this famed Championship. One of the two Setters in this 39-dog field, Woodville's Yukon Cornelius, owned by Carl Owens and handled by Mark McLean, claimed the runner-up champion title, proving his mettle among a great field of pointers.

Livingston Place, long known as Dixie

Plantation, has gone through many changes over the years. Four named storms within the last 18 months and a strong cleanup effort had wreaked havoc on the cover over these bird-laden grounds.

Plantation manager John Michael McCormick, along with staff members Ben Melvin, Lance Little, and Reese Birdeau, are to be commended for getting the grounds ready for this Championship. Continental Field Trial Club President Randy Floyd was present, as was his normal cheerful self. The glue that holds the place together, Gloria Hagen, provided lunches and a warm

homespun demeanor to all.

Appreciation is also extended to owners Tall Timbers for the use of this magnificent property and to their game bird program for successfully maintaining the amazing wild quail population here.

The judges are both well-known sportsmen with a long history in all-age field trials. Eddie Sholar of Albany, Georgia, and Ochlocknee, Georgia, has successfully competed as an amateur owner and handler as well as fielding many successful dogs on the open all-age circuit. John Lee of Statesboro, Georgia, has competed successfully in

amateur and open all-age competition. He enjoyed a long association with professional trainer Freddie Rayl. Both men are knowledgeable and respected in the sport and their placements were well-received. The Club was fortunate to have them judge.

Waukeenh Fertilizer sponsored the dog wagon, and it was expertly piloted by the ever-jovial Til Hankley.

Purina remains a valuable sponsor in this sport. We appreciate them and their representative, Greg Blair, for their support. Lunch sponsors were appreciated, including John Kohler and Associates, Hunter Drew, American Veterinary Group, Chip Jenkins, Gary Lester, John Mathys and Eric Smith, and AgPro of Thomasville. There was a very enjoyable fish fry sponsored by Gordon Mooney, Dr. Dale Hodges, and Purina. Steve and Stacy Croy created a wonderful low country boil for everyone one evening at the commissary. The pièce de résistance was an incredible prime rib dinner provided by Livingston family member Julie Ripley Livingston. Decorations were created by Chris Mathan of Strideaway, and Chris and Til Hankley arranged the preceding cocktail hour.

Randy Floyd also runs a water tank sponsor program at the Continental field trials. Large water tanks are placed on the grounds at important spots, and professionally made signs show the sponsors' names. This provides water for the dogs and horses as well as providing landmarks on the courses. These generous sponsors were Dr. Kent Cantrell and Ocala Equine Hospital, Bruce and Karen Norton, Mike and Laura Shae, Dixie Trace Field Trial Association, John Mathys, Alex Rickert, Dr. Ron Deal, County Line Bulldozer and Keith Moree, Thrift Land Clearing of Pavo, Georgia, and Doyle Hancock and Son Construction.

The Winners

The champion emerged as Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean). He appeared in the fourth callback brace immediately after the runner-up performed. This white and orange Pointer male is coming 5 years of age, and his strength and talent became increasingly obvious the longer he stayed on the ground. He was announced as the Top Qualifying Dog in the first series. Very few dogs are top qualifiers and then go on and win the championship. Shadow Rider is co-

owned by Bruce and Karen Norton and Dr. Ruben Richardson. Karen was in the saddle to see "Jay" run, and he gave her what she had spent years trying to achieve.

The brace consisted of Jay and Comanche (Eisenhart) as they broke loose along the side of the Long Pond on the way past the Brown Jug site. At 12, Comanche was ahead as we went past the Boyd Corner. As we approached the Brown Field, Luke's dog was on the lip of the rise at the field edge.

Meanwhile, Jay came in from the left after a wide swing and stopped ahead. This resulted in a good find.

At 30, we came between the Double Ponds and Jay was posed in brushy cover by the East Pond. When Mark stepped down, the birds exploded from around the wrapped-up Pointer. He remained frozen for the gun. After Mark collared his dog, another covey took wing ahead.

At 43, we had gone through the Cyprus Field on the way to Paul's Hill. Both dogs had shown distantly and well. Of note here is that Paul's Hill had some of the greatest damage to the place. Slick ground from cleanup and loss of major landmarks made it hard to get your bearings. All of this, including the recent freezes and snow, affected game contact throughout the trial.

Somewhere around the one-hour mark, point was called for both dogs, but after flushing attempts, unproductives were recorded. Next, we arrived at the big green field with Lake Windom visible in the distance. In this time period, Luke stepped down and put the rope on Comanche as he had shortened.

Jay continued to drive ahead fresh and free. We crossed Livingston Road at 1:07, with Mark calling hard to his dog. The judges stopped as Cody did some major scouting to find Jay about one-quarter mile ahead. Cody handled this work since Mark was out trying to gather his dog. The find ended empty, but we all got a breath of air after the long canter. Mark joined us at our spot near Pike's Peak.

Upon release, Jay drove hard ahead, ran to the far end of Cadillac Field, and traced the area out beautifully at range. The Pointer was still strong and applying himself well; he stretched that edge and crossed the Main road.

It was here that there was a large area of cleared land, and the judges

pointed him out several times as he made a sweeping arc to the right; Mark just kept riding and climbed a forward ledge to stop and stay at this vantage point. Jay would go out of sight and then reappear ahead on his quest. There was just no stop in him. The Pointer put on a show at the end with Mark up on the rise across the bottom and scout Cody McLean holding back at a distance and just letting it unfold. It was a bold and emotional ending as Jay created the picture of a champion as co-owner Karen Norton was on her horse beside me. We witnessed a great win and a lifetime achievement for Karen and team Touch's Shadow Rider.

Cody had to run the dog down when time was called.

The runner-up champion was found in the form of the great tri-colored Setter, Woodville's Yukon Cornelius, owned by Carl Owens and handled by Mark McLean. Rudy was braced with Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton) on the first brace of the callbacks Monday morning. Owner John Mathys was in the saddle for his Heat Advisory. It was 45 degrees and crisp as the high clouds were set in a blue sky. A sizable gallery was mounted, and hopes were high for this pair to point some birds.

Neither dog was in sight at 9 as we approached Cindy's Oak. The left side of the morning course is now clear further into the country past the right turn. Both dogs ran deep, and as we continued, we all hoped that they would show up. Rudy appeared! He had made the turn and was now running ahead toward the road crossing in great form along the left wood line, tail-cracking and strong.

As we continued, Miller's Heat Advisory joined the forward hunt, both dogs fresh and powerful. They were showing enough heels; we just needed some game contact.

At 25, as we approached the No. 4 field on the trek toward Pike's Peak, the Pointer came in from the back. When Pike's Peak came into view, Heat Advisory was nonetheless for wear and hunted ahead.

Mark's Setter was out of touch, then at 30, as we began up the incline, Rudy came in from the right, charging and bold. He crossed the face of Pike's Peak and ahead as Judd called him out. It was most appealing.

Meanwhile, Mark was riding a flat walk and let his Setter provide all the

excitement for the gallery.

Judd's dog was strong in his work as well, the makings of a great brace. Heat Advisory pointed at 42 on the left, standing on a declining grade facing the wood line. He was stylish and stood like a rock during the flush. Disappointingly, a classy relocation came up empty.

Both dogs were viewed as they hunted the Cadilac Field and then on their journey to Acorn Hill. At one hour, we had made the turn at Acorn Hill, and the Pointer stood as the Setter honored. Judd executed an extensive flush, and when no game was raised, he took his dog on. The judges did not have anything to carry at this point, so continuing was the thing to do. When I got to the front after this, Mark was on the ground pushing a strong covey up for Rudy. Judge Sholar advised me that this find was at 68 on a large bevy, and all was in order. This provided a sigh of relief that at least one of these fine dogs may be rewarded for their great efforts.

When released, Rudy had a light chirping bark as he charged forward, as though to say, "I'm enjoying this work." Mark blew his whistle as both dogs were to the fore.

At one hour and 15 minutes, point was called for Rudy in the field before the Gene Field. He was in heavy cover, and he stood high and proud, but no birds were flown. This put an unproductive on Rudy's card.

At 1:27, just as we approached the Turkey Field, the call of point came from the left towards the wood line. Perfect Storm took the find as Rudy backed and all was good.

The pair showed well on the way to the Long Pond, and once making the turn, they took separate paths independently. At 1:40, they were pointed out in their strong quest, independent, and showing plenty of heels.

Both dogs stood at time, and both handlers went up and collared their entries to end an exciting brace.

Top Qualifier

It was Sunday morning in the 19th brace of the qualifying series that the Top Qualifying Dog emerged. Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean) was paired with Game Surge (Corder.) Two of Shadow Rider's co-owners were present, Karen Norton in the saddle and Bruce Norton in the truck.

Corder had a find at 3 at the end of the breakaway field with all in order. At 10, as we made the turn back toward the road, both dogs were showing well on the far wood line driving to the front. Game Surge came back to Fred as Shadow Rider moved strongly toward the road crossing.

At the quarter hour, point was called to the far left, and Mark's dog was pointed as Fred's dog backed. Mark flushed a covey under a pine blowdown for an excellent find. As we crossed Moccasin Creek, both dogs were running good, strong races to the front.

Moving on after the right turn in the direction of Pike's Peak, everyone's attention was held as Game Surge was on the left and Shadow Rider was on the right, hunting ahead strongly. Rider looked strong on the right side of the field before Pike's Peak, and then he bent left and went across two fields to be pointed out by Mark as he began to climb. This was the second strong and showy ground effort by the contender in the first 30 minutes.

At 35, Fred called point on the left, swamp side, but was unrewarded. Rider checked back in with Mark right on top of Pike's Peak. As we crossed at Cadilac Pond, Mark pointed out his dog on the other side of the pond as he hunted the hillside on the right and through the Cadilac Field.

Both dogs were out front at 48 in the old pasture in front of the Big House. Then, at 53, as we made the turn at the water barrel heading toward the Y, Fred watered his dog. At this time Shadow Rider was pointed out heading through the forward bottom on the left side of the course heading to the Y. As Tim Moore said, "This dog is really pouring it on."

Both dogs were out of sight at time and were ridden for out front. Game Surge's efforts were commendable, but Shadow Rider's performance was undeniable as the Top Qualifying Dog.

The Running

The Continental All-Age Championship began at 9 a.m. on Thursday morning amid frigid temperatures. Miller's Blindsider (Daniels) was paired with Dr. Fred Corder's Game Nation. Near Cindy's Oak, as we made the turn toward Livingston Road, Game Nation stood as Blindsider honored. The cover was sparse and beat down, and no game

was raised.

We crossed the road at 18, and it was so cold that the woods were quiet. There were no songbirds or any other sounds of nature. Both dogs did a commendable job maintaining the front throughout their hour, but birds remained on lockdown throughout the brace.

Haney's Storm Warning (Cagle) and Haney's Easy Money (McLean) broke away at 10:20 from the Y. Warning suffered an empty stand at 8. As Cagle regained the front and moved into the bottom before the Gene Field his dog stacked up with high style. Most of the gallery had just ridden through this area, and most handlers would have collared their dog away. Cagle flushed for his staunch dog and was rewarded with a large covey.

We regained the front as we approached the Boy Scout house, and McLean's dog came in to check with him. Money was seen past the Dove Field, but as we passed the north end of the Long Pond, Storm Warning was out of pocket. Cagle requested his tracker at 50. Easy Money finished at the Brown Field without birdwork.

The third brace was Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart) and Lester's Storm Chaser (Henry). Both dogs maintained the front up to the Double Ponds. Luke's dog went between the ponds as the course bends, and Lefty's went around the far end of the East Pond. Lefty asked for his tracker, soon to be followed by Luke.

Haney's Silver Dollar (Cagle) and Lester's War Bird (Lester) were off for the first brace after lunch on Thursday. Silver Dollar had an unproductive at 5 before the water barrel. The handlers maintained contact with their charges as we continued. Cagle had a find at 58 after the road crossing at the end of the Field to complete the hour.

Woodville's Long Hard Ride (McLean) and Comanche (Eisenhart) were released in brace 5. They ran parallel to the Cadilac Field, and both dogs were with us. Mark called point for his dog at 15 but could not show us game. At that time, on ahead, Luke called point and flushed an enormous covey for Comanche just east of the Flat Pond.

Point was called for Comanche on the other side of the pond, but this resulted in an unproductive. Through this time, Hard Ride was pointed out, showing well going up the side of Pike's

Peak and on the right side of the course. Mark did an excellent job of showing him to advantage during this time.

Past Moccasin Creek, Comanche was strong through the big field leading up behind the office. Both dogs had their running shoes on but were with us at the dam crossing at Rogers Pond at 41. We ended up at Cocklebur Bottom without any further birdwork. Comanche acquitted himself well with one find, one unproductive and a strong race.

Nonami's Johnny Come Lately (Pearce) and Strut's Bee Sting (Davis) made up the last brace of the day. Ray called point at 5 just off Windom Lake, and when he could not flush a bird, Johnny was relocated. A bird flew during this effort; Ray stopped his dog, shot his gun, and continued.

At 11, Sting had a single pinned on Hickory Hill. His next clean find was ahead on the left side of the course. Coming off Hickory Hill, Ray's dog came in after a short absence while Bee Sting worked the front. Both dogs were putting down commendable ground efforts.

We made the turn at the Powerline at 38, Sting out front and Johnny out of sight. Ray had his tracking collar by 43. Bee Sting finished at the road crossing where we came out of the woods. The last 20 minutes Bee hunted to the front and required no scouting. Tommy rode into the forward wood to get Bee Sting when time was called. We would see her again in the callbacks.

It was a frosty Friday morning when Erin's Happy Hour (Carlton) paired with Touch's Malcolm Story (McLean) in No. 7. Story owner Alex Rickert and Hour owner Mike Sweet were mounted in the field.

Mark's dog was in the wheat field on the left before the road crossed, putting down a big race around the edge, coming out of the corner to cross ahead. Judd's charge was forward, acquitting himself in fine form. Happy Hour shortened by Moccasin Creek, but Malcolm Story went on to offer a big race. Judd's dog had an unproductive past the creek and the dog was soon in the harness.

On ahead, Malcolm Story offered an excellent find on the way to Pike's Peak over on the second afternoon course at the Flat Pond. As Tim Moore later said, "At this time, this dog had put down a really good race, and this find was pretty

sporty."

At 42, between Pike's Peak and Cadillac Pond, off to the left, the call of point rang out. This proved to be an empty stand. At 50 we entered the Cadillac Field, and the judges pointed out Malcolm Story far to the front in the old hayfield on the right. Pick-up was called between the Bruce and Karen Norton water barrel and the Y.

Two coveys of birds took flight on the way to the water barrel, and two more were flushed by the gallery after the barrel. McLean caught Malcolm Story to end a good performance.

The eighth brace broke away at 9:45, just short of the Y. Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart) was out of pocket as we moved toward the Gene Field, while Mayhaw's Georgia Time (Trey Mills) was handy up to this point.

Judge John Lee had ridden off course to observe his dog and his saddle broke. This stranded him on foot for the balance of the brace. Judge Eddie Sholar remained calm as he tried to cover both dogs since no one knew what had happened to Judge Lee.

Eddie later informed us that Georgia Time had a find off the left side of the Dove Field at 33.

Erin's Perfect Storm had one find, a big race, and an unproductive.

Miller's King Poast (Lester) and Game Star (Corder) both hunted ahead through the first quarter hour as we moved toward the Double Ponds. At 26 we were coming up on Paul's Hill, which is an area that was totally decimated in the recent hurricane. John Michael told us that there were a few trees left, but they decided to just take them out and start the area over. Lester's dog was to the front, and Fred's dog was off to the right, and efforts were made to get him gathered up. Game Star was back with us by the half and Fred soon called point. Birds were seen in the air, and King Poast was on the rope as Game Star had a good find. Star next showed well coming out of cocklebur bottom.

We crossed the road on the way to Kudzu Hill and he was shown to advantage. On the south side of Kudzu Hill, Game Star had a covey pointed, and they were exactly where he said they were, with all in order. Fred's dog had a good finish south of the pond.

Both Woodville's Yukon Cornelius (McLean) and Rester's Johnny Ringo

(Eisenhart) were off after lunch on Friday in brace 10. The dogs were ahead strong. Ringo came in from the right between the Cyprus Pond and the Double Pond. Yukon Cornelius, or "Rudy," had been absent in recent minutes until 23 when the scout called point. There was a good find on the right with all in order. Ringo followed that with a barren stand on the left of the course.

Rudy put together a strong race, viewed through openings, on the way to the Long Field. Luke asked for his tracker at 47. Rudy hunted ahead down the left side of the road and the Long Field. He came in to check in the low area of the field near the single large live oak. Mark put Rudy on the left edge and the Setter showed strongly through the rest of the field. The setter finished ahead, crossing from right to left toward the mansion, earning his spot in the callbacks.

The 11th brace featuring Erin's Southern Comfort (Derrig) and James Pond Knightranger (Watson) began at 3:00. As we crossed near the Cadillac Pond, Woody had his dog, Derrig's dog was off to the left on the other side of Livingston Road. Just as we bent toward Pike's Peak, near the Flat Pond, Knightranger had a find.

As we approached the next water barrel at 21 there was not much occurring with this brace. At 44, on the crossing of the dam at Rogers Pond, Watson's entry dug up a covey among the young bamboo and hardwood sapling on the left. Woody flushed an exiting covey for Knightranger in the last minute to finish the brace. Derrig did not finish his dog.

It was the last brace of the day as Nighthawk's Rebel (Swearingen) and Bandit's Hill Avenger (McLean) were loosed at 4:15. Rebel showed well going through the Hickory Hill block at 10, and McLean asked for his collar at 20. Rebel had a find amid head-high pines near the old dove field and went onto his second connection at 39 after we turned on the power line. Rebel remained out of sight until 59, and he came back to finish for his handler.

It was a frosty Saturday morning with Haney's Last Call (Carlton) and Miller's Heat Advisory (Daniels). We made the road crossing at 15 with both dogs. Both charges remained out of sight as we moved forward toward the right turn, heading toward Pike's Peak. Judd pointed his dog out deep on a showy cast past the first field. Jamie's dog was

not seen since the road crossing.

At the half-hour, when we got to Pike's Peak, Jamie asked for his tracker. Meanwhile, Judd pointed his dog out for a second time on a strong cast forward. By 48, in the Cadillac Field, Luke called point for Judd's dog and then flight of birds. It was a shame that the birds were not seen officially since the dog was running such a clean forward race. The birds were pinned about 200 yards up in waist-high cover. All was good.

Judd's dog finished well past Bruce and Karen Norton's water barrel and through the chimney block.

Touch's Midnight Rider (McLean) and Touch's Blue Knight (Watson) broke away just before the Y. At 10, as we approached the Gene Field, Midnight Rider came in to check with Mark. He had been unseen since the breakaway. Woody's dog was with us at this time.

As we moved to the Boy Scout House block at 24, no dog was in touch with the party. It was here that Midnight Rider checked back in, which proved that he had been hunting with us at range. Blue Knight came in at 27 and was back in touch at 34 at the Dove Field.

At 35, point was called for Midnight Rider back on the Boy Scout House side of the dirt road. This proved to be an empty stand. Mark requested his tracker at 57.

The 15th brace contained T S Coal Train (Lee Phillips) and Haney's All In (McLean.) At the quarter hour, we came into the Double Pond block with All In out of contact, and Coal Train was handy. Within minutes, All In came to us through the gallery. Mark called point ahead on the right near the Cyprus Pond. Mark shouted, "There they go," but this was unseen officially. Coal Train came across the far end of the Cyprus Field on his way to the front.

It was a bluebird sky as we moved into Joe's Oak block, unlikely bird-pointing conditions. But Coal Train did produce a find off to the right with all good. All In came to us from the rear at Cocklebur Bottom.

Tim Moore later conveyed a conversation that he had with Luke Eisenhart and described the difficulty in pointing birds. He said that the first brace this morning while he was

scouting, he saw four coveys flush wild ahead of him. Stating that he made no more noise than he was making as he rode through the woods; the birds were so jumpy they would flush wild some 50 yards before he got to them. This brace was picked up at the Flat Pond.

Saturday afternoon began with Rampage (Eisenhart) and Game Heir (Corder.) At 10, Corder called point for Heir on the left. This was a good find. Luke's dog was ahead.

Rampage came in from the right between the Double Pond and the Cyprus Pond. He went on to suffer an unproductive at 25 in a nearby area.

We crossed the road at 46 on the way to the Long Field, with Rampage a bit short. Corder's dog was out of touch. Luke reached for the harness at 49. Fred requested his tracker at 58.

Lester's Storm Surge (Lester) and Touch's Breakaway Fred (McLean) broke away in brace 17. At the quarter-hour Lester was pointing his dog out near the Cadillac Pond, but he was unseen officially. We had also not seen Breakaway Fred since the breakaway. Mark asked for his tracker at the top of the Flat Pond.

On the east side of the Flat Pond point was called for Storm Surge, but it proved to be McLean's dog. There was no further action.

Sandhill Ike (McLean for Jerry Raynor) and Dominator's Wild Bill (Carlton) found Raynor sidelined with kidney stones. Breakaway was at the water barrel near the Flat Pond. We made the Moccasin Creek crossing at 9 as both handlers had their charges.

Mark called point at the crossing behind the office. Judd has his dog further up the hill past the pond. Wild Bill owner Gene Brown was riding to support his entry. We heard Mark shoot for his dog as point was called off to the left for Wild Bill. The latter proved to be unproductive.

We were across the main road at 33 with both dogs showing well through some areas opened up by the storm. By 38, Wild Bill was showing well for Judd, while McLean's dog had not made it back to the front. Bill had his second unproductive near the big lake.

The 19th brace contained the Top

Qualifying Dog, as described earlier.

The last brace was a bye-dog as Judd Carlton released Erin's High Note. High Note was unseen until 14, this at the Turkey Field. High Note shortened for a time, but as Judge Sholar later said, "He had a very strong last 35 minutes with an excellent limb find and finished well.

Callbacks

The first brace of the callbacks began Sunday afternoon and featured Strut's Bee Sting (Davis) and Nighthawk's Rebel (Swearingen.) Woody Watson was riding for the club, and Livingston Place manager John Michael McCormick was in the saddle as well. Tommy rode at a flat walk and let Bee hunt ahead as she crossed in front of us at the water tank at Boyd Corner and went ahead on course. At this point, Rebel had not been seen since the breakaway.

At halfway, we made it to the Coi Pond crossing, and Bee ran high-tailed fresh to stretch out attractively through two open bottoms on the left. At 40, Davis elected to pick up Bee, and Tracy asked for his tracker to end the brace.

At 1:47, we turned loose Touch's Malcolm Story (McLean) and Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart). Neither dog finished nor made bird contact. This writer's apologies to the owners and handlers since details of this brace were lost in the great technological abyss of my recorder.

The third brace of the callbacks featured the runner-up champion, as described earlier.

The fourth brace contained the Championship performance of Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean.)

The last brace of the callbacks contained Game Surge (Corder) and Erin's High Note (Carlton). We saw High Note at the quarter hour, but the pair was not often in view. At 25, we went by the end of the Long Pond on the way to Coi Pond Crossing. High Note came in from the left before the road crossing, and Judd watered him.

At 35, Dr. Fred Corder came in and asked Judge Lee for his retrieval device.

High Note was seen about three times during the first hour. Judd's dog stopped in the path at close range and pointed. He stood for the gun.

Don't miss the next print deadline: **Monday, May 5**
Please submit ads before the deadline to allow time for proofing and approval.

As we passed the Flat Pond, High Note came in from the rear. After this point, Judd put the rope on him to end the callbacks.

Greenville, Fla., January 25

Judges: John Lee and Eddie Sholar

CONTINENTAL OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Qualifying Heats; One-Hour and Fifty-Minute Finals] – 38 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner-TOUCH'S SHADOW RIDER, F1697543, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Touch's Gold Dance. Bruce & Karen Norton & Dr. Reuben Richardson, owners; Mark McLean, handler.

Runner-Up-WOODVILLE'S YUKON CORNELIUS, F1673091, setter male, by Caladen's Davinci-A Tarheel Miss Bo. Carl Owens, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

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NGSPA REGION 7 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Championship Series Held at Lake Murray Grounds

By Terry Bomer | Ardmore, Oklahoma | February 8, 2025

The 2025 NGSPA Region 7 trial was held at Lake Murray Field Trial Grounds in Ardmore, Oklahoma. A big thank you to the sponsors of Region 7—Purina and SportDOG.

A big thank you also to our judges, who were gracious enough to come and watch our dogs. Thank you, everyone, for attending and making this trial a great event. We had some bad weather and a couple of late starts to let the ground thaw out, but other than that, this was a great trial.

The NGSPA Region 7 Open Shooting Dog stake started on Saturday, February 8, 2025, and concluded on Monday, February 10. The stake was judged by Tim Hidalgo of Hardesty, Oklahoma and T. J. Hidalgo of Hooker, Oklahoma. We had 25 dogs drawn and 25 dogs broke away. The grounds were in excellent shape, and we had an extremely warm, humid Saturday.

The NGSPA Region 7 Open Shooting Dog stake was very competitive, and the champion was Texas Sophisticated Tomboy ("Sophie"), owned by Terry Bomer, handled by Keith Gullede, and scouted by Robbi Gullede. Sophie had six well-spaced finds, with a powerful forward race. The runner-up was Hi N's Dirty Secret ("Badger"), owned and handled by Hank Lewis. Badger had three finds and a back with a good



NGSPA Region 7 Open Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Tim Hidalgo, Robbi Gullede with Texas Sophisticated Tomboy, Keith Gullede, Terry Bomer, T. J. Hidalgo, and Hank Lewis with Hi N's Dirty Secret.

forward race. These girls were braced together, and this was a very nice brace of dogs.

The NGSPA Region 7 Derby Classic was held on Monday, February 10. The judges were Tim Hidalgo and T. J. Hidalgo. We had eight dogs drawn and eight dogs run. The first brace produced the first and second-place dogs. First was LPK's Too Hot To Handle ("Mazie"), owned by Jim Burch and handled by Keith Gullede, and second was MSR's Eyes On The Prize ("Mavis"), owned by James and Sarah Messer and handled by James Messer. Mazie had multiple bird contacts and a strong forward race with "Mavis," also having multiple bird contacts with a nice race. Third was MSR's Cool Joe, owned by James and Sarah Messer and handled by James Messer. This was one of the nicest derby

braces I have seen in some time, with both dogs exhibiting nice bird manners, good application to the cover, and a nice handle.

The NGSPA Region 7 All-Age started at 8 a.m. Tuesday, February 11, and concluded on Wednesday, February 12. The judges were Meredith Mays of Arab, Alabama, and Sherwin Van Kooten of Willow Springs, Missouri. Fifteen dogs were drawn, and 15 dogs competed. The champion was Texas Preacher Man ("Mikey"), owned by Kirk and Terry Bomer, handled by Keith Gullede, and scouted by Robbi Gullede. The runner-up was B D K's Twelfth Man ("Aggie"), owned by David O'Brien and handled by Keith Gullede. Mikey had a strong forward race to be found on point three times, finished the hour going away at time. Aggie also had a nice race with good application and several finds.

The NGSPA Region 7 Amateur Shooting Dog started Thursday, February 13, and concluded Friday, February 14. The stake was judged by Meredith Mays and Sherwin Van Kooten. We had several late morning starts during the Amateur Shooting Dog with ice and heavy frost on the ground. There were 21 dogs drawn and 18 dogs that competed. The champion was M S R's Kiss My Lily ("Lily"), owned by James and Sarah Messer and handled by James Messer, and the runner-up was B D K's Sam I Am,

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NGSPA Region 7 Open All-Age Championship (l-r): Texas Preacher Man with Terry Bomer, B D K's Twelfth Man with David O'Brien, Keith Gullede, Sherwin and Meredith Mays (judges), and Robbi Gullede.



NGSPA Region 7 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): M S R's Kiss My Lily with Harvey Franco, Meredith Mays (judge), James Messer, Sherwin Van Kooten (judge), David O'Brien, and Terry Bomer (scout). (Not pictured: B D K's Sam I Am).



NGSPA Region 7 Derby Classic (l-r): Tim Hidalgo, Robbie Gullede with LPK's Too Hot To Handle, Keith Gullede, T. J. Hidalgo, Terry Bomer, and James Messer with MSR's Eyes On The Prize.

owned by David and Peggy O'Brien and handled by Keith Gullede. Both of the dogs had exceptional races with multiple bird contacts.

Ardmore, Okla., February 8
Judges: Tim Hidalgo and T. J. Hidalgo
NGSPA REGION 7 OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 25 German Shorthairs

Winner-TEXAS SOPHISTICATED TOMBOY, F1688677, German Shorthair female, by Texas Tuff-C L K's Point Me The Way. Kirk & Terry Bomer, owners; Keith Gullede, handler.

Runner-Up-HI N'S DIRTY SECRET, F1687997, German Shorthair female, by Hi N's Bodacious-Hi N's Hasty Matilda. Hank Lewis, owner and handler.

NGSPA REGION 7 DERBY CLASSIC
– 8 German Shorthairs

1st-LPK'S TOO HOT TO HANDLE, unreg., German Shorthair female, by Texas Hot Potato-Texas Sophisticated Tomboy. Joe Burch, owner; Keith Gullede, handler.

2d-MSR'S EYES ON THE PRIZE, F1715719, German Shorthair female, by G K's Nuke It-MSR's Scarlet's Witch. James & Sarah Messer, owners; James Messer, handler.

3d-MSR'S COOL JOE, F1715718, German Shorthair male, by G K's Nuke It-MSR's Scarlet's Witch. James & Sarah Messer, owners; James Messer, handler.

Judges: Meredith Mays and Sherwin Van Kooten
NGSPA REGION 7 OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 15 German Shorthairs

Winner-TEXAS PREACHER MAN, F1695772, German Shorthair male, by Chisholm Creeks Jax Orbetter-B D K's Calamity Jane. Kirk & Terry Bomer, owners; Keith Gullede, handler.

Runner-Up-B D K'S TWELTH MAN, F1661756, German Shorthair male, by Uodibar's Against All Odds-B D K's Sin City Casino. David O'Brien, owner; Keith Gullede, handler.

NGSPA REGION 7 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 18 German Shorthairs

Winner-M S R'S KISS MY LILY, F1685879, German Shorthair female, by B M B's Freeloader-M S R's Motorollin. James & Sarah Messer, owners; James Messer, handler.

Runner-Up-B D K'S SAM I AM, F1675197, German Shorthair male, by Slicks Cuttin Wild-C L K's Point Me The Way. David O'Brien, owner and handler.

Don't miss the next print deadline!

The June issue deadline is
Monday, May 5.

Please submit ads before the deadline to allow time for proofing and approval.

NBHA NATIONAL INVITATIONAL BREEDERS' CHAMPIONSHIP & 39th NBHA FUTURITY

By Christian Ogle | Grovespring, Missouri | February 11, 2025

This year's 2025 Breeders' Championship, Futurity, and Jerry Kilgore Puppy Classic were held again at the Sportsman's Association grounds near Grovespring, Missouri. The cover was not as thick this year as in past years, but it was absolutely sufficient. These grounds are so nice to watch our dogs hit the lines and move forward. The grounds have plenty of outside kennels, horse stalls, and electric hookups. The bunkhouse has separate judging rooms, plenty of bunk beds, a fully functioning kitchen, restrooms, and hot showers. These things are more than adequate for a bird dog guy.

We drew a total of 118 dogs for all

three classes. This is a record for me. I would like to thank our handlers for their consideration of the workers, judges, and other handlers on the line, ready to go. It is so important to get all these braces done in a timely manner.

This year's Breeders' Championship had 53 dogs entered. We had to start on Tuesday, planning seven braces a day with No. 8 on standby. Our judges Howard Burbach and Brian Kennedy endured many hours in the saddle and some very harsh weather. Thank you so much, gentlemen. This is also the first trial where I heard no complaints. So, I guess our judges get a pat on the back for this one.

This is never possible without

volunteers and sponsors. Our Missouri Bird Hunters Association (Kevin Western, Randy Zimmer, Joe Zimmer, Jim Ogle) was running again on all cylinders, never missing a beat. Purina Pro Plan donated dog food to all the winners and some extra bags for advertising. Garmin sent collars, OnX Hunt sent memberships, and Mule Brand Clothing and Gun Dog Supply sent gift certificates. Gundog Central is always at our side, helping us with our websites. Hats were donated to the Futurity and Puppy Classic winners by Ann Lorea Designs. Thank you to Purina for all the extras to auction off, Jack Glover for the Flintstone breeding, Bob England for the guided hunt, Joe Zimmer for the Christie saddle, Rob Warner for the blank gun holster, Garry

Malzone and Kevin Western for our handlers' dinner, and everyone who donated to our auction. You all made this a huge success.

This year's champion, Kissamee Grousewoods Tea ("Daisy"), a Pointer female owned by Black Meadow Kennels, was scouted by Jillian Stuhr and handled by Garry Malzone. She ran in the first brace of day two, breakaway 8:02 a.m., braced with Kenny Snow's Tinman. At 6, she was pointed behind the cemetery with a pair of quail produced. At 9, she would be seen backing Tinman in a small feeder strip. At 16, they were found standing on the hill in a briar patch before crossing the road. A divided find would be called. At 30, she was standing in Sycamore bottoms. Tinman would be picked up. At 42, she had a single near a ditch crossing. She would have her last find at 49 in a feeder strip near Little Vine loop. She finished the hour hunting hard and going forward.

The runner-up champion was Indian Creek Bocephus, a Pointer male owned by Mr. Ed Marron, scouted by Jillian Stuhr, and handled by Garry Malzone. Bo is now 11 years old and has won 16 championships. Bo ran in the fifth brace on day two. Bracemate Outcast Duststorm was handled by James Kleve. Breakaway was at 1:45 p.m. At the 12-minute mark, they were both standing for a divided find. Dusty was picked up. At 18, Bo was standing tall on the hillside near a briar patch, before the road crossing. Thirty minutes in, Bo was found standing at Sycamore bottom. Garry kicked up birds for him, and they moved on. Bo would have his last find at 45. He would have a pair pinned down in Little Vine loop. Some people commented that this was the best race they had seen Bo put down. You add that with perfect birdwork and end up with another win. Congrats to team Malzone for winning both champion and runner-up. Owners, scout, handler, and dogs—everything has to come together at the right time, and it was their day.

Grovespring, Mo., February 11

**Judges: Howard Burbach and Brian Kennedy
NBHA NATIONAL INVITATIONAL BREEDERS'
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 31 Pointers
and 22 Setters**

Winner-KISSAMEE GROUSEWOODS TEA, F1672676, pointer female, by Daddy's Little Boy Butch-Porter Meadow Bette. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.

Runner-Up-INDIAN CREEK BOCEPHUS, F1656742, pointer male, by Brown's Tom Tom-Indian Creek Riptide. Ed Marron, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.



NBHA National Invitational Breeders' Championship (front row): Kissamee Grousewoods Tea with Jill Stuhr and Indian Creek Bocephus with Garry Malzone. (Back row): Danny Draffen, Chuck Leonard, Brian Kennedy (judge), Howard Burbach (judge), Randy Zimmer, Jim Ogle, Tim Penn, and James Kleve.

39th NBHA Futurity

Every year, we hear questions regarding the National Bird Hunters Association having broke dogs to compete and win in this class. My answer every year is the same. We will place the very best four dogs. If these dogs show our judges the complete package, then yes, they are going to win. In the NBHA, per our rules, a derby is not required to back. But if that dog runs in and takes a bird out already pointed by another dog, that is interference. The dog WILL be picked up for that infraction. Some dogs are perfect on birds, and some dogs move. I have seen both placed in this trial since I have been running it. I hope this will help ease everyone's minds. Also, competing in the futurity qualifies dogs for a bonus if they win the Breeders' Championship. Our six-dog callback and four-dog standbys were Bandit Hill Bess, Bandit Hill Payem, Tenacee Stella, Hackberry's Bright Rose, Miss Grace, Alliwood's War Hero, Alliwood's Shady Street, Dale Creek Boogie, Hog Hill Fafo, and Haney's Big Country. We drew 37 dogs, and this was not easy for our judges. The competition was tough this year, and we saw some great dogs. It is not an easy task to win this trial. After a 30-minute qualifier, they have to come back and compete for an hour. The winner could be named a champion but that is not in our bylaws. This year's winners were under the watchful eyes of judges Mike Poehler and James Kleve. Thank you both for your dedication to our sport.

The first-place winner was Haney's Big Country (Haney Silver Dollar x Wiggins C Trace), owned by John Mathys. He was

scouted by Jill Stuhr and handled by Garry Malzone.

In second place was Alliwood's Shady Street (Touch's Grey Street x Alliwood's Shady Shay), a Pointer male owned and handled by Adam Delude.

In third place was Alliwood's War Hero (Touch's Grey Street x Alliwood's Shady Shay), a Pointer female owned and handled by Adam Delude. She is a littermate to our second-place dog. Congrats, Adam; you did a great job breeding this litter.

In fourth place was Miss Grace (Small's White Charger x Blue Mounds Mainstreet), a Pointer female owned and handled by Dan Crunk.

I would like to say thank you to all the owners who entered their dogs this year. This was a great trial with awesome competition. Good luck next year as you all go into the shooting dog world.

**Judges: James Kleve and Mike Poehler
39TH NBHA FUTURITY – 24 Pointers and
13 Setters**

1st-HANEY'S BIG COUNTRY, F1715342, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Wiggins C Trace. John Mathys, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.

2d-ALLIWOOD'S SHADY STREET, F1706020, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Alliwood's Shady Shay. Adam Delude, owner and handler.

3d-ALLIWOOD'S WAR HERO, F1706021, pointer female, by Touch's Grey Street-Alliwood's Shady Shay. Adam Delude, owner and handler.

4th-MISS GRACE, F1704743, pointer female, by Small's White Charger-Blue Mound's Mainstreet. Dan Crunk, owner and handler.

Jerry Kilgore Puppy Classic

The Jerry Kilgore Puppy Classic will graduate to next year's 40th Futurity. This year, we drew 28 of the best



39th NBHA Futurity (front row): Haney's Big Country with Jill Stuhr, Alliwood's Shady Street with Bob Bakas, Alliwood's War Hero with Adam Delude, and Miss Grace with Dan Crunk. (Back row): Garry Malzone, Ken Chenoweth, Joe Zimmer, James Kleve (judge), Jim Ogle and Danny Draffen.

puppies. Our judges were amazed at the number and quality of these dogs. Mike Poehler and Brent Hoehns were our awesome judges. Thank you, gentlemen, for giving back your precious time and judging our puppy stakes.

First place was Run To Wynn (Imagine x Cocklebur Dragon Tattoo), owned by Brett Eikenbary, handled by Zach Erne,

and scouted by Andy Erne. Second place was Hackberry's Zinnia Warrior (Elhew Sinbad x Hackberry's Addie Blackhawk), a Pointer female owned and handled by Brian Kennedy.

Third place was White Rose Cutter (Wiggins Master Ronnie x Wiggins Tried Angel), a Pointer male owned by Ron Russell and handled by Justin Crook.

In fourth place was Little Elhew Chief Snakefeather (Hackberry's Elhew Chief x Hackberry's Elhew Ashlee), owned and handled by Mike Taylor.

I would like to say thank you to all the breeders out there. This starts with you nominating the litters all year. And to the owners, amateur and pro, for getting these dogs to the trial. It is because of you all that this was the second year in a row that we paid back 100%. Thank you, Lord, for blessing me with the National Bird Hunters Association, the Missouri Bird Hunters Association, and these great people I call my friends and family.

Judges: Brent Hoehns and Mike Poehler
NBHA JERRY D. KILGORE PUPPY CLASSIC

– 17 Pointers and 11 Setters

1st-RUN TO WYNN, F1712002, pointer male, by Imagine-Cocklebur Dragon Tattoo. Bret Eikenbary, owner; Zach Erne, handler.

2d-HACKBERRYS ZINNIA WARRIOR, F1709758, pointer female, by Elhew Sinbad-Hackberry's Addie Blackhawk. Brian Kennedy, owner and handler.

3d-WHITE RIVER CUTTER, F1709481, pointer male, by Wiggins Master Ronnie-Wiggins Tried Angel. Ron Russell, owner; Justin Crook, handler.

4th-LIL ELHEW CHIEF SNAKEFEATHER, F1709748, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Hackberry's Elhew Ashlee. Mike Taylor, owner and handler.

SBHA NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

Smoke'N'Mirrors Takes First Place

By Marty Robinson | Union Springs, Alabama | February 11, 2025



SBHA National Open Shooting Dog Classic: Parkway with Mike Tracy and Nonami's Johnny Come Lately with Ray Pearce, joined by participants. [Not pictured: Smoke'N'Mirrors and handler Matt Basilone].

The SBHA National Open Shooting Dog Classic was held February 11-16, 2025. The trial drew 71

of the top shooting dogs in the country, providing a very competitive field. The trial was held in Union Springs, Alabama,

at the spectacular Conecuh Station field trial venue owned by Tony and Beck Gibson. We thank Tony and Becky for allowing us the privilege to host this trial on such beautiful and commendable grounds.

Our judges for the event were Brad Kennedy of Red Bay, Alabama, and Hunter Clark of Ethel, Mississippi. These two gentlemen gave full attention to every entrant and gave each dog and handler the opportunity to properly show what they could do. Thank you, Brad and Hunter, for judging this event.

We want to say a special thanks to our sponsors. Eukanuba, the ELITE sponsor of the SBHA, was present through much of the running and always works hard to assist in any way possible. Our other sponsors are SportDOG, James O'Neal Dodge, The Saddle Guy, and Gun Dog Central. Please let these sponsors know how much we all appreciate

their contributions to our great sport whenever you have the opportunity.

In first place was Smoke'N'Mirrors, a white and liver Pointer female who ran in the sixth brace and was handled by Matt Basilone

In second place was Parkway, a white and liver Pointer male who ran in the 18th brace and was handled by Mike Tracy.

In third place was Nonami's Johnny

Come Lately, a white and orange Pointer male who ran in the 23rd brace and was handled by Ray Pearce.

The SBHA National Open Shooting Dog Classic proves each year to be one of the more prominent trials of the season, and this year was no exception—many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make this trial a huge success. Please join us in February of 2026 for another remarkable event.

Union Springs, Ala., February 11

Judges: Hunter Clark and Brad Kennedy

SBHA NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

[One-Hour Heats] – 60 Pointers and 11 Setters

1st-SMOKE'N'MIRRORS, F1679185, pointer female, by Just Irresistible-A Whiskey Lullaby. Richard Gillis & Stacey Goodie, owners; Matt Basilone, handler.

2d-PARKWAY, F1701708, pointer male, by Grouse Trails Tuscarora-Halestorm. Muriel & William Primm, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

3d-NONAMI'S JOHNNY COME LATELY, F1694190, pointer male, by Ransom-Pinewood's Jenny Bell. R. E. Turner, owner; Ray Pearce, handler.

GEORGIA FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Georgia Amateur Celebration

By Nell Mobley | Waynesboro, Georgia | February 14, 2025

The Georgia Amateur Celebration is traditionally held on the second Friday in February at DiLane Plantation, Waynesboro, Georgia. It consists of amateur stakes with three placements of shooting dogs, all-age, and derbies.

There were no All-Age entries. However, the Shooting Dog stake drew 16 dogs, and the Derby stake drew eight entries.

Riding in the saddles to name the top three winners were Jason King of Thomson, Georgia, and Joe Orndorff of Wardensville, West Virginia. Joe and his wife, Cindy, spend the winter in nearby Leesburg, Georgia. Both gentlemen run their own dogs in amateur stakes. They are very knowledgeable of good dogs when they see one. They named, in their opinion, the top three among the entries. From all indications, their decisions were well received.

In 1983, a revolving silver pitcher was donated by the late Frank Berry and Bill Wolfe in memory of Clinton Sullivan to be presented to the top shooting dogs. Clinton worked for professional trainer Bob Herrington. Clinton died at a young age of cancer and was working for Bob at the time of his death. To further describe the trophy: if a dog wins three times the trophy would be presented to the handler to keep in his possession. To date, no dogs have earned that honor. However, One Day Lucky Strike, handled by Lane Hodges, has won twice. Lane continues to work towards that goal.

The Winners

This is the fifth consecutive year that



Georgia Amateur Shooting Dog Celebration: One Day La Bandita with Darcy Hodges, One Day Queen Bee with Lane Hodges, Shoulder's Lone Wanderer with Jesse Brown, joined by Randy Marsh, Jason King (judge), Nell Mobley, Ron Lambert, Joe Orndorff (judge), and Alan York.

a One Day dog has won first place in the Georgia Amateur Celebration. One Day La Bandita, handled and owned by Lane Hodges, was named in first place. She was turned loose at 10:04 and took the course running with style, hunting in the right places. La Bandita pointed at 16 with a covey raised. Continuing on the course, she had a nice find at 27. She was pleasing Lane with all-in-order finds at 36 and 50. When time was called, she could be seen to the front with a commendable forward race.

Named in second place was La Bandita's littermate, One Day Queen Bee, with Hodges handling. Queen Bee looked good, running at a rapid pace for the hour. She had all-in-order finds at 13 and 24.

Third-place honors went to Shoulder's Lone Wanderer, with Jesse Brown in the saddle. Wanderer performed well for a Pointer male who will be 3 in July. He had well-spaced finds at 26, 34, 46, and

54. When time was called, he could be seen to the front.

The Others

The stake began at 8:03 on a very cool morning with the wind blowing. Lilly was handled by Jeff Crouch. She pointed at 20, birds were in flight when flushed. At 24, she honored her bracemate and had another find at 32. She ran a medium shooting dog race. One Day Queen Bee is reported earlier in the report in second place.

Darton's Gun Fire (Brown) and Pearl (York). Fire was not pleasing handler resulting in request of tracker at 24. Pearl self relocated at 17.

One Day La Bandita (Hodges) is reported among the winners. No birds were seen at 14 and 29, resulting in pick up for "Lou."

The afternoon activity got underway at 1:30 with One Day Lucky Strike (Hodges) and Goldie (Wells). Lucky



Georgia Amateur Derby: Emperor's Stone Cold Warrior with Brad Macke, Beckworth's Johnny Rebel with Alan York, Wells Midas Touch with Darrell Wells, joined by Jason King (judge), Nell Mobley, Ron Lambert, and Joe Orndorff (judge).

Strike finished the hour birdless. Goldie pointed at 36, all in order. She ran a nice wide-shooting dog race until she came from behind at 45.

River (Hodges) and Shoulder's Lone Wanderer (Brown). Slow time for River for a young Pointer female. Shoulder's Lone Wanderer is reported with the winners.

Fancy (Wells) and Mae (Marsh). Fancy had commendable finds at 9, 24, and 51 with a medium race. Mae backed her bracemate at 9 and 24.

Montana Dream (Macke) and Slick (Bollman). Dream pointed at 7 and self-relocated at 17, but no birds were seen. Slick pointed at 24 with birds in flight. He pointed along with Dream at 17 but

went birdless. Picked up at 32 for not heeding to training.

Dominator's High Maintenance (Hutwagner) and Made For The Moment (Macke). Bad luck for both dogs and picked up.

**Waynesboro, Ga., February 14 – One Course
Judges: Jason King and Joe Orndorff
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CELEBRATION [One-
Hour Heats] – 16 Pointers**

1st-ONE DAY LA BANDITA, F1684577, pointer female, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-Dubose's Snow White. Lane Hodges, owner and handler.

2d-ONE DAY QUEEN BEE, F1684579, pointer female, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-Dubose's Snow White. Lane Hodges, owner and handler.

3d-SHOULDER'S LONE WANDERER, F1702386, pointer male, by Jesse's Cold Shoulder-Pinehill Lucky Lady. Jesse Brown, owner and handler.

AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-EMPEROR'S STONE COLD WARRIOR, F1714276, pointer male, by Perkins Sawyer's Warrior-Empire On Line. Brad Macke, owner and handler.

2d-BECKWORTH'S JOHNNY REBEL, F1712409, setter male, by Max's Double Rebel-Shadow Oak Saige. Alan York, owner and handler.

3d-WELLS MIDAS TOUCH, F1711553, pointer male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Wells Ray of Gold. Darrell Wells, owner and handler.

Some Sidelights

Purina Feed presented feed certificates to all the winners. Greg Blair, field consultant of the company makes sure they are timely received. Indeed, a great sponsor for years.

Through funding via the hotel-motel tax, the Burke County Chamber of Commerce pays for the advertising in the UKC® Field.

The Hampton Inn gives the GFTA discounted rooms during the weekend.

Your writer prepares lunch for both days and dinner for everyone on Friday night. Salter Building Supply furnished barbecue for the meal.

Amie Elliott posts the write-ups on the computer for the UKC® Field. Thank you, Amie, for a job well done.

I want to thank everyone who came to participate in our trials. Hopefully, I can count on your entries in 2026. If anyone missed us in 2025, I hope you will join us in 2026.

UNITED STATES SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Smoke'N'Mirrors Takes First Place

By Joyce Taylor | Conway, Arkansas | February 16, 2025

The renowned United States Shooting Dog Invitational Championship was held February 16-17, 2025, after a one-day delay due to a full day of torrential rains on Saturday. Because of this day-long suspension and the severe winter forecasted conditions for Arkansas and beyond, the judges and trial hosts decided to run the trial only over two days, forgoing the final 90-minute third-day performance. This was done only one other time in Invitational history, in 2015, when Arkansas received a heavy covering of snow and solid ice. Those in attendance remember this year well, as it was the year after the devastating tornado took our beloved stone clubhouse, requiring us to gather

in makeshift quarters in the lower barn. Though we had heaters to keep a bit of the severe chilling bite at bay, it was an extremely cold and memorial Invitational trial year. It was also the first and only year a Setter won the Invitational Championship, fittingly by famed setter prodigy son of Hall of Famer and Smith Setter legend Harold Ray, Doug Ray. It was a memorial year in 2015 and again in 2025.

The Invitational Championship is the ultimate test for the open shooting dog trial competitor. It is normally judged over a three-day accumulative performance. Each of the 12 dogs runs one hour each of the first two days, drawn out the second day in the

afternoon if they run on a previous day's morning course, etc., different course, different time, and with a different bracemate. Performances cease at 60 minutes for the first two days. Handlers may not call for a tracking device before 60 minutes. At one hour, handlers may take their tracker and go in search of the dog if they are out of sight or out of pocket. Judges do not ride to find if the dog is located on a stand after 60 minutes. On the third day, performance finalists are chosen at the judges' discretion. Dogs compete on the third day for 90 minutes, making this a true test of the dogs, ability and endurance.



The Competitors (front): Panther Creek Rosie with handler Tommy Rice (handler), Lester's Another Shockwave with Shawn Kinkelaar (handler), Upfront's Southern Star with Lance Schulz (owner), Smoke 'N' Mirrors with handler Matt Basilone (handler), CS Four Season's Gunner with Eli Taylor (scout), Hale's Smooth Touch with Dr. Jeff Hale (owner). (Back): Stylish Miss Bell with Tom Curtsinger (owner/handler), Wynona's Nickleback Sugar with Allen Vincent (handler), Thunder's Wild Agin with Doug Swingley (owner), Chelsea's Mae West with Jerry Moisson, Topp's First J R with Harold Gearhart (handler), Hard Truth with Doug Ray (handler).

The 12 dogs accepting invitations and the Invitational challenge included:

- Panther Creek Rosie ("Rose"), Handler: Tommy Rice, Owner: Frank Rutland
- Lester's Another Shockwave ("Luke"), Handler: Shawn Kinkelaar, Owners: Dr. Tom Jackson, Jerry Moisson, Lance Schulz, Bjorn Peterson, and Todd Mann
- Upfront's Southern Star ("Roo"), Handler: Shawn Kinkelaar, Owner: Lance Schulz
- Smoke'N'Mirrors ("Frankie"), Handler: Matt Basilone, Owners: Richard Gillis and Stacey Goodie
- CS Four Season's Gunner ("Gunner"), Handler: Doug Ray, Owners: Tony Gibson and Harold Ray
- Hale's Smooth Tough ("Faye"), Handler: Shawn Kinkelaar, Owner: Dr. Jeffrey Hale
- Stylish Mill Bell ("Bell"), Owner & Handler: Tom Curtsinger
- Wynona's Nickleback Sugar ("Sugar"), Handler: Allen Vincent, Owners: Bruce Sooter and Brad Tolson
- Thunder's Wild Agin ("Boots"), Handler: Shawn Kinkelaar, Owner: Doug Swingley
- Chelsea's Mae West ("Mae"), Handler: Shawn Kinkelaar, Owner: Ron Prewitt and Brad Sadler
- Topp's First J R ("Junior"), Handler: Harold Gearhart, Owners: Luke & Ria Topp
- Hard Truth ("Sy"), Handler: Doug Ray, Owner: Dr. Bob Canada

Unfortunately, defending champion Absolute Dominator ("Rex"), owned by Johnny and Joyce Taylor and handled by Doug Ray, was unable to compete in the 2025 running due to an injury earlier this season. Silver W Jill, owned by Dr. Debbie Ozner and handled by Shawn Kinkelaar, and Hales's High Flyer, owned by Dr. Jeff Hale and handled by Eddy Taylor, were both unwell and unable to compete. Topp's Ice Chip, owned by Luke and Ria Topp and handled by Harold Gearhart, tragically died only days before the trial. Grouse Feather Witcher, owned and handled by Allen Dunbar, was unable to attend due to late notice. And sadly, Mike Tracy's dogs were not with us for the trial.

The Winner: Thunder's Wild Agin

Owner Doug Swingley, from Lincoln, Montana, is relatively new to field trialing, but he is an extremely accomplished trainer and handler—as an American dog musher and dog sled racer. He is a four-time winner of the 1,049-mile Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race across Alaska! His first Iditarod was in 1992. His first victory came in 1995, and he followed it by winning in 1999, 2000, and 2001. He competed in every Iditarod from 1992 to 2007, except 2003, due to frostbite to his eyes during the 2002 competition. During Doug's rookie Iditarod outing, he won the Dorothy G. Page Halfway Award for being the first musher to reach the race's halfway point and setting a new speed record. He is the only winner from the lower 48 states and second in number of wins, by only one. For years he was the most feared racer of the trial across Alaska's

rugged interior. Prior to his Iditarod wins, he also won the Montana Race to the Sky in 1991. Doug's achievements have given him growing fame in Alaska, Montana, and throughout the U. S., in circles where endurance athletes are admired. In 2001, Outside magazine ranked him No. 14 among the "25 Most Extraordinary Adventurers, Outdoor Athletes and Explorers." He was selected to the Daily News Iditarod Hall of Fame in 2001.

After retiring from Iditarod racing in 2007, Doug took up another extreme sport, Arabian Horse International Endurance Racing, not just locally or nationally but competing internationally in places such as Dubai, France, England, Argentina, and more. He quickly made the 100 Mile U. S. Equestrian Team, a team of only four—the top riders in the U. S.—and went on to win the 2010 Pan American Games gold medal in Argentina on his horse, Pal of Mine.

Doug was born and raised on a large cattle ranch in Montana and began riding early at the age of two or three. He started on quarter horses and, even later, some Tennessee Walking horses his father acquired. There were over 30 cowboys employed on the ranch with lots of horses and lots of riding. Doug was right among them, growing up competitive and working hard. It made sense that Doug would thrive on intense and dangerous challenges.

Another of those extreme pursuits was bird dog field trialing. He started this career early, at 14 years of age, until college age, traveling and scouting for his oldest brother, Gary Parker, a

professional bird dog trainer on the western U. S. circuit. So, it made sense, after retiring from competitive sled racing and endurance riding, that he would get back involved with field trialing. With friend Stan Howton, who owned Royal Canine Dog Food Company and who had sponsored Doug's Iditarod team, visited Shawn Kinkelaar in Effingham, Illinois, and worked dogs. Then, four years later, Doug and a friend decided to join the field trial open sport and purchased Thunder's Wild Agin from Norris Simms of Arkansas as a coming first-year shooting dog. "Boots" had been raised by Dr. Debbie Ozner and George Hickox, out of famed Chelsea's Thunder Bolt, many-time champion winner and three-time winner of the United States Shooting Dog Invitational Championship. Boots made Invitational history this year as the first offspring of a past Invitational winner to also earn the championship win. Boots came to Shawn's string as a derby. Doug describes Boots as becoming more and more consistent, more brave and bold and pure fun to watch perform. This was her second year qualifying for the Invitational Championship.

Doug is fully retired and has more time to enjoy the dogs and assist Shawn. He enjoys getting to travel and attend trials and helps with working dogs. He has started going to North Dakota each summer, arriving before Shawn to help get things set up and ready.

Doug's wife, Nicole, is also a successful dog sledder, competing and winning in what he calls 'short races' of 100 miles. With a limit of eight to ten Alaskan Husky teams, she currently, over the last three years, is the Triple Crown Winner of three distinctive races, winning every one for all of the last three years. Doug helps Nicole with training and attends and supports her at races. His brother Greg Swingley is also a famous musher, getting Doug starting before he retired in 1997. Quite the accomplished family!

And quite the accomplished championship performance for Doug's Thunder's Wild Agin to win the 2025 Invitational Championship. She had two exceptional finds on her first day, but on her second day, she was brilliant, with four perfect finds and a gorgeous upfront race. She handled like a pro, never out of the pocket, never requiring gathering or scouting, lots of style, snap and ground speed and finishing strong. Thrilling!

The Running

Day 1, February 16

After the previous day's rain, we began the first brace of the trial with cold temperatures of 28 degrees and a nice chilly breeze.

Brace 1: "Sy," handled by Doug Ray and scouted by Eli Taylor, and "Bell," owned and handled by the only amateur qualifying a dog this year, Tom Curtsinger, with Gary Hill traveling from Oklahoma to scout. Bell scored her first find at 7, right of course after our first hard left turn and just past the pond. All in order. Quickly following at 10, Sy took up an impressive steady stance left of course at the top of the rise before the covert crossing. At 25, deep in the horseshoe behind the little house and left of course Sy had a breathtaking, but sadly, a non-productive stand with Bell coming in and backing kindly. At 45, just beyond Bird Alley, Bell crowded, lifting birds with Sy backing this time. Bell carded a covey again at 48, again with Sy backing. Bell made a nice big cast to the right before crossing and coming back to the front as time was called. She is a nice dog, beautiful on her game, but not as strong as needed today. Sy finished in the shoot going to the lake; he was stronger than bracemate but sometimes more lateral in his hunt in heavy cover.

Brace 2: "Luke," handled by Shawn Kinkelaar, with co-owners present and riding—Jerry Moisson, accompanied by wife Kristin, daughter Conner, son-in-law James, and grandson Elliott, along with Lance Schulz, riding. Also attending in support of Shawn were friends Zack and Nikki Hilton and Uncle Larry Chamberlin. Bracemate "Rose," the 2024 Top Purina Top Shooting Dog Award winner, is handled by Tommy Rice. Friend Brad Passione accompanied Tommy. Attending owner Frank Rutland is the only amateur to win the Invitational Championship, doing so in 2002 with his well-accomplished open and amateur champion Panther Creek Dot. Rose put on a thrilling performance today. She began early with an outstanding find at 2 on the left side of the Dove Field. As we turned to regain the front, we could hear Kinkelaar firing over Luke on a covey find in the horseshoe.

Both dogs took the far-left ridge to the front and beyond sight as the course opened in fields until Rice pointed out Rose far to the front, taking a tree edge from left to right. Here, Shawn rode in search of Luke, but by mountain

crossing, Luke caught the gallery, and Dr. Jeff Hale took over handling duties. Shawn was back in charge as we turned off the road toward Dead Horse Curve. Rose had a nice find at 40 on the open field edge before Dead Horse Curve. As Rice brought his dog on from her find, Kinkelaar was again firing over Luke at 43, far to the right of the Curve. As Kinkelaar and Luke caught the front, Rose was again on a mannerly find at 46 to the right of the road crossing, with Luke coming in to back. At 52, Luke had another find with Rose executing a well-mannered distance back and continued on to finish well. Luke spent time behind and caused the handler to seem to work to keep him in place. Rose ruled this hour and likely Day 1.

Brace 3: "Junior," handled by Harold Gearhart. His owners, Luke and Ria Topp, traveled to see him compete and for Luke to scout.

"Roo," the 2023 Invitational winner, is handled by Shawn Kinkelaar. Her owner, Lance Schulz, was riding to witness his fine champion. Temperatures had warmed a bit, and the breeze let up by the third brace, but riders' toes, fingers, and ears remained thoroughly chilled. Roo had a find at 5 to the left of course before the nursery pond, the big covey nailed a good distance out in front of the her. Junior suffered a non-productive at 7 but redeemed himself with a nice find at 20 at Rocky Ridge. Roo notched her second find at 55, her style lacking. She was gone some during her hour and caught the gallery from the back. Junior was also gone a little too much and required heavy scouting.

It had warmed a few degrees by afternoon, only making for chill riding and frisky horses. Judge Robby Robinson's horse decided to practice his bucking skills and didn't stop until he had his rider on the ground. After a quick horse recovery and judge brush off, an announcement of, "Yes, I am remounting as I'm not going to walk the next three hours!"

Brace 4 was again on its way with "Faye," handled by Shawn Kinkelaar, owner Dr. Jeff Hale riding and serving as scout, and "Frankie," handled by Matt Basilone. Riding in support of Dr. Hale and Faye and attending included daughters Dr. Dianna Odom and husband Dr. Mark Odom, Lydia Hale, friend Kaiden Reese, and wife Melanie. Frankie's co-owner, Richard Gillis, was in attendance and riding in support. The

birds turned off for the first brace after lunch today. Faye established point right of course just over the first hill at 7. Kinkelaar flushed aggressively, relocating a convinced Faye three times, took a tumble, and rolled but could produce no birds. After a long, brisk ride, we caught the front at the steel covert. Faye had a second non-productive at 34. Into the big country, south side of the mountain, both dogs showed way over on the right on the ridge, looking lovely in their reach. We ended at the first road just back over the ridge; no birds for either dog. Frankie had a good race but no bird contact. Faye was out of pocket a little much.

Brace 5: "Mae" is handled by Shawn Kinkelaar. Her owner and Invitational Benefactor, Ron Pruitt, had planned to be with us but was unable to make it down. "Gunner" is handled by Doug Ray. Dogs were released from the dirt road past the afternoon ridge crossing. At 14, past Dead Horse Curve and to the right, Mae pointed with Gunner backing for a good find; a repeat at 20 with Mae pointing and Gunner backing again. At 45, both dogs pointed in the Big Field before the pine trees on the left. No birds could be raised for either dog on a flush attempt nor for Gunner on a relocation effort. At 53, at the Rocky Ridge, both dogs were on point to the left for good finds for both dogs. Mae was off the front some. Mowed strips brought Gunner back to his handler more than perhaps were preferred.

Brace 6: "Boots" was handler Shawn Kinkelaar's fifth dog competing. Owner Doug Swingley was in attendance and riding to witness his dog's running. "Sugar," the only Setter in the trial, is handled by Allen Vincent. Her owner, Bruce Sooter, accompanied by friend Jessie Hardy, was riding in attendance. Boots had finds at 11 and 42. He ran enough, but not always on course, not consistently up front, yet stronger than the bracemate. Sugar had nice finds at 21 and 34. She had an adequate race, snappy and happy, but not with impressive drive.

Day 2, February 17

The second day of the trial, Monday morning, was a very cold 24°, but this morning, without the wind, the sun was soon out, making for a beautiful day.

Brace 1: "Mae" and "Gunner" were big running dogs, eating up the big and open country, handlers pointing them out in the distance. At 52, both dogs

had a nice find, right of course, before the open country closed back in. At 54, Mae scored her second find with Gunner backing. Then, ending the hour, at 59, Gunner showcased a beautiful stand in the finger to the lake.

Brace 2: "Sugar" and "Boots." Boots took in a field edge and established point at 10 for a beauty of a find. Not to be left out, Sugar performed her own fine stand at 31 on a single going toward the Horseshoe Curve. At 35, Boots had an outstanding limb find right of Dead Horse Curve and beyond the dirt road, scout Basilone calling point for her in heavy grass. Sugar responded with her second find at 37 on the right as the horse path enters the road. Nicely done. Boots had her third find at 40 with a brilliant relocation, moving forward to nail birds exactly. It couldn't be better! Her fourth find was at 45, running forward and hard while the excitement built. Today was Boots's day!

Brace 3: "Frankie" and "Faye" were released at the Nursery Pond Road intersection. Dogs could be seen from the hill to the front, taking in the big field on the left. Faye pointed right of course, and songbirds departed for a non-productive. The handler thanked the judges, and she was up at 7. Frankie hunted forward and enjoyed a nice find at 15. He was strong in his race, staying to the front, but the handler collared his dog at 38 without additional birdwork.

Brace 4: "Luke" and "Junior." Just over the first hill, to the right of course, point was called for Junior on a dug-up scout find with all in order at 6. Luke was away to the right, and we left Kinkelaar calling for his return at the first road crossing. Catching us, Kinkelaar requested the tracker, and Luke's hour ended prematurely at 10. Junior had a non-productive stand and negative relocation attempts in the big grassy field left of course. He was pointed again at 24, but the handler and scout chose to take him on rather than flush. Hereafter, he seemed to be off track but did score a second find at 45 and ended his running in the big field before the big horseshoe.

In Brace 5: "Sy" and "Roo." Business had picked up. Dogs were released into the big field toward horseshoe end. Just over the ridge at 20, Sy displayed impressive posture on point in the food plot along trees to the left. Roo backed mannerly. Sy had a nice second find on a single at 25 in the field before the

road crossing to Dead Horse Curve. Roo had her first find at 30 on the left tree line edge as we moved toward Dead Horse Curve with Sy backing. Sy had his third find at 38 deep to the right of the end of Dead Horse Curve. At 51, point was called for Roo on the left in the field before the Nursery Pond. All in order. Sy was impressive, pointing and backing, yet was a little lateral in his race sometimes, a strong dog. Roo's style was off. She was out hunting hard in heavy cover and this brought in through the gallery some as our pace was so forward.

Brace 6: "Bell" and "Rose." Beyond Seawright Cut, Bell had a good find right of the creek, but after, she wouldn't cross the high water creek, and Curtsinger had to call with earnest to get her to cross. From this point, she wasn't the same in her race. She scored a second find at 29. Rice had to ride for Rosie at the creek crossing, and they took her to the concrete bridge to cross. She was again out of pocket toward the barn, and the dog and handler had to catch the front before as course turns away. She had a find at 29 before Darnelle Creek Crossing. She had trouble staying to the front during her hour requiring scouting and gathering. She joined soon after pickup was called.

Judges, Owners, Sponsors, Helpers, and Birds!

Judges for the Invitational Championship were well-known field trial individuals with many years of trial experience. Robby Robinson from Dardanelle, Arkansas, has many years of important history as a founder and managing host of the Invitational Championship. To say he is familiar with the trial and what it takes to reign champion is a certainty. Robby was accompanied to the trial by his wife, Treissa. Everett Brannan knows the Invitational format quite well, also. He's judged this trial three times now. Thank you to everyone who agrees to judge field trials! You are precious commodities in short supply!

The Invitational begins the Friday night before the running with a welcoming reception and dinner, followed by a program of introductions of handlers and owners, and each of the dogs' wins warranting their invitation to compete, a Calcutta, and the trial drawing for order of running.

We are always honored and delighted



United States Shooting Dog Invitational Championship (l-r): Joyce and Johnny Taylor, Larry Chamberlain, Shawn Kinkelaar (handler), Matt Basilone (scout) with Thunder's Wild Agin, Doug Swingley (owner), Everett Brannan (judge), Zack Hilton, and Robby Robinson (judge).

to have owners present for the trial. What better trial to attend than when you have a top-performing dog invited, and you get to see your dog compete for two consecutive days. We likely wouldn't have field trials, or not as we know them, if we did not have owners who campaign and support the sport of field trialing. To all the wonderful and generous owners who have the passion and appreciation of the well-trained, thrilling, hard-driving bird dog and are willing to help support the handlers and their string of dogs to keep this exciting sport possible, we salute you!

As with owners, sponsors are crucial for field trialing to endure and certainly at a standard the nation's top shooting dogs, owners, and handlers deserve. Kind and generous sponsors make the Invitational Championship what it is. Purina is a generous event sponsor and event hat sponsor. They sponsor the beautiful and treasured Ross Young

painting that goes to the winning owner and provides dog food to the winning handler. Also, Purina provides each handler with one bag per entry of Purina Dog Food. Dr. Debbie Ozner and George Hickox sponsor a beautiful commemorative Montana Silversmiths belt buckle that goes to the winning owner. Leather Brothers provides trophy leather collars with nametags for each handler entry and multiple prizes distributed throughout the evening programs. Circle Y also generously provides prizes for handlers and owners, as does Jack Haggis Saddlery. World Class Bird Dogs generously sponsors the bar all three evenings. Melanie and Dr. Jeff Hale sponsored the Friday evening dinner, Carol and Witt Stephens sponsored the Saturday evening meal and Sunday night's dinner was kindly sponsored by Johnny and Joyce Taylor, owners of the 2024 Invitational Champion, Absolute Dominator.

Invitational benefactors who make the \$8,000 purse possible are Lee Cruise, Charlie and Linda Jackson, Randy and Lynn Potter, Ron Prewitt, Jack, Audrey and Brian Sanchez, and Johnny and Joyce Taylor. Our most sincere gratitude goes out to each of the Invitational sponsors.

Additionally, much gratitude is due to all those who help make the Invitational run smoothly. We couldn't do it without Melanie, Dr. Jeff Hale, and their daughter Lydia. Their assistance with meals and programs and field marshaling is immeasurable. Julie Dillon helped throughout, from the very beginning with table piece designs and to the very end. J. D. and Jill Smith picked up and delivered the Friday evening BBQ meal. Suzanne Hicks was on hand to assist Saturday evening. Roger Martin is another Invitational treasure. He serves as the dog wagon driver, grounds snack and coffee host, and all things of importance. We are so thankful for his participation.

Birds at Camp Robinson! And a very special shoutout goes out to all Arkansas field trialers who have successfully managed, toiled, and bore many personal expenses to gift us a successful bird program this year. This was undoubtedly the most birds we have seen at Camp Robinson in years. Thank you to all who have participated. What a blessing!

Conway, Ark., February 15

**Judges: Everett Brannan and Robby Robinson
UNITED STATES SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats on Two
Consecutive Days; Ninety-Minute Heats Third Day
Final] – 11 Pointers and 1 Setter**

Winner-THUNDER'S WILD AGIN, F1691314, pointer female, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Double Wild. Doug Swingley, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.

SHADY GROVE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial Held At Camp Robinson

By Jim Martin | Mayflower, Arkansas | February 22, 2025

The Shady Grove field trial finally got to run. After one delay from the weather, it was rescheduled only to have snow and bitter cold after drawing on Monday evening. We didn't get to start until Saturday at 1 p.m. It was worth the wait. We moved 15 coveys in three braces. We had a dog with five coveys and a dog with six.

However, it was one too many for both dogs. We were so happy to have Johnny and Rita Ornsby attend and judge the Derby. Rita also ran in the Shooting Dog, and Marty Moore helped judge the shooting dogs.

A lot of changes have taken place since last April for the bird program at Camp Robinson SUA. We are a small

group, but everyone involved dedicated themselves to helping make the changes we wanted to implement. The new area manager from the AGFC was a great help and did everything he could to help. He and his staff were a breath of fresh air. Our changes included planting food plots, new waterers, mowing, broadcast feeding, new bird suppliers, and other

things. We've had birds all year, and every course gave an opportunity to show your dog on birds. Almost everyone who had a trial this year paid for the bi-weekly feeding before their trial. I'm not going to name people and what they did because I know I would leave someone out. If you ran at Camp Robinson this year, you saw what a successful year it was. Many hours of time and money were spent, but I'd say everyone involved would tell you it was worth it. It will be a short break, and then we will see if we can do it again.

Mayflower, Ark., February 22

Judges: Jim Martin and Marty Moore

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

– 13 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-TOUCH'S STEELY DAN, F1694320, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Touch's White Assault. Johnny Van Horn Jr., owner and handler.

2d-THE BUSINESS MAN, F1689560, pointer male, by Miller Unfinished Business-Tennessee Coldwater Gal. Rick Thone, owner and handler.

3d-BRADY'S FRESH STARTER, F1694328, pointer female, by Hale's Kickstarter-Hale's Mae Do. John Van Horn Jr., owner and handler.



Amateur Shooting Dog (front, l-r): Johnny Van Horn with Touch's Steely Dan, Rick Thone with The Business Man, and Steve James with Brady's Fresh Starter. (Back row, l-r): Terry Kellum, Jim Martin (judge), Marty Moore (judge), and Harold Woodward.

Judges: Johnny Ornsby and Rita Ornsby

AMATEUR DERBY – 6 Pointers

1st-HANEY'S WATERMELON MAN, F1708237, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Wiggins C Trace. Marty Moore, owner and handler.

2d-REESE'S PERFECT STORM, F1709190, pointer female, by Lester's Shockwave-Hainline's Silver Jill. Jim Martin, owner and handler.

3d-DUNWELL HARD PRESSED, F1718572, pointer male, by Cool Hand Luke-Miller's Miss Kittie. Leslie Rowell, owner and handler.



Amateur Derby (l-r): Marty Moore with Haney's Watermelon Man, Jim Martin with Reese's Perfect Storm, Terry Kellum, Harold Woodward, and Johnny and Rita Ornsby (judges).

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For more information, please email:
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DELAWARE VALLEY BIRD DOG CLUB

Spring Trials

By James Humes Sr. | Bernville, Pennsylvania | March 1, 2025

On Saturday, March 1, 2025, the Delaware Valley Bird Dog Club held its second trial. This trial was run on several locations through State Game Lands 280. Handlers and dogs performed throughout sunny skies with heavy wind and temps from 50-60 degrees.

Throughout the day, one woodcock was moved on six braces. Callbacks were held on planted quail. And 11 of 12 dogs and their handlers competed in their braces until the judges' call of stoppage due to time.

Bernville, Pa., March 1

Judges: James Humes Jr. and James Humes Sr.

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 3 Pointers, 5 Setters, 2 Brittans, 1 Irish Setter, and 1 German Shorthaired Pointer

1st-BELL STOP BOOMER, F1688925, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Bucket List Bella. George Hetrik III, owner and handler.

2d-MICTERS STORMY GIRL, F1706756, setter female, by Super Storm-Pinekone Play Girl. Jarrod Specht, owner and handler.

3d-MOUNTAIN TOP RYN, F1690895, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Grouse River Woodcock Annie. Jeffrey Keller, owner and handler.

On Sunday, March 9, the Club held its third trial. This trial was also run on



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): James Humes Jr., George Hetrik with Bell Stop Boomer, Jarrod Specht with Micters Stormy Girl, Jeffrey Keller with Mountain Top Ryn, and James Humes Sr. [Photo by Mark Dreyfus].

several locations through State Game Lands 280.

Handlers and dogs performed throughout sunny skies, light wind, and 40-50-degree temps.

Throughout the day, seven woodcock were moved on three braces. All dogs and their handlers competed in their braces until the judges' call of stoppage due to time.

We want to thank all those who came and participated in these trials and assisted with the foundation of the



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Tess Humes with TNJ Lady Lion, James Humes Jr., Jeffrey Keller with Mountain Top Nellie, John Theriault with Mountain Top Ryn, and James Humes Sr. [Photo by Teresa Humes].

trials, course development, traveling from course to course, and participating. Things kept running very smoothly, and we look forward to holding these trials again next year.

OPEN SHOOTING DOG - 5 Setters and 1 Pointer

1st-MOUNTAIN TOP RYN, F1690895, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Grouse River Woodcock Annie. Jeffrey Keller, owner and handler.

2d-MOUNTAIN TOP NELLIE, F1696822, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Grouse River Woodcock Annie. Jeffrey Keller, owner and handler.

3d-TNJ LADY LION, F1705452, setter female, by Rebellious Fearless Fred-Lake Effect Ali. Tess Humes, owner and handler.

ILLINOIS OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Intensive I'm On Fire Named Champion; Alliwood's Eleventh Hour, Runner-up

By Jeff Wagoner | Chandlerville, Illinois | March 1, 2025



Illinois Open Shooting Dog Championship: Kirk Loftin (judge), Pat McInteer with Intensive I'm On Fire, Steve Auxier (owner), Mark Johnson, and Aaron McAfee (judge).

The Illinois Open Shooting Dog Championship was contested on February 28 and March 1, 2025. The weather changed significantly from the previous few days to a much chillier event. The weather went from sunny and warm to breezy and cold, with a high temperature of around 30 degrees. Although this is an open championship, the field of contestants consisted of strictly amateur owners and handlers. The support from Purina and SportDOG as event sponsors is greatly appreciated. Their generous support of field trials and field trialers continues to enhance the sporting events we attend. Purina continually supports by providing top-notch high-quality feed to the winners. The AFTCA Purina Events Sponsorship Program has proven to be a great asset to clubs holding events. SportDOG collars are always a sought-after prize due to their quality and effectiveness in training.

The champion, Intensive I'm On Fire, is owned and handled by Mr. Steve Auxier. This is the first title for her and the first for Steve as a handler, making this an extra special occasion for both. Intensive I'm On Fire ran in the seventh brace, scoring two finds with a classy, smooth, and strong forward race. Her manners on her finds were impeccable. The first find at 26 was divided with her bracemate as both were well to the front and moving swiftly. Upon shot

after the flush, both dogs were collared and subsequently sent on in search of more quarry. She continued to flow to the front with ease, showing great speed and style. With two minutes left in the hour, she disappeared to the front. As we rode forward, we found her standing high and tight on her game. The birds were flushed, and she remained standing with all the style and intensity you can ask for. Time was subsequently called, ending the brace. Her special performance is one to remember.

The runner-up, Alliwood's Eleventh Hour, is owned and handled by Mr. Adam DeLude. She and Adam are a formidable pair, as they have found themselves in the winners' circle on many occasions previously. During her brace, she backed at 6 and scored finds at 22, 27, and 38. Her find at 22 was quite impressive as she was found standing on a limb find. This may very well have been the find of the trial. Her gait, style, and ground application were flowing and easy on the eyes. This was another exceptional performance from a truly great performer. It is clear she and Adam have a connection and bond that will continue to land them in the winners' circle in the future.

Much like the Shooting Dog Championship, the Max Eldred Companion Derby stake proved to have high-quality contenders.

First went to Erin's Sunshine Kate, owned and handled by Mark Johnson. She has a classy, well-applied race, continuously searching in all the right places to find game. She displayed advanced hunting smarts by using the wind to her advantage. She is a pleasure to watch with her flowing gait and stylish way of moving.

Second place went to Alliwood's War Hero, owned and handled by Adam DeLude. Her effort in covering the country was quite noteworthy. It was clear she is developing into what will be a true contender at the next level in the adult stakes. Her application, style, and stamina showed through. Her find showed advanced manners for a juvenile showing her promise for the future. She also hunted the country well, using the available ground to show her desire to seek and find game in a well-applied manner.

Third place went to Alliwood's Shady Street, owned by Adam DeLude and handled by Bob Bakas. His ground race was wide and strong, with class to spare. He ran strong and fast, hitting all the right objectives. It was a pleasure watching him apply his effort through the brace. He and his handler navigated the course well, consistently showing to the front. It is clear he is well on his way to being a quality dog in future competitions.

Last but certainly not least, we would like to thank all who came and supported the event. A special thank you to Pat Sheehan for providing his machine and planting birds; Kirk Loftin and Aaron McAfee for judging; Jeff Wagoner for coordinating everything and marshaling; Mark Johnson for pre-trial coordination and assistance throughout; Frank and Mike Vicari for the setup and clean up assistance; and all the handlers who also assisted in anything needed as the trial was conducted. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources has done an outstanding job at Jim Edgar Panther Creek, ensuring the facilities are well maintained and preparing the grounds for field trials. I am sure there is someone we have missed thanking, as this is, and always will be, a group effort.

Chandlerville, Ill., March 1
Judges: Dr. Kirk A. Loftin and Aaron McAfee
ILLINOIS OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 4 Pointers and
2 German Shorthairs

Winner-INTENSIVE I'M ON FIRE, F1698936, pointer male, by Valiant-Coldwater Belle. Steve Auxier, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-ALLIWOOD'S ELEVENTH HOUR, F1695563, pointer female, by Touch's Grey Street-Alliwood's Shady Shay. Adam DeLude, owner and handler.

MAX ELDRED MEMORIAL OPEN DERBY
– 6 Pointers

1st-ERIN'S SUNSHINE KATE, F1709940, pointer female, by Erin's Bad River-Erin's Wild Covey. Mark Johnson, owner and handler.

2d-ALLIWOOD'S WAR HERO, F1706021, pointer female, by Touch's Grey Street-Alliwood's Shady Shay. Adam DeLude, owner and handler.

3d-ALLIWOOD'S SHADY STREET, F1706020, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Alliwood's Shady Shay. Adam DeLude, owner; Bob Bakas, handler.



Max Eldred Open Derby: Mark Johnson with Erin's Sunshine Kate, Kirk Loftin (judge), Adam DeLude with Alliwood's War Hero, Aaron McAfee (judge), and Steve Auxier with Alliwood's Shady Street.

MID-STATE BIRD DOG CLUB
Chandlerville, Ill., March 7
Judges: Hunter Livingston and Jeff Wagoner
OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 12 Pointers
1st-STELLAR'S NATURAL DISASTER, F1684712, pointer female, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Lacy Underall. Michael & Suanne Duvall, owners; Michael Duvall, handler.
2d-REDBUD'S SOUTHERN BOY, F1697099, pointer male, by Walker's Legacy-Redbud's Country Girl. Aaron McAfee, owner and handler.
3d-THUMPER'S ANYTHING BUT, F1658927, pointer female, by Royal Rocks Mr. Thumper-Brown's Starhawk. Michael & Suanne Duvall, owners; Michael Duvall, handler.

Judges: Aaron McAfee and Michael Duvall
OPEN DERBY – 4 Pointers
1st-REDHAWK'S BAD JACK, F1709046, pointer male, by Covi Elhew Jake-Cade's Sinbad Lady. Stephen Crossen & Jeff Wagoner, owners; Jeff Wagoner, handler.
2d-WAUBEEK FREDIA ROAM, F1720011, pointer female, by Crosswind Jim-Gordon's Fancy Lace. Mark Livingston, owner and handler.

SOUTHEASTERN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

Rester's Johnny Ringo Named Champion; Erin's Perfect Storm, Runner-up

By Claudia McNamee | Dawson, Georgia | March 1, 2025

The 35th edition of the Southeastern Quail Championship began on March 1 and concluded on March 2. A total of 26 dogs vied for top honors, including three derbies. After two full days of running, Rester's Johnny Ringo ("Big") was named champion. This 4-year-old Pointer male, bred and started by Cecil Rester from Angie, Louisiana, and owned by Cecil and Dr. Rueben Richardson from Montgomery, Alabama, was handled by Luke Eisenhart and scouted by Judd Carlton. Erin's Perfect Storm ("Colt") was recognized as runner-up and was also handled by Luke Eisenhart and scouted by Judd Carlton. Colt is a 5-year-old Pointer male owned by Brad Woodie. The honor of judging this Championship was placed in the hands of Lamar Childers of Cleveland, Georgia, and Justin Hunt of nearby Blakely, Georgia. Both of these capable dogmen have broad experience in field trialing and bird hunting and were well qualified to judge the 2025 renewal. They were professional, always focused on the task at hand, and impressed with the field of talent brought to the line.

This event was run on three continuous courses charted across three different properties—Chickasaw, Ecila, and Abigail Plantations. The combined grounds consist of open piney woods



Southeastern Open Quail Championship (l-r): Claudia McNamee, Charleigh Carlton, Shannon Grady-Nygaard, Luke Eisenhart, Judd Carlton with Rester's Johnny Ringo, Willis Wright, Wilson Napier, Mike Sweet with Erin's Perfect Storm, Justin Hunt, Lamar Childers, Cheyenne Jackson, Dr. Dave Deal, and Dr. Ron Deal.

interspersed with scattered fallow fields with edges of ground cover. This year, less rainfall caused the numerous wet-weather ponds to be quite low—the lowest this writer recalls in recent years. Last year's tornado activity significantly affected this area, and there has been a tremendous cleanup effort since then. Many areas are more open, which allows for better visibility and dog-sighting. Despite a dryer season and habitat disruption, the quail population remains ample, albeit

more bird contacts were made in the mornings. Both days produced multiple and similar numbers of bird scores. Most dogs that completed the hour had birdwork, and most had multiple finds. Weather conditions varied with the first afternoon of running becoming quite warm. Temperatures ranged from the mid-40s at the morning breakaway to the mid-70s in the afternoon.

The Southeastern Field Trial Club wants to give heartfelt thanks to the three landowners who so generously

allow the running of this trial on their beautiful lands: the Deal family (Chickasaw), Frank Foley (Ecila), and Richard Burke (Abigail). Without their combined support, this event would not take place, and we are so very grateful. Also deserving of special thanks for their hard work and longtime commitment is the Chickasaw team: Dr. Ron Deal (event aficionado and director), Lamar Childers (entry/drawing oversight, marshaling and judging), Wilson Napier (dog wagon and snacks), and Michael Jackson (barn duties and cooking lunches with his wife Alexa serving daily lunches). Others who assisted with marshaling duties were Willis Wright (Abigail) and Jason Armstrong (Ecila). And, of course, a boundless thank you goes out to Greg Blair and the Purina team for all they continue to do for our field trial sport.

The Winners and Honorable Mentions

Named champion was Rester's Johnny Ringo, a 4-year-old, white, orange, and ticked Pointer male. This young contender was bred and developed by Cecil Rester, with Cecil winning his first Open Derby stake. He is co-owned by Cecil Rester and Dr. Reuben Richardson. In this championship, Big ran under the whistle of Luke Eisenhart and was scouted by Judd Carlton. Big ran Sunday morning on Course 3 and had two finds in the first 30 minutes, the second of which was a limb find. His race and hunting style were consistently bold and courageous, pushing the course limits and securing his place as top dog with a quintessential all-age finish.

Earning runner-up was Erin's Perfect Storm, a 5-year-old, white, orange, and ticked Pointer male. Bred by Sean Derrig, Colt was also handled by Luke Eisenhart and scouted by Judd Carlton. Owner Brad Woodie had just come off the thrill of winning the 2025 National Championship with Colt and was delivered yet another prestigious win. Colt also ran in the morning on the second day but on Course 1. With zest and determination, he hunted up four coveys spread across the hour. He was always forward, effortlessly casting long and wide the entire hour and finishing with style.

In addition to named winners, several other dogs had memorable performances. Young derby contender Erin's Copper Colt (Carlton) and Haney's Last Call (Daniels) had usable but beatable hours on Courses 1 and 3 on the first morning, only to be

displaced by the winners on the same courses the next morning. Woodville's Yukon Cornelius (McLean) had the race of the stake but the misfortune of his birds getting out of a thicket unseen in judgment. Others that were impressive but did not complete their hour for whatever reason include, in the order of running: Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean), Dominator's Southern Beau (Daniels), Touch's Midnight Rider (McLean), and another young derby contender, Erin's War Eagle (Eisenhart)

The Championship Running

A total of 26 dogs were entered, and 26 competed in this year's championship (24 Pointers, including three derbies and two Setters). Eight handlers participated, including Luke Eisenhart (8), Mark McLean (7), Judd Carlton (4), Jamie Daniels (3), Tracy Swearingen (1), Tom Shenker (1), Lee Phillips (1), and Larron Copeland (1). Owners present included Mike Sweet from Sebring, Florida, for Erin's High Note; Dr. Ron Deal from Sasser, Georgia, for Coal Train; Steve Croy from Savannah, Georgia, for Haney's Easy Money and Haney's All In; Shannon Grady-Nygard from Bozeman, Montana, for Redeemed; and this writer, Claudia McNamee from Chattahoochee Hills, Georgia, for Erin's Bold Ruler and Erin's War Eagle.

Weather conditions over the two days weren't consistently ideal for running bird dogs, with warm temperatures in the mid-70s on the first afternoon and generally dryer than normal conditions overall. The runner-up and champion both came out of Sunday morning braces B7 and B9 on Courses 1 and 3.

The Champion: Rester's Johnny Ringo

In last year's edition of the Southeastern, Johnny Ringo received an honorable mention for an impressive performance but didn't quite have all the cards to grab the title. This year, Big brought everything to the table and was deservedly named champion. The third brace (Brace 9) on Sunday morning proved to be Big's lucky run! Rester's Johnny Ringo for Luke Eisenhart and Woodville's Yukon Cornelius ("Rudy") for Mark McLean broke away with great enthusiasm; they were both prepared to make a strong bid for top honors. Neither contender had contact with birds in the first 15 minutes, but both dogs were hunting forward, determined to change that. At 16, Eisenhart raised his hat just beyond the creek crossing

and easily flushed a good-sized covey. Big stood stylish and statuesque for his handler, appearing proud to deliver his first find. Meanwhile, Rudy was impressing the judges and gallery with his signature race, traversing the terrain with grace and style and showing in all the right places. At 21, McLean spotted Rudy some distance ahead under a cluster of pines and yelled point. And then called, "Birds in flight!" Judges cantered up in order to catch the elusive quail mid-air, but neither one spotted the birds. A bad break for the McLean team as this would be Rudy's only bird contact, and with the race he was putting down, this find might have changed the outcome of the trial. Meanwhile, Carlton, who was scouting Big, called point at about 22 deep in the cover. This piece of birdwork was consequential in Big winning the championship. Judge Hunt described the location and covey flight as "a damn good one!"—it was the limb find of the stake. Both dogs completed their hours with strong, all-age finishes but with no further birdwork.

The Runner-up: Erin's Perfect Storm

Sunday's first morning brace (B7) also delivered a decisive winner, with Erin's Perfect Storm demonstrating that he wasn't finished winning impressive titles this year for handler Luke Eisenhart. This brace paired up Coal Train (Phillips) and Colt under clear skies and temperatures in the low 50s, and these two athletes were eager to start their hours! Within three minutes of breaking away, the excitement began as scouts called point far to the right, up on the ridge. Phillips was first to turn his mount and gallop up to where Coal was standing. It was then clear that both dogs were on point in the same area but not divided, and Eisenhart quickly followed. Unfortunately, Phillips wasn't able to produce birds after extensive flushing and relocation, and an unproductive was noted. However, while taking him on, birds got up, and Coal immediately put on his brakes; Phillips shot his gun as judges witnessed a clean stop-to-flush. The gallery then clearly heard a shot from Eisenhart indicating Colt's first find at 7. Colt pinned his second covey at 9 while catching the front; Carlton shouted, "Point!" and Eisenhart easily lifted another covey into the air. From here, both dogs caught the front effortlessly and continued their search independently from one another. Phillips

called point for Coal at 17, and this time, a beautiful covey took flight for the flush as his charge stood stylish and perfectly still—bravo! It wasn't another minute when Eisenhart's hat was in the air for Colt's third find of the morning at 18. For the next 18 minutes, both handlers sang to their dogs, guiding them through the beautiful Chickasaw Plantation country, keeping them forward and in pursuit of game. Finally, at 36, Coal had dug in around some thick cover, but the birds were elusive even after a long and thorough relocation. This was his second unproductive and the end of his title bid. Meanwhile, Colt had been running a true all-age race, only being spotted a couple of times, but was found on point at 54 minutes. A covey was flushed quickly by Eisenhart, and Colt went on to finish his hour in strong fashion, securing his place in the winners' circle. Job well done!

The Other Contenders

At 8 a.m. on Saturday morning, we cut loose the first brace of the Championship. Brace 1 (B1) paired Showtime Game Changer (Copeland) and derby Erin's Copper Colt (Carlton). Both dogs broke away with determination and purpose, with Colt securing the first find of the hour at 14. Stylish and focused, Colt stood patiently as his handler flushed a large covey into the cool morning air. Game Changer pinned what would be his only covey find at 18 just as we crossed onto Abigail Plantation. This nice piece of birdwork included a decisive relocation. These two contenders continued hunting forward, with Game Changer not "showing" the way his handler hoped, and at 42, Copeland asked for his tracker. Meanwhile, the young Colt traversed the country doing a very good job, despite losing a little steam in the final quarter. Colt finished his hour with birdwork and would be only one of four dogs that accomplished this feat in the 2025 edition.

Brace 2 (B2) presented Touch's Shadow Rider (McLean) and Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart). These two seasoned athletes broke away with great spirit and a sense of certainty that they would be rewarded for their efforts. Answering this call, Code of Honor (aka "Tip") nailed his first and second coveys at 3 and 7, respectively. On both finds, Tip's stance was stylish and fixed on his game, although his first was more impressive. Both dogs were running

big, strong, all-age races, devouring the course. At 14, Rider was spotted with his head held high, and before his handler reached him, a large covey took flight for all to see! Tip was on course ahead, and at 19, scouts called point, and we found Rider and Tip in a striking divided find. Both handlers shot their guns and took their charges on. One more covey was dug up by Rider at 29 before both of these contenders decided to really consume the course and weren't seen again. With disappointment, both McLean and Eisenhart asked for their trackers at 55.

Brace 3 (B3) paired up Haney's Last Call (Daniels) and derby Erin's Bold Ruler (Eisenhart). As these two waited at the line, it was clear they had one thing on their minds, and within moments, they were off and running! The scent of game deep in the cover stopped Last Call at 13—head high and sure of himself, Daniels easily flushed a good size covey. His second find was a single but also indicative of good hunting prowess. Last Call finished his hour and made his handler proud with a strong race and finish. Bold Ruler hunted well in front of his handler but wasn't fortunate enough to pin down any quail in the process. Neither his handler nor the judges or gallery kept him in sight during the final quarter, and Eisenhart asked for his tracker at 51.

Brace 4 (B4) let loose after lunch at 2 p.m. Weather conditions were heating up, which didn't bode well for bird-finding in the afternoon. Southern Thunder (Shenker) and 2023's champion Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton) came to the line full of promise, but the birds weren't moving. Southern Thunder finished his hour with a strong and consistent race but no birdwork. Heat Advisory wasn't pleasing his handler this day, and without any birdwork, Carlton asked for his tracker at 28.

Brace 5 (B5) presented Dominator's Southern Beau (Daniels) and Nighthawk's Rebel (Swearingen). Both contenders drove hard and fast off the breakaway, and it was almost immediately clear that Rebel had his own course in mind. We didn't see much of him, and Swearingen requested his tracker at 19. Beau fared better than his bracemate, making some notable moves and pinning his first find at 14. Stylish and memorable on his game, Beau went on to hunt up a second covey at 21. A good-sized covey lifted before

his handler could reach him. The birds in flight were seen by the judges, and Daniels shot his gun. Beau continued to traverse the course for another 21 minutes but didn't have any further bird contact. Daniels asked for his tracker at 42, signaling that he had hoped to see more than what Beau was delivering on this day.

Brace 6 (B6) was the last brace of the first day, pairing up Haney's All In (McLean) and Touch's Lone Dominator (Carlton). Any running with All In (aka "Ray") is highly anticipated, given his win record and class, but magic wasn't in the cards this day. Ray pointed his first and only covey just off one of the sand roads, albeit always stylish on his game. He went on to run a strong forward race, but as we were heading for the barn and kennels in the final 15 minutes of the hour, Ray seemed distracted. McLean asked for his tracker at 52, realizing this performance wasn't going to win the title.

At the end of Day 1, the judges had two dogs to consider. Erin's Copper Colt (B1), with one find, and Haney's Last Call (B3), with two finds, were the only contenders to finish the hour with birdwork. A total of nine coveys were pointed in the morning hours and three in the afternoon. Warm and dry conditions after lunch made scenting a challenge.

Day 2 running began at 8 a.m. Temperatures ranged from the low-50s to the mid-60s, with intermittent cloud cover through the completion of this event.

Brace 7 (B7) was described earlier in this report.

Brace 8 (B8) consisted of last year's champion, Miller's Blindsider (Carlton), and Haney's Storm Warning (Eisenhart). These seasoned contenders ran strong, forward races for the time they were on the ground, but neither had any birdwork, and both handlers asked for their trackers at 26.

Brace 9 (B9) was described earlier in this report.

Brace 10 (B10) kicked off Sunday afternoon at 1:15 p.m. and paired Haney's Easy Money (McLean) and Haney's Silver Dollar (Eisenhart). Somewhat cooler temperatures in the high 50s prevailed so we were hopeful that birds would continue to move and scenting conditions would produce some memorable birdwork. Both dogs

sprang into action as they were released at the breakaway. At about 10, Silver Dollar came from the left side and caught up with his handler with ease, but this wasn't a good start. Eisenhart asked for his tracker at 29 after not being connected with his charge and having no birdwork. Easy Money was up front but having no luck digging up the elusive quail, prompting McLean to ask for his tracker at 34.

Brace 11 (B11) presented Touch's Malcolm Story (McLean) and Redeemed (Eisenhart), two dogs with very different backgrounds. Malcolm Story is a well-known and esteemed all-age competitor, and Redeemed is brand new to the open all-age circuit. Both dogs bolted down the breakaway path with determination, but as luck would have it, neither of their title bids were successful. At 22, Eisenhart asked for his tracker because Redeemed was charting his own course and was not in contact after the first 10 minutes or so. Malcolm Story, despite his nine years of age, still can run an impressive all-age race and was, on this day, out of contention. McLean also asked for his tracker in the first half of the hour. Neither dog had any birdwork.

Brace 12 (B12) matched Woodville's Long Hard Ride (McLean) and Erin's High Note (Carlton), and this pair of contenders wouldn't have good luck in

their quest for quail either. Neither dog had any birdwork, and both handlers asked for their trackers at 31 and 24, respectively.

The final brace of the championship, Brace 13 (B13), matched Touch's Midnight Rider (McLean) and derby Erin's War Eagle (Eisenhart). Hopeful that the later hour combined with cool temperatures meant quail would be moving, handlers blew their whistles, and their charges burst onto the course. At 3, their scouts called point, and the two contenders stood side by side in a perfectly divided find. Within moments, a good-sized covey lifted about 20 yards upwind—a beautiful sight! At 10, as we crossed the road, Rider was seen staunchly pointed down to the left in a clearing. No birds were flushed, but then, on relocation, Rider unintentionally bumped a bird, and then an entire covey went up. Such a shame because it seemed the hour was going to produce the birds we'd been looking for all afternoon. With Rider up, War Eagle had the course to himself, but for a youngster, this may not have been the most ideal of circumstances. For the next 14 minutes, War Eagle hunted forward and was always in sync with Eisenhart. Then, at 24, just beyond the grassy pond, there he was on point in style. Birds lifted easily with the flush, and onward we went. At 28, he checked

back with his handler, something he may not have done with a seasoned brace mate but still doing a nice job. His next attempt was at 31, but this time, it resulted in an unproductive. Continuing on, as we approached the barn and kennels, Eisenhart asked for his tracker at 41. And that concluded the day and the trial.

This was a particularly tough trial due to warm, dry weather conditions. Birds moved early and probably very late. Bird hunters would have waited until 4:30 p.m. to turn loose, which is impossible to do in a field trial. All the winners and close rivals ran in the morning. Granted, the luck of the draw was important, but the champion and runner-up seized their opportunity in a definitive fashion. Congratulations to all!

This concluded the 2025 edition of the Southeastern Quail Championship.

Dawson, Ga., March 1

Judges: Lamar Childers and Justin Hunt
SOUTHEASTERN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 26 Entries

Winner-RESTER'S JOHNNY RINGO, F1695797, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Rester's Amazing Grace. Cecil & Dr. Reuben Richardson, owners; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

Runner-Up-ERIN'S PERFECT STORM, F1692323, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Erin's Bet On Me. Bradley E. Woodie, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

SOUTHERN PINES CELEBRATION

Rocky River Loaded Named Winner of the Ray Joye Amateur All-Age

By Dwight Smith | Hoffman, North Carolina | March 6, 2025

Rocky River Loaded, a nearly 5-year-old Pointer male, won first place in the Ray Joye Amateur All-Age stake of the 2025 Southern Pines Celebration field trials.

The white and orange Pointer is owned and handled by Grayson Francis of Brookneal, Virginia. He had a solid ground performance with two finds and an unproductive.

The Southern Pines Celebration, the last amateur trial held at the Robert Gordon field trial grounds this year, which is a part of the Sandhills Wildlife area, is usually well attended by amateur trialers and local residents of the Hoffman, North Carolina, community. The 2025 trial was a few entries short of what was expected for the All-Age



Open Derby (l-r): Gary Winall, Ellen Winall with Mohawk Mill Cliffhanger, Larry Cox (judge), Til Hankley with Mohawk Mill At Dawn, John Atkinson, and Rodney Poston with Longview Addition.

stake, but the Amateur Derby had a nice entry. However, all those in attendance enjoyed the three-day event, except for an accident that happened on the second day of the trial.

Judge Larry Cox was thrown from his horse before the second brace of the Amateur All-Age stake. The Richmond County first responders were called, and after stabilizing Larry, he was carried to a medical center. It was reported back to the field trial participants that Larry suffered several injuries. All of the field trial group were deeply concerned, and several prayers were said on Larry's behalf. Everyone showed deep concern over his health.

The first day of the trial was cold, windy, and uncomfortable, but by the morning of the second day, typical North Carolina Sandhills weather prevailed, and quail were moved in nearly every brace.

Johnny Atkinson is the chairman of

the Celebration; the likable Grayson Francis, Til (L. M.) Hankley and this reporter make up the club membership.

Things were well-organized by Francis and Atkinson. Til Hankley drove the dog truck and entertained the ladies. This reporter just enjoyed the trial. Hopefully, a couple of new members will be added by next March. Ray Joye, who passed away before the 2024 Celebration, was still missed.

The grounds at the Hoffman venue are in excellent condition, and new improvements have been made to the facilities.

As far as the grounds are concerned, not many changes are needed. The quail population is excellent. They are being fed and protected in a good way.

The Robert Gordon grounds are among the best in the United States. They have to be to attract the out-of-state trials now using the facilities and grounds such as the Pheasant Championships. More and more field trialers from different parts of the United States are moving into the Richmond County, North Carolina area to live, and they are attending trials. Local residents' attendance isn't like the Union Springs, Alabama locals' attendance, but it could be getting there.

A Friday night dinner was a centerpiece of the weekend, bringing locals and field trialers together for a good meal and fellowship. The meal was prepared by Angel Rogers and Brandon Lynn.

Todd Williams and Larry Cox were the advertised judges for both stakes, but Cox's horse accident, previously addressed, required a judging change. Several calls to a possible stand-in judge were made. Finally, Mack Hilliard agreed to help judge the final nine braces. Williams and Hilliard are both from the Derby community of the area, know bird dogs and field trial procedures, are good horsemen, and know all about quail. They rendered a well-accepted decision. Hillard helped out under some very difficult conditions.

Open Derby

The first day of the Southern Pines Celebration started off with a strong, cold wind blowing from the northwest that brought cold temperatures to the Sandhills part of North Carolina. It was downright uncomfortable outside.

Twenty fine young Pointers and



Ray Joye Amateur All-Age (front): Grayson Francis with Rocky River Loaded, Chad Adams with Bud Adams, and John Ivester with Lester's Storm Chaser. (Second row): Til Hankley with the Southern Pines Trophy, Rodney Poston, and John Atkinson.

Setters were entered in the Open Derby. It was not only a cold, windy day but a disappointing day because no dogs that placed were credited with birdwork. Quail simply were not moving, and as my grandpa told me, "Boy, you ain't going to find them much if they ain't moving."

Judges Todd Williams and Larry Cox both relayed the fact that there might have been seven or eight of the entries that gave an outstanding performance, but only on groundwork.

Gary and Ellen Winall's beautifully animated, strong Pointer, Mohawk Mill

Cliffhanger, was awarded first place on a ground performance that was about as good as it gets. Someone remarked, "He just about ranged into another zip code area," meaning he hunted, yea hunted, at great range.

Mohawk Mill At Dawn was placed second on an effort that rivaled her kennelmate's performance. Paul Gadd's Longview Addition, handled by Mack Hillard, had a very similar ground effort.



A sample of the beautiful courses at Robert Gordon Field Trial Grounds, Hoffman, North Carolina.

Hoffman, N. C., March 6 Judges: Mack Hilliard and Todd Williams SOUTHERN PINES CELEBRATION OPEN DERBY — 14 Pointers and 6 Setters

1st-MOHAWK MILL CLIFFHANGER, F1709792, pointer male, by The Treasure Chest-Twiggy. Gary S. & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary S. Winall, handler.

2d-MOHAWK MILL AT DAWN, F1706911, pointer female, by Imagine-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Gary S. & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary S. Winall, handler.

3d-LONGVIEW ADDITION, F1706728, pointer male, by Miller's Grey Street-Walnut Tree Allie. Paul Gadd, owner; Mack Hilliard, handler.

Ray Joye Amateur All-Age

Rocky River Loaded was named winner by judges Williams and Hillard. It was very fitting for Loaded to win the Ray Joye All-Age because Ray Joye owned the white and orange Pointer at the time of his death. Grayson Francis obtained him after the death of Joye, who was one of Francis's best friends.

Loaded drew the fifth brace, in a course with some challenging turns and far edges. Francis handled him through the bear trap turns and then kind of sat back and let Loaded hunt the country ahead of him. The results were a beautiful all-age race with two finds plus an unproductive. The finds were spaced out through the hour to show he was hunting throughout the 60 minutes. His finish was strong, with Francis and his scout, Dr. Dohl, having to ride for him at time. He was credited with an unproductive.

Bud Adams was braced with Rocky River Loaded and placed second. As one might imagine, it was a very interesting brace. The two Pointers seemed to know what was at stake and matched each other in their ground races at time. Bud would be far ahead on a long edge, cross over the open country to hunt the other side, and his bracemate did likewise going in the other direction. Bud is a hard-driving machine that didn't let up for the 60 minutes. He had one find that he handled just as it should be done. He finished strong, to the front, still kicking sand. He was charged with an unproductive and credited with a back of his bracemate.

John Ivester rode to the grounds with one dog, one horse, and a scout and left with a third-place trophy. Ivester released Lester's Storm Chaser on course one, and Chaser went right to work. He took in big chunks of country, seemed to always be in the right place at the right time, and impressed with his strength and selection of places to hunt. Chaser had one find, all in order, and an unproductive.

Other Entries That Impressed

Betty's Karma had two well-carded pieces of birdwork and her kennelmate, Just Bruce, might have had the best ground effort of the trial with one find. Woodville's John Lee Walker had a big race, and one find and probably was considered by the judges for a placement.

Judges: Mack Hilliard and Todd Williams
SOUTHERN PINES RAY JOYE AMATEUR ALL-AGE
[One-Hour Heats] – 18 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-ROCKY RIVER LOADED, F1696572, pointer male, by Broken Halo-Morgan's Mountain Maggie. Grayson Francis, owner and handler.

2d-BUD ADAMS, F1702121, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Muddy Belle Kate. Chad Adams, owner and handler.

3d-LESTER'S STORM CHASER, F1697205, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. John Ivester Jr., owner and handler.

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ALL-AMERICA DERBY & QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Shagtime Bill Named Derby Champion; Lester's Storm Surge, Quail Champion

By Jim Atchison | Pinckneyville, Illinois | March 7, 2025



All-America Derby Championship (front, l-r): Ike Todd and Allen Vincent with Shagtime Bill and Jim Lawless with Beeler's Master Design. (Back, l-r): Jon Lam, Will Dunn (judge), Kenton Bryant (judge), Brian Sheehan, Mike Small, Sean Pat Derrig, and Nathan Phillips.

Ninety-nine is a remarkably impressive number of years and was one that was mentioned more than once as the Hoosier Field Trial Club hosted the 99th renewal of its All-America Championships March 7-10 on the Captain Unit of Pyramid State Park, near Cutler, Illinois. Derbies competed first, as they have historically, in the All-America Derby Championship, which drew 17 entries. The All-Age competition followed immediately, with 32 entries competing in the All-America Quail Championship.

Shagtime Bill, an outstanding English Setter owned by Chris Cagle and Chris Cagle Jr. from Woodlawn, Tennessee, won the Championship under the whistle of Ike Todd from Dancyville, Tennessee. The runner-up was Beeler's Master Design, owned by Gordon (Gordy) Jones from Salem, Utah, and was also handled by Ike Todd.

Lester's Storm Surge, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton from Springfield, Kentucky, and handled by Gary Lester from Gracey, Kentucky, was the Quail champion. Miss Arkansas, whose sire was champion Lester's Storm Surge, was the runner-up and was handled by her owner, Mike Lemons, from Conway, Arkansas.

Purina was the generous sponsor of the Championships, with Pro Plan and outerwear for the winning handlers, plus additional garments won by several other handlers in raffle-type drawings. The hosting club's friendship and relationship with Greg Blair were noted with gratitude.

Will Dunn from Perryville, Kentucky, and Kenton Bryant from Bowling Green, Kentucky, were judges for both stakes. Their four days of dedicated service were appreciated.

Frosty mornings, followed by sunny

days with significant wind, prevailed. Afternoon temperatures reached the low 70s on some of the days of running.

Husband and wife duo Jim Lawless and Kay Morrison from nearby Sparta, Illinois, were the engines that powered the entire operation. Throughout the year, Jim worked on the courses and also worked closely with the Illinois Park Service employees as they improved the grounds. He reserved, picked up, and planted birds early each morning before breaking away. Jon Lam joined Jim in the bird planting effort and in putting up round pens for horses in the fall and taking them down in the spring. Jim helped everyone with their needs or questions throughout the championships. Kay served as secretary/treasurer and cooked great full-course breakfasts each morning, bountiful lunches and desserts at noon, and oversaw each evening meal, even preparing or overseeing the preparation of the entrees, side dishes, and desserts.

Each of the evening meals was provided by owners or handlers of last year's champions. Nathan Phillips and Orrin Ingram of Escape Ranch, owned by Ingram, funded a fish fry on Friday night, that was prepared by Kay and her brother, Tom. Gary Lester provided the Saturday evening meal of barbeque pork, and he, with Korry Rinehart, provided pork steaks on Sunday night, again, with the involvement of Kay and Tom.

Jon Lam, Jim Lawless, and Mike Small marshaled the courses. Doug Burgess brought an all-terrain vehicle from their farm in Indiana and served as the dog wagon driver. Mike Jackson, a club stalwart, could not attend due to health issues and was sorely missed.

The club members appreciated the handlers and owners who entered their dogs in the successful stakes and left committed to making the 100th-anniversary renewals of the stakes commemorative and special.

Derby Champion and Runner-up

Shagtime Bill and his handler, Ike Todd, set a high bar with their performance in the second Derby brace. That early performance was not surpassed, leading to Bill's being declared Derby Champion. As the fine young Setter aggressively hunted the course that had not been hunted earlier, he pointed, and Todd flushed birds three times. With speed, intelligence, style, and fluid motion, Shagtime Bill pointed, and Todd easily flushed at 17, 41, and 47. The enjoyable hour passed quickly.

Beeler's Master Design, also under the whistle of Ike Todd, won runner-up. Their winning performance was in the eighth brace, with birds flushed at 10 and 51. The excellent young Pointer ran strong, fast, and consistently to the front, requiring minimal scouting.

Other Derbies

Erin's Mighty Quinn, owned by Sean Derrig and handled by Sean Pat Derrig, opened the Championship braced with Shagtime Jay, owned by Chris Cagle and Chris Cagle Jr., and handled by Ike Todd. The early hour was action-filled, as Jay found birds at 4 and soon again at 11. Quinn nicely backed Jay at 11. Jay had birds again at 33 and 36. Quinn then had a nice find at 51, with Jay backing. The first hour was action-filled and nice to watch.

Phillips River Line, co-owned by Nathan Phillips and Orrin Ingram, was braced with the champion in the second brace. Nathan Phillips picked up their entry shortly before the half hour.

Sunset Sam Houston, whose owners Matt and Stacy Brown were in the gallery while Ike Todd handled, was paired with Mayfield Storm Messenger, handled by Patrick Siebels for owners Scott Mason and Jake Davis. Sam Houston had an unproductive at 30, made some nice casts, and was picked up at the clubhouse near the end of the hour. Storm Messenger found no birds during his effort and was also picked up when the clubhouse was reached.

Mayfield Storm Front, also owned by Scott Mason and Jake Davis and handled by Patrick Siebels, and Raymonds Patsy,

owned by Bill Raymond and handled by Allen Vincent, were together in the fourth brace. Wind conditions were terrible, actually worse than terrible, if that is possible. After 35 minutes, Vincent picked up his dog. Siebels continued, and Storm Front found birds at 48, but the judges elected to end the running at that time.

RW Sweet Crude, owned by Roger Watson and handled by Gary Lester, and Bonner's Lynn Grove, handled by Ike Todd for Scott Griffin and Derek Banner, went next. Sweet Crude and Lynn Grove shared a divided find at 28, and Lynn Grove had birds again at 45 and finished the hour. Sweet Crude pointed again but relocated himself during the flushing effort and was picked up.

Haney's Double Down, owned by the father/son Cagle duo and handled by Ike Todd, was braced with Miller's Triple Crown, owned by Al Bryson and handled by Gary Lester in the sixth and final brace of the first day of competition. Double Down was lost, and Todd got his tracker, while Triple Crown finished the hour but found no birds during the hour.

A frosty morning was the setting as the seventh brace was loosed on Saturday morning. Beeler's Final Solution, owned and handled by Scott Beeler, and Wynona's Rebel, owned by Bruce Sooter and Dennis Beauford and handled by Allen Vincent, were together. Neither dog found any birds by 32, and both handlers asked for their trackers.

Small's White Drifter, owned and handled by Mike Small, competed in brace eight, running with the runner-up, Beeler's Master Design. Small elected to pick White Drifter up at 43.

Miller's Family Tradition, owned by Jannie Chapman and handled by Korry Rinehart, was the bye-dog in the ninth brace. He was lost at breakaway, and Rinehart soon asked for his tracker.

Pinckneyville, Ill., March 7

Judges: Kenton Bryant and Will Dunn

ALL-AMERICA DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 15 Pointers and 2 Setters

Winner-SHAGTIME BILL, F1716536, setter male, by Shag Time Bobo-Shagtime May. Chris Cagle Sr. & Chris Cagle Jr., owners; Ike Todd, handler.
Runner-Up-BEELER'S MASTER DESIGN, F1717898, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Bandit's Hill Lady. Gordy Jones, owner; Ike Todd, handler.

Quail Champion and Runner-up

Lester's Storm Surge, whelped in September of 2017, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton, and handled

by Gary Lester, continued his long history of wins as he was declared champion. Storm Surge had three finds, with those being at 14, 26, and again, near the end of the hour. He demonstrated impressive caution and skill when asked to relocate after Lester had not been able to flush on his first stop. The champion literally took about three steps and pointed immediately again, enabling Lester to move a bird that refused to fly. Storm Surge demonstrated the strength, intelligence, and style that have been hallmarks of his long career as he earned the judges' determination that he would stand at the front of the line on the champion's table.

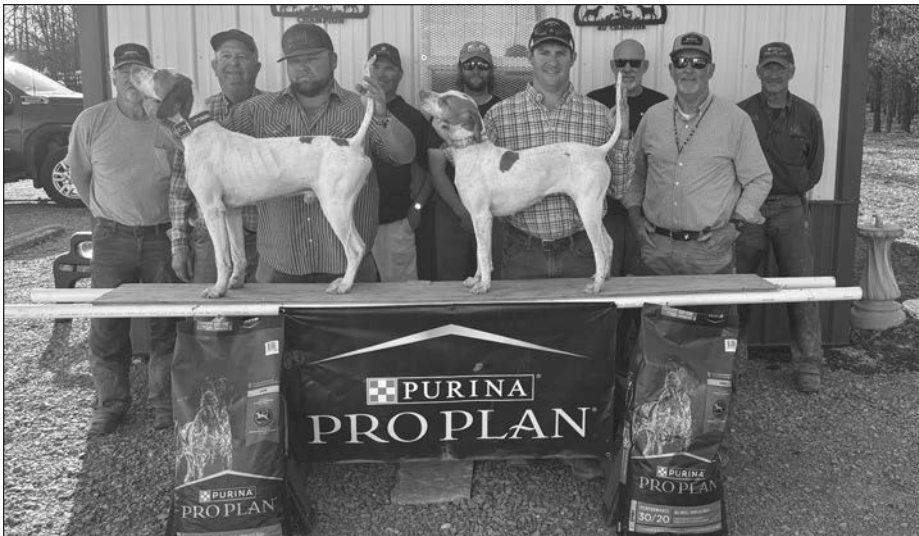
Miss Arkansas won runner-up champion for her owner, Mike Lemons, in the final hour of the all-age contest. She used the third hour course intelligently, stayed on her edges well, and ran a strong race throughout the hour. The 3-year-old Pointer had three finds spaced nicely throughout the hour, with one of those being on a pheasant. She also backed her bracemate once and had one unproductive near the end of the hour.

Other All-Age Entries

Wynona's All Business, owned by Dr. Robert Rankin and handled by Allen Vincent, and World Class Migraine, owned by John Kampeter and handled by Patrick Siebels, were the first brace drawn for the all-age competition. All Business was lost in the first quarter hour, and Vincent got his tracker at 24. Migraine finished the hour with three finds, which were scored at 11, 32, and 44.

Allen Vincent had Sandridge Iron Man, owned by Dr. James Mill, Dr. Natalie McDonald, and Steve Lightle in the second brace, while Gary Lester had Lester's War Bird, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton. At 35, both dogs stopped about 50 yards apart. Both handlers flushed singles in front of their dogs as each earned an independent find. Iron Man then had another find at 41, far to the left in a swampy area, as the course went right. Both dogs then finished the hour.

Erin's Southern Comfort and Lester's Shockwave were paired together in the third brace. Southern Comfort, owned by Sean Derrig and handled by Sean Pat Derrig, found birds six times during the hour. Shockwave, owned by Mr. and



All-America Quail Championship (front, l-r): Korry Rinehart with Lester's Storm Surge, and David Russell and Mike Lemons with Miss Arkansas. (Back, l-r): Jim Lawless, Gary Lester, Will Dunn (judge), Kenton Bryant (judge), Doug Burgess, and Jon Lam.

Mrs. Hamilton and handled by Gary Lester, became lost, and his tracker was called for.

Erin's Rebel Attraction, owned and handled by Brian Sheehan, and Phillips Linebacker, owned by Nathan Phillips and Orrin Ingram, competed in the fourth brace. Sheehan's dog had birds at 10 and 31, while Phillips' dog had a find at 22 before becoming lost.

Brace five had Erin's Mighty Quinn, handled by Sean Pat, paired with Dunn's True Reign, owned by Norris Sims and handled by Allen Vincent. Quinn had birds at 5, and True Reign had an unproductive at 22 in a location where birds had been found previously. Neither of the dogs finished the hour.

Game Surge, owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder, and Bonner's Hot Rize, recently owned by John Kampeter and handled by Patrick Siebels, went next. Hot Rize found birds at 25 and 30, with Game Surge backing both stands. Game Surge then had one independent find and finished the hour while Hot Rize became lost and did not finish.

Valor's Lace and Grace, handled by Korry Rinehart for Ray Carter, and I'm Gallant, handled by Allen Vincent for owner Jay McKenzie, were in the seventh brace. Lace and Grace found no birds during her effort. I'm Gallant had

an excellent race and produced birds three times for Vincent. He ran some great casts on large fields, which offered him the opportunity.

Game Star, owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder, went next but was picked up at 9. He was braced with the champion.

World Class High Def, owned by John Kampeter and handled by Patrick Siebels, was loosed in brace nine with Game Heir, owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder. Game Heir had an unproductive and was picked up. High Def moved forward while backing Game Heir and was also picked up.

Both dogs were lost, and the judges called time and gave the handlers their trackers early during brace 10; the first ran on Monday morning. Coldwater War Cry, owned by Paul Melton and handled by Allen Vincent, had a find at 7. Miller's King Poast, owned by Al Bryson and handled by Gary Lester, found no birds before time was called.

Wynona's Nickleback Sugar, a Setter owned by Bruce Sooter and Brad Tolson and handled by Allen Vincent, was in brace 11, paired with Lester's Front Porch, owned by John Kampeter and handled by Patrick Siebels. The pair shared a divided find at 4 and stood together again at 18, with Sugar in the

superior position while Vincent flushed with Front Porch backing. Front Porch then finished the hour, but Vincent picked up Sugar at 52.

Mayfield Storm Front, owned by Scott Mason and Jake Davis and handled by Patrick Siebels, was in brace 12 with Haney's Hurricane Seeker, owned by David and Rachel Russell and handled by David. Neither dog located any birds, and both were picked up before the end of the hour.

Four braces remained, and all were run after lunch on Monday. Allen Vincent had Blackhawk Lucky Charm, owned by Dr. James Mills, Dr. Natalie McDonald, and Steve Lighter, while Korry Rinehart had Bandit's Hill Avenger owned by Ann Forrester. Lucky Charm had one find at 5 during the hour, and Avenger found no birds.

Brace 14 had Como Thunder, owned by Billy Blackwell, Doug Arthur, and David and Rachel Russell, with David handling, and Wynona's Rebel, owned by Bruce Sooter and Dennis Beauford, with Allen Vincent handling. Rebel produced an excellent performance and had game for Vincent at 5, 30, and 42. Como Thunder had one find near the midpoint of the hour.

Mr. Arkansas, owned and handled by Mike Lemons, was paired in brace 15 with Barshoe Forget Me Not, handled by Allen Vincent and owned by Robert Gum and Lee West. Both dogs stood in an uncertain configuration at 31 near a dense island of young trees. Lemons shot, and Vincent elected to put Forget Me Not in his road harness.

The final brace had Mayfield Storm Messenger braced with the runner-up. Patrick Siebels handled Storm Messenger for owners Scott Mason and Jake Davis. He finished the hour with one find, which was backed by his brace mate.

ALL-AMERICA QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 30 Pointers and 2 Setters
Winner-LESTER'S STORM SURGE, F1681624, pointer male, by Ransom-Beane's Line Dancer. Tommy & Bonnie Hamilton, owners; Gary Lester, handler.
Runner-Up-MISS ARKANSAS, F1705667, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Snow. Mike Lemons, owner and handler.

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]

PITTSBURGH FIELD TRIAL CLUB & ENGLISH SETTER CLUB OF AMERICA

The Smith Celebration

By Margaret C. Drew | Waynesboro, Georgia | March 7, 2025

The Smith Celebration, hosted by the Pittsburgh Field Trial Club and the Setter Club of America at the Smith Setter Plantation in Waynesboro, Georgia, turned into a spectacular event. After months of planning, the inaugural commencement date was March 7, 2025. Drawn on March 5 were 20 amateur derbies, 103 amateur shooting dogs, 28 open derbies, and 72 open shooting dogs. Imagining 223 dogs in one event is mind-boggling!

Elwin and Inez Smith would have been honored and pleased with the turnout and support. Harold Ray remained the grand marshal throughout the 18 days. Although the chairman was Joe Cincotta, enough cannot be said for Doug Ray and the staff at Smith Setter Plantation. Preplanning went to committee members. Graphics and photography were carried out by Chris Mathan, and other committee members who assisted were Doug Ray, Lea Ray, Aimee Atkins, Anna Cruse, Brian Sanchez, Marty Robinson, and Joe Lordi. Sherry Ray Ebert, Jason Williams, Ashby Morgan, David Huffine, and Brian Sanchez served as judges. The group was saddened to learn that Barbara Teare was unable to attend to report the amateur events due to an accident requiring the hospitalization of a family member. Margaret Drew was present to run in the amateur stakes and report the open stakes; consequently, she agreed to fill the dual reporting role. Support came from SBHA, Eukanuba, Setter Club of America, SportDOG, Kinetic, The Saddle Guy, James O'Neal Ram, Gundog Central, and others. During the amateur, groups of individuals stepped up to cover the cost of breakfast, lunch, or dinner. Doug and Lea Ray kicked the event off with burgers on Thursday, March 6. This was followed by meals three times a day as sponsored by Eukanuba, with special recognition to Lynn Carradine. Also, thanks to the Cincotta and McCay families, Southern Bird Hunters Association, Bert Geary and Trent Hubert, several meals by the Sanchez family and Great River Kennels, Sherry and Kyle Ebert, Chris Sellers, Ryan Mobley and the Fisheye Grill, Craig Elliott and Salter Building Supply, Ace Hardware of Waynesboro and the



Women's Plaque (l-r): Lynn Carradine, Marty Robinson, Mary Tracy, Sherry Ebert, and Joe Cincotta.

Waynesboro Chamber of Commerce. Additional groups stepped up to provide meals, some of these were: Johnny and Joyce Taylor, David Steel, Tommy Liesfeld, Joe and Peggy Bush, Jett and John Ferebee, Darrell Gunby, Allen Linder and Madison McDonald, the Doug Hinton family, Tommy Brigman and Kyle Boone, the Indiantown Gap Field Trial Club, the Bonnetti family, Chad Adams Son and Stables, Sweet Pea Cafe and even a closing Saturday evening meal by Steve Hutto, Kaley Lee, Steve Hurdle and Conecuh Station. Even Sunday evening was covered with a handful of participants left to pack and head home. If I have missed anyone, especially the homemade cookie and cakes queens who brought snacks on the wagon for break times, I apologize. Some of these folks were Melissa Thomas and Connie Riley.

Doug and his staff at Smith Setter Plantation were instrumental with much of the daily routine on the grounds. Pretrial preparation allowed for planned parking, where to stake horses, dog spaces and cleaning plans, marking courses, ongoing grounds care and quail feeding, transporting to the start line for dogs (six dogs in the morning and another six for the afternoon). There were vehicles and wagons for those who could not ride to get a first-hand view of the braces. Without the help and endless driving by Eli Taylor, David Steel, Amie Atkins, and Doug Ray, no dogs would have been at the starting lines, and only a few people could have viewed the dogs in competition. In addition to the braces with birds and dogs, there was an exceptional community within the amateur family. As stated, there was

breakfast, lunch, and supper daily, all provided by donations from the various families listed. The amateur breakfast was served, with a crowd of 40 – 50 for lunch and an evening meal at 6:30 with crowds around 70. There were folks coming to Doug and Harold offering help in so many ways I cannot begin to tell you who and how, but please just take my word for it: “An outpouring of generosity, as was always seen in the Ga-Lina years, happened day after day.”

These meals were beyond field trial tradition, but rather gourmet meals. The biggest evening meal was on Friday, March 7, with the Smith tradition of roasted turkey and ham. This was served in honor of Mrs. Inez Smith and “In Recognition of Women in Field Trials.” The hall was decorated with round tables, covered with linen table clothes and centerpieces by Anna Cruse, each depicting some aspect of bird dogs. The event was attended by 152 people. Later that evening, a large plaque was presented in honor of all women in field trials around the globe. Presentation was made by Lynn Carradine from Eukanuba, Marty Robinson, SBHA president, and Joe Cincotta, Smith Celebration chairman. Sherry Ray Ebert and Mary Tracy accepted the plaque. The plaque is now hanging on the wall in the clubhouse. Women present were recognized and presented Eukanuba packages.

When Joe Bush, candidate for the Hall of Fame, was recognized on Friday evening, he sang “Glory Glory” in honor of John Rex Gates, who had recently passed.

One evening, an auction was held to benefit the youth trial foundation. Window decals were also available for this project, for which Chris Mathan is a co-leader.

Each morning following the 6:30 breakfast, horses and dogs reported to the start line for an 8 a.m. whistle. Three one-hour braces were planned for each morning with a repeat of three more in the afternoon on the well-groomed and ample quail-covey courses. Once again, the courses were marked and marshaled so everyone knew where to go. When



Amateur Derby (l-r): Chris and Pete Del Collo with Bittersweet War Dance, Joe Cincotta (chairman), Kevin Joyce and Maureen with Hightailing Cindy, and Tom Brigman and Carl Bishop with Waybetter Star.



Amateur Elwin Smith Shooting Dog Classic (front, l-r): Eli Taylor with Erin's Primetime, Madison Tilly with Hatteras Rip Tide, and Joe Bush holding the Top Setter plate. (Behind): Harold Ray, Margaret Drew, Jett Ferebee with Two Spot Tommy, Jason Williams, Brian Sanchez with Great River Yellowstone, Dr. Bob Canada with Hard Truth, Marty Robinson, Doug Ray, and Sherry Ebert.



Inez Smith Open Shooting Dog Classic (front, l-r): Eli Taylor with Hatteras Rip Tide and Mike Tracy with Jolene. (Behind): Marty Robinson, Casey Tracy with CS Four Season's Gunner, Ashby Morgan, Doug Ray with Miller's Upgraded Patent, Hailey Moreland with Miller's Special Cinderella, Margaret Drew, and David Huffine.

someone needed a scout, folks like Brian Sanchez and others stepped up to help.

The Smith Setter Plantation grounds developed and grew under the Smith name, with Harold Ray spearheading the progression. In the early years, Sherry Ray Ebert worked side by side on the development. The Rays were supported by the Smiths. In 1964, the Rays came to what is now known as the Smith Setter Plantation; however, it was little more than a piece of land at that time. It was a dream of the Smiths that started in the early '50s with no budget, just a dream to improve Setters and have the best in the land. In 1964, Harold Ray came to work for the Smiths on their Shell Bluff Farm in Waynesboro, Georgia. With Harold and Sherry working long hours and supported by Elwin and Inez Smith, a large wildlife-friendly plantation grew. An old Ford tractor and an old tree cutter were the first implements; however, in recent years, more land, equipment, and additional help have created a very special bird dog niche in Waynesboro, Georgia. Many people have traveled to Ames, Sedgfield, Hoffman, and other plantations; however, what we experienced at the Smith Setter Plantation is equal. Should this trial continue, you need to mark your calendars.

Elwin and Inez loved their bird dogs and especially enjoyed hunting quail; therefore, the development was bound to happen. The Rays worked endless hours and years to develop the grounds. They were equally devoted to studying and developing a breeding program for setters. The Smiths wanted the best natural hunting quail lands and the best hunting setters. These setters had to not only look nice, but they also had to have brains and use them in the field.

A booklet was prepared and passed out, noting judges and some events; this is a keepsake item to save with our memories. Drawing sheets were available online and as a handout in the clubhouse. Oh, the clubhouse has a kitchen, which was well used. There are benches and tables and bathrooms close by. The walls in the clubhouse are full of historic pictures depicting the development of Smith Setters Plantation. A daily posting of the braces was completed on "The Field Trialer" so folks could stay informed. Prior to the trial, the Smith Celebration had a website where hats and clothing items were available. These items were shipped directly to customers. Folks who were unaware of this availability requested that the online store be reopened, which it was for 10 days.

The meeting of old friends and making new friends all in the same family circle of bird dogs is what this event was all about. Your reporter and her husband have been involved in this bird-dogging game since 1978. As with many others, we have traveled from the northeastern areas of Canada and Maine all the way to Florida, all states in between, and central USA. The friends we have made along the way cannot be measured. The Amateur Smith Celebration was a celebration of bird dogging at its highest, with friends helping each other and enjoying friends with their dogs.

On Friday, March 7 at 8 a.m., the group eagerly assembled across the street where two courses meander through cleared and slightly wooded areas beneath huge power towers. There are planted pines, fields of love grass or sage grass, as well as areas where scrub oaks abound. The boundary between property lines is fenced. There are ample paths cut through all the

cover, and each road connects back to the center loop. The plantation had large black water tubs everywhere, and quail were seen in coveys of three to 20. The temperature and wind played a large part in whether dogs found birds for their hour or only part of their hour. As we all know, this is true everywhere quail are pre-released or hunted.

Judging the Amateur Derby were Sherry Ray Ebert, Mott, North Dakota, and Jason Williams, Blakely, Georgia. Named winner was an orange and white Pointer female owned and handled by Pete Del Collo from Virginia. His wife Chris was the scout. Pat Casey, a pro trainer from Virginia, and Pete train together frequently. In fact, Pat had to run Bittersweet War Dance in the United States Quail Futurity in January as Pete had some broken ribs at the time. Bittersweet War Dance started out with an impressive opening cast. He was from a litter between Bittersweet War Cry x Bittersweet Recovery. He had polished finds, high and proud, as well as steady to wing and shot at 3 and 13. He is an extremely stylish and classy running young dog, with perfect stands on both his finds and his one nonproductive at 28.

Second went to Hightailing Cindy, a Pointer female bred, owned, and handled by Kevin Joyce from New York. Maureen Joyce was the scout. Cindy was bred by the Joyces with a litter sired by Cheyenne Jack and their female Hightailing Maggie. Cindy started her 30 minutes with eye appeal, but at a closer range than the winner. Her range increased as time progressed, and she grew more confident. She had a find at 15 showing great style on point and was steady to wing and shot. She finished going away with a positive desire to continue hunting. It should be noted

that she is only 14 months old.

Named to third place was Waybetter Star, a Pointer female owned by Carl Bishop, although handled by Tommy Brigman. This white and orange derby is out of Miller's Upgraded Version x County Line Sky. She had a find at 15 and gave chase. A steady find with nice style at 24. She hunted hard the entire 30 minutes and finished with a nice closing cast.

The Smith Top Setter Award for the Amateur Derby went to Beckworth's Lone Star, an English Setter male, with Alan York from Georgia. He is out of Blackburn's Bo x County Line Dutch. "Jim," as he is called, had two contacts with quail, one with derby manners. He was one of three setters in the class.

The Elwin Smith Amateur Shooting Dog Classic was the largest amateur shooting dog event in memory. The drawing was held on March 5, with 103 entries from across the United States—75 were Pointers and 28 were Setters; 53 handlers were recorded. Due to the large entry and travel issues, some scratches occurred; however, the galleries remained full to the end. Some rode horses, but for those unable to mount up, the Smith Setter Plantation had the Hunt Buggy and other modes of travel to accommodate all participants.

Competing in this event, drawn in brace one and then being carried to the very end as the top dog, was Hard Truth, a Pointer male owned by Dr. and Mrs. Bob Canada. Although the Canadas were in Waynesboro, handling fell to Brian Sanchez. This 6-year-old Pointer is from a litter out of Erin's Redrum x Pearl Again. Hard Truth scored an impressive six finds. The first was at 4, nearing the end of the tree and field line along Ben Hatcher Road. He was well tucked into the cover, proudly awaiting his handler. Again, by 8, he was solid, as he was found standing around the corner with the neighbor's house as a backdrop. He continued this strong and intelligent hunting pattern. At 27, he stopped adjacent to the small pines that stretch from west to southeast beyond the power lines away from Ben Hatcher Road. Once again, he was straight fast-forward. Each cast he made he carried to the end or was stopped by quail. At 36, we watched him stop well to the front, muscles intense as he awaited the rush of a flushing covey. This handler and dog had a mutual understanding: dog to find and point, with handler



Open Derby (l-r): George Tracy, Scott Miller and Jamie Miller with Zero Tolerance, Mary Tracy, Mike Tracy, Hailey Moreland with Deena Jet Boyer, Brian Sanchez, Matt Basilone, Eli Taylor with Mohawk Mill Lady Justice, Margaret Drew, Joe Bush, Payton Gunby, Sherry Ebert and Madison Tilly.

flushing and shooting. Nice team. As the course travels adjacent to some neighboring burned woods, we drop slightly down through some hardwood growth, where a magnificent old red oak stands. It was nearing that area at 44, where a long flushing attempt produced nothing. Signs in the area led the judges to think it may have been a wild turkey; however, a nonproductive was scored. Appearing when and where he should, point was called at 48, where quail once again were seen and heard bursting skyward, with Hard Truth exhibiting style and etiquette beyond words. When released to finish his hour, he bounded forward and had an abbreviated absence, although found straight to the front for a last point at 59. "Wow" is all everyone could say. He had lost his bracemate at 8 and then went on to run a clinic on how to hunt and find quail. We all knew the standard for this classic had just been set. Nine days and 101 dogs later, Hard Truth was still on top.

Second went to Great River Yellowstone, owned and handled by Brian Sanchez. Yellowstone ran in the afternoon with temperatures much higher than the morning. A large gallery still was present, eagerly watching as this fifth brace motored away and were seen making their way through and around the love grass fields in forward casts. With Tom Brigman still scouting for Brian, scout called point near the rifle range at 13. All in order for Yellowstone, although soon thereafter, his bracemate was up and Yellowstone quickly took to covering the countryside at a good distance, yet close enough for all to speculate where he might next be standing. At 17, the course turned to the right beyond the rifle range, with the wind behind our backs, a single quail lifted, and Yellowstone was seen to stop

midair and come down on four feet with body frozen. This was a natural classic "stop to flush" where the wind had prevented scent from being smelled, but sound and natural instinct had registered in Yellowstone's brain. STOP. Following this, he reached wide and forward until 38, where he had point called on the hillside by a pheasant tower shoot area, and again at 46 by the metal water tub. This course crosses Ben Hatcher Road, so with a water tub attracting Yellowstone while the gate was opened and traffic stopped, we were soon back to glimpses of a fleeting white speck hunting every possible bird area. The course on the Smith house side of Ben Hatcher Road is more hilly, although still with some woods and fields of love grass. The very end of this course has some big hills and lots of area to hunt, with more natural water than the other two courses. Despite the heat, at 52, in the sporting clay area, Yellowstone stood intensely awaiting his handler to flush still another covey. As time was called, the handler had just raised his hat once again; however, he just rode to his dog, dismounted, and petted him before returning him to the hunt buggy boxes. No birds were seen. Yellowstone is a 6-year-old out of Fastforward's B K Gunner x Wiggins Miss Stella, although showing no signs of slowing down.

Third went to Two Spot Tommy, a Pointer male owned and handled by Jett Ferebee, with his son John scouting. Two Spot made quick notice that he was on the ground to hunt and find birds. At 5, he was standing over the hill and out of sight. All in order when he was found and quail flown. As he took in the countryside in this remote area, we could watch him marching side to side in wide casts, which produced plenty of coveys. At 31 and 42 above the ponds, he stood with precise indication for the handler to flush. His forward travel was halted by covey finds at 46 along the path near the last pond and again at 54 among the love grass in fields where many brush piles left from Hurricane Helene still remain.

In the Elwin Smith Amateur Shooting Dog Classic, there were two honorable mentions, although the judges stated there could easily have been a few more. Erin's Prime Time, a Pointer male handled by Brian Sanchez and scouted by Tom Brigman, received an honorable mention. He ran early in the week, Brace 7, scoring four finds, three backs and one nonproductive at 11. His race was

admirable, although not as consistent as the winners. A second honorable mention and the Top Setter Award went to Hatteras Rip Tide, an English Setter male owned and handled by Jett Ferebee with son John scouting. Rip Tide and brace mate Harbor City Express were a pair to watch, both very fast and classy, both attractive on point. Rip Tide was a little more powerful on the ground and finished all of his casts, causing the handler to ride to gather him up at the close of the hour. A very exciting brace with four divided finds. Rip Tide earned the Top Setter of the Amateur Shooting Dog as he was the only setter to finish his hour out of 28 setters entered.

The winner of this classic received Purina Top Shooting Dog Award points, Amateur Invitational Championship points, and the SBHA National Dog of the Year Award.

Prizes for the Elwin Smith Amateur Shooting Dog Classic included the points mentioned, as well as a .410-shotgun and a painting for the winners. Gift cards and crystal trophies were awarded to all three placements, along with leather items, Eukanuba feed, Garmin train and track collars, and engraved and mounted crystal bowls. Honorable mentions received crystal trophies, gift certificates, leather items, and Eukanuba feed. The Top Setter received leather items, a gift certificate, and a Jerry Murray handmade plate with a setter picture.

On Monday, March 17, the Bill McNamee Open Derby began with 28 entries drawn. Judging was Sherry Ebert and Brian Sanchez. With a few scratches, only 25 dogs were run. First went to Mohawk Mill Lady Justice, a Pointer female owned by Ed and Meghan McCay with Matt Basilone handling. She is out of a litter bred by Gary and Ellen Winall with Imagine and Mohawk Mill Dolly. Mill Justice rolled off the breakaway at five minutes to 2. She and brace mate screamed forward showing good bird sense in the areas they hunted. Her range was wide and well distanced, stopping at 18 near a brush pile for her only find. All in order for wing and shot as she finished her 30 minutes in continued fast hunting mode.

Second went to Deena Jet Boyer, a Pointed female owned by Steve and Darren Boyer with Mike Tracy. This brace was a well-paired brace as well—Deena Jet and Zero Tolerance, a Pointer male owned by Marty Moore and

handled by Scott Miller. These two dogs were bold and snappy, Zero Tolerance slowing a little to more carefully hunt his chosen covers. Deena Jet had a thrilling bounce to her every step, a race judges declared as the best of the stake. No birds were found by these dogs; however, their races covered the course with intelligent casts and eye-catching movement, leading to being placed on their race.

This Derby stake was a Purina Points trial and an SBHA points stake. Besides the entry division check, winners were presented with crystal trophies and Eukanuba feed.

The Inez Smith Open Shooting Dog Classic drew 72 entries with Ashby Morgan from Matthews, Virginia. Judging with Ashby was Dave Huffine from Wilmington, North Carolina. Taking home the top honors was CS Four Season's Gunner, an orange and white Pointer male with some ticking owned by Tony Gibson and Harold Ray. Handling was Doug Ray. Gunner is a 4-year-old with multiple derby and shooting dog placements. He was drawn to run in Brace 20, which meant he started on the other side of the road and needed to cross the road about 30 minutes into his brace. He and his brace mate complimented each other for the first 45 minutes, finding their share of birds. Brace mate Pine Straw Hot Chocolate had seven finds and a nonproductive in her 45 minutes. (She was picked up at 45 after a lengthy relocation attempt). CS Four Season's Gunner had a find at 8 near the property line beyond the row of pines. He had a nonproductive at 30 nearing more Hurricane Helene brush piles. (This course requires everyone to cross Ben Hatcher Road). After a tub dip, while awaiting the gate to be opened, Four Season's Gunner and brace mate were collared across the road and whistled on. He quickly turned on his speed, rounded the curve by the house, and stopped at the top of the knoll. A nice covey was flushed with brace mate backing. He separated himself from others as he looked good going and standing for quail. He remained staunch for flush and shot. He handled with ease, with only brief periods of absence. He had dug up finds at 39, 47, and 57, all precise in location and perfectly handled.

Second place went to Miller's Upgraded Patent, a Pointer female

owned by Dr. Bob Canada and Harold Ray, although today handled by Doug Ray. Her range was great, her search of territory was exactly as needed, all with animated strides. She stood with different degrees of intensity for her six finds. As her Miller's prefix indicates, she is out of a litter with Miller's Upgraded Version x Miller's Special Edition.

Third went to Mike Tracy with Miller's Special Cinderella, an orange and white Pointer female. She has the same breeding as Miller's Upgraded Patent two years prior. Cinderella had a bold, forward race, always stretching to the front, sometimes even cause for worry; however, she'd show up hunting. She had finds at 19 and 37 with a back on the breakaway. Early in the hour, she sniffed around a brush pile and then stood, handler electing to take her on as he did not feel he could flush from the brush pile. She runs with a pleasing gait and is slight in her bone structure, making her a classy moving female.

In this Inez Smith Open Shooting Dog Classic two honorable mentions were presented. One went to Hatteras Rip Tide (mentioned above in the amateur section); however, in this stake, he was handled by Doug Ray. He was also awarded the Top Setter plaque for a second time. The second honorable mention went to Jolene Jolene owned by Joe McHugh and Dave McKay under the whistle of Mike Tracy.

Hatteras Rip Tide ran in Brace 25 with a small gallery joining the morning expedition. He had a medium-to-long range coverage of the morning course. He had finds at 12 and 20 and a limb find at 59 as time was called. He also backed his brace mate at 1 and 50.

Jolene Jolene, a Pointer female, had the course to herself after brace mate scored two early unproductives. Jolene had a find at 6 where she stood with birds lifting as the handler approached the edge of the property line. At 34, her hunting skills were proven with a limb find discovered by the scout. She had additional bird contact at 48 and a nonproductive at 51. She finished well to the front.

CS Four Season's Gunner was awarded a .410 shotgun, a crystal plaque, three months of Eukanuba, a painting, and a check. Miller's Upgraded Patent received a leather pistol case, a crystal plaque, a box of primers, two months of Eukanuba, and a check. Third place

Miller's Special Cinderella received a leather head stall, a crystal plaque, a check, and one month of Eukanuba. Honorable mentions received gift certificates, crystal trophies, a roading harness, and one month of Eukanuba. Of course, the Top Setter Award was a handmade pottery plate with two setters.

Waynesboro, Ga., March 7

Judges: Sherry Ray Ebert and Jason Williams
AMATEUR DERBY – 15 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st-BITTERSWEET WAR DANCE, F1705828, pointer male, by Bittersweet War Cry-Bittersweet Recovery. Pete Del Collo & Ralph Gillota, owners; Pete Del Collo, handler.

2d-HIGHTAILING CINDY, F1714947, pointer female, by Cheyenne Jack-Hightailing Maggie. Kevin Joyce, owner and handler.

3d-WAYBETTER STAR, F1709676, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-County Line Sky. Carl Bishop, owner; Tom Brigman, handler.

ELWIN SMITH AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 75 Pointers and 28 Setters

1st-HARD TRUTH, F1685784, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Pearl Again. Dr. & Mrs. Bob Canada, owners; Brian Sanchez, handler.

2d-GREAT RIVER YELLOWSTONE, F1688796, pointer male, by Fastforward's B K Gunner-Wiggins Miss Stella. Great River Kennel, owner; Brian Sanchez, handler.

3d-TWO SPOT TOMMY, F1690417, pointer male, by Zip Tye-Cedar Ridge Shopper. Jeff Ferebee, owner and handler.

Judges: Sherry Ray Ebert and Brian Sanchez
BILL MCNAMEE OPEN DERBY – 23 Pointers,
2 Setters, and 3 German Shorthairs

1st-MOHAWK MILL LADY JUSTICE, F1706908, pointer female, by Imagine-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Ed & Meghan McCay, owners; Matt Basilone, handler.

2d-DEENA JET BOYER, F1718103, pointer female, by Touch's Fire Away-World Class Dialing Out. Steve & Darren Boyer, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

3d-ZERO TOLERANCE, F1716832, pointer male, by Haney's All In-Haney's Two Dozen Roses. Marty Moore, owner; Scott Miller, handler.

Judges: David Huffine and Ashby Morgan
INEZ SMITH OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 58 Pointers, 11 Setters,
and 3 German Shorthairs

1st-CS FOUR SEASON'S GUNNER, F1701374, pointer male, by Dominator's Ghost Rider-Piney Woods Gal. Tony Gibson & Harold Ray, owners; Doug Ray, handler.

2d-MILLER'S UPGRADED PATENT, F1704924, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Bob Canada & Harold Ray, owners; Doug Ray, handler.

3d-MILLER'S SPECIAL CINDERELLA, F1696287, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Decision. Bill & Muriel Primm, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

**Nominating a Dog or Person
for the Field Trial Hall of Fame?**

Email your nominations to: Dinora
Wellmann • dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

REGION 4 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Phillips Linebacker Named Champion; Storm's End, Runner-up

By Jim Pendergest | Pinckneyville, Illinois | March 14, 2025

The Region 4 Amateur All-Age Championship concluded on March 16, with judges Nathan and Eddie Berendzen awarding Phillips Linebacker championship honors and Storm's End the runner-up title over a field of 22 competitors.

The Region 4 Championships are rotated between Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio and in Kentucky between the Miller Welch Wildlife Management Area and the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area. This year was Indiana's turn in the rotation, and the chosen venue was Pyramid State Park in Pinckneyville, Illinois. Judges Nathan and Eddie Berendzen hail from Higbee, Missouri, and have a wide range of experience in the bird dog world. The father/son team has been involved in the bird dog/field trial world since childhood and has trained and run their own dogs. Both have judged numerous trials and have earned a stellar reputation as knowledgeable and fair arbiters. The Region 4 Officers and members are thankful to both for agreeing to judge this trial.

Many thanks go out to those who helped make this trial happen. The Rend Lake Field Trial Club graciously hosted the event. Jon Lam and Jim Lawless assumed the duties of putting



Region 4 Amateur All-Age Championship: Jim Lawless, Jon Lam with Phillips Linebacker, Eddie Berendzen (judge), Nathan Berendzen (judge), Jim Pendergest with Storm's End, and Matt Pendergest.

out birds morning and noon and assisted with marshaling. Mary Sue Schalk is the secretary of Region 4 and carries the bulk of the workload, seeing that the three championships come off successfully each year, and this one was no different. Matt Pendergest assisted with marshaling and supplying the dog wagon snacks, among other duties.

Purina and Greg Blair sponsored the Championship, like many others, and the champion and runner-up were awarded bags of Purina Sport Pro

Plan as an additional reward for their accomplishments. Purina's support is instrumental in being able to continue to put on first-class trials for the competitors, and we can't thank them enough.

The Winners and Others

Phillips Linebacker is owned by Orrin Ingram and Nathan Phillips and was expertly handled by Mike Small. Linebacker competed in the second brace Saturday afternoon and put on

a spectacular all-age performance. His race was extreme from start to finish, and he moved effortlessly on the ground. Linebacker struck out quickly to the right side of the course and was found by scout on point at the base of the "Mountain" on the edge of the cornfield at 8. It was a long ride to the dog, and the result was worth the ride. An unproductive occurred at 14 near the edge of the lake just after the course turned right. Linebacker's second find came at 32 as the second course crossed the first, headed toward headquarters. This find was equally stylish and well-handled as the first. Small sent the dog to the right, and he circled the next big cornfield quickly and was on to the next crop field adjacent to the clubhouse. Linebacker was found pointed on the treeline leading to the plant, and again, all was in order. Sent forward from here, the dog was seen topping the rise toward the gravel road crossing. Small had the dog rounded up at the road crossing and released him into the final corn field for an 8-minute cast to the front to finish his brace.

Storm's End, owned by Matt and Megan Pendergest, competed in the third brace Saturday morning. "Kate" broke away at the road crossing near the plant and was shown on a long cast to the right front. She crossed over the left and was making a swing around the

left edge where the first course finishes when she wheeled onto to point a half mile to the front left. Kate performed an admirable relocation on running birds in thick briars. Handler and dog both emerged from their adventure with thorns to be plucked. Handler and dog caught the front at the base of the "Mountain," and shortly thereafter, Kate was standing again for her second stylish find. Released from here, she quickly shot to the front and wasn't seen again until found standing near the end of the "Mountain". Again, all was in order. After crossing the road and entering the crop fields leading to headquarters, Kate was consuming every edge and rolling to the front. She was gathered and sent down the lane toward the clubhouse and shown again at a distance. When pick-up was called, a long ride was made through the oaks past the clubhouse before she was rounded up well to the front.

At the conclusion of the trial, the judges commented that they had at least six dogs that rendered performances worthy of a championship title. In order of their appearance, these four dogs generated additional consideration for honors.

Erin's Rebel Attraction, handled by Brian Sheehan, competed in the first brace of the championship and had

well-mannered finds at 14, 18, and 57, coupled with a forward race of all age proportions.

Erin's Southern Comfort, handled by Sean Patrick Derrig, competed in the second brace and recorded one find at 31 and an unproductive at 38. His race was to the extreme during his hour.

Imagine, handled by Jim Pendergest, competed in brace No. 4 and had finds at 18, 20, 32, and 46, with backs of his bracemate at 44 and 57. Imagine showed all-age range on the first course.

Lam's Prime Choice, handled by Jon Lam, competed in brace No. 7 and had finds at 12, 20, 36, and 48, accompanied by a back at 18. As with the others listed, Choice's range fit the all-age standard.

Others had sufficient birdwork, but range or biddability kept them from consideration.

Pinckneyville, Ill., March 14

**Judges: Eddie Berendzen and Nathan Berendzen
REGION 4 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 18 Pointers, 1 Setter,
and 3 Irish Setters**

Winner-PHILLIPS LINEBACKER, F1695679, pointer male, by Phillips Off Line-Phillips Silver Lady. Orrin Ingram & Nathan Phillips, owners; Mike Small, handler.

Runner-Up-STORM'S END, F1687221, pointer female, by Dunn's Tried'n True-K F Prairie Storm. Matt Pendergest & Megan Henry, owners; Matt Pendergest, handler.

MISSOURI OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Haney's Silver Dollar Named Open Champion; Erin's Perfect Storm, Runner-up

By Bonnie Hidalgo | Grovespring, Missouri | March 17, 2025

Haney's Silver Dollar captured the 2025 Missouri Open Champion title with a brilliant performance. This stunning white and orange pointer male, handled by Luke Eisenhart, is owned and bred by Chris Cagle of Woodlawn, Tennessee.

Erin's Perfect Storm took the runner-up honors in the Missouri Championship. He is the current National Bird Dog Champion, proudly owned by Brad Woodie. Handled by Luke Eisenhart, Erin's Perfect Storm handed Luke the sweep of this Championship.

The Missouri Open All-Age stake was highly competitive. Barshoe Forget Me Not, a pointer female owned by Bob Gum, was named the winner. Forget Me Not was capably handled to the

win by Allen Vincent. Haney's Last Call placed second for handler Judd Carlton. Haney's Last Call is owned by Scott Little and Nick Berrong. Late Hit placed third for owner Christopher Campbell of Shreveport, Louisiana. He was handled by Tom Shenker.

In the Don Fox Memorial Open Derby, the winner emerged as Erin's Bold Ruler, owned by Claudia McNamee and William Bruchey, Chattahoochee, Georgia. Luke Eisenhart handled the young pointer male. Mayfield's Storm Messenger, handled by Pat Siebels, placed second in this competitive Derby stake. Messenger is owned by Scott Mason and Jake Davis, Mayfield, Kentucky. Miller's Triple Crown, a littermate to Messenger, was third.

Miller's Triple Crown is owned by Al Bryson of Huntingburg, Indiana, and was handled by Korry Rinehart.

The Missouri Open Championship has been known for many years as one of the top all-age championships in the United States. Its distinction of being an automatic national qualification for the dog named champion has long been a matter of pride for the people involved with hosting this trial. Recent changes in National Championship qualifications have diminished that honor, but this Club still recognizes that this championship is one of the more highly sought-after titles on the circuit. The Missouri State Field Trial Association has guided this championship since 1953 when it began at Busch Wildlife

Area in the St. Louis Metro area. Many different sportsmen have given their efforts to this event over the decades. Through the 2024 renewal and for the 40 years leading up to it, this trial has been under the chairmanship of George Hill. He poured his heart and soul into its success, assisted by many dedicated sportsmen, too numerous to mention. George was instrumental in the trial's move to Grovespring, Missouri, a move made permanent nearly 25 years ago.

George Hill retired from the chairmanship at the end of the 2024 event. He named Bonnie and Dennis Hidalgo as the new co-chairs of the Missouri Open Trials; Sharleen Daugherty agreed to take over the duties of its treasury. George said then that he wasn't sure if he would come to the event in 2025. Those of us who have worked this trial beside him knew differently. George's friends, including club workers and some of the pros that frequent this event, chipped in for a Life Patron Plaque to honor George. Fast forward to this year's trial, George showed up on the eve of the Missouri Open All-Age and stayed for more than a week. On Friday night, the eve of the Missouri Championship, George was surprised with the presentation of his well-deserved plaque and cake and ice cream for all. It was an evening of reminiscing with good friends. Former trial crew members, Kendell Schmidt, Hank Jansen, and Dennis Auping, drove down for the occasion, bringing dessert and many great stories.

The drawings for the Field Trial Sportsmen's Club of Southwest Missouri trial and the Missouri State Field Trial Club's Missouri Open Championship were held on Saturday evening, March 15. The drawing commenced at 7 p.m. in the home of Andy and Sharleen Daugherty. Sharleen took all the entries and conducted the drawing with the help of Matt Cochran, Bonnie Hidalgo, and Andy. Entries were up this year; it was surmised that this was in the top three years of the trial's history for entry numbers.

The Field Trial Sportsmen's grounds showed signs of the difficult winter and the weight of snow on the cover. Some of the cover was knocked down, and it was difficult to find adequate cover for planting birds in certain places. In spite of this, there were several of last fall's pre-released coveys located, some of those more than once. The bird planters



Missouri Open Championship: Luke Eisenhart with Haney's Silver Dollar and Judd Carlton with Erin's Perfect Storm. (Back row): Stan Wint (judge), Dave Capstick, Chris Weatherly (judge), Andy Daugherty, Tim Self, and William Smith.

managed to find enough logical places to put down birds. The quail stayed best in the areas of good cover, showing a definite preference for the briars, much to some handlers' dismay!

We give our heartfelt thanks to Purina for its sponsorship again this year! Greg Blair is very helpful to this event and greatly appreciated! The generous donation of dog food for the winners in each of the three stakes and the shopping credits for the AFTCA store have improved this event. The ease of ordering dog food and gifts is exceptional. Thank you to Purina for coming up with this plan and to AFTCA for your online store and Piper Huffman for her assistance. The jackets for each of the four judges were quality products.

Three of our four advertised judges were able to serve. Mark Livingston and Tim Penn judged the Field Trial Sportsmen's Association's stakes: the Missouri Open All-Age stake and the Don Fox Derby. Stan Wint judged the Missouri Championship as scheduled; Chris Weatherley of Grand Junction,

Tennessee, joined Stan, replacing Harold Woodward who was forced to resign due to a problematic leg injury. Thanks to all of our judges for their time in the saddle.

Trials don't happen without good help, and this one was blessed with some of the best help one could ask for. Early organization and communication between the Hidalgos and Sharleen Daugherty set the stage by securing judges, ordering birds, and creating the trial ad for the UKC® Field. A dedicated crew made the Missouri Open trial a rousing success.

Thanks to Dave Capstick and Tim Self, who planted birds every morning for nine days. A huge thanks to Dave for feeding my horses before going out to plant. Thanks to Tim for driving the dog wagon and to Dave Capstick and George Hill for assisting him. They kept the dog wagon loaded with snacks and drinks, in addition to the dogs.

Thanks to William Smith for planting behind the morning braces each day. Also, a major thank you to William for appointing yourself to saddle and unsaddle my horses twice each day! You allowed me more time to tend to other duties.

Thanks to Bob Rankin for keeping the gallery in radio contact with the dog wagon and for taking Dennis to and from the airport so he could attend the trial between medical appointments.

Thanks to Dr. Jim Mills for loaning his truck when ours was having issues. I used it to finish shopping for breakfast and lunch items. Jim was also on standby to assist in any way he was



George Hill with his Patron Plaque and cakes.

needed.

Thanks to Sharleen Daugherty for the many duties she handled, from the drawing to collecting fees, to all the social hour food and drinks, help with the meals, and for running errands. Thank you, Allen Vincent, for frying the fish and other items for that dinner. It was scrumptious! Thanks to Dennis Hidalgo for cooking the pork chop dinner with Sharleen's help. Thanks to the Cagles for sponsoring that delicious meal and to Luke Eisenhart for arranging it.

Missouri Open All-Age

The Missouri Open All-Age stake and its companion Don Fox Memorial Open Derby are hosted by the Field Trial Sportsmen's Association of SW Missouri, just as they have been for many years. This year's national qualifying Open All-Age stake attracted 46 entries. While not a record for this stake, it is definitely among the largest entries in the trial's history. There were 44 pointers and two setters drawn; all were starters. This stake commenced as advertised on Monday, March 17.

Social activities for this stake included wonderful social hours created by Sharleen on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday. Betty Evans and Bonnie and Dennis Hidalgo sponsored a fish fry dinner in memory of John Evans. Allen Vincent fried it to perfection for everyone's enjoyment; Sharleen made delicious desserts to go with it.

Judges for the Missouri Open All-Age were Mark Livingston from Central City, Iowa, and Tim Penn of Kirksville, Missouri. They witnessed a plethora of worthy performances; this stake was filled with quality. Mark and Tim are knowledgeable bird dog men with plenty of field trial experience. They rode hard to observe all contestants equally; they deliberated thoroughly and carefully to choose the winners. The Sportsmen's Association appreciates their time, effort, and friendly personalities! A special thank you from your scribe goes to Tim Penn for sharing a portion of his notes.

The Winners

Barshoe Forget Me Not, the winner, was handled by Allen Vincent and is owned by Bob Gum. Drawn in the first brace of the stake, she was released into Breakaway bottom on Monday morning, March 17. Forget Me Not was forward



Missouri Open All-Age: Matt Cochran with Barshoe Forget Me Not, Luke Eisenhart with Haney's Last Call, and Kerry Rinehart and Tom Shenker with Late Hit. (Back row): Tim Penn (judge), Allen Vincent, Dave Capstick, Judd Carlton, George Hill, Mike Lemons, Mark Livingston (judge), Bonnie Hidalgo, Dr. Bob Rankin, and Tim Self.

in pattern from the beginning. She scored her first find at 13, in Double Gates field, and she showed excellent manners. In Davis bottom, she pointed on the left at 23, but it was feathers from a recent hawk kill. Barshoe Forget Me Not pointed again at 30, near the south end of Davis, relocation was required and was successful. She stood mannerly for the flush of her bird. She made short work of the Island field and Apple Tree Hill, where she dropped from the radar. She was next seen near Little Vine Road at 53, pointing with grand style; her manners were excellent. She finished well to the front on the Little Vine ridge.

Haney's Last Call earned second place for owners Scott Little and Nick Berrong, under the guidance of Judd Carlton. This fine pointer starred in an action-packed brace that was released at the end of Little Vine loop. Call found game on the cross row in Sycamore bottom at 13; he handled it with intensity, style, and manners. At 22, Call backed his bracemate on Daugherty ridge; nicely done. A second find for Call came at 25, with his bracemate honoring, all in order. Across from the barns at 29, they pointed side by side at a brushy thicket; the other dog was collared when relocation was needed. Judd relocated Last Call successfully, with his work ending in a good find. He scored another nice find at 38 on the fence row near the site of the old blue house. He made bold moves in the bull pasture and went on to finish the hour in the clubhouse loop. Last Call was predominantly forward for the hour.

Late Hit, handled by Tom Shenker, placed third. The white and orange pointer male is owned by Christopher Campbell. Late Hit appeared in the 14th brace and ran course 2 on Wednesday

morning. He turned in a beautifully forward, all-age race and pointed with extreme class. He pointed at 18, just into Sycamore, but it was feathers. At 37, Late Hit shared a divided find with his bracemate near the old blue house site. All was in order. At 42, point was called in the bull pasture for Late Hit; his style was high, and manners were good through flush and shot. He finished well and to the front.

The Running

Shadow Oak New Edition (Eisenhart) and Barshoe Forget Me Not (Vincent) were released into Breakaway bottom on Monday morning. Barshoe Forget Me Not won the stake, and her performance is described above. Edition broke fast and forward but had no bird contact and suffered several long absences.

Haney's Last Call (Carlton) and Westfall's Wheels Up (Daugherty) were released at the end of the Little Vine loop. Last Call placed second, and his performance is described under "The Winners." Wheels honored nicely and at good distance at 13. At 22, Wheels was pointed with bracemate backing on Daugherty ridge; all in order. Wheels honored again at 25. Across from the barns at 29, the dogs were pointed side by side. Daugherty opted not to take part in the relocation. Wheels pointed at 34, in a brushy draw, before the big pond. The quail were flushed with the dog standing tight. Wheels finished the hour to the front.

Sandridge Big Iron (Vincent) with Erin's War Eagle (Eisenhart) started at the Clubhouse gate. Dr. Jim Mills, owner of Big Iron, was in the gallery. Big Iron was absent several times and was eventually picked up. Eagle pointed nicely at 5, but nothing could be produced. He scored a nice find at 7. Eagle's race was a bit ragged, and he was picked up before the hour expired.

Erin's Doc Holliday (Bell) and Bonner's Hot Rod (Siebels) were first up after lunch. Doc was a handful with no game contact. Rod ran a big and mainly forward race. He scored a nice find in Double Gates at 13, on the south edge. He scored a second good find on Apple Tree Hill at 42. They finished the hour well into the Little Vine ridge loop.

Westfall's Power Trip (Daugherty) and Rester's Johnny Ringo (Eisenhart) were released at the end of Little Vine loop and headed toward Sycamore bottom. Trip went out on a limb to find birds at 17

in Double Gates field, all was completed in order. At this same moment, Eisenhart was flushing for Ringo along the road edge and was successful. Ringo scored a second find at 24 and looked sharp on his game. Power Trip had his second find on Daugherty's ridge at 27, nicely done. Ringo notched a third find in the bull Pasture at 37. Trip pointed stylishly, also at 37, but when Daugherty saw feathers, he collared Trip, only to flush a quail as they walked out. Both dogs ran big races, finishing near the pond at the back of Clubhouse loop.

I'm Gallant (Vincent) and Haney's Storm Warning (Eisenhart). Storm was lost soon after the breakaway, and the tracker was out at 20. Gallant made some beautiful moves but was a handful and absent at times. He did not have bird contact.

World Class Instigator (Cochran) and Blackhawk Lucky Charm (Vincent). Instigator was lost early. Charm's owner, Dr. Jim Mills, was mounted. She was released on course 1 on Tuesday morning. She was forward nicely to the rocky creek crossing. Soon afterward, she could be seen on point on the far line in Double Gates field. She held high and tight until the flush when she wheeled to mark, taking too many steps.

Valor's Lace and Grace (Rinehart) with Wynona's Nickleback Sugar (Vincent) turned loose into Davis bottom. These two stylish setters were fleet of foot. Grace showed a big run but was difficult to handle in the wind. Sugar scored a beautiful find at 6, on the centerline in Davis bottom. She was stylish and mannerly. Sugar was missing late in the hour, and her tracker was needed at 47.

Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart) and Whippoorwill Vette (Huffman) were released into Sycamore bottom. Vette backed nicely at 11 and 20. He used the edge in Sycamore bottom well, running a strong, forward race. Vette pointed with style at 27 but moved at the flush. Perfect Storm scored his first find at 11 at the end of Sycamore; he displayed fine style and manners. At 20, near the barn, Storm scored another beautiful find. In the bull pasture, he suffered a barren stand at 32. Erin's Perfect Storm ran a big edge running race, which finished forward in the Clubhouse loop.

Lester's War Bird (Lester) and Haney's Silver Dollar (Eisenhart). War Bird scored a pretty find, above the Double Gates at 14, with all in order. At 23, both dogs were pointing in Davis bottom; both

were high and tight throughout. These pointers covered a lot of acres, used the edges, and were predominantly forward.

Lester's Front Porch (Siebels) and Bandit's Hill Avenger (Rinehart). Avenger was the winner of the 2024 American Derby Invitational Championship held on these grounds last spring. Front Porch scored a forward, limb find at 13. He showed high style and manners. On the ridge near the barns at 21, Avenger carded a first-class find. Porch pointed at 22, but even relocation failed to yield his quarry. Porch ran an attractive forward race at excellent speed and range. Avenger scored his second nice find at 25, near the big pond. Avenger's third find came at 31, in the first draw of the bull pasture. Avenger applied himself well; he ran with an attractive gait and knew where the front was. At 57, near the pond in the Clubhouse loop, he inadvertently flushed a quail. As he came to a stop, the bird flew at his face, and he reached for it. That move ended a performance that may have changed the results.

Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart) and Westfall's Mandalay (Daugherty) were released in the west end of Clubhouse loop. Both dogs were forward heading up the hill to the barn; Honor was seen standing at 6, below the pond to the west, a limb find. Mandalay was pointing on the line to the south of the barns. Both dogs showed excellent style and manners. Mandalay scored a second find at 13, all in order. Mandalay was missing when the course crossed the road; Daugherty took the tracker at 25. Honor scored a second find at 26, near the cemetery. He showed perfect style and manners. He finished his hour forward, without further birdwork.

Erin's Copper Colt (Carlton) and World Class Migraine (Siebels) were first up on Wednesday morning. This pair was fast and forward from the breakaway. At 13, they were standing together in a divided find in Double Gates field. Colt made an advance at the bird and was up. Migraine stood mannerly throughout. Migraine pointed on the first line in Davis, showing good style through the flush of his birds at 23. He made a big move on the right edge, taking it to the centerline in Davis, where he locked up on point. He was mannerly on this one, at 29. He ran the remainder of the hour with forward moves and finished well.

Late Hit (Shenker) and Just Sayin (Carlton). Late Hit's performance is

related in "The Winners" section. At 37, the pair divided a find near the old house site. All was in order. Just Sayin scored a second find at 41 in the bull pasture. He ran a good race.

Wild Covey Sundial (Daugherty) and Coldwater War Cry (Vincent) were released heading up into Clubhouse loop, the morning's final brace. Conditions were deteriorating as the promised strong winds were gaining speed. No birds were found, and neither dog finished the hour.

Erin's High Note (Carlton) and Wynona's All Business (Vincent). The wind was obnoxious this afternoon, with a steady gale and higher speed bursts. The hilltops were nearly unbearable. Business was gone to the front and the tracker out at 21 in Davis. High Note ran a nice race despite the conditions. He pointed before Horse Killer Hill at 42, but no birds were moved.

Miller's Heat Advisory (Judd) and Beeler's White Knight (Beeler) were headed up the hill into Little Vine. Heat went without bird contact. The extreme wind created communication problems, making the dogs hard to manage at times. Knight ran big and was difficult to keep track of. He encountered birds but did not handle them well at 23.

Westfall's True Grit (Daugherty) and World Class High Def (Siebels). Jack was not his usual self and was up early. High Def made some good moves but had no bird contact.

Erin's Three Amigos (Carlton) and Southern Thunder (Shenker) were the first brace on Thursday morning. Amigo ran a good race, used his edges but not as big as his bracemate. Amigo pointed birds at 42, just prior to Horse Killer Hill. His style and intensity were high, and his manners for flush and shot were very nice. Thunder scored a beautiful limb find in the upper corner of the Double Gates field. He displayed lofty style and great manners. He ran a powerful race, consistently showing far forward on the edges.

Westfall's Pioneer Pete (Daugherty) and Comanche (Eisenhart). Comanche was out of pocket before the end of Sycamore bottom, and the tracker was in use. Pete was mainly forward in pattern through Sycamore and across Daugherty's ridge. Just past the twin barns, he grabbed the right edge smartly. He pointed there at 28 but took them out.

Mayfield Storm Front (Siebels) and Wynona's Rebel (Vincent). Storm Front backed Rebel on a covey find at 20 in Climer's. Both dogs showed fine style. At 33 in Clubhouse loop, Storm pointed on the ridge. A nice covey was flushed, but the dog had too much movement. At 37, in the far corner of Clubhouse loop, Rebel was seen pointing. He showed excellent style. Relocation showed only a pile of feathers, and he was taken on. Rebel was absent at time but was spotted on the hill above the road moments later.

Mayfield Storm Messenger (Siebels) and Erin's Bold Ruler (Eisenhart). Bold Ruler was lost early in the hour. Messenger began nicely but became overly attracted to the woods and was picked up.

Wild Covey Strikezone (Daugherty) and Miller's King Poast (Lester). Strikezone disappeared on Apple Tree Hill and was not seen again under judgment. King pointed at 1 on the south edge of Apple Tree Hill. It was not productive. Korry took him to the front and continued as his handler due to Gary's ailing ribs. King made a big move to the northwest corner of the ridge loop in Little Vine. He was found on point there at 18, by scout Allen Vincent. The pointer showed beautiful style and manners. Catching the front at the edge of the hill, he pointed on the left at 20. King showed the same beautiful class and poise. At 24, he pointed on the ditch line; again, flawless style and manners were witnessed. He headed on toward Sycamore bottom, and that was the last he was seen under judgment.

Grovespring, Mo., March 17
Judges: Mark Livingston and Tim Penn
MISSOURI OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]
– 44 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-BARSHOE FORGET ME NOT, F1692349, pointer female, by Whippoorwill Justified-Greypointe Invierna. Robert Gum, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.

2d-HANEY'S LAST CALL, F1702601, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Haney's North Star. Scott & Lisa Little, owners; Judd Carlton, handler.

3d-LATE HIT, F1687601, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Abigail Lil. Christopher Campbell, owner; Tom Shenker, handler.

Don Fox Memorial Open Derby

The Don Fox Derby followed the running of the Open All-Age qualifier and ran in its entirety on Friday, March 21. Twenty-five of the country's top derby dogs were drawn and started in this stake. All but one of the 12 dogs invited to the American Derby



Don Fox Memorial Open Derby. (front): Judd Carlton with Erin's Bold Ruler, Derek Rogers with Mayfield Storm Messenger, and Korry Rinehart with Miller's Triple Crown. (Back row): Dennis and Bonnie Hidalgo, Luke Eisenhart, Pat Siebels, Gary Lester, Mark Livingston (judge), Tim Penn (judge), and Dr. Bob Rankin.

Invitational Championship were entered. As you might expect, there were many quality performances.

A social hour was held in the clubhouse at the conclusion of the stake. Placements were announced, and the judges were gifted with jackets. Sharleen supplied the appetizers, Ken Schmidt provided cake for dessert, and Dennis Auping brought the ice cream.

Judges for this well-respected derby stake were Tim Penn and Mark Livingston. They put in a hard day with 13 braces of young dogs. They took a short lunch and spent a long afternoon in the saddle, what with the seventh brace of the afternoon finishing a good distance from the clubhouse. The Field Trial Sportsmen's Association greatly appreciates their dedication, perseverance, and decisions.

Erin's Bold Ruler won this stake for handler Luke Eisenhart with a big, solid, and forward race. He had one find in which he demonstrated superb style and manners on his game. This attractive young pointer is owned by Claudia McNamee and William Bruchey, Chattahoochee, Georgia.

Erin's Bold Ruler ran in the third brace with Arkansas' Headliner. Ruler was quickly away to the front. At 15, they were facing each other with an obvious hole between them; their handlers elected to take them on. At 26, Bold Ruler backed Headliner expertly. This stand did not yield any birds. At 29, point was called for Bold Ruler; his birds were put to flight, and the shot fired with all in perfect order. Bold Ruler ran a great, forward race.

Mayfield Storm Messenger placed second with one good find in a strong all-age race. He was under the guidance of Pat Siebels for owners Scott Mason

and Jake Davis of Mayfield, Kentucky.

Mayfield Storm Messenger ran in the ninth brace with Beeler's Final Solution; they appeared on the first half of course 2. Messenger was out the front soon after breaking away. At 7, Messenger styled up on point on the left, just prior to the descent from Little Vine loop. Birds were put up with all in order. He showed forward at 9, headed toward Sycamore bottoms, then showed again near the road at Double Gates. On Daugherty's ridge, Messenger showed on the front right, headed toward the twin barns. He finished strong to the front.

Miller's Triple Crown, handled by Korry Rinehart, was third. Crown scored a stylish find and ran an attractive, forward race. He is owned and bred by Al Bryson, Huntingburg, Indiana.

Miller's Triple Crown ran in brace 12, which covered the first half of course 1. Point was called at 12 for Triple Crown; he was standing beside the wooded line of the creek in Double Gates field. His style and manners were of a high caliber. After his find, Triple Crown wasted no time on his way to the front, making short work of Davis bottom. He finished to the front, heading towards Horse Killer Hill.

The judges gave mention to Beeler's Final Solution for his outstanding all-age race. They stated that he just needed a find to be in the placements.

DON FOX MEMORIAL OPEN DERBY – 24 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-ERIN'S BOLD RULER, F1706515, pointer male, by Erin's Grey Justice-Erin's Miss Sam Houston. Claudia McNamee & William Bruchey, owners; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

2d-MAYFIELD STORM MESSENGER, F1718210, pointer male, by Lester's Front Porch-Bryson's Dialing Jo. Scott Mason & Jake Davis, owners; Pat Siebels, handler.

3d-MILLER'S TRIPLE CROWN, F1718206, pointer male, by Lester's Front Porch-Bryson's Dialing Jo. Al Bryson, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.

Missouri Open Championship

The Missouri State Field Trial Association-sponsored Missouri Open Championship commenced at 8 a.m. on Saturday, March 22. An entry of 46 dogs, which included 38 pointers, two Setters, and six German Shorthairs, was reduced by scratches to a starting field of 41, with all five scratches being pointers. Before the scratches, this would have been the second or third largest entry in the history of this championship. The largest entry was 55

dogs; this occurred on the Grovespring grounds approximately 15 years ago. Memories are not clear on the exact year!

Social events during the championship started on Saturday evening with the 2024 Winner's banquet sponsored by the Chris Cagle family and hosted by Luke Eisenhart in honor of Haney's Storm Warning's 2024 win. A pork chop dinner was prepared and served by Dennis Hidalgo and Sharleen Daugherty. On Sunday night, Dennis fixed chicken fettuccine alfredo for all in attendance. On Monday evening, Sharleen served appetizers and Dennis served chicken tacos, which were well received by the crowd.

We felt privileged to have Stan Wint and Chris Weatherly as our judges for the championship. They each come with excellent qualifications. They have both competed in and judged numerous field trials. Stan and Chris were very observant and watched all dogs carefully; they brought great experience to their judicial roles. Stan is a retired judge of the National Championship at Ames Plantation. Chris is an employee at Ames and is a major factor in the running of that prestigious event. The judges were presented with jackets as a thank you for their time and effort. Their decisions were rendered promptly following the stake's conclusion on Tuesday morning; the winners came as no surprise to those who rode and watched.

Winners and Others

The 2025 Champion, Haney's Silver Dollar, which was handled to the win by Luke Eisenhart, is owned by Chris Cagle. He is a half-brother to last year's winner, Haney's Storm Warning, with both being produced by the blue hen dam, Haney's North Star.

Haney's Silver Dollar drew brace 8, the second to run on Sunday morning. He was turned loose into the hilly section of Little Vine. Judd Carlton found him on point in the far corner of the loop at 4. He was majestic, but even relocation failed to produce his birds. Dollar made it through Sycamore bottom in a hurry and was found standing near the end of it at 12. His style was stunning, his manners perfect. Dollar scored again; this was by the twin barns at 23, his style and manners were excellent. In the bull pasture, Dollar and his bracemate hunted hard in the corner behind the

pond. At 36, Dollar located the quarry when he pointed at the cedar in the fence corner for his third and final find. His style and manners were noteworthy. Through Climer's and on to the Clubhouse loop, he stayed far forward. Time expired as he was reaching up the hill toward the twin barns. It was an exhilarating hour.

Erin's Perfect Storm annexed the runner-up title for handler Luke Eisenhart and owner Brad Woodie. Storm appeared in the final brace, the third one on Tuesday morning. He made big moves through Sycamore bottom and was seen on its centerline. Perfect Storm scored a find, with eye-catching style at 14 on the edge of the hill at the alley. Three birds flew in three directions; one landed in the direction the course would take. Handler and scout tried to take him past it, but when he got past it, the wind carried its scent to Storm, and he turned and pointed. He was collared off by scout Judd Carlton; it was a non-event that might have been a disaster for a less seasoned dog. Storm had a find at 23, on the line near the barns; it was attractive through flush and shot. Erin's Perfect Storm ran the right edge, along the woods in the big field where he pointed at 27. This was a large pre-released covey, handled with finesse. At 31, further down the same edge, he pointed again; this was also a flawless piece of birdwork. Erin's Perfect Storm's race was strong and forward with a bold finish.

The Running

Valor's Lace and Grace (Rinehart) and Barshoe Forget Me Not (Vincent) drew brace 1 and started in Breakaway bottom. Grace's owner, Ray Carter, was on hand to watch Grace. Forget Me Not pointed at 4, but nothing was produced. Point was called for her again at 9; she stood on the west side of the creek. After some searching, Vincent was able to flush quail over the staunch and stylish pointer. At 11, Grace scored a very nice find on the south edge of the Double Gates field. Forget Me Not pointed with high style at 24, on the left in Davis bottom. Both dogs ran forward at good range for the majority of the hour. Forget Me Not pointed near the road in Little Vine, but birds were not seen by the judges and gallery. This meant a second unproductive for her, and she was taken up. Grace finished the hour.

Comanche (Eisenhart) and Southern

Thunder (Shenker). Comanche was forward at the start but later went missing. He showed again at the end of Sycamore bottom. He was forward up the ridge but was not cooperative, and his handler opted to pick him up. Thunder scored a beautiful find in the end of Sycamore bottom at 13. His second find was near the barns at 24. He displayed high intensity and lofty style. His race was big; he covered Sycamore bottom quickly, disappeared after his find at 13, but showed to the front on Daugherty's ridge. After the find at 24, he was gone briefly. When he returned, he moved forward through the bull pasture until he was lost from sight. He was not recovered under judgment.

Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton) and Wild Covey Sundial (Daugherty). Sundial pointed nicely on the west end of Clubhouse loop at 6 but took steps at the flush to end his bid. Heat had a back at 6, with manners and class. He pointed at 18, but no birds were produced. Heat pointed again, this at 21, with success. In Sycamore bottom, he went west on the south edge where he pointed at 31. He looked beautiful on point, and his manners were beyond reproach. He was headed through the Double Gates and past the Daugherty house. Just before the cemetery, he locked up tight in a known bird area. Despite a lengthy flush and relocation attempt, the work ended in his second nonproductive.

Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart) and Coldwater War Cry (Vincent) ran on course 1 following lunch. Honor had a find at 12 in the Double Gates field. He showed style and manners for the flush of his quarry. Honor found game again at 17, when he pointed on the first cross line of Davis bottom; he was flawless. At 21, he had a stop to flush. In the final 15 minutes, he was seen from time to time, usually well forward. War Cry was lost early.

Late Hit (Shenker) and Miller's King Poast (Lester). King had not been seen for several minutes when he was found pointing just into the alley off of Sycamore bottom at 12. He stood with incredible style as his handler put up the birds. Both dogs scored separate finds at 20, just before the barns; both were attractive and mannerly pieces of birdwork. They had a divided find at 23, just west of the barns, all in order. King scored a fourth find at 28 near the old house site. Again, he was beautiful and steady. Both dogs made big, bold moves

throughout the hour. Hit appeared to be stronger at the close of the hour, but the two were closely matched.

Mayfield Storm Messenger (Siebels) and Beeler's White Knight (Beeler) were the final pair on Saturday. Knight scored a stylish find in the fence row in front of the barns, all was in order. Messenger was forward at that time. Into the alley, both dogs were absent. Neither was returned under judgment.

World Class High Def (Siebels) and Westfall's Wheels Up (Daugherty). Wheels was scratched and Haney's Storm Warning (Eisenhart) moved up from brace 14 to the first brace on Sunday morning. Storm Warning ran a barely controlled, huge forward race. He scored his only find in Double Gates field at 11. His style was spectacular. He pointed again at time, but it was barren. High Def ran a nice, predominantly forward race. At 44, on Apple Tree Hill, he pointed stylishly but self-released as his handler was flushing and was picked up.

Chicoree's Trixie (DiMambro) and Haney's Silver Dollar (Eisenhart). Silver Dollar's performance is described in "The Winners" section. Trixie backed Dollar from afar with attractive style and perfect manners at 12. At 24, point was called for Trixie on the right edge. She showed good style and high intensity. Her manners were flawless for flush and shot. In the bull pasture, she ran the left side into the far corner and hunted it hard, then went on to the front. Once into the Clubhouse loop, Trixie was seen on point on the right at 45. Again, her manners and intensity were excellent. Chicoree's Trixie finished coming out of Clubhouse loop, having done a commendable job for the hour.

Sandridge Big Iron (Vincent) and Erin's High Note (Eisenhart) were released in Horse Corral bottom, headed toward the barns. Dr. Mills was riding for Big Iron. Note pointed staunchly at 11, with Pete honoring nicely, but it was not productive. Pete pointed stylishly on the line near the lower parking lot; this proved to be unproductive at 26. Both dogs continued forward to the creek crossing; after the crossing, they went north instead of south and were quickly out of pocket. Their handlers went in pursuit and eventually decided to pick them up.

I'm Gallant (Vincent) and Monkeyshine's Breeze (DiMambro). This was the first brace of Sunday

afternoon. Jay McKenzie was mounted to watch Gallant. Gallant did a good job of running the edges. He pointed at 32, with Breeze honoring him politely. Breeze showed a lot of speed and seemed intent on getting Gallant to go with her. Neither dog found game and were up late in the hour.

World Class Instigator (Cochran) and Lester's Front Porch (Siebels) turned loose, heading up the hill in Little Vine loop. Instigator was lost by the end of Sycamore bottom. Porch pointed in Little Vine, but it was unproductive at 6. This dog put on a bird-finding exhibition! He notched his first find in Sycamore at 14; his second came at 33, near the barns, and his third was on the right at 35. These were all very well-mannered pieces of birdwork. Lester's Front Porch had his fourth find at 39, just below the old house site, and it was flawlessly executed. He pointed at 48, near the pond in the bull pasture, the bird flew past his head, and he took a step. Porch finished his hour heading into Clubhouse loop.

Bonner's Hot Rod (Siebels) and Westfall's Mandalay (Daugherty) turned loose heading into Clubhouse loop. Mandalay encountered scent coming down toward the Clubhouse lot; he got too close to a woodcock and was picked up. Rod scored a good find at 19, just beyond the barns. His style and manners were good. Rod was forward through the alley and across the road. After the creek crossing, he got out of pocket, and his tracker was taken.

High Standing Woody (DiMambro) and Wynona's All Business (Vincent) started the day's running on Monday. Business' owner, Dr. Bob Rankin, was in the gallery. Woody was fast away, but little was seen of him after that, and he was eventually lost. Business showed to the front nicely. At 14, he pointed briefly at the ditch before the road crossing but took the birds out to end his chances.

Slaterock's Rommel (DiMambro) and Rester's Johnny Ringo (Eisenhart). Both dogs were forward in pattern and at nice range. At 31, near the end of Sycamore bottom, Rommel pointed stylishly. No birds were produced. As we caught the front, Ringo was on point on the right, just prior to the barns at 37. Relocation was required, but he ran over the bird and was up. Rommel dropped from view in the big field but was spied on point by his scout at 46. The staunch Shorthair was buried in the cover just

off the edge of the big pond. Relocation was required, and it was successful. Into the Bull pasture he went down the hill on the left. His scout called point for him. The dog looked intent, but only a rabbit was flushed at 53. Rommel finished his hour forward, heading into the private ground.

Miss Arkansas (Lemons) and Wynona's Nickleback Sugar (Vincent) turned loose near Climer's gate. They were fast and forward. Sugar was spotted on the hill in the second pasture and then again coming down from the clubhouse loop. Miss came off Climer's Hill and headed down the valley. She returned to the front near the Clubhouse gate. The pair was absent again before the end of the loop. Lemons pulled the tracker on Miss. When he went for her, he spotted Sugar. Vincent was alerted and rode to bring her back on course. Up the hill, she went toward the barns, and just beyond them, she went on point. She was steady at the flush of her birds but took steps after the shot.

Mayfield Storm Front (Siebels) and Bandit's Hill Avenger (Rinehart) were the first brace on Monday afternoon. Ann Forrester was on hand to see Avenger. Avenger scored a classy find on Davis bottoms right edge at 21. Storm honored there but was picked up afterward. Avenger made a huge move down the line, checked the center line, and then resumed down the west edge. Avenger was found on point in the Island field, but it was not productive. Avenger pointed in the back corner of Little Vine loop at 57, but even relocation failed to locate the bird, and he was up.

Evergreen's Jed (DiMambro) and World Class Migraine (Siebels) were released just out of Little Vine loop. Jed pointed at 18 on Daugherty's ridge; no birds were located. At 27, Jed took birds out near the barn. Migraine backed nicely at 18. He pointed below the big pond at 30, with his birds nicely located and showing good style. Migraine pointed again near the old house site at 32, birds were put up with everything as it should be. His race was not challenging previous performances, and Siebels opted to pick up.

Wynona's Rebel (Vincent) and Lester's War Bird (Lester) were released in Climer's pasture. Rebel's race did not match what he had shown earlier this week, and he was up before the hour was out. War Bird scored an extremely mannerly, high-tailed find at 16 along

the west fence of Clubhouse loop. A few minutes later, he was pointing once more, but this was a barren stand. He was forward to the barns and down the alley. He crossed the road, passed the Daugherty house and the cemetery, but his race was not suiting his handler, and he was picked up in front of the corrals.

Blackhawk Lucky Charm (Vincent) ran as a bye due to the scratch of Westfall's True Grit. Lucky was up first thing on Tuesday. She was forward in pattern but found no birds.

Como Thunder (Russell) and Mackey's Jim (DiMambro) were released into Davis bottom. Jim's owner, Abe Mackey, was scouting him. Thunder flew down the right line of Davis bottom and was on point at 2. He stood tall and stayed

tight. Into Island field, he grabbed the left edge, stopping to point at 13. His handler called attention to a rabbit leaving the scene and collared Thunder out of the cover. As he did so, he flushed a quail. Thunder was released and made quick work of the Island field. On the left edge, before Horse Killer Hill, Thunder had the misfortune of running over a quail and was out of contention. At 4, Jim pointed with impressive style and poise for the flush of his game. Jim was mostly forward at good range but shortened and was picked up at 34.

Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart) and Whippoorwill Vette (Huffman) were the final brace of the trial. Erin's Perfect Storm is the new runner-up, and his hour was described earlier. Vette

made good moves through Sycamore bottom. On the top of the ridge at 20, Vette pointed tentatively, and Huffman whistled him up, but the dog would not move. The handler then rode his horse past the dog and called him; at that moment, a covey lifted. Huffman elected to pick up.

Judges: Chris Weatherly and Stan Wint
MISSOURI OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

**[One-Hour Heats] – 33 Pointers, 2 Setters,
and 6 German Shorthairs**

Winner-HANEY'S SILVER DOLLAR, F1698758, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Steve Croy, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

Runner-Up-ERIN'S PERFECT STORM, F1692323, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Erin's Bet On Me. Brad Woodie, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

NORTH CAROLINA OPEN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP

Lester's Storm Chaser Named Champion; Miller's Last Call, Runner-up

By Derek Bonner | Hoffman, North Carolina | March 18, 2025

The North Carolina Open Quail Championship was run on March 18-19, 2025, at the beautiful J. Robert Gordon field trial grounds Hoffman, North Carolina. Judging this year's championship were Dereck Layne of Chapel Hill, Tennessee, and Geoff Beane of Kenansville, Florida. Both men come with a lot of experience. We thank them for their efforts in watching each entry.

The winner of this year's championship was Pointer male Lester's Storm Chaser, handled by Lefty Henry and owned by John Ivester. Storm Chaser had six finds and a good forward race to claim the title. Our runner-up champion was Miller's Last Call, a Pointer male owned by Derek Bonner and Scott Griffin and handled by Derek Bonner. Last Call had five finds and a strong forward race to claim his part in the championship.

Thanks to Randy and Marcia Bradshaw for all they do to make this trial happen; to Scott Griffin for his contribution of the awesome hand-carved quail trophy; To all our handlers for their continued support. Special thanks go to Alex



North Carolina Open Quail Championship (l-r): Lefty Henry, Mike Hester, Ch. Lester's Storm Chaser, John Ivester, John Adsit, Geoff Beane (judge), Dereck Layne (judge), Derek Bonner, R-U Ch. Miller's Last Call, and Gretchen Adsit.

Rickert, owner of last year's champion Touch's Malcolm Story, for providing our handlers' meal, Debbie Bonner for her delicious cake, and our dog wagon driver, Greg Robinson, for always being where he's needed. We look forward to seeing everyone next year!

Hoffman, N. C., March 18

Judges: Geoff Beane and Dereck Layne
NORTH CAROLINA OPEN QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 21 Pointers and 2 Setters

Winner-LESTER'S STORM CHASER, F1697205, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. John Ivester, owner; Lefty Henry, handler.

Runner-Up-MILLER'S LAST CALL, F1702165, pointer male, by Miller's Speed Dial-Lester's Wildfair Lady. Derek Bonner & Scott Griffin, owners; Derek Bonner, handler.

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]

KANSAS OPEN DERBY & PUPPY CLASSICS

Spring Trial Held At Radcliff Ranch

By Don Beauchamp | Dexter, Kansas | March 21, 2025



Open Shooting Dog (front row): Laura Miller with Millstar's Lion Rampant. (Back row, l-r): Don Beauchamp, Greg Gibson, Eddie Berendzen (judge), Nathan Berendzen (judge), Chad Young, and Frank Schoenborn. [Not pictured: The first and second-place winners].



Kansas Open Puppy Classic (front row): Scott Hadley with High Value Target, Tierra Hadley with High Expectations, and Sean Anderson with Fortius Thrill the Nation. (Back row): Kiowa Hadley, Frank Schoenborn (judge), Greg Gibson, Bruce Ludwig, Chuck Maxson (judge), and Don Beauchamp.

The Kansas Red Setter Club's 2025 Open Derby and Open Puppy Classics trial began on March 21 on the beautiful Radcliff Ranch at Dexter, Kansas. I want to thank Paula Radcliff for allowing us the use of her ranch again this year. Wichita Bird Dog Club members Frank Schoenborn, Bob Lais, Greg Gibson, Chuck Maxson, and Sonny Clark helped again this year. Thanks for all your help. Also, I need to thank Nutri-Source for their continued support.

This year's judges were Scott Henning, Scott Hadley, Eddie Berendzen, Nathan Berendzen, Frank Schoenborn, and Chuck Maxson. I thank them for their many hours in the saddle and well-accepted decisions. The noon lunches and Saturday night banquet were prepared again this year by Linda Beauchamp and Frank Schoenborn, who cooked the Saturday night meats.

The first event was the Open All-Age, which began on Friday and was judged by Scott Henning of Bentley, Kansas, and Scott Hadley of Sayre, Oklahoma. Because other clubs in the area were also scheduled for the same weekend, we only drew five dogs for the All-Age. Bocomo Dutchman, a pointer male owned by Jay Lewis of Ashland, Missouri, won this event. "Duke" had two nice finds and a big forward race. Tracy Haines's "Tic" had a find at 30 and

a nice race but couldn't be awarded a placement because only three dogs participated.

The Open Derby Classic ran next and was judged by Scott Henning and Frank Schoenborn. First place was earned by High Line Drive, a pointer male owned by Matt Griffin of Shawnee, Oklahoma, and handled by Scott Hadley of Sayre, Oklahoma. "Kaine" had a find at 15 and a good forward race. HP Top Gun, a pointer male owned and handled by Rodney Shoemaker of Grain Valley, Missouri, won second place. "Maverick" had a good forward race but no birds. Third place was Griffs Hackberry's Zack, a pointer male owned by Brian Kennedy of Shelby, Iowa, and handled by Justin Crook. Zack had two finds, one at 12 and the second on a wild covey at 30.

The Open Shooting Dog drew 19 dogs and began running mid-morning on Saturday. The judges were Eddie Berendzen and Nathan Berendzen of Higbee, Missouri. Chisholm Creeks Sweetie Pie, a German Shorthair female owned and handled by Mark Wasserman of Valley Center, Kansas, nailed down first place. Pie had two finds and a nice forward race. Second place was won by Two Seamer, a pointer male owned by Colby Tackett of Cherokee, Oklahoma, and handled by Justin Crook. Two Seamer had two finds and a good race. Laura Miller of Manhattan, Kansas, took

third place with Millstar's Lion Rampant, a Vizsla male. "Sawney" had a smooth race with one find.

The Open Puppy Classic ran last on a windy Sunday afternoon. No dogs had birdwork and were placed on their race and handling. Judging this event were Chuck Maxson of Clearwater, Kansas, and Frank Schoenborn of Wichita, Kansas. First place was won by High Value Target, a pointer male owned by Ron Steams of Sayre, Oklahoma, and handled by Scott Hadley. "Krew" had the best forward race. Second place went to High Expectations. "Saige," a pointer female, is owned and handled by Scott Hadley of Sayre, Oklahoma. Third place was won by Fortius Thrill The Nation. "T," a Vizsla male, was owned and handled by Sean Anderson of Alvord, Texas.

Our pictures were limited because many owners and handlers had other trials to attend. As we all know, March is a very busy time for field trials.

I want to thank all the participants for their entries, which made our trial fun and successful. The wild bird population was increasing this year, and the weather cooperated. We brought in 15 handlers from six states. Sean Anderson of Alvord, Texas, was the long-distance winner. Hope to see you all again at our next trial.

Dexter, Kan., March 21

Judges: Scott Hadley and Scott Henning

OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats] – 5 Pointers

1st-BOCOMO DUTCHMAN, F1691795, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Cloud-Bocomo Miss Molly. Jay Lewis, owner and handler.

Judges: Scott Henning and Frank Schoenborn

KANSAS OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 11 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-HIGH LINE DRIVE, F1711512, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Hadley's Honky Tonk Song. Scott Hadley, owner and handler.

2d-HP TOP GUN, F1708970, pointer male, by Wiggins Mister Ronnie-Wiggins Trace of Swami. Rodney Shoemaker, owner and handler.

3d-GRIFFS HACKBERRY'S ZACK, F1714352, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Hackberry's Mia Blackhawk. Mike Griffin, owner; Justin Crook, handler.

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Judges: Eddie Berendzen and Nathan Berendzen
OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]
– 10 Pointers, 3 Setters, 1 Irish Setter,
3 German Shorthairs, and 2 Vizslas

1st-CHISHOLM CREEKS SWEETIE PIE, F1701857, German Shorthair female, by Chisholm Creek Riptide-Allie's Miss Sassy Pants. Mark Wasserman, owner and handler.

2d-TWO SEAMER, F1688946, pointer male, by Rock Acre Shortstop-Frozen Desert Blizzard. Colby Tackett, owner; Justin Crook, handler.

3d-MILLSTAR'S LION RAMPANT, F1675351, Vizsla male, by Lundy's Red Bull-C K Millstar's Wee Dram. Laura Miller, owner and handler.

Judges: Chuck Maxson and Frank Schoenborn
**KANSAS OPEN PUPPY CLASSIC – 4 Pointers,
1 Irish Setter, and 1 Vizsla**

1st-HIGH VALUE TARGET, F1719377, pointer male, by Elhew Sinbad-Aim High Elhew Hadley. Ron Stearns, owner; Scott Hadley, handler.

2d-HIGH EXPECTATIONS, F1712180, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Hadley's Honky Tonk Song. Scott Hadley, owner and handler.

3d-FORTIUS THRILL THE NATION, F1719080, Vizsla male, by C K Post Route Scout-Fortius Make Someday Today. Sean & Jacklyn Anderson, owners; Sean Anderson, handler.

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NBHA MIDWEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Sulphur Bend Firestorm Named Champion; Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior, Runner-up

By Kevin Western | La Russell, Missouri | March 21, 2025

The NBHA Midwest Regional Championship was held at Robert E. Talbot Conservation Area near La Russell, Missouri, on March 21-23. The Missouri Bird Hunters Association hosted this year's championship. The trial drew 27 of the toughest competitors for the championship, nine for the companion Derby, and 14 vibrant youngsters for the companion Puppy class. This made for a fun-filled but full three days of running for the prestigious event.

The grounds were tough, and they tested a dog's ability to run a good race but still be in contact with its handler. This year, we had the element of super high wind gusts and dry conditions, along with temperatures that reached nearly 60 degrees. The dogs that made it around did so with a lot of grit and determination.

We want to thank our judges for their time evaluating the performances put forth by all entries. Ken Chenoweth, Fairplay, Missouri, judged the championship, the derbies, and the puppies. Jim Ogle, Jasper, Missouri, helped judge the championship. Jack Glover, Shelbyville, Missouri, and James Ogle, Jasper, Missouri, helped with the derbies and puppies. These men did an excellent job of evaluating the entries and kept the trial moving at a good pace. Even though conditions were not ideal, they went about their jobs with a high level of dedication and a smile on their faces.



NBHA Midwest Regional Championship (front): Sulphur Ben Firestorm with William Langley. (Back row): Jim Ogle (judge), Ken Chenoweth (judge), Kevin Western, Joe Zimmer, Kenny Snow, Randy Zimmer, and Jack Glover.

This year's champion, Sulphur Bend Firestorm, emerged from the seventh brace right after lunch. "Freckles" is owned and was expertly handled by Dawayne Langley. He ran in the toughest of conditions and handled the course with ease, hunting in all the right places and garnering two expertly handled finds to go along with his near-perfect race. His race and the conditions he had to run in set him apart from the rest of the field.

Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior ran on the second day and was handled by Garry Malzone. Warrior is owned by Jillian Stuhr. This team is no stranger to the winners' circle. They always bring their

"A" game, and this year was no different. Warrior applied himself very well and was rewarded with a back and three finds to garner the runner-up spot. Both the champion and the runner-up exemplified the kind of dog it takes to win at the highest level in the National Bird Hunters Association. Both dogs were very fun to watch.

The NBHA would like to thank our sponsors: Purina, for the dog food provided for the winners and samples for all the participants; Garmin, for a TT25 collar to the winner; and OnX Hunt and Gun Dog Supply, for gift certificates. Other NBHA sponsors, Gun Dog Central and Mule Brand Clothing, are

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ongoing supporters of the organization throughout the year.

I cannot say enough about the group of guys that comprise the Missouri Bird Hunters Association. Jim Ogle, Randy Zimmer, Joe Zimmer, Jack Glover, and Kevin Western. This group is willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done. Without groups like this we would never be able to host a class event like we had.

La Russell, Mo., March 21 – One Course
Judges: Ken Chenoweth and Christian Ogle
NBHA MIDWEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 14 Pointers, 11 Setters, 1 Irish Setter, and 1 German Shorthair
Winner-SULPHUR BEND FIRESTORM, F1690502, German Shorthair male, by Texas Tuff-Sulphur Bend Inferno. William D. Langley, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-MOHAWK MILL TRAIL WARRIOR, F1676193, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Hirollins Fancy Lady. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.

Judges: Ken Chenoweth and Jack Glover
NBHA OPEN DERBY – 7 Pointers and 2 Setters
1st-GRIFFS HACKBERRY'S ZACK, F1714352, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Hackberry's Mia Blackhawk. Brian Kennedy, owner; Justin Crook, handler.
2d-HANEYS LIVE WIRE, F1718923, pointer male, by Sam Houston's Image-Miss Turner Loose. Ben Weddington, owner; Travis Patterson, handler.
3d-SULPHUR BENDS SHAMROCK, F1705480, setter male, by Jojo's Quick Justice-Shamrock's Tish. William D. Langley, owner and handler.

Judges: Ken Chenoweth and James Ogle
NBHA OPEN PUPPY – 12 Pointers and 2 Setters
1st-WINDYPOINT'S BLACK STORM, F1712564, setter female, by Windypoint's Handsome Mann-Eleven Oaks Bitte. Robert D. Jones, owner; Justin Crook, handler.
2d-HACKBERRY'S BOONE, F1708403, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Deep Creek Katydid. Brian Kennedy, owner; Justin Crook, handler.
3d-HACKBERRY'S ELHEW MAGGIE, F1714825, pointer female, by Hackberry's Elhew Ruger-Numark Sioux Zee. Robert Konz, owner; Brian Kennedy, handler.

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LAKE STATES FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Moss Meadow Seeker Wins John Hadaway Cover Dog Classic

By Denise Peters | Meredith, Michigan | March 29, 2025



John Hadaway Cover Dog Classic: Moss Meadow Seeker with Ken Moss (owner/handler) and Shane Haskin (judge). [Not pictured: Marc Dozeman (judge), Meredith Grade Corky with Tammy Chaffee (handler), and Springpond Rockin Gibby with Lonnie Rademacher (owner/handler).]

On March 28 and 29, the Lake States Field Trial Club hosted its 2025 spring trial. This event, sponsored by Purina, kicked off Saturday morning with rain looming in the forecast for the weekend. Both days were soggy, and the temperature hovered around 33 degrees, making it much cooler than we had hoped. This year, we drew 64 dogs, with all stakes running like a well-oiled tool, thanks to all the directors, members, and

participants pitching in to get all the necessary work done.

Commencing on Saturday morning as early as we could start, the John Hadaway Cover Dog Classic was run and judged by Shane Haskin and Marc Dozeman. Both judges endured the wet weather, not missing a beat. Both judges said it was a joy to judge such a great field of dogs, and never once did it get boring. We concluded Sunday morning, and with some scratches,

we went from having three braces to go down to just one brace left. First place was awarded to Moss Meadow Seeker, owned and handled by Ken Moss. Seeker had a run with purpose, always forward and biddable on course 8. He hit the cover with authority, slamming onto a statuesque point of a woodcock with his head and tail held high. Meredith Grade Corky, owned by Dennis Keysor and handled by Tammy Chaffee, came in second with a nice forward race. Corky has a bounce and quickness, not normally seen in larger setters. Corky pinned his woodcock in some pretty thick cover on course 15. Corky also backed a woodcock pointed by his bracemate. Coming in third was Springpond Rockin Gibby, owned and handled by Lonnie Rademacher. At the beginning of course 16, Gibby took full advantage to showcase his powerful gait. When the cover changed, Gibby dove into it to point a woodcock. Standing tall while the shot was fired, he then proudly healed out of the tangle of aspen. Gibby also had a nice stop to flush on a grouse during his run.

Saturday morning, we also hosted the Bryan Wood Open Puppy Classic at the puppy course on the north edge of the grounds. Leeann Parnell and Frank Illijanac had the opportunity to watch

13 of this year's finest new contenders. With Bryan Wood in attendance, he was able to announce this year's winners at our lunch break. White Indian Outlaw, owned and handled by Thomas Butler, took home the blue ribbon. "Wyatt" filled the course and was fast and powerful on the ground while hanging out just inside of bell range. Second place was awarded to Heartbreaker Bud Light, owned by Tom Butts and handled by Tammy Chaffee. Bud ran a smooth, classy, forward race. He was receptive to the handler and hunted the whole brace without an absence. White Moby's Essex took third place, owned and handled by a newcomer, Dan Gehring. Moby was fast and smooth, working well with his handler. He made some really impressive moves to the front, placing him in the stake. A big thank you to our VP Bob Leet, who came to stake manage this event.

On Sunday morning, we faced more rain. Northern Michigan had been hit with a most severe ice storm. At the conclusion of the Open Shooting Dog stake, we began the Dell Todd Open Derby Classic. Judges for another wet encounter were Chris Wasserman and Dave Heavlin. Dave had a pretty rough trip getting to the grounds, but being the dedicated man that he is, coming from the north, he made it safely. Running course 10, Dunrovens Rolling Stone, owned by Mark and Tom Fernandez and handled by Richard Hollister, stood out front and took first place. Stone ran a mature forward race with a nice point on a grouse. Scott Chaffee handled Meadowwink Rae of Sunshine, owned by William Yant III, to a second-place finish. Sunshine also ran a mature race but not quite as well as the first-place finisher. Sunshine scored on a woodcock on course 12. Third place went to Hypointe Sharpshooter, owned by Nicholas Mellon and handled by Scott Chaffee. Running on course 15, at the end of the day, he had a strong fast run with not quite the reach that the first and second place dogs had, performing well enough



Bryan Wood Open Puppy Classic (back row): Rachel Butler, Bryan Wood, Frank Illijanic (judge), Leann Parnell (judge), Roger Johnson, and Brent Peters. **(Front row):** White Indian Outlaw with Thomas Butler (owner/handler), Heartbreaker Bud Light with Tammy Chaffee (handler), and White Moby's Essex with Dan Gehring (owner/handler).

to get him on the podium.

A big thank you to all who helped us keep the wheels turning at this trial. The weather was wet, but the conditions weren't the worst we have had here in northern Michigan in the spring. Thanks to Purina for being our sponsor; to Richard Hollister who again wrangled the best horses in the grouse woods; to the Singletons, who make sure we have snacks and food for lunches; to our VP Bryan Wood who helped wrangle the rodeo on Saturday; and to Dennis Keysor, who was kind enough to pick up our pizzas for lunch on Saturday! We here at Gladwin are truly blessed to have such a great field trial community! Congratulations to all who handled the monsoons of Michigan.

Another note: Congratulations to the Butlers, who, at our trial last spring trial, tied the knot. Happy Anniversary!

Meredith, Mich., March 29

**Judges: Marc Dozeman and Shane Haskin
JOHN HADAWAY COVER DOG CLASSIC
– 11 Pointers, 20 Setters, and 1 Brittany**

1st-MOSS MEADOW SEEKER, F1676726, setter male, by Moss Meadow Rambler-Moss Meadow Maggie. Ken Moss, owner and handler.
2d-MERIDITH GRADE CORKY, F1681353, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Call Me Maggie. Dennis Keysor, owner; Tammy Chaffee, handler.
3d-SPRINGPOND ROCKIN GIBBY, F1685618, setter male, by Springpond Rockin Autumn-Tailsup Olive. Lonnie J. Rademacher, owner and handler.



Dell Todd Open Derby Classic: Dunrovens Rolling Stone with Rich Hollister (handler), Chris Wasserman (judge), Meadowwink Rae of Sunshine with handler Scott Chaffee (handler), Dave Heavlin (judge), and Hypointe Sharpshooter with Russ Fazio (handled by Scott Chaffee), and Brent Peters.

**Judges: Frank Illijanic and Leann Parnell
BRYAN WOOD OPEN PUPPY CLASSIC – 10 Pointers and 3 Setters**

1st-WHITE INDIAN OUTLAW, F1709779, pointer male, by Light of Day-Perkins Beautiful Disaster. Thomas Butler, owner and handler.
2d-HEARTBREAKER BUD LIGHT, F1710620, pointer male, by Toth's Tornado Reloaded-Grouse Trails Warrior Cat. Tom Butts, owner; Tammy Chaffee, handler.
3d-WHITE MOBY'S ESSEX, F1709780, pointer male, by Light of Day-Perkins Beautiful Disaster. Dan Gehring, owner and handler.

**Judges: Dave Heavlin and Chris Wasserman
DELL TODD OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 7 Pointers, 11 Setters, and 1 Brittany**

1st-DUNROVENS ROLLING STONE, F1705028, pointer male, by Crosswind Jim-Highbank's Down'n'Dirty. Mark & Tom Fernandez, owners; Richard Hollister, handler.
2d-MEADOWWINK RAE OF SUNSHINE, F1705287, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. William P. Yant III, owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.
3d-HYPOINTE SHARPSHOOTER, F1706315, setter male, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. Nicholas Mellon Jr., owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.

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MAY 2-4, 2025 • STARTS 7:30 A.M. EACH MORNING

Horseback & Walking Trial

Grounds: Follow signs from 58 Quinn Lane, Colliers, WV 26035.

Drawing: Tuesday, April 29, 8:00 p.m., at the home of Justin Mason.

STAKES & RUNNING ORDER:

(Fri.) *OPEN HORSEBACK DERBY	\$40.00
*OPEN HORSEBACK SHOOTING DOG	\$50.00
SHOOTING DOG QUALIFIER—Ribbons/Certificates	\$40.00
(Sat.) OPEN WALKING PUPPY—Ribbons/Certificates	\$25.00
*OPEN WALKING DERBY	\$40.00
*OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG	\$50.00
(Sun.) AMATEUR DERBY—Ribbons/Certificates	\$40.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—Ribbons/Certificates	\$40.00
OPEN GUN DOG—Ribbons/Certificates	\$50.00

*Purse: 50%, 50-30-20 (exclusive of grounds fees)

Judges: To be announced



Entries to: JUSTIN MASON • Phone: (724) 889-6878

Landowners and club officials not responsible for accidents, losses or damages of any kind.



NORTHERN NEW JERSEY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA & NBHA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

MAY 3-4, 2025 • STARTS 8:00 A.M.

Grounds: Indian Creek Shooting Preserve, 43 Lasinski Rd., Franklin, NJ 07416.

Directions: Off of Rt. 94, turn onto Lasinski Rd. and go over the railroad tracks to the end. Trial to be run on quail, chukar and pheasant. Drawing: Tuesday, April 29, 7:00 p.m., at the home of Trial Chairman John Dobson, 227 Forge Rd., Eagleswood, NJ 08092.

(Sat.) OPEN PUPPY	\$40.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min. or course)	\$55.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min. or course)	\$55.00
AMATEUR GUN DOG (30 Min. or course)—JC@F	\$55.00
(Sun.) OPEN PUPPY	\$40.00
OPEN DERBY (30 Min. or course)	\$55.00
OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min. or course)	\$55.00

Judges: To be announced



Entries to: JILLIAN STUHR, Secretary

Call or Text: (570) 369-8624 • Email: jillian.stuhr@gmail.com

Entries are accepted with the understanding that the club, its officers, members and landowners are not responsible and cannot be held liable for any accidents involving anyone attending the trial, their horses, dogs or equipment.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT BIRD DOG CLUB

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MAY 9-11, 2025 • STARTS 7:00 A.M. SHARP

Grounds: Dr. John Flaherty Field Trial Area, East Windsor, CT. Handlers responsible for own horse arrangements. Drawing: Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m., at the home of the chairman. Club reserves the right to change judges and starting times.

OPEN RESTRICTED SHOOTING DOG	\$60.00
SCOTTY CREEL OPEN DERBY	\$60.00
GUARD RAIL OPEN SHOOTING DOG	\$75.00
AMATEUR DERBY	\$50.00
MILO WILKINSON AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG	\$50.00

Purse: Open Stakes—50%, less \$10.00 per dog, 50-30-20;

Amateur Stakes—Ribbons and Certificates.

Judges: To be announced • Reporter: Tom Gates

For entries & information, contact:

GENE CASALE JR., Chairman

Phone: (860) 202-1143 • Email: gacasale@gmail.com

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MID-COAST MAINE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

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MAY 3-4, 2025

STARTS 7:30 A.M.

Grounds: Frankfort Town Forest and Costigan Farm, Ward Rd., Prospect, ME. Call for directions to grounds. Accommodations: Best Western Whitehouse Inn, Hampden, ME—(207) 862-3737. Drawing: Tuesday, April 29, 8:00 p.m., at the home of Russ Ogilvie.

(Sat.) *OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—50%, 70-30

— A Grand National Grouse & Woodcock Invitational Points Trial —

*To be run on multiple courses through native ruffed grouse and woodcock cover.

(Sun.) **OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.)—Ribbons

**GUN DOG CHALLENGE (20 Min.)—Ribbons

**OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—Ribbons

**To be run on liberated birds

Judges: To be announced

Entries to:

RUSS OGILVIE, President

Phone: (207) 248-2020

Email: epointer74@gmail.com

JON CULLEN, Treasurer

Phone: (207) 991-7039

Email: Jonathancullen7@gmail.com

— Email entries must be confirmed —



SUMMERHILL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

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May 3-4, 2025 • Starts 8:00 a.m.

Grounds: George Tracy Training Grounds, 7923 Main St., Glenville, PA 17329 (next to Snyder's Grain Mill). Drawing: Friday, May 2, 7:00 p.m., on the grounds.

AMATEUR RESTRICTED DERBY (30 Min.)	\$60.00
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)	\$60.00
AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.)	\$60.00
*YOUTH STAKE	FREE

*Saturday, 2:00 P.M., or later depending on entries; Not recognized

Judges: ARD & AD—Larry King, Dave McKay, Stacey Goodie, and one to be announced; ASD—Ben Dillard and Hailey Moreland.

Entries to: KAREN SANIGA, Nottingham, PA

Cell: (610) 350-7373 • Email: ksaniga@hotmail.com



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WOLVERINE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

— On behalf of the Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs —

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MAY 9-11, 2025 • STARTS 7:30 A.M.

Horseback/Walking Trial • AMFTC & USCSA Points Trial

Grounds: Highland Recreation Area, Highland, MI. Entries Close: Tuesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m. Drawing: Wednesday, May 7, 4:00 p.m., at the home of Trial Chairman Jim Cipponeri, (248) 789-0758; litigationsspecialist@comcast.net. Call secretary or chairman after the drawing for running order. If a large entry occurs, the club reserves the right to cancel stakes.

USCSA OPEN WALKING PUPPY (20 Min.)	\$40.00
DAVE FLETCHER OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC (30 Min.)	\$60.00
USCSA OPEN WALKING DERBY (30 Min.)	\$50.00
OPEN HORSEBACK SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)	\$55.00
OPEN HORSEBACK DERBY (30 Min.)	\$50.00
OPEN HORSEBACK PUPPY (20 Min.)	\$40.00
AMATEUR HORSEBACK SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)	\$45.00

Open Stakes: 50% of entry fees divided 50-30-20. Rosettes to all placements.

Grounds and associated fees of \$9 per dog are deducted from the purse.

Judges: To be announced

Trial Committee Members: Paul Tutro, Brian Wood, and Ron Sposita

DAVE FLETCHER, Secretary/Reporter

(517) 214-6404





MAINE BIRD DOG CLUB

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MAY 10-11, 2025 • STARTS 7:00 A.M.

Grounds: Brownfield Game Management Area, on Rt. 5, two miles south of Fryeburg, ME. Follow field trial signs. To be run on liberated quail. Handlers walk in all stakes. Drawing: Wednesday, May 7, 6:00 p.m., at the home of the secretary, 50 Rennie Rd., Hanover, NH. Draw live on MBDC Facebook page. Entries close at time of drawing. U.S. funds only.

(Sat., 7:00 a.m.) *CLIFTON HALE-GARFIELD WALL OPEN DERBY CLASSIC\$45.00
 *PETER MOONEY OPEN SHOOTING DOG.....\$45.00
 (Sat., 8:00 a.m.) *MICHAEL S. ROBINSON OPEN PUPPY\$35.00
 *40%, 50-30-20

AMATEUR GUN DOG—USCSA Gun Dog Standards\$30.00
 Judges: OD—Jimmy Levesque and Roy Hargreaves; OSD—Jon Cullen and Jamie Leitch; OP—Eric Rizza and Kelly Hays; AGD—Deb Kennedy and Dave Theroux.

(Sun., 7:00 a.m.) BERNIE MURRAY AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG\$40.00
 (Sun., 8:00 a.m.) AMATEUR PUPPY\$30.00
 **BOB SANDERSON MAINE HUNTING DOG CLASSIC.....\$30.00
 AMATEUR DERBY\$35.00

****Unrecognized. Dog must point and judgment ceases at flush.**

****Co-handling encouraged for children and first-time trialers. Keeper Trophy.**

Judges: ASD—Sam Jackson and Cal Robinson; AP—Eric Rizza and Kelly Hays;
 HD Classic—Kellie Short and Lloyd Murray; AD—Deb Sloan and Jamie Leitch.

Club reserves the right to substitute judges, if necessary.



Entries to: DEB KENNEDY, Secretary, 50 Rennie Rd., Hanover, NH 03755
 Phone: (603) 795-4633 [Landline, no texts] • Cell: (603) 252-9228
 Email: debkennedy2000@gmail.com
 KELLIE SHORT, Stake Manager • Buxton, ME



MINNESOTA GROUSE DOG ASSOCIATION

Member AFTCA & MFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

MAY 17-18, 2025 • QUAIL TRIAL



Grounds: Four Brooks WMA, approximately 10 miles north of Milaca on Hwy. 169. Look for the radio tower on the west side of 169. Lunch provided both days. Handlers walk in all stakes. Placements do NOT earn points or receive payout. **Entries Close:** Tuesday, May 13, 11:59 p.m. Drawing: Wednesday, May 14, 8:30 a.m. by HuntSecretary; certified at 9:00 a.m. by Chris Bye, 538 Birch St., River Falls, WI.
 (Sat., 8:00 a.m.) OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Rosettes\$65.00
 OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—Rosettes\$65.00
 (Sun., 8:00 a.m.) OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Rosettes\$65.00
 OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—Rosettes\$65.00
 YOUTH STAKE—Rosettes to all participants FREE

— MGDA trials run to AFTCA guidelines —

Judges: To be announced

Entries to: HELENA LARKIN • Phone: (936) 852-2080

Email: AKCdiv@huntsecretary.com -or- Register at www.huntsecretary.com

Questions? Contact: AJ Kalupa—(763) 807-0114 or Chris Bye—(612) 940-1607



SPRUCE BROOK BIRD DOG CLUB

Member AFTCA, ANEFTC & SBHA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns only!

In association with Associated Field Trial Clubs of Connecticut

May 23-26, 2025

Flaherty Field Trial Area, East Windsor, CT



A PURINA TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG AWARD & AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL

Drawing: Tuesday, May 20, 7:00 p.m., at the home of the chairman. Lunches available. Dinner (Friday, Saturday and Sunday evenings) provided by club.

*OPEN ALL-AGE\$ 50.00
 *OPEN RESTRICTED SHOOTING DOG.....\$ 50.00
 *OPEN DERBY\$ 50.00
 *OPEN SHOOTING DOG.....\$ 65.00

*Purse: 50%, 50-30-20 less \$10.00 grounds fee per dog

AMATEUR DERBY\$ 45.00
 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (1 Hour).....\$120.00

Judges: OA-A, ORSD & OD—Brian Sanchez, John Stolgitis, Dave O'Brien, Gary Tavares, Alene LeVasseur, and Tom Tracy; OSD—Tim Cavanaugh and Bill Bonnetti; ASD & AD—Matt Basilone and John Stolgitis.

Entries to: ALENE LEVASSEUR

Phone: (860) 634-3263 • Email: alenev721@gmail.com

Club, officers and landowners are not responsible for accidents, injuries or loss of any kind.



KALAMAZOO SOUTHWEST MICHIGAN FIELD TRIAL CLUB

— On behalf of the Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs, Inc. —

MAY 24-25, 2025 • STARTS 7:30 A.M.

Horseback/Walking • Courses 1 & 2 • AMFTC & USCSA Points Trial

Grounds: Ionia State Recreation Area, Ionia, MI. Overnight electrical fee \$20.00.

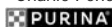
Drawing: Wednesday, May 21, 7:00 p.m., at the home of the secretary.

(Course 1) OPEN PUPPY (20 Min.)\$40.00
 OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)\$55.00
 OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)\$50.00
 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)\$50.00
 OPEN WALKING PUPPY (20 Min.)\$40.00
 OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)\$55.00
 OPEN WALKING DERBY\$50.00
 AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Time permitting\$55.00

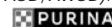
Purse: 50%, 50-30-20 after deduction of \$12/entry for Association's grounds fees.

Rosettes awarded to each placed dog.

Judges: Bill Darr (OP, OWP, OWD & AWSD); Mike Czach (OP, ASD, OWP, OWS); Charlie Fenech (OSD, OD, OWS, OWD); and Rich Hollister (OSD, OD, ASD, AWSD).



Entries to: TOM WINTERS, Secretary



Phone: (989) 406-0023 • Email: KazooSWMiFTC@gmail.com

Kalamazoo Southwest Michigan Field Trial Club, its officers and members will not be held responsible for loss or damage to property or injury at trial.

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gsmith@ukcdogs.com

U. S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG ASSOCIATION



U.S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG ASSOCIATION NORTHEAST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

GARMIN.



GARMIN.

Arcadia Management Area, Exeter, RI
Starts Thursday, May 1, 2025, 8:00 a.m.
(start time dependent on entries)

Hosted by U.S. Complete Northeast Regional Club

Member USCSDA & AFTCA

Entry Fee: \$155.00 • Purse: 40% of entry fees split 70-30 to champion and runner-up.

Judges: Sarah Conyngham, Hope Valley, RI, and Mitch Swierczynski, Griswold, CT

Horseback scouting permitted when dispatched by Judges. Run on native and liberated birds. Tracking and GPS collars are permitted, but will NOT be provided. Run under U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Guidelines. .32 caliber or .22 caliber #2 blank pistols or 209 primer guns required. **Drawing:** Monday, April 28, 8:00 p.m., at the home of Bill Bonnetti. Phone: (508) 648-0598. Registered name of dog must accompany entry! **Directions:** Driving north or south on Int. Rt. 95 to Exit 5, to Rt. 102-S to Rt. 3-S to Rt. 165-W. Turn right on Frosty Hollow Rd. Signs will be posted. **Lodging:** Super 8—(401) 397-3381 and Best Western—(401) 397-5494, located at junction of Rt. 95 and Rt. 3, Exit 6, West Greenwich, RI.

Entries to: BILL BONNETTI • Phone: (508) 648-0598



ASSOCIATED FIELD TRIAL CLUBS OF CONNECTICUT & SPRUCE BROOK BIRD DOG CLUB

Members AFTCA, ANEFTC & SBHA
Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

May 31-June 1, 2025 • East Windsor, CT

Grounds: Dr. John E. Flaherty Field Trial Area, East Windsor, CT.

Drawing: Wednesday, May 27, 8:00 p.m., at the home of the chairman.

OPEN PUPPY—50%, 50-30-20.....\$25.00

OPEN DERBY—50%, 50-30-20.....\$50.00

OPEN RESTRICTED SHOOTING DOG—50%, 50-30-20...\$50.00

OPEN SHOOTING DOG—50%, 50-30-20.....\$60.00

AMATEUR DERBY—Ribbons & Certificates\$45.00

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—Ribbons & Certificates\$45.00

Judges: Gene Casale, Dave O'Brien, Pete Murphy, Kevin Stuart,
Gary Tavares, Alene LeVasseur, and Tom Tracy.

For entries and information, contact:

DAVE O'BRIEN, Chairman

42 Quinn Rd., Marlborough, CT 06447

Phone: (860) 798-6673 • Email: strawboss59@comcast.net

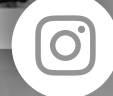
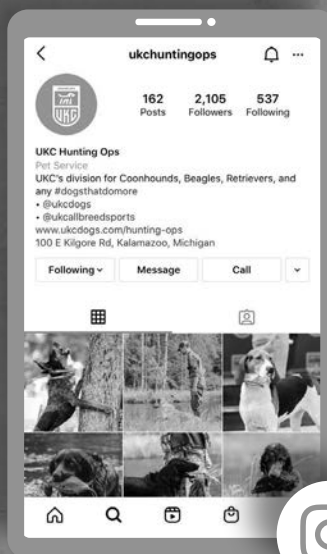
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Kenton Bryant
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Mary Sue Schalk
Secretary/Treasurer

REGION 4 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP



May 8*-11, 2025 (*Depending on entries)

Oak Ridge Pointing Dog Club, Harrisville, PA
Hosted by Oak Ridge Pointing Dog Club

Drawing: Monday, May 5, 6:00 p.m. (EST), at the home of Mary Sue Schalk. **Qualification:** A recognized placement in an Amateur Derby or Amateur Shooting Dog stake. AFTCA Certificate number **MUST** accompany the entry.

WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP **\$150.00**
AMATEUR DERBY **\$ 50.00**

— Prizes awarded to all placements —

Judges (rotating): Nick Mellon, Murrys ville, PA; James Kleve, Paris, KY; and Bruce Mueller, Harrisville, PA.

Entries to: MARY SUE SCHALK, Region 4 Secretary/Treasurer • (270) 625-0196

Entries are accepted with the understanding that the AFTCA, Region 4, their members and landowners are not in any way responsible and cannot be held liable for any damages to persons, horses, dogs, or equipment incurred while participating or attending the trial.

DAKOTA SHOOTING DOG CLASSICS

HOSTED BY THE NORTHWEST FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION & NORTH DAKOTA POINTING DOG CLUB

STARTS MAY 9, 2025

— *National Open Shooting Dog Qualifier & Amateur Invitational Points Trial* —

• **GROUNDS:** Sheyenne National Grasslands, Hankinson, ND.

(Coordinates: 46.11797, -96.98606)

• **ENTRIES CLOSE & DRAWING:** Tuesday, May 6, 5:00 p.m. (CDT);

Drawing at 7:00 p.m. (CDT), at 13835 34th St. NW, Bismarck, ND.

• **COURSES:** Single course on released quail. Native birds are possible.

• **ACCOMMODATIONS:** Hankinson Motel—(701) 242-7363.

• **REPORTER:** Lance Schulz, Bismarck, ND

• **ORDER OF RUNNING:**

– **Dakota Amateur Shooting Dog Classic (Hosted by NWFTA)**

Amateur Invitational Points Trial | 60 Min. | \$150 entry*

Prizes: Trophy, Purina Pro Plan, and SportDOG Collar to winner

Judges: Mike Northwood, Waunakee, WI, and Scott Hadley, Sayre, OK

– **Dakota Open Derby (Hosted by NDPDC)**

30 Min. | \$100 entry*

Prizes: Trophy, Purina Pro Plan, and SportDOG Bark Collar to winner

Judges: Mike Northwood, Waunakee, WI, and John Zeman, Zimmerman, MN

– **Dakota Open Shooting Dog Classic (Hosted by NDPDC)**

NOSDCH Qualifier & Amateur Invitational Points Trial | 60 Min. | \$200 entry*

Prizes: 1st-\$500; 2nd-\$300; 3rd-\$200 • Trophy, Purina Pro Plan, and SportDOG collar to winner

Judges LJ Lundstrom, Sisseton, SD, and Bill Stewart, Rankin, IL

*Entry fees include a \$25 bird charge and \$2.50 MFTA dog tax.

• **ENTRIES TO:**

Lance Schulz — Call or Text: (701) 426-0425 or Email: ndpdcentries@gmail.com

Bill Stapleton — Call or Text: (414) 294-3503

• No training on field trial grounds.
• No smoking is allowed on grounds or in camp.
• Weed-free hay is required on grounds!

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OREGON SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by the Pacific Coast Field Trial Club

Member AFTCA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!



Starts Saturday, May 10, 2025 • Imperial River Cattle Ranch, Maupin, OR

Grounds: Imperial River Cattle Ranch, 941443 Hinton Rd., Maupin, OR 97037. **Directions:** *From Maupin*—Take Hwy. 197 to Bakeoven Rd.; turn left on Bakeoven Rd. for 17 miles to Hinton Rd.; turn left for 0.6 miles and turn right into the gravel pit area. *From U.S. 67*—Go to Bakeoven Rd. towards Maupin, OR, for 7.5 miles to Hinton Rd.; turn right for 0.6 miles and turn right into the gravel pit area. **Drawing:** Friday, May 9, 6:30 p.m., at Imperial River Co. Lounge, Maupin, OR (Appetizers to be served at the drawing). **Accommodations:** Imperial River Co., Maupin, OR—(800) 395-3903 or Deschutes Motel, 616 Mill St., Maupin, OR—(541) 395-2626.

OREGON SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP (1 Hour) Entry Fee: \$185.00

— A PURINA TOP SHOOTING DOG & HANDLER OF THE YEAR POINTS STAKE • AFTCA AMATEUR POINTS TRIAL —

Purse: \$65.00 of entry fees (less \$20.00 grounds fee and \$5.00 Region 10 fee) divided 70-30 to winner and runner-up.

Eligibility: A placement in a recognized Open Shooting Dog or Open Derby stake.

Judges: Todd Schaaf, La Center, WA, and Chris Perkins, American Falls, ID • **Reporter:** Josh Miller

OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—Run at the discretion of the club..... Entry Fee: \$ 40.00

OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—Run at the discretion of the club..... Entry Fee: \$ 40.00

Entries to: CHASE COCHRAN, 28192 Yvette Ln., Corvallis, OR 97330

Phone: (541) 760-0446 • **Email:** chase@turfmerchants.com • **Make checks payable to:** Chase Cochran

Thanks to our sponsors: Purina & SportDOG

Entries are accepted with the understanding that the Pacific Coast Field Trial Club, its officers and landowners are not in any way responsible and cannot be held liable for accidents involving any one attending the trial, their horses, dogs or equipment.

REGION 1 (AFTCA) AMATEUR WALKING SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Hosted by: Maine Bird Dog Club

Member AFTCA, USCSDA & ANEFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

Saturday, May 17, 2025* to Conclusion • Starts 8:00 a.m.

Entry Fee: \$150.00 • One-Hour Heats

(*May start Friday, May 16, if entries warrant)



• **Grounds & Directions:** Brownfield Game Management Area, Rt. 5, two miles south of Fryeburg, ME. Follow field trial signs.

• **Drawing:** Wednesday, May 14, 6:00 p.m., at the home of the Deb Kennedy, 50 Rennie Rd., Hanover, NH. If possible, the draw will be posted live on the Maine Bird Dog Club Facebook page.

• **Course:** Single course with liberated quail. Use of retrieval collars permitted.

• **Qualification:** AFTCA Win Certificate in a derby or shooting dog stake. Handler must be a member of AFTCA.

• **Awards:** Plaques and ribbons to winners.

• **Judges:** Jamie Leitch, Derby, VT, and John Malone, Bolton, CT

• **Reporter:** Deb Kennedy, Hanover, NH

• **Co-Chairpersons:** Kellie Short, Buxton, ME, and Deb Kennedy, Hanover, NH

• **Accommodations:** Saco River Motor Inn and Suites. Other motels in North Conway.

• **Handlers' Dinner:** To be held on the grounds on Saturday after the day's running.

• **Date & Time:** The club reserves the right to change the starting date and/or time depending on number of entries received.

Entries to: DEB KENNEDY • **Cell:** (603) 252-9228 • **Landline (No texts):** (603) 795-4633

Email: debkennedy2000@gmail.com • **All entries will be confirmed**

Neither the landowners, their families, and/or Club officers or its members assume any legal responsibility for injuries of persons and/or property. Each participant and/or visitor assumes the risk of any injury to their person and/or property while attending this trial.

NGSPA REGION 4 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Ionia Recreation Area, Ionia, MI
Monday, May 5–Friday, May 9, 2025



OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP Entry Fee: \$175.00

Purse: \$500 to Winner; \$250 to Runner-Up (24-dog minimum for payout)

Leather Plaques to Winner and Runner-Up

Judges: David Russell and Aaron McAfee

Stake Manager: Marc McKinley

OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP Entry Fee: \$175.00

Purse: \$400 to Winner; \$200 to Runner-Up (16-dog minimum for payout)

Leather Plaques to Winner and Runner-Up

Judges: Aaron McAfee and Justin Hess

Stake Manager: Tom Davis

DERBY—Time permitting Entry Fee: \$100.00

Purse: \$150 to Winner; \$100 to Runner-Up; \$85 to third (12-dog minimum for payout)

Leather Plaques to placements

Judges: To be announced

Stake Manager: Lee Wagoner

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP Entry Fee: \$175.00

Prizes: \$500 Visa gift card to Winner; \$250 Visa gift card to Runner-Up

Leather Plaques to Winner and Runner-Up

Judges: Justin Hess and one to be announced

Stake Manager: Dan DiMambro

Drawings: *Open Shooting Dog*—Sunday evening, May 4, at the Ionia clubhouse.

All other stakes will be drawn the night before each is to begin.

Entry fees must be paid before dog enters the starting line of each stake!

FDSB# and DNA# required to be drawn • Club keeps purse if Champion not named

Mail or phone entries to:

DAN DiMAMBRO, 17085 12 Mile Rd., Big Rapids, MI 49307

Phone: (231) 301-3290

— Thanks to PURINA —

CLUB DOES NOT ASSUME LIABILITY FOR PERSONS OR ANIMALS AT THIS TRIAL.

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Piper Huffman, Secretary
Phone: (662) 223-0126
Email: piper.huffman@aim.com

American Bird Hunters Association

www.facebook.com/trialabha/

Ronnie Rogers, President
Phone: (865) 712-9229
Email: esetter34@yahoo.com

National Bird Hunters Association

www.nbhadowg.org

Ken Sauer, President
Phone: (281) 960-2508
Email: kfsauer@sbcglobal.net
Tim Penn, Secretary
Phone: (660) 341-1165
Email: tpennhwy6@gmail.com

National German Shorthaired Pointer Association

www.ngspa.org

Natalie Inderman, Secretary
Phone: (806) 777-2769
Email: Nataliealicia@yahoo.com

National Red Setter Field Trial Club

www.nrsftc.com

Ed Liermann
Phone: (414) 625-0715
Email: eal1886@aol.com

National Vizsla Association

www.thenva.org

Robert Tomczak
Phone: (715) 829-8104
Email: shilohkl@aol.com

Southern Bird Hunters Association

www.southernbirdhunters.org

Marty Robinson, President
Phone: (770) 862-6568
Bruce Mercer, Secretary
Phone: (470) 345-6369
Email: mercercbruce@hotmail.com
Georgia Casey, Treasurer
Phone: (618) 638-2952

U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association

www.uscomplete.org

Chris Catanzarite, President
Phone: (724) 884-7244
Email: Catanzarite@fairpoint.net
Bill Bonnetti, Vice-President
Phone: (508) 648-0598
Email: bonnetti-william@comcast.net
Jameson Crandall, Secretary/Treasurer
Phone: (804) 577-3788
Email: jameson.crandall@gmail.com

FUTURITIES

Grand National Grouse Futurity

Thor Kain
Phone: (570) 702-6670
Email: TKain63@gmail.com

Midwest Vizsla Futurity

Rodney Albin
Phone: (636) 366-9746
Email: rodneyalbin@centurytel.net

National Bird Hunters Assn. Futurity

Jim Ogle
Phone: (417) 388-0734
Email: jojosenglishsetters@gmail.com

National German Shorthaired Pointer Assn.

Jeff Wallace, Futurity Manager
Phone: (641) 891-9513
Email: jeffwallace@iowatelecom.net

National Red Setter Futurity

James Inbody
Phone: (330) 306-8065
Email: BonasaHunter72@aol.com

National Shooting Dog Futurity

Mark Hughes
Phone: (814) 591-3540
Email: mdh275@gmail.com

National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity

Krysta Munden
Phone: (724) 840-8400
Email: krystamunden@gmail.com

New England Shooting Dog Futurity

Margaret C. Drew
Phone: (910) 206-0079
Email: margaretdrew39@gmail.com

North American Woodcock Futurity

Joe Dahl
Phone: (207) 478-3063
Email: JosephDahl@aol.com

Southern Bird Hunters Assn. Futurity

Bruce Mercer
Phone: (470) 345-6369
Email: mercercbruce@hotmail.com

U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Assn. Futurity

Verlene Stephenson
Phone: (252) 589-1521
Email: verlene_stephenson@ncsu.edu

United States Quail Shooting Dog Futurity

Margaret C. Drew
Phone: (910) 206-0079
Email: bmdrew@windstream.net

RECOGNIZED FIELD TRIALS

Cascade Field Trial Club

May 1 / Ontario, OR
Contact: Alex Mauck
Phone: (503) 320-2847
Email: alex.mauck@gmail.com

Pacific Northwest Championship

May 1 / Ontario, OR
Contact: Alex Mauck
Phone: (503) 320-2847
Email: alex.mauck@gmail.com

Northwest Field Trial Association

May 2 / Hankinson, ND
Contact: Ian MacTavish
Phone: (651) 302-3797
Email: ianmactav@gmail.com

Mid-Coast Maine Field Trial Club

May 3 / Prospect, ME
Contact: Jon Cullen
Phone: (207) 991-7039
Email: Jonathancullen7@gmail.com

NGSPA Region 4 Championships

May 5 / Ionia, MI
Contact: Dan DiMambro
Phone: (231) 301-3290

Region 4 (AFTCA) Amateur

Walking Shooting Dog Championship

May 8 / Harrisville, PA
Contact: Mary Sue Schalk
Phone: (270) 625-0196

Central Connecticut Bird Dog Club

May 9 / East Windsor, CT
Contact: Gene Casale Jr.
Phone: (860) 202-1143
Email: gacasale@gmail.com

Dakota Shooting Dog Classics

May 9 / Hankinson, ND
Contact: Lance Schulz
Phone: (701) 426-0425
Email: ndpdcentries@gmail.com

Oregon Open Shooting Dog Championship

May 10 / Maupin, OR
Contact: Chase Cochran
Phone: (541) 760-0446
Email: chase@turfmerchants.com

Region 1 (AFTCA) Amateur

Walking Shooting Dog Championship

May 16 / Fryeburg, ME
Contact: Deb Kennedy
Phone: (603) 252-9228 or (603) 795-4633
Email: debkennedy2000@gmail.com

Minnesota Grouse Dog Association

May 17 / Milaca, MN
Contact: Helena Larkin
Phone: (936) 852-2080
Email: AKCdiv@huntsecretary.com

ABHA TRIALS

(No trials scheduled)

NBHA TRIALS

Northern New Jersey Field Trial Club

May 3 / Franklin, NJ
Contact: Jillian Stuhrr
Phone: (570) 369-8624
Email: jillian.sturh@gmail.com

SBHA TRIALS

Summerhill Field Trial Club

May 3 / Glenville, PA
Contact: Karen Saniga
Phone: (610) 350-7373
Email: ksaniga@hotmail.com

Spruce Brook Bird Dog Club

May 23 / East Windsor, CT
Contact: Alene Levasseur
Phone: (860) 634-3263
Email: alenelev721@gmail.com

Associated Field Trial Clubs of Connecticut

May 31 / East Windsor, CT
Contact: Dave O'Brien
Phone: (860) 798-6673
Email: strawboss59@comcast.net

USCSDA TRIALS

USCSDA Northeast Regional Championship

May 1 / Exeter, RI
Contact: Bill Bonnetti
Phone: (508) 648-0898

Greensburg Pointer & Setter Club

May 2 / Colliers, WV
Contact: Justin Mason
Phone: (724) 889-6878

Arcadia Field Trial Club

May 3 / Exeter, RI
Contact: Richard Giuliano
(401) 225-5281

Northern New Hampshire Bird Dog Club

May 8 / Fryeburg, ME
Contact: Lloyd Murray Jr.
Phone: (603) 723-4020
Email: lloydbmurrayjr@gmail.com

KENNEL FIXTURES

For the most up-to-date trial dates and ads, visit the Calendar at: www.americanfield.com

RECOGNIZED FIELD TRIALS

Wolverine Field Trial Club

May 9 / Highland, MI
Contact: Dave Fletcher
Phone: (517) 214-6404

Maine Bird Dog Club

May 10 / Fryeburg, ME
Contact: Deb Kennedy
Phone: (603) 795-4633 or (603) 252-9228
Email: debkennedy2000@gmail.com

Northeast Ohio Field Trial Club

May 16 / Polk, PA
Contact: Chris Jaeger
Phone: (440) 935-3562

Kalamazoo Southwest Michigan Field Trial Club

May 24 / Ionia, MI
Contact: Tom Winters
Phone: (989) 406-0023
Email: KazooSWMiFTC@gmail.com

Mohegan Bird Dog Club

May 24 / Nescopeck, PA
Contact: Robert Ecker
Phone: (570) 778-3009

UPCOMING PRINT DEADLINES

JUNE 2025

***Deadline May 5**

JULY 2025

***Deadline June 5**

AUGUST 2025

***Deadline July 5**

**Please submit ads prior to the deadline date to allow time for revisions and approvals.*

Material must be received and approved by 4:30 p.m. on the deadline date.

Deadlines that fall on weekends or holidays move to the next business day.

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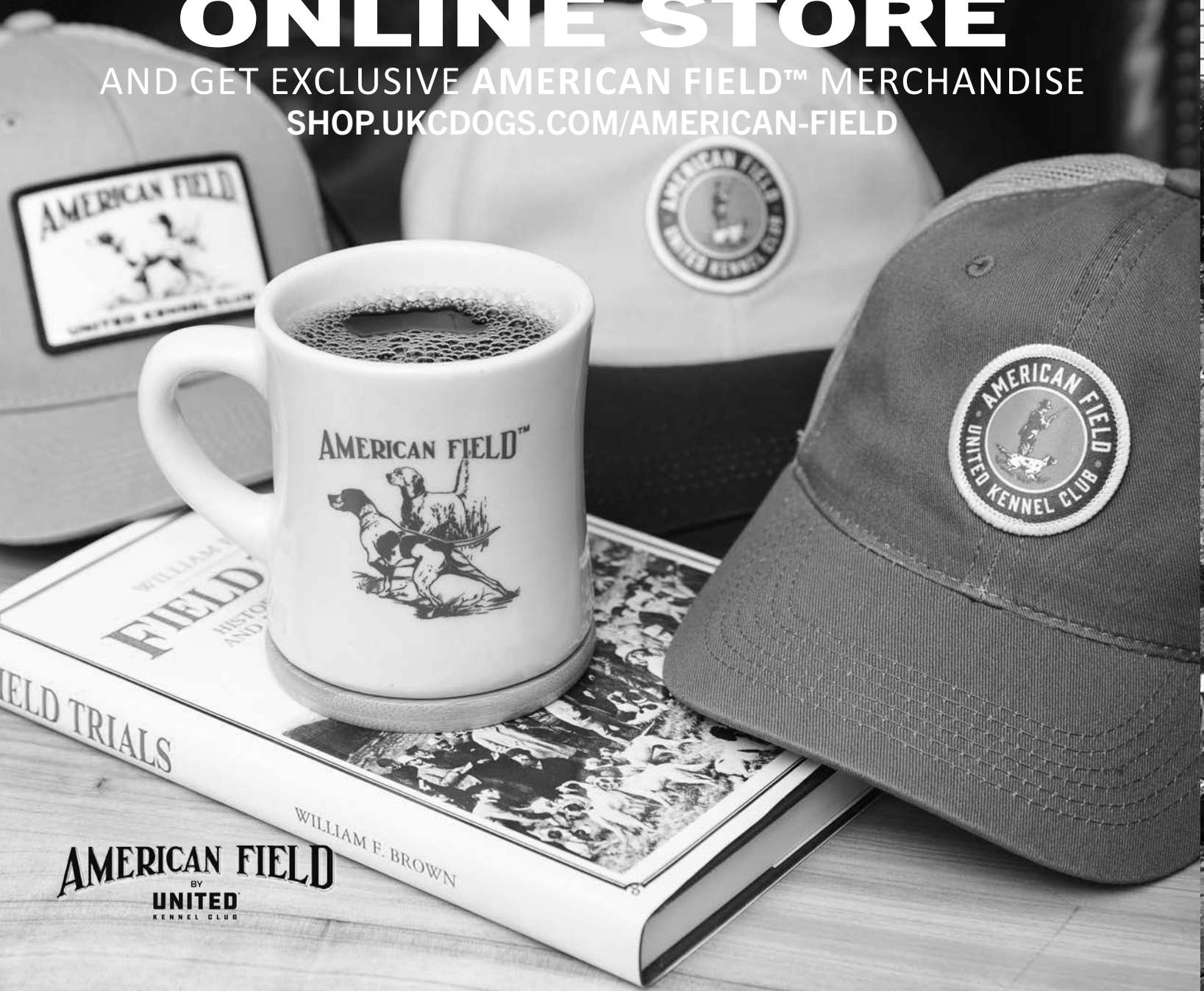
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