

UKC®

FIELD

May 2026

A Newsletter by United Kennel Club

Vol. 5, No. 5





UKC® Field
100 East Kilgore Rd.
Kalamazoo, MI 49002-5584
Phone: (269) 343-9020
Fax: (269) 343-7037

PUBLISHER
United Kennel Club

VICE PRESIDENT
Todd Kellam — tkellam@ukcdogs.com

UKC® HUNTING OPS DEPARTMENT
Director of Hunting Ops
Allen Gingerich — agingerich@ukcdogs.com
Hunting Ops Field Manager
Dave McVay — dmcvay@ukcdogs.com
Licensed Event Coordinator
Dinora Wellmann — dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

PRODUCTION
Director of Media & Communications
Annie Hammond — ahammond@ukcdogs.com
Publications Manager
Chris Ingram — cingram@ukcdogs.com
Content Specialists
Gina Smith — gsmith@ukcdogs.com
Samantha Harinck — sharinck@ukcdogs.com

Graphics Specialist
Kristina Shafer — kshafer@ukcdogs.com

ADVERTISING
Gina Smith — gsmith@ukcdogs.com

SUBSCRIPTIONS
subscriptions@ukcdogs.com

EDITORIAL POLICY

UKC® Field reserves the right to edit or refuse all copy, advertising copy and material for publication in UKC® Field before publication.

Viewpoints expressed in this publication, unless official UKC items, are not necessarily those of UKC or UKC® Field.

No material may be reprinted from this publication without first obtaining written permission from the publisher.

UKC accepts all advertisements placed in UKC® Field in good faith. Purchasers should independently conduct any relevant research needed prior to acquiring animals, products, and/or services from advertisers. UKC is not responsible or liable in any way for potential issues arising out of sales by advertisers, including but not limited to: dealings between advertisers and purchasers, actions, and promises made by advertisers, or quality of products or animals sold by advertisers.

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.

UKC® Field — ISSN 2995-4134

UKC® Field is published monthly (12 times a year) by the United Kennel Club, and has its editorial, advertising, business, and production offices at 100 E. Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49002-5584. Periodicals postage paid at Kalamazoo, Michigan, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send address changes to UKC® Field, 100 E. Kilgore Rd., Kalamazoo, MI 49002-5584.

Copyright® 2024, United Kennel Club.
Printed in the U.S.A.

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™.

A NOTE TO OUR READERS

When the *UKC® Field Newsletter* was introduced in 2022, its purpose was simple: to provide a consistent, reliable home for the reporting, recognition, and day-to-day pulse of the prestigious American Field pointing dog field trial community.

Month after month, these pages have carried trial results, standings, Hall of Fame honors, and club announcements, serving as both a record of accomplishment and a connection point for participants across North America.

That mission remains as important as ever. But how we deliver that information continues to evolve.

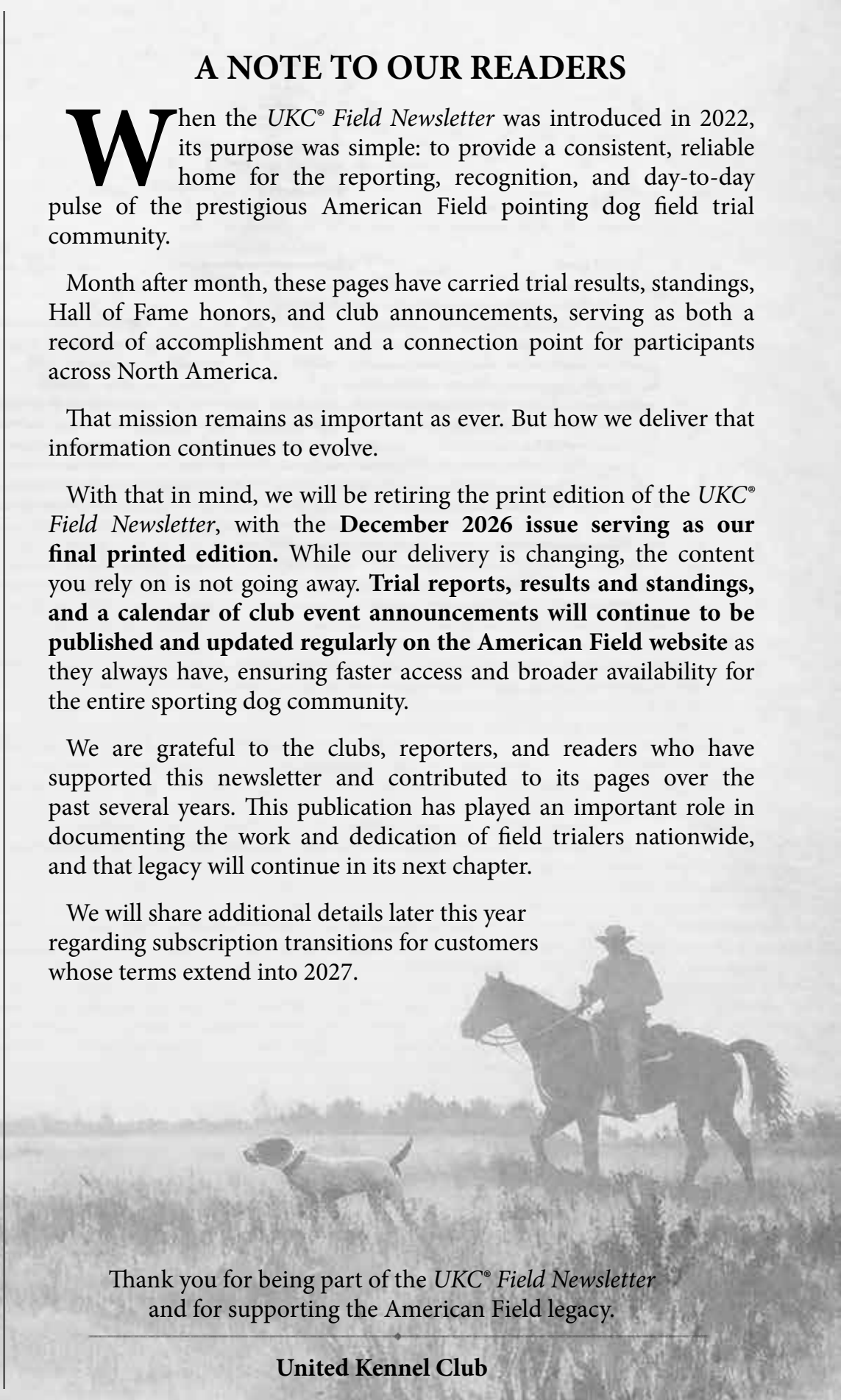
With that in mind, we will be retiring the print edition of the *UKC® Field Newsletter*, with the **December 2026 issue serving as our final printed edition**. While our delivery is changing, the content you rely on is not going away. **Trial reports, results and standings, and a calendar of club event announcements will continue to be published and updated regularly on the American Field website** as they always have, ensuring faster access and broader availability for the entire sporting dog community.

We are grateful to the clubs, reporters, and readers who have supported this newsletter and contributed to its pages over the past several years. This publication has played an important role in documenting the work and dedication of field trialers nationwide, and that legacy will continue in its next chapter.

We will share additional details later this year regarding subscription transitions for customers whose terms extend into 2027.

Thank you for being part of the *UKC® Field Newsletter* and for supporting the American Field legacy.

United Kennel Club



National Champion



GAME SURGE

Dr. Fred Corder, Owner/Handler | Photo by Jamie Evans

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 4 | Quail Creek Field Trial Club | 41 | Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship |
| 8 | Round Pond Field Trial Club | 44 | Southeastern Open All-Age Championship |
| 9 | Associated Field Trial Clubs of Florida—Piney Woods Trial | 47 | All-America Championships |
| 11 | Continental All-Age Championship | 50 | Association of South Carolina Field Trial Clubs |
| 16 | Continental Derby Championship | 53 | Mid-State Bird Dog Club |
| 18 | NBHA Eastern Regional Championship | 54 | Region 7 (AFTCA) Amateur All-Age Championship |
| 18 | USCSDA Classics & Futurity | 55 | NBHA National Free-For-All Championship |
| 21 | National Open Shooting Dog Championship | 56 | Pittsburgh Field Trial Club |
| 25 | Associated Field Trial Clubs of Florida—Puppy Derby Classic | 62 | Delaware Valley Bird Dog Club |
| 27 | NGSPA Region 7 Championships | 62 | NGSPA Region 5 Championships |
| 28 | NBHA National Invitational Breeders' Championship | 64 | Missouri Open Trials |
| 31 | Region 3 (AFTCA) Amateur Shooting Dog Championship | 70 | NBHA Midwest Regional Championship |
| 33 | NBHA National Open Championship | 71 | Delaware Valley Bird Dog Club |
| 35 | Cumberland Valley Field Trial Club | 72 | Region 4 (AFTCA) Amateur All-Age Championship |
| 39 | Six Runs Field Trial Club | 73 | NBHA Northern Regional Championship |

ON THE
COVER

ERIN'S SOUTHERN COMFORT

#F1693833 • Pointer Male • Sire: Erin's Lone Star Law • Dam: Erin's Irresistible Jane
Sean Derrig & Sean Pat Derrig, Owners • Sean Pat Derrig, Handler
Winner of the Illinois Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

QUAIL CREEK FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Winter NBHA Walking & ABHA Horseback Trials

By Ben Weddington | Lewisburg, Tennessee | January 2, 2026



NBHA Walking Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Matt Forgione, Sara Adams, Anna Katherine Schalk, Emory Adams, Matt Veale, James Kleve (handler), Mary Sue Schalk (scout) with Warjam's Big Mac Daddy, David Williamson, Emily Weddington, Charlotte Weddington, Jeff Blackwell, Justin Crook with Fast Money, Cindy Weddington, William Weddington, Mike Fox, Weston Fox, Mark Hester, Samantha Huggins (scout) with Blazin Cora of Dixie, Dustin Huggins, Mike Griffin, and Ben Weddington.

The Quail Creek Field Trial Club started the new year by hosting its inaugural field trial at Quail Creek Farm, owned by Ben & Emily Weddington, in Lewisburg, Tennessee. The event consisted of a two-day National Bird Hunters Association walking event, followed immediately by a two-day American Bird Hunters Association horseback event that drew 97 total dogs across the four days and brought together handlers, judges, scouts, and spectators in the gallery from nine different states. The event reflected the deep traditions of bird dogs and field trials in the heart of Middle Tennessee's walking horse country and featured a large gallery of spectators each day. Quail Creek provided an excellent setting for the trial, offering well-prepared grounds with large numbers of Bobwhite quail and a course that flowed through a mixture of large row crop edges and fields of native grasses. Almost every single brace across the four days had bird contact, many with multiple covey finds. Many thanks to our seasoned dog wagon driver, Mr. Mike Griffin (OK), whose invaluable services kept us running like a well-

oiled machine. Thanks to everyone else who assisted in making our first time hosting an event such a success. Lastly, a giant thank you goes to Purina and Greg Blair for sponsoring this trial and supporting the great sport of field trialing across the country.

NBHA Open Walking Stakes

The NBHA Open Walking stakes ran on Friday, January 2, in cold, overcast conditions, and kicked off our four days of running.

Open Shooting Dog

Beginning with the Open Shooting Dog stake, judged by Mr. Woody Woodruff (TN) and Mr. Kenton Bryant (KY), 15 dogs started at the line. Besting the field of competitors and taking home both the check and a custom silver belt buckle was Warjam's Big Mac Daddy, a black and white male pointer owned by Brad Peterson of Cedar Grove, Wisconsin, handled by James Kleve of Paris, Kentucky, and scouted by Mary Sue Schalk of Dixon, Kentucky. Living up to its name, Big Mac Daddy ran a big race and quickly got into birds with its first stylish find coming

at the 8-minute mark in a milo strip. From there, Big Mac continued to eat up the big country throughout the brace. In the final minute, Big Mac was 450 yards to the front, running the edge of a soybean field from left to right, still sporting a high, snappy tail. As the final seconds ticked off the judges' clocks, he slammed on point at the furthest end of the field and concluded his brace with an impressive second find on a covey of birds for everyone to see. Hemingway himself couldn't have penned a more exciting ending.

Second place went to Fast Money, a liver and white female pointer handled by Justin Crook for owner Bud Moore, who was almost methodical in both her ground race and bird finding ability, logging several stylish finds and never seeming to tire.

Third place went to the GSP Blazin Cora of Dixie, owned and handled by Dustin Huggins of Russellville, Arkansas, who recorded several nice finds throughout her brace, including one sizable covey in a patch of native grasses, and was delightful to watch on the ground. Every brace of Open Shooting Dog found birds.

Open Derby

Ten derbies came to the line for the NBHA Open Derby stake that ran immediately following the Open Shooting Dog. First place was awarded to CCUK Tar Heel Duke, a black and white setter owned and handled by Bradley Collins of Athens, Tennessee, who was very stylish on the ground, ran a large race with a nice high tail, and recorded a couple of finds in his 30 minutes. Duke was a pleasure to watch from the gallery, and from the looks of it, should have a very successful field trial career in his future.

James Kleve took second place with a fancy setter, Boatright's Renegade, for owner Terry Boatright



NBHA Walking Open Derby (l-r): Trey Adams, Lilly Adams, Sara Adams, Woody Woodruff, Bradley Collins (handler) with winner CCUK Tar Heel Duke, Ben Weddington, Emory Adams, Anna Katherine Schalk, James Kleve (handler) with Boatright's Renegade, Mary Sue Schalk (handler) with Crouse's Grouse Feather, Samantha Huggins, Kenton Bryant, and Dustin Huggins.



NBHA Walking Open Puppy (l-r): Emily Weddington, Charlotte Weddington, David Williamson, Ben Weddington (handler) with Cloverdale's Frozen Fury, Cindy Weddington, baby William Weddington, Sara Adams, Emory Adams, Weston Fox, Mike Fox, Mary Sue Schalk (handler) with Outcast Whiskey Neat, and James Kleve. [Second place not pictured].



NBHA Walking Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Anna Katherine Schalk, Sara Adams, Emory Adams, Mary Sue Schalk, James Kleve, Dan Crunk (handler) with Miss Grace, Matt Veale, Jeff Blackwell, Emily Weddington, Charlotte Weddington, Kenny DeLong (handler) with Faith's Maximum Justice, Ben Weddington, Cindy Weddington, baby William Weddington, Weston Fox, Mike Fox, Tammy DeLong with K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot, Mike Griffin, and Mark Hester.

of Richmond, Kentucky. Crouse's Grouse Feather and owner/handler Mary Sue Schalk took third place, recording several finds, handling well, and laying down a proper ground race.

Open Puppy

The Open Puppy stake ended the day with eight entries that were turned loose. Topping the podium was the all-white female setter, Cloverdale's Frozen Fury, owned and handled by Ben Weddington, who ran big for a young puppy and with lots of excitement. She carried a high snappy tail and recorded a find in the final five minutes of her brace that she pursued with no shortage of enthusiasm. CCUK Tar Heel Duke and Bradley Collins were on the podium for a second time that same day, taking home second place after a solid puppy brace.

Third Place was awarded to Outcast Whiskey Neat, owned and handled by Mary Sue Schalk, who laid down a stylish forward race and sported an enthusiastic tail.

Amateur Shooting Dog

The NBHA Amateur Walking stakes began on Saturday, January 3, under cold, overcast conditions.

The day started with 10 dogs making the starting line in the Amateur Shooting Dog stake, which was judged by professional handlers Mr. Justin Crook (MO) and Mr. James Kleve (KY). Topping the podium for the inaugural trial was the

all-white female pointer, Miss Grace, owned and handled by Dan Crunk of Walnut Hill, Illinois. Grace was very stylish on the ground and was always to the front, running a big race with a snappy tail. Miss Grace didn't waste any time getting to work, and her first find came just three minutes after breakaway in a strip of milo. Ten minutes later, she was pointed again, this time along a tree line separating two soybean fields, nailing down a large 15+ bird covey. Her third and final find came in the final minutes of the brace after being absent for several minutes. Her scout was sent, who found her tucked along the edge of some native grasses standing tall on point. Birds were flushed, concluding her brace on a high and very stylish note.

Second Place was awarded to Faith's Maximum Justice, owned and handled by Kenny DeLong of Greenville, Michigan, who put forth a maximum effort in his time on the ground and quickly produced a find at 7. Justice ran every edge and was always to the front. Towards the end of the brace, he appeared to be gone for some time, but as the gallery progressed further and further through a large soybean field, shouts of "Point! Point! Point!" echoed through the air, and he was found standing like a statue at the furthest end of a large field. By the time his handler arrived, the gallery estimated he'd been pointed for over 10 minutes, and it was evident the birds had run. His handler relocated, and

Justice quickly locked them down a bit further along the feed strip for an exciting finish to the brace.

Mr. DeLong also took third place honors on the day with his orange and white Brittany, K Del's Eagle Magnum Hotshot, who tore out from the breakaway like a round out of a 44 Magnum...fast and hot. A few minutes in, he was found on point in the corner, pinning down a small covey of five quail, with his bracemate honoring from behind. Ten minutes later, he pointed on the edge of a milo strip, and despite his bracemate's breach of manners, he held steady for an extended flush by Mr. DeLong that eventually produced a bird just as he began to send the dog on. He finished his allotted time still hunting hard.

Amateur Derby

The Amateur Derby stake produced six starters and ran immediately following the conclusion of the Shooting Dog. Besting the field and taking first place was the fancy female pointer, Lucy's Just Have Mercy, owned and handled by Kenny DeLong. Mercy laid down a fantastic forward ground race and had multiple bird contacts throughout her 30 minutes. She demonstrated a large amount of natural ability coupled with a balance of both excitement and control, and should make a mighty fine finished dog next year.

Second place went to Outcast Nightshade, a stylish black and white



NBHA Walking Amateur Derby (l-r): Tammy DeLong, Kenny DeLong (handler) with Lucy's Just Have Mercy, Emily Weddington, Charlotte Weddington, Ben Weddington (scout) with Outcast Nightshade, Sara Adams, Lilly Adams, Anna Katherine Schalk, Cindy Weddington, and Mary Sue Schalk (handler) with Crouse's Grouse Feather.

male setter owned and handled by Mary Sue Schalk. Nightshade was hard running from the time he was turned loose and never seemed to tire, despite the very large casts he consistently made throughout the brace. Third place also went to owner/handler Mary Sue Schalk, but this time with her orange and white setter, Crouse's Grouse Feather, who was biddable on the ground with several bird contacts.

Amateur Gun Dog

The day ended with the running of the Amateur Gun Dog stake, which drew six dogs to the line and featured first-time competitors for all three placements. First place was awarded to Sara Adams of Franklin, Tennessee, who handled the orange and white male setter, Cloverdale's American Louis, to top honors. He laid down an excellent ground race and recorded three stylish finds, thoroughly hunting all the most likely pieces of cover and handling well. Their bracemates, Tyler Flatt and his GSP, "Major," took second place and also recorded several finds. It was a highly entertaining brace to watch from the gallery, particularly the very first find, which came five minutes in. It was a divided find, and both judges, along with the gallery, kindly assisted in giving each first-time handler a few pointers on proper protocol after point is called. As the covey of birds flushed and flew off out of sight, neither handler was ready with their blank pistol. After a bit of a pause, the two handlers

made up for their prior inaction with excited enthusiasm once calls from the gallery of "Shoot! Shoot your gun!" grew louder and louder. Though a bit confused at first, both "appeared" to catch on with what had been asked of them and proceeded to nearly empty their blank guns for the one find...a feat that was met with cheers from all.

Third place in the stake was awarded to Cloverdale's GA Boy Copper, a very stylish orange and white male English setter owned and handled by Matt Forgione of Brookhaven, Georgia. Copper ran a big forward race and showed excellent manners on his birds, holding point for an extended amount of time on birds tucked in a strip of milo bordering a soybean field.

Many thanks to all! The walking events concluded on Saturday afternoon. Many were on hand to help with food, dog wagon driving, taking care of children, and keeping the trial in motion. The gratitude is abundant!

The National Bird Hunters Association is proudly sponsored and supported by the following: Purina, Garmin, Mule Brand Clothing, Gun Dog Central, The American Field by UKC, Gun Dog Supply, and OnX Hunts. These groups are much appreciated throughout field trials.

Lewisburg, Tenn., January 2

Judges: Kenton Bryant and Woody Woodruff NBHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 15 Entries

- 1st-WARJAM'S BIG MAC DADDY, F1692715, pointer male, by Boumeester's Duramax-Oday Nation. Brad Peterson, owner; James Kleve, handler.
- 2d-FAST MONEY, F1681232, pointer female, by Stash The Cash-Lester's Speed Queen. C. W. & Patty Moore, owners; Justin Crook, handler.
- 3d-BLAZIN CORA OF DIXIE, unreg., German Shorthair male, breeding not given. Dustin Huggins, owner and handler.

NBHA OPEN DERBY

- 3 Pointers, 5 Setters, and 2 German Shorthairs
- 1st-CCUK TAR HEEL DUKE, F1722533, setter male, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Phillips Moonlite Lily. Bradley & Amanda Collins, owners; Bradley Collins, handler.
- 2d-BOATRIGTH'S RENEGADE, F1710486, setter male, by Boatright's Maverick-Stardust Outcast Coco. Terry Boatright, owner; James Kleve, handler.
- 3d-CROUSE'S GROUSE FEATHER, F1713380, setter male, by Shagtime Max-GF Southern Belle. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.



NBHA Walking Amateur Gun Dog (l-r): Joe Johnson Jr., Trey Adams, William Weddington, Lilly Adams, Sara Adams (handler) with Cloverdale's American Louis, Emory Adams, Ann German, Emily Weddington, Charlotte Weddington, Tyler Flatt (handler) with Major, Matt Forgione (handler) with Cloverdale's GA Boy Copper, Cindy Weddington, and Anna Katherine Schalk.

Judges: Justin Crook and Woody Woodruff

NBHA OPEN PUPPY – 2 Pointers and 6 Setters

- 1st-CLOVERDALE'S FROZEN FURY, F1724108, setter female, by Cloverdale's American Louis-Hytime Dixie. Ben Weddington, owner and handler.
- 2d-CCUK TAR HEEL DUKE, F1722533, setter male, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm Phillips Moonlite Lily. Bradley & Amanda Collins, owners; Bradley Collins, handler.
- 3d-OUTCAST WHISKEY NEAT, unreg., pointer male, by Warjam's Big Mac Daddy-Outcast Bar Hopper. Mary Sue Schalk & James Kleve, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.

Judges: Justin Crook and James Kleve

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 5 Pointers, 1 Brittany, 2 Irish Setters, and 2 German Shorthairs

- 1st-MISS GRACE, F1704743, pointer female, by Small's White Charger-Blue Mound's Mainstreet. Dan Crunk, owner and handler.
- 2d-FAITH'S MAXIMUM JUSTICE, F1660276, pointer male, by Nelson's Van Max-Wild Apple Faith. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.
- 3d-K DEL'S EAGLE MAGNUM HOTSHOT, F1685770, Brittany male, by Magnum High Velocity-K Del's Eagle's Chance To Soar. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.

Judges: Justin Crook and Hunter Payne

NBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 2 Pointers and 4 Setters

- 1st-LUCY'S JUST HAVE MERCY, F1723542, pointer female, by Highbanks Final Justice-Highbanks Diamond Lucy. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.
- 2d-OUTCAST NIGHTSHADE, F1710487, setter male, by Boatright's Maverick-Stardust Outcast Coco. Mary Sue Schalk, owner and handler.
- 3d-CROUSE'S GROUSE FEATHER, F1713380, setter male, by Shagtime Max-GF Southern Belle. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.

Judges: Justin Crook and James Kleve

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 4 Setters and 2 German Shorthairs

- 1st-CLOVERDALE'S AMERICAN LOUIS, F1679461, setter male, by Skydancer Dancing Spur-Skydancer Celtic Fire. Ben Weddington, owner; Sara Adams, handler.
- 2d-MAJOR, unreg., German Shorthair male, breeding not given. Tyler Flatt, owner and handler.
- 3d-CLOVERDALE'S GA BOY COPPER, F1700436, setter male, by Cloverdale's American Louis-Smoky Mountain Kate. Matthew Forgione, owner and handler.

ABHA Horseback Trial

Immediately following its NBHA Walking Trial, the club held its inaugural ABHA Horseback Trial, which began on Sunday morning, January 4, starting with the Amateur Shooting Dog stake. Temperatures were cold and crisp to start, but warmed throughout the morning as the sun poked through. It turned out to be a marvelous day to run dogs, and the great weather encouraged a strong gallery of 40+ spectators for the afternoon braces, nearly all of whom followed the action on horseback, adding to the classic atmosphere of the event. A giant thank you goes to Mr. Woody Woodruff, his wife Emily, and his children, Sterling and Vivian, for catering lunch for a crowd of 50+ on Sunday afternoon and for coordinating such a giant gallery of riders.

Amateur Shooting Dog

Besting the field of 14 competitors in the Amateur Shooting Dog stake and taking home first place honors along with a custom silver belt buckle was the orange and white female setter, Hytime Dixie, owned and handled by Ben Weddington of Brentwood, Tennessee. Dixie ran a giant forward race and sported a high, snappy tail as she hy-tailed it through the country. Around the 11-minute mark, Dixie was last seen racing along a bean field edge to the front, but had been gone from sight for quite some time. As her handler rounded a corner and entered the next field, extremely animated shouts of "Point! Point!" were heard echoing back to the gallery. What appeared to be a white speck over 600 yards into the next field was Dixie standing tall on point. Her handler flushed and produced a covey of quail. A few minutes later, on the south side of the creek, came her second find, again pinning a covey of birds and slamming on point for all to see. In the brace's final minutes, Dixie was last seen speeding south through a field of native grass towards the edge of a cornfield. As the final seconds ticked off the judges' clocks, her



ABHA Horseback Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Sara Adams, Lilly Adams, Trey Adams, Cole Smith, Ben Weddington with Hytime Dixie, Emily Weddington, Charlotte Weddington, baby William Weddington, Anna Katherine Schalk, Sidney Hedgepeth, Mary Sue Schalk with Crouse's Tennessee Game Kate, Emory Adams, Mackenzie Waddell, James Kleve, Ronnie Rogers with Shepherd's Blackbull, and Miles Smith.

handler rode through an opening into the cornfield and found her pointed for the third and final time along the southernmost edge. She showed impeccable manners as a hen and rooster pair took flight, painting a picture-perfect ending to her run.

Second place went to the white female pointer, Crouse's Tennessee Game Kate, owned and handled by Mary Sue Schalk of Dixon, Kentucky. Kate, too, had an excellent forward race and produced several stylish pieces of bird work; her first find came at 12, when she pointed a small covey of birds in the grass under a large cedar tree. Soon after, she was found honoring her bracemate and followed that up with another beautiful find at 18. Her last piece of bird work came at 26 after crossing the creek. Kate was found at the far end of a cut bean field, pointed under a blown-over tree, and after an extended flush, her handler produced several quail that took



ABHA Horseback Open Derby (l-r): James Kleve, Justin Crook (handler) with Hackberry's Boone and Mike Griffin (owner), Brooke Burgess (scout) with High Drive Zero and Buddy Morrison (handler). [First place not pictured].

flight. She finished the brace, still hunting hard.

Third place was awarded to Shepherd's Blackbull, a black and white male setter owned and handled by Ronnie Rogers of New Market, Tennessee. Blackbull was fast running and carried a high tail as he ate up the ground. His first find came as his handler entered the old logging road and found him pointed in the woods, an unlikely-looking spot for a bird. Trusting his dog's nose and staunch demeanor, Mr. Rogers proceeded to flush and, sure enough, produced a quail, much to the delight of the gallery. A few minutes later, Blackbull was pointed again up front in the edge of a milo patch. His bracemate came in hot and failed to honor, weaving in/out of the milo and circling the pointed setter several times before he was finally caught. Blackbull remained steady, and birds were produced once his handler proceeded to flush. Towards the end of his brace, Blackbull pointed again along the creek bank, but his handler pointed out a fresh pile of feathers from a hawk-kill and took him on. Bull ended his brace still hunting hard.

Open Derby

Besting a field of 10 starters for the Open Derby was Bryant's Princess Kate, owned by Jill Bryant of Glasgow, Kentucky, and handled by Kenton Bryant. The orange and white pointer female ran a strong forward race with several giant casts along the course's large cropland edges. She was steady to wing and shot on her game and recorded two nice finds, sporting a high head and tail for both. Kate covered the ground light of foot with style and grace, truly showing potential for becoming a strong field trial dog.

Earning second place for owner Brian Kennedy of Shelby, Iowa, was Hackberry's Boone. Handled by Justin Crook, Boone is a powerful young liver and white pointer male, who was forward most of his half hour. He got stronger throughout the brace and finished with a nice, large cast to the front.

High Drive Zero rounded out the Horseback Open Derby placements. A liver-and-white pointer male, he is owned by Allen Linder of Livingston, Tennessee, and was handled by Buddy Morrison of McMinnville, Tennessee. Zero handled well and was stylish on the ground, sporting a high, snappy tail throughout his brace. The number of birds that had accumulated throughout the weekend prevented him from really stretching out, but he did demonstrate a strong prey drive throughout his half hour and laid down several very nice casts.

Open Shooting Dog

Eighteen dogs started at the line for the Open Horseback Shooting Dog stake. Topping the podium and taking home the custom silver belt buckle was the white female pointer, Crouse's Tennessee Game Kate, owned and handled by Mary Sue Schalk. After taking second place in the Amateur Shooting Dog the day before, Kate really turned it on and laid down a spectacular performance Sunday morning. Over 30 minutes, she had five bird contacts, with her handler finding her standing in a fence row 600 yards to the front for find No. 5. With all in order, birds were raised, and the gun was fired just as time ran out. Kate was always to the front and ran a giant race.

The female setter, Hytime Dixie, returned to the podium, earning



ABHA Horseback Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Mary Sue Schalk with Crouse's Tennessee Game Kate, Buddy Morrison, Anna Katherine Schalk, Ben Weddington with Hytime Dixie, Tyler Herndon, and James Kleve with Chelsea's Thunderstruck.

second place for owner/handler Ben Weddington. She again demonstrated her strong bird-finding ability and her willingness to work with her handler. With three finds in her 30 minutes, Dixie once again demonstrated that she is a strong bird dog who covers the ground constantly in search of game.

Handler Justin Crook once again handled a dog in the money, with Chelsea's Thunderstruck placing third in the stake. Owned by Brad Sadler of Port Royal, South Carolina, the liver and white pointer male is no stranger to the winners' circle. He was biddable and carded a couple of solid finds during his time on the ground. Stylish and always forward, Thunderbolt also demonstrated qualities of a desired bird dog for anyone's string.

Many thanks to all! For the very first event at Quail Creek Farm, we could

not have asked for anything better! The Weddington Family went above and beyond with their hospitality and provided quality field trial grounds. This event will be an annual occasion and one to look forward to.

Judges: Justin Crook and James Kleve ABHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG - 10 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-HYTIME DIXIE, F1682354, setter female, by Hytest Palladin-Wynona's Bohawk Dixie. Ben Weddington, owner and handler.

2d-CROUSE'S TENNESSEE GAME KATE, F1685162, pointer female, by Game Warden-Tennessee Coldwater Pearl. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.

3d-SHEPHERD'S BLACKBULL, F1701279, setter male, by Daphne's Gage-Katlyn's Jan. William Rogers, owner and handler.

Judges: Ben Weddington and James Kleve ABHA OPEN DERBY

- 6 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 2 German Shorthairs
1st-BRYANT'S PRINCESS KATE, F1719742, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Silver W Thunderbolt's Boom. Jill Bryant, owner; Kenton Bryant, handler.

2d-HACKBERRY'S BOONE, F1708403, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Deep Creek Katydid. Brian Kennedy, owner; Justin Crook, owner; Justin Crook, handler.

3d-HIGH DRIVE ZERO, F1714513, pointer male, by Miller's Triple Digit Heat-Windy Hill Shadow Dancer. Allen R. Linder, owner; Buddy Morrison, handler.

Judges: Tyler Herndon and Buddy Morrison ABHA OPEN SHOOTING DOG - 13 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st-CROUSE'S TENNESSEE GAME KATE, F1685162, pointer female, by Game Warden-Tennessee Coldwater Pearl. M. D. Crouse & Mary Sue Schalk, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.

2d-HYTIME DIXIE, F1682354, setter female, by Hytest Palladin-Wynona's Bohawk Dixie. Ben Weddington, owner and handler.

3d-CHELSEA'S THUNDERSTRUCK, F1697295, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Double Wild. Brad Sadler, owner; Justin Crook, handler.

ROUND POND FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Awakened Wins Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

By Cayla Key | Leslie, Georgia | January 15, 2026

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, Sergio Velez and Phil Bowden. This great duo judiciously watched all the contenders during the whole trial. Their time and effort in coming out

to 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 and Stephens Walker for marshaling every brace and to 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 David McMahon 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.

Awakened, owned by Brent Cox and handled by Matt Pendergest, was declared the winner with two outstanding finds. He had a find at 8 and 32. 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 at birds with perfect manners. He also had a strong forward face and always stayed in front of the gallery. At the end of his performance, the bar had been set, and a true winner was on top.

Erin's Grey Ghost, owned and handled by William Owen, was declared second with five finds—at 31, 38, 41, 46, and 48. 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.

Miller's Concealed Weapon, owned and handled by Bill Owen, was declared third with two finds at 6 and 32. He gave an outstanding performance on the ground. He

displayed excellent manners. He had a strong forward race with amazing bird work.

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 15
Judges: Phil Bowden and Sergio Velez
ROUND POND AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]
– 27 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-AWAKENED, F1692621, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Intentional. Brent Cox, owner; Matt Pendergest, handler.

2d-ERIN'S GREY GHOST, F1706514, pointer male, by Erin's Grey Justice-Erin's Miss Sam Houston. William Owen, owner and handler.

3d-MILLER'S CONCEALED WEAPON, F1699549, setter male, by Miller's Black Butte-Alaqua Dee. William Owen, owner and handler.

**2026 Annual Round Pond
Youth Trial**

The fourth annual Round Pond Youth Field Trial ran on Sunday, January 18, 2026. 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, Christy Swearingen and Claudia McNamee, for launching this trial. Thank you, Walker family, for providing lunch. Phil Bowden 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 "Dan," handled by Grace Sanchez. Dan laid down an impressive ground race highlighted by two finds at 7 and 10. At the end of his performance, the bar had been set, and a true winner was on top. Second place was awarded to "Bo," handled by Addison McDuffie. Bo displayed high class with a strong forward ground race with a back at 20. Third place was awarded to "John," handled by Madi Lee. John handled nicely with a find at 17. The Junior Division was awarded to "Mike," handled by Grayson Nobles. Mike chalked up two good finds at 1 and 14, with a strong forward race.

ASSOCIATED FIELD TRIAL CLUBS OF FLORIDA

Piney Woods Trial

By Petie Brown | Punta Gorda, Florida | January 17, 2026

Judith Hamilton made it south in time to chair our Piney Woods trial, bringing with her an intense cold spell with temperatures in the upper 40s during the day, dropping into the high 20s to low 30s at night; this caused frost conditions, wind chills, and wonderfully warm campfires. Several judges whom Judith lined up had to cancel, so Dave and Kari Jorgensen were kind enough to spend the day in the judicial saddle. Their decisions, along with our other judges', were well received.

We have two rotating trophies that are awarded to the winners of the All-Age and Shooting Dog stakes. The Lester White Memorial Trophy, placed in circulation back in 1954 for the Piney Woods Field Trial Club, became the Lester Alford Memorial Trophy in 1984. The Shooting Dog trophy, more recently in circulation, honors Don and Sharon Wood and Frank and Mercy Fonseca for all their contributions to our sport, including the Funseeker line, which has many prodigies still running today. Along with trophies, Purina has generously

donated Pro Plan to the winners, for which our club is most grateful.

The Winners

The one-hour All-Age had some exciting moments. Vince Feltner's Checkmates Catch Me If You Can ("Jackie"), in the first brace of the morning, handled by Paul Daniel, was on point with a single under her at 34. Jackie ran beautifully and was on point again, not to be found, until the tracker was pulled 19 minutes after time was called. Her bracemate, Holopaw's Rear Axel



Open Shooting Dog (front row): Kayleigh Muzynski with Manatee Sam, Judith Hamilton with Higby Bon Hiver, and Petie Brown with Myakka Lucy Diamond. (Second row): Justin Muzynski, Katie McEwen (judge), Robert Dykstra, and Carol Muzynski.



Open Puppy (front row): Laura Dykstra with Myakka Mistake, Katie McEwen with McEwen's One Night Stand, and Petie Brown with Myakka Dancing Diva. (Second row): Beth Brown and Robert Dykstra.



Open All-Age (front row): Katie McEwen with Holopaw's Rear Axel and Kayleigh Muzynski with Holopaw's Cracker. (Second row): Justin and Carol Muzynski.

("Alex"), had his own excitement with a nice run and a whip around point. Some of the birds were in front of him, and some were under him, so his handler, Justin Muzynski, had a good time flushing and a well-earned first place.

The second brace would have worn this reporter out. Holopaw's Cracker ("Mack") went on point at 13, and Justin relocated four times, but was unsuccessful in his flushing attempts, even as fast as he was. Weather conditions definitely played into the birds' advantage for a speedy getaway, and Mack went on to lay down a classy all-age run, earning second place. Taking third place, Checkmates Country Sunshine ("Tawna"), ran in the first brace of the afternoon. This is usually one of our least favorite braces due to the heat, but not the case on this day. Tawna's first large covey with Paul Daniel handling was just before Pine Island, and her second find was near the Grapefruit Head. Tawna was braced with Dominator's High Maintenance, who was not seen since breakaway and was picked up on the tracker way out to the front, looking for an edge.

The Puppy stake was judged by Paul Daniel and Daniel Linehan, with

Myakka Mistake ("Misty") having at least four "contacts" that we saw. Her handler, Beth Brown, barely had time to get back in the saddle as Misty lay out and ran from covey to covey. Her littermates, McEwen's One Night Stand (Katie McEwen), and Myakka Dancing Diva (Petie Brown), took second and third, respectively; they pleased their handlers, but didn't turn up the birds like Misty.

The judges, Beth Brown and Katie McEwen, had plenty to discuss during Sunday morning's Shooting Dog stake. More weather was moving in, and there were some scratches. As the morning went on, the winds picked up, making some dogs appear more scattered. In the first brace, Myakka Lucy Diamond (Petie Brown) placed third with a nice big running shooting dog interrupted by two cyclists coming down the course, who expressed a bit of attitude when we informed them that this was a field trial with the grounds reserved; that was a first, and we hope last. Judith Hamilton's setter, "Holly," ran with great energy, going on point 20 minutes in. Unfortunately, Judith was unable to flush the birds sneaking away; however, Paul Daniel rode them up afterwards. Second place went to Judith Hamilton's Higby

Bon Hiver ("Bonnie"), who had an unproductive, but quickly recovered with a clean find. A well-deserved first place went to Manatee Sam, handled by Justin Muzynski, who hunted with determination, producing two clean finds.

Punta Gorda, Fla., January 17

Judges: Dave Jorgensen and Kari Jorgensen
OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats] – 8 Pointers
 1st-HOLOPAW'S REAR AXEL, F1690238, pointer male, by Holopaw's Axel-Hot Dignity Dot. Kenneth & Justin Muzynski, owners; Justin Muzynski, 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-HOLOPAW'S CRACKER, F1690236, pointer male, by Holopaw's Axel-Hot Dignity Dot. Kenneth & Justin Muzynski, owners; Justin Muzynski, handler.

Judges: Beth Brown and Katie McEwen
OPEN SHOOTING DOG

– 7 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 1 German Shorthair
 1st-MANATEE SAM, F1690412, pointer male, by Holopaw's Axel-Hot Dignity Dot. Kenneth & Justin Muzynski, owners; Justin Muzynski, handler.
 2d-HIGBY BON HIVER, F1684702, pointer female, by Erin's War Creek-Higby Rilo. Judith Hamilton, owner and handler.
 3d-MYAKKA LUCY DIAMOND, F1665013, pointer female, by Elhew G Force-Myakka Hey Jude. Petie Brown, owner and handler.

Judges: Paul Daniel and Daniel Linehan
OPEN PUPPY – 4 Pointers

1st-MYAKKA MISTAKE, unreg., pointer female, by Checkmates Prime Time One-Silverline Destroyer Gold. Beth Brown, owner and handler.
 2d-MCEWEN'S ONE NIGHT STAND, unreg., pointer male, by Checkmates Prime Time One-Silverline Destroyer Gold. Debbie & Katie McEwen, owners; Katie McEwen, handler.



DON'T WAIT ON HOLD

TRY ONLINE CHAT!

www.americanfield.com

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM ET
 MONDAY - FRIDAY



THE 131st CONTINENTAL ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Miller's Blindsider Named Champion; Lester's War Bird, Runner-up

By Jim Womack | Greenville, Florida | January 19, 2026

The Continental Field Trial Club recently hosted the 131st renewal of the Continental Field Trials, which included the Continental Open All-Age Championship and its companion stake, the Continental Open Derby Championship. The Continental Field Trials have historically started on the third Monday of January. This year's renewal was no exception, starting January 19, 2026, and concluding eight days later.

The Continental Open All-Age Championship was ably judged this year by Dr. Stanley Wint from Gardner, Kansas, and Larron Copeland from Bronwood, Georgia. Both gentlemen are eminently qualified to adjudicate over this stake. Stan is a past judge at the National Championship at Ames Plantation and the current president of the National Field Trial Champion Association. Larron Copeland is a lifelong field trialer and patron, 1st Vice President of the AFTCA, a board member of the Continental Field Trial Club, and has won this prestigious title twice. After completion of the highly competitive qualifying braces and the callback series, Miller's Blindsider, a 9-year-old pointer male handled by Jamie Daniels and owned by Nick Berrong, was crowned champion. Lester's War Bird, a 4-year-old pointer male handled by Luke Eisenhart (for Gary Lester) for owners Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton, was declared runner-up champion.

The Continental Field Trial Club is one of the oldest field trial clubs in existence today. The club can trace its origins back to 1895, with the first meeting taking place on March 6 in Chicago and 75 charter members in attendance. Fast forward to the present, where Randy Floyd presides as president of the Continental Field Trial Club, and John Michael McCormick serves as



Continental Open All-Age Championship: "Lefty" Henry with Miller's Blindsider and Judd Carlton with Lester's War Bird. (Front row): Maria Bassham, Sara Schwartz, Penny Daniels, Neil Daniels, Jamie Daniels, Judy Ripley, Patty Sanderson Ewers, and Randy Floyd. (Middle row): Brian Gingrich, Jack Schwartz, Lee Phillips, Jamie Daniels, Larron Copeland, Dr. Stan Wint, Luke Eisenhart, Cal Martin, Shannon Nygard, and Jim Tande. (Back row): Phil Bowden, LJ Lundstrom, Dillon Renault, Til Hankley, Ben Melvin, John Michael McCormick, and Mike Winchester.

vice president. The club directors include Larron Copeland, Dr. Terry Terlep, Jason Williams, Til Hankley, Dr. Kent Cantrell, Julie Ripley Livingston, Woody Watson, and John Thompson, Director Emeritus.

The first trial held under the auspices of the new club, interestingly enough, took place on the Manitoba Club's grounds in Morris, Manitoba, on native Prairie Chickens and Hungarian Partridge. To properly understand the logistics involved in attending that first iteration of the trial, the primary method of conveyance was by rail (there being fewer than a dozen cars in the U.S. at the time), and the American Field advertised the train routing from points further south in the U.S. for this first trial.

The journey of the Continental All-Age Championship has taken a long and circuitous road with stops in Minnesota, Mississippi, North Carolina, Alabama, Tennessee, and Georgia before taking up permanent residence at Livingston Place (formerly known as Dixie Plantation or simply "The Dixie") nestled in the Red Hills region between

Greenville, Florida to the east and Monticello, Florida to the west. Gerald Livingston, the original owner of Livingston Place, was inducted into the Continental Field Trial Club in 1933, and two years later, in 1935, was elected its president. Gerald Livingston was instrumental in bringing the trials to its current home in 1937, where they have been held annually ever since. He also played a crucial role in securing championship status for the All-Age stake in 1939 and the Derby stake in 1950. After his death in 1950, his wife Eleanor took on the leadership mantle for the Continental until her passing in 1978, when that responsibility and privilege were handed down to daughter Geraldine Livingston, who lovingly nurtured the venue and trial until her death in 1994, where the holdings passed to the Geraldine C. M. Livingston Foundation. Ultimately, ownership of the holdings was transferred to Tall Timbers Research & Land Conservancy in 2013, under whose oversight it remains today.

With the slow decline of the prairie all-age trials, the Continental remains as one of the country's most

prestigious wild bird field trials for all-age dogs and a much-desired title for both handlers and owners of the dogs.

The success of an event of this stature depends greatly on the patronage of its sponsors and dedicated supporters. This year's water tank sponsors included Bruce and Karen Norton, Jake Moree, Alex Rickert, Thrift Land Clearing, Dr. Kent Cantrell (Ocala Equine), McNeill Plumbing, Four Oaks Land Company, Dr. Fred and Rita Corder, Mike and Laura Shea, and John Mathys. The committee would also like to extend sincere thanks to Tom Rankin for his generous and continued support.

Waukeelah Fertilizer sponsored the dog wagon this year, as it has in years past. Special thanks to Til Hankley for piloting the dog wagon, assisting handlers with dogs, and safely carrying unmounted guests for the duration of the running.

This year's lunch sponsors included Dale Hodges and the Clanton Malphus Hodges Veterinary Group, Jon Kohler & Associates, Purina, Dr. Terry and Marilyn Terlep, Karen and Bruce Norton, Gary Lester, Jamie and Allison Daniels, and Gordon Moodney.

Miss Gloria Hagen graciously served meals as she has done for as long as your scribe can remember. Assisting Gloria with the meals were Chris Burns and Tracy at Johnston's Catering and Meat Market in Monticello, Florida.

Last but certainly not least, let us take a moment to recognize the management and staff of Tall Timbers for all they do in support of this trial. Plantation manager John Michael McCormick, assisted by staff members Ben Melvin, Lance Little, and Dillon Renau, worked tirelessly to prepare the venue for the running. The grounds, which had taken a fearful beating in the previous two hurricane seasons, were in tiptop shape. The amount of downed timber was staggering, but the staff has worked tirelessly over the last year to clear the timber and repair roads and



Haney's All In and T S Coal Train off Thursday morning, 7:58.

trails that suffered from the excessive rainfall. The grounds were expertly blocked, aiding the dogs, handlers, and scouts through areas with heavier cover. The ongoing habitat management at Livingston Place resulted in an impressive number of birds pointed and moved throughout the running. Special thanks are also in order for John Michael and Ben for expertly marshaling the riders during the running.

The Qualifying Series

Brace 1 was turned loose on the third hour of the afternoon course on Wednesday at 3:20 p.m., directly after the last brace of the Derby Championship was completed. The temperature at breakaway was a pleasant 61 degrees. This brace featured Erin's Three Amigos, owned by Mike Sweet, Jerry Moisson, and John Mathys, and handled by Judd Carlton and Dominator's Wild Bill, owned by Gene Brown and Jeff Arnold, handled by Jamie Daniels. Both dogs hunted with purpose, but unproductives forced them up before finishing their hour.

Brace 2 paired Haney's All In, owned by Steve and Stacy Croy and handled by Mark McLean, with



Nonami's Johnny Come Lately standing in the Big Wood.

T S Coal Train, owned by Dr. Ron Deal and handled by Lee Phillips. It was 39 degrees at 7:58 Thursday morning when the first brace was turned loose behind the equipment shed. At the first turn, Coal Train was spotted on point. Lee was unable to produce birds and so elected to take his charge on. At 17, Coal Train was discovered on point again. Lee flushed to no avail. This second unproductive put Coal Train back on the wagon. After an extended absence, Mark McLean reached for the tracker at 38, thus ending Haney's All In's bid.

Brace 3 featured Erin's Code of Honor and Notorious Dominator's Reserve. Code of Honor is owned by Allen Linder and was handled by Luke Eisenhart. Dominator's Reserve is owned and handled by John Mathys. At 24, John Mathys reached for the tracker, and Dominator's Reserve was through. At 25, Code of Honor was found on point. The stand ultimately proved barren, and Luke took the dog on. Code of Honor was spotted on point again at 37. Luke was able to put up a fine covey, dog displaying perfect manners. Unfortunately, Code of Honor was absent at pickup.

Brace 4 paired Haney's Storm Warning, owned and handled by Chris Cagle and Nonami's Johnny Come Lately, owned by Ted Turner and handled by Ray Pearce. At 3, Johnny pointed, but this proved unproductive for Ray. At 22, Johnny was spotted in the Big Wood, proudly standing at 10 o'clock. Ray flushed a fine covey, just where Johnny said they were. Storm Warning was out of contention at 33 when Chris reached for the tracker. Johnny finished his hour in strong form, racing uphill on the west side of Long Pond at pickup.

In Brace 5, Quail Woods Pine, owned by Greg Adams and handled by Judd Carlton, was paired with Notorious Southern Son, owned and handled by John Mathys. This was the first brace put down after lunch at 1:42. Conditions at breakaway were partly sunny and warm, 71 degrees. Both dogs reached to the front, soon

leaving the Hagan House behind them as the course began a gentle turn to the left. Pine scored first for Judd at 32. At 37, Pine pointed again, with Judd putting up an impressively large covey. While Pine finished the hour in fine form, Southern Son finished birdless for John.

In Brace 6, Miller's Blindsider, owned by Nick Berrong and handled by Jamie Daniels, was braced with Sunset Sam Houston, owned by Matt and Stacy Brown and handled by Luke Eisenhart (for Gary Lester). The pair was loosed beyond the Livingston Road crossing, west of the Big House, at 2:55. At 5, Blindsider was found on point at 11 o'clock. Jamie's flushing effort put up a large covey, Blindsider displaying perfect manners. Both dogs continued through the hour, covering the course with authority. The handlers moved their dogs across the dam at Rogers Pond, the brace ending shy of Kudzu Hill. Blindsider finished the hour with two finds, and Sam Houston unfortunately finished his hour birdless.

In Brace 7, Notorious Sweet Ginger, owned and handled by John Mathys, was paired with Seranoa's Ramblin' Man, owned by Alex Rickert and handled by Mark McLean. Just three minutes after breakaway, Ramblin' Man slammed into point just off the trail. Mark stepped into the birds, everything perfect. Both dogs raced forward and were soon out of sight. At 9, Ramblin Man was spotted far to the left, pointing near a bay head. Upon riding to the point, Sweet Ginger could be seen pointing from the opposite direction. Both handlers dismounted, flushed, and fired to rack up a nice divided find. At 21, Ginger was located on point, John flushed with purpose, but was unable to produce any birds. Unfortunately for Ginger, she took another unproductive at 41. Ramblin Man finished with two finds and an impressive race.

In Brace 8 was Shagtime Bill, one of two setters entered in the Championship, and owned and handled by Chris Cagle. His



Luke flushing for Erin's Perfect Storm at 12.

bracemate was Erin's Perfect Storm, owned by Brad Woodie and handled by Luke Eisenhart. Friday morning dawned cloudy and somewhat muggy at 50 degrees. The dogs broke away at 7:54; as Luke cleared the pine gap, he spied Storm on point in a rye field edge to his right. The birds were located perfectly, Storm's manners beyond reproach. Just before the road crossing, Bill was found pointing. Chris flushed with no success, so he relocated Bill. Unfortunately, the stand proved to be dry, so he took Bill on. Perfect Storm was stretching it out, and at 42, was found on point by the scout. Luke put the birds up, all in order. Storm was not through, and at 59, near the old chimney, showed us all another covey for good measure.

In Brace 9, Miller's King Poast, owned by Al Bryson and handled by Luke Eisenhart (for Gary Lester), was braced with Touch's Midnight Rider, owned by John Milton and handled by Mark McLean. At 10, King Poast was found on point, but Luke was unable to show the judges any birds and so took the dog on. At 17, King Poast pointed again, and this time the wee folks were home. King Poast's manners were impeccable, and again he was off. He lined out at 12 o'clock and pointed a few minutes later at 24, the birds located just off the trail. It didn't take long for Poast to score again. He was spotted at 33 on point with Rider backing nicely. With everything in order, the pair bolted to the front. Rider finally finished the hour with plenty of gas in the tank. It was a nice brace to watch.

In Brace 10, Erin's Redemption,

owned and handled by John Mathys, was paired with Nighthawk's Rebel, owned by Sheree Lucero and Rick Leverich, and handled by Tracy Swearingen. Rebel pointed at 10, just off the trail on the left. Tracy was unable to flush any birds, even after he relocated Rebel, so he took the dog on. Redemption was spotted on point at 24; John dutifully flushed and was rewarded with a nice covey rise. The dogs continued to reach, and at 40, Rebel was seen standing again. Unfortunately for Tracy, the stand proved to be barren.

Brace 11 included Touch's Malcolm Story, owned by Alex Rickert and handled by Mark McLean, and Dominator's Rebel Mark, owned by Nick Berrong and Jack and Sarah Swartz and handled by Jamie Daniels. Story was gone from view soon after breakaway not to be seen again. At 24, Mark requested the tracker. It wasn't Rebel Mark's day either, as Jamie elected to pick him up at 51.

In Brace 12, Southern Pioneer, owned by John Ivester and handled by Robert "Lefty" Henry, was braced with Haney's Silver Dollar, owned by Chris Cagle and handled by Luke Eisenhart. Dogs were off at 1:40. Neither dog impressed the judges and were benched at 23.

In Brace 13, Game Surge, owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder, was paired with Nickajack Pale Rider, owned by David and Andy Freiburger and handled by Mark McLean. Pale Rider's effort was cut short at 23 when Mark asked for his tracker. Game Surge was spotted on point at 3 o'clock after the course had turned sharply to the left. The birds required two relocations before Fred could put them to flight. While cantering to get back to the front, Surge put on the brakes. Unfortunately, Fred was unable to produce any birds and was tagged with an unproductive.

In Brace 14, Erin's Forged In Fire, owned and handled by Sean Derrig, was braced with Rester's Johnny Ringo, owned by Dr. Reuben Richardson and Cecil Rester, and handled by Luke Eisenhart. The

temperature at breakaway, 7:58 Saturday morning, was 52 degrees with scattered clouds and light winds. Forged In Fire picked up two quick unproductives and was finished just beyond the road crossing at 29. Ringo carded a nice find at 57 and finished his hour in style. His race was forward and reaching. Alas, another find or two might have elevated his position with the judges.

In Brace 15, Touch's Lone Dominator, owned and handled by Kent Cantrell, was paired with Game Nation, owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder. Nation was observed standing at 4. No birds were produced, and Fred took him on. Game Nation was not pleasing Fred, and was picked up at 18. Dominator was found stacked up at 28. Kent dismounted and put the birds up, all in order. Three minutes later, at 31, Dominator scored again. Just five minutes later, at 36, Dominator was found on point again just beyond the dove field. She finished with three finds and a smooth, forward race for the hour.

In Brace 16, Touch's Shadow Rider, owned by Bruce and Karen Norton and Dr. Reuben Richardson, handled by Mark McLean, was paired with Miller's Heat Advisory, owned by Mike Sweet and handled by Judd Carlton. Mark took the tracker at 41, effectively ending Shadow Rider's bid. Heat Advisory was out of pocket at pickup.

In Brace 17, Lester's Storm Chaser, owned by John Ivester and handled by Lefty Henry, was braced with Dominator's Southern Beau, owned by Gene Brown and Jeff Arnold and handled by Jamie Daniels. Breakaway was at 1:41 under cloudy skies, light winds, and 60 degrees. Storm Chaser scored first at 9. Lefty put the birds to flight, Storm Chaser's manners beyond reproach. Beau struck next, found standing tall at 16, beyond the Hayfield House. Jamie put up a fine covey for Beau, watered his charge, and cantered him forward to regain the front. Storm Chaser chalked up another find at 27, and



On the dog wagon Saturday morning. Joe Bush, Debbie Sumner, Mary Ann Womack, and Patty Sanderson Ewers all bundled up.

Beau countered with his own contact two minutes later. Both dogs were present at pickup.

In Brace 18, Lester's War Bird, owned by Tommy & Bonnie Hamilton and handled by Luke Eisenhart (for Gary Lester), was paired with Erin's Mighty Quinn, owned and handled by Sean Derrig. War Bird struck first with a fine stand at 6. With all in order, Luke took War Bird on, where he quickly faded from view to the front. At 31, War Bird was located on point. A relocation was required before Luke could put the birds to flight. It was a stellar piece of work, executed perfectly. Quinn was not pleasing Sean, so he was picked up at 36 behind the plantation office. War Bird completed his hour with another nice piece of work at 58 west of Roger's Pond. His race was consistently forward and pleasing.

In Brace 19, at 4:07, Woodville's Long Hard Ride, owned by Carl Owens and handled by Mark McLean, was braced with Game Star, owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder. Both dogs took to the front with purpose. Game Star was found pointing stylishly at 21, and Fred put



At lunch Saturday, last year's winners posed with the rotating trophy, Jerry Raynor with Ch. Touch's Shadow Rider and Carl Owen with R-U Ch. Woodville's Yukon Cornelius. (Back row): Cole and Katie Summerlin, Alex Rickert, Til Hankley, Karen Norton, Chip Jenkins, Patty Sanderson Ewers, Mark McLean, and John Thompson.

the birds to flight. Long Hard Ride countered with his own finds at 23 and another at 27 for Mark. Both dogs were showing considerable energy on the ground. It was Game Star's turn to shine as she carded finds at 38 and 42. Both dogs finished going away, Star with four finds and Hard Ride with three. Thus concluded the qualifying series.

After careful deliberation, judges Dr. Stan Wint and Larron Copeland called back eight worthy candidates—seven pointers and one setter—to compete for championship and runner-up championship titles. The following dogs were chosen for the championship series:

Brace 1: Quail Woods Pines (Judd Carlton) and Miller's Blindsider (Jamie Daniels)

Brace 2: Seranoa's Ramblin' Man (Mark McLean) and Erin's Perfect Storm (Luke Eisenhart)

Brace 3: Miller's King Poast (Luke Eisenhart for Gary Lester) and Woodville's Long Hard Ride (Mark McLean)

Brace 4: Lester's War Bird (Luke Eisenhart for Gary Lester) and Game Star (Dr. Fred Corder). Lester's War Bird was chosen as the Top Qualifier.

Championship Series

Callback Brace 1: Quail Woods Pine, handled by Judd Carlton, was paired with Miller's Blindsider, handled by Jamie Daniels. The start of the first callback brace was delayed until 9:50 Sunday morning due to heavy fog; the temperature was a pleasant 50 degrees. Blindsider struck first with a stylish find at 7 beyond the pine gap. Quail Woods Pine became buried in the wheat field corner, where the course makes a hard right to the road, but was quickly gathered up by the scout and regained the front. Pine was found on point at 18 while Blindsider was styled up 75 yards to the right. Jamie pointed out Blindsider several times, far to the front, when he put the brakes on at 32. Jamie put the birds up, Blindsider standing solidly, high at both ends. After making a few more big swings, Blindsider



Passing the Hagan House just after the Saturday afternoon breakaway.

was found pointing at 45 forward at 10 o'clock, buried in the thick cover at the woods' edge. From there, both handlers swung their dogs through the sharp turn at the trough, heading back toward the second Livingston Road crossing. Jamie pointed out Blindsider far to the front, moving past the morning turnout. Blindsider kept his foot on the pedal with forward finds at 1:05, 1:11, and 1:17, culminating in his final find at 1:27, a stellar piece of work just shy of the Big Wood. Both dogs finished the hour and 50 minutes strongly, in the rye field beyond the turn at Long Pond. Sensing I had seen something special, I waited close by for the judges to finish their deliberation. Larron swung his horse around, rode over, and said, "I'm glad you were here to see that. Six evenly spaced finds and a silky smooth, forward race, as close to perfect as you're likely to see." And so it was.

Callback Brace 2: The second brace, featuring Seranoa's Ramblin' Man, handled by Mark McLean and Erin's Perfect Storm, Luke Eisenhart handling, broke away at 12:05. At 35, Storm was found on point as Ramblin' Man slid in to honor. This stand required two relocations

before the running birds were put to flight by Luke. At 42, Ramblin' Man countered with a find of his own, birds spread out in a wide semi-circle. Pretty to watch as Mark put them up. It was déjà vu all over again at 46 when Storm scored once again with Ramblin' Man backing. Both dogs grabbed a brushy field edge, lining out to the front. Ramblin' Man was seen standing tall at 53, Mark flushing, all in order. Unfortunately for Ramblin' Man, his luck ran out at 1:15 due to a slight bobble on game. Perfect Storm had one last find at 1:30 and finished his brace, searching forward for just one more.

Callback Brace 3: Monday morning dawned cold and windy, 32 degrees and wind gusts to 18 mph, making for trying conditions. The brace was loosed at 7:57, Miller's King Poast with Luke Eisenhart and Woodville's Long Hard Ride with Mark McLean. King Poast scored first at 11, standing in cover adjacent to the first wheat field before the Livingston Road crossing. At the same time, Long Hard Ride was shown to the front on the left edge of the same field, headed toward the first road crossing. King Poast was found standing again at 22, pointing in a

brushy winter rye field edge. As the course continued, it made a gradual turn to the north, and the handlers, judges, and gallery found themselves riding into a brutal headwind. In spite of this, Long Hard Ride was spied standing at 52, just before the water tank turn. King Poast returned the favor moments later with a lofty find at 55. Long Hard Ride was found pointing again at 1:08. Mark was unable to produce birds and elected to take the dog on. At 1:25, both handlers had trackers in hand, ending the brace.

Callback Brace 4 featured the stake's top qualifier, Lester's War Bird with Luke Eisenhart (for Gary Lester), and Game Star with Dr. Fred Corder. The pair was off at 9:36. The temperature had climbed somewhat, but the stiff breeze remained constant. War Bird wasted no time, found standing at 10, manners impeccable as the covey whirred away. Game Star was next at 29, standing loftily near a grizzled old live oak. Fred put the birds up for Star and took her on. Both dogs were doing a fine job on the ground in spite of the chilly breeze, which at this point in the brace had turned into a bitter crosswind. War Bird carded



Judd flushing for Quail Woods Pine, Callback Brace 1.



Mark McLean flushing for Woodville's Long Hard Ride, Callback Brace 3.



Luke taking Lester's War Bird on after his second find, Callback Brace 4.

finds for Luke at 36 and 55. Star was found standing at 1:05. Fred was unable to flush birds, so he had Star relocate. No joy for Fred, so he took her on. From this moment on, the pace of events picked up. At 1:08, War Bird pointed, lofty and confident as Luke flushed. At 1:14, both dogs shared a covey. At 1:16, Fred was off his horse once again, putting birds to flight in front of Star. Not to be outdone, War Bird produced another covey for Luke at 1:18. He repeated this feat at 1:36. As the time ticked by and the end of the brace neared, it was obvious to everyone that we'd seen another superb performance. Both dogs were impressive. Rester's War Bird finished with seven finds for handler Luke Eisenhart, while Game Star scored three times for Dr. Fred Corder.

The judges deliberated during the deadhead back to the barn.

Thirty minutes later, with everyone gathered in front of the Manor House, judges Stan Wint and Larron Copeland passed a folded piece of paper to Continental Field Trial Club President Randy Floyd, who made the announcement.

Miller's Blindsider, handled by Jamie Daniels, was declared champion while Lester's War Bird, handled by Luke Eisenhart (handling in Gary Lester's absence), claimed runner-up champion.

Greenville, Fla., January 19
Judges: Dr. Stan Wint and Larron Copeland
CONTINENTAL OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Qualifying Heats,
One hour & Fifty-Minute Finals]
- 36 Pointers and 2 Setters

Winner-MILLER'S BLINDSIDER, F1674983, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Nick Berrong, owner; Jamie Daniels, handler.
 Runner-Up-LESTER'S WAR BIRD, F1705485, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. Tommy & Bonnie Hamilton owners; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

UKC® HUNTING OPS PODCAST

The UKC® Hunting Ops Podcast is produced by United Kennel Club®, the world's leading dog sports organization since 1898. UKC® Hunting Ops covers Coonhounds, Beagles, Cur and Feist Squirrel Dogs, Pointing Dogs, Retrievers, and more.

Each week we'll discuss aspects of one of our hunting dog sports, with topics like competition rules, UKC events, and discussions with today's top competitors along with the legends of yesterday.

Listen on:



THE CONTINENTAL DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP

Silver W Season Ticket Named Champion; TS Beyond The Pines, Runner-up

By Jim Womack | Greenville, Florida | January 19, 2026



Continental Open Derby Championship (front): Judd Carlton with Silver W Season Ticket with Dr. Debbie Ozner (co-owner), Kandus Knapp with TS Beyond The Pines, and Lee Phillips (owner and handler), joined by participants.

The 2026 renewal of the Continental Derby Championship took place over the famed grounds of Livingston Place, where 33 pointers and one setter vied for the coveted title. The Continental Field Trials,

which include the Continental Open Derby Championship and the Continental Open All-Age Championship, historically start on the third Monday of January. This year was no exception as the Derby Championship started Monday,

January 19, ending Wednesday afternoon. Our esteemed judges included Bill Mason from Moundville, Alabama, and Wayne Pope from Faunsdale, Alabama. They rode long and hard, giving each dog their undivided attention. After the stake on Wednesday afternoon, Randy Floyd, president of the Continental Field Trial Club, read the judges' decisions under the dining pavilion.

Silver W Season Ticket, handled by Luke Eisenhart for owners Dr. Baker Hubbard, Dr. Tom Jackson, and Dr. Debbie Ozner, was crowned the 2026 Continental Derby Champion, while TS Beyond the Pines, owned and handled by Lee Phillips, was declared runner-up champion.

The Continental Field Trial Club is one of the oldest field trial clubs in existence, dating back to its inception in 1895. Gerald Livingston, the original owner of Livingston Place (formerly Dixie Plantation), secured championship status for the Derby

stake in 1950.

This year's lunch sponsors included Dale Hodges and the Clanton Malphus Hodges Veterinary Group, Jon Kohler & Associates, Purina, Dr. Terry and Marilyn Terlep, Karen and Bruce Norton, Gary Lester, Jamie and Allison Daniels, and Gordon Moodney.

Miss Gloria Hagen graciously served meals for the eight days of the Continental Field Trials. Helping Gloria with the meals were Chris Burns and Tracy at Johnston's Catering and Meat Market in Monticello, Florida.

This year's water tank sponsors included Bruce and Karen Norton, Jake Moree, Alex Rickert, Thrift Land Clearing, Dr. Kent Cantrell (Ocala Equine), McNeill Plumbing, Four Oaks Land Company, Dr. Fred and Rita Corder, Mike and Laura Shea, and John Mathys. The committee would also like to extend sincere thanks to Tom Rankin for his generous and continued support. Waukeena Fertilizer sponsored the dog wagon this year, as it has in past years. Special thanks to Til Hankley for driving the dog wagon, assisting handlers with dogs, and carrying unmounted guests for the duration of the running.

The officers and board members



Tuesday morning breakaway: Forged'N Fire, handled by Sean Derrig, with Como White Lightning, handled by Luke Eisenhart.

of the Continental Field Trial Club include Randy Floyd, president, and John Michael McCormick, vice president. The club directors include Larron Copeland, Dr. Terry Terlep, Jason Williams, Til Hankley, Dr. Kent Cantrell, Julie Ripley Livingston, Woody Watson, and John Thompson, Director Emeritus.

The Winners

This year's champion, Silver W Season Ticket, handled by Luke Eisenhart, appeared in the seventh brace, loosed Tuesday at 8:23 a.m. with bracemate Tallokas Last Bullet, handled by Jason Loper. It was a chilly morning, 29 degrees and sunny, conditions were perfect. Silver Ticket had his first contact at 14 before the first road crossing. Luke dismounted, flushed and fired, everything in order. After the

crossing, Season Ticket started reaching, laying beautifully out to the front. Near the water tank turn, he scored again at 55, showing beautiful manners as Luke flushed. The judges were impressed by Silver Ticket's polished manners and mature, forward race.

TS Beyond The Pines appeared in the 11th brace, paired with Erin's Desert Storm. Pine is owned and handled by Lee Phillips, while Storm is handled by Judd Carlton for owner Mike Sweet. Breakaway was at 2:03 p.m. on the second afternoon course beyond the tank at the first afternoon crossing. At 18, Pine was found forward at 10 o'clock standing stylishly. Lee quickly produced birds while Pine showed mature manners on the stand. From there, Pine continued his assault on the front. His reaching finish at pickup impressed the judges enough to bestow the runner-up champion title.

Greenville, Fla., January 19
Judges: Bill Mason and Wayne Pope
CONTINENTAL OPEN DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 33 Pointers and 1 setter
Winner-SILVER W SEASON TICKET, F1719745, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Silver W Thunderbolt's Boom. Dr. Tom Jackson & Dr. Debbie Ozner, owners; Luke Eisenhart, handler.
Runner-Up-TS BEYOND THE PINES, F1713348, pointer male, by Southern Thunder-T S Little Eagle. Lee Phillips, owner and handler.

UKC® HUNTING OPS
PODCAST

Available on YouTube and wherever you get your podcasts!

@ukchuntingops @ukchuntingopspodcast @youtube.com/ukcdogs

NBHA EASTERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

My Way Little Bud Named Champion; Smoke Rise Jake, Runner-up

By Tim Penn | Camden, South Carolina | January 22, 2026



NBHA Eastern Regional Championship: My Way Little Bud with future field trialers and Smoke Rise Jake with Mark Hughes, joined by participants.

With a strong entry of 42 dogs competing, the winners of the 2025-26 NBHA Eastern Regional Championship, held at the Mid-Carolina Grounds in Camden, South Carolina, are champion My Way Little

Bud, a pointer male owned by J. D. Waters of Mechanicsburg, Illinois, and handled by Tony Bingham of Shelby, North Carolina, and runner-up champion Smoke Rise Jake, a pointer male owned by Fred Rose of Pinehurst, North Carolina, and

handled by Tony Bingham of Shelby, North Carolina.

Congratulations to all the competitors. Thank you wholeheartedly to our host, the Boiling Springs Field Trial Club, and trial chairman Cliff Monroe. Thanks to our judges, Taylor Henley of Mooresboro, North Carolina, and Bryan Rathbone of Waynesville, North Carolina, and to our proud sponsors: Purina Pro Plan, Gun Dog Supply, Garmin, Mule Brand Gear and Apparel, Gundog Central, and onX Hunt.

Camden, S. C., January 22

**Judges: Taylor Henley and Bryan Rathbone
NBHA EASTERN REGIONAL OPEN SHOOTING
DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**

– 36 Pointers and 6 Setters

*Winner-MY WAY LITTLE BUD, F1690742, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Hirollins Fancy Lady. J. D. Waters, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.
Runner-Up-SMOKE RISE JAKE, F1684876, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Smoke Rise Mariah. P. F. Rose, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.*

U. S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG ASSOCIATION

Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog Classic, USCSDA Futurity, and Les Hobbs Puppy Classic

By Verlene Stephenson | Camden, South Carolina | January 28/February 19, 2026

The annual U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog Classic, Futurity, and the Les Hobbs Puppy Classic began on Wednesday, January 28, at 8 a.m. and lasted until Friday, January 30, 2026. Due to the forecast of significant snow on the East Coast, the Futurity and Puppy Classic were delayed to February 19, 2026.

This year's location was the well-known grounds of the Mid-Carolina Field Trial Club in Camden, South Carolina. Mid-Carolina grounds are in good shape this year due to the efforts of the members of the Mid-Carolina club. The grounds feature sandy walking paths, broom-straw

patches, field and woodland edges, much like our NC sandhills areas.

In 1958, a group of high school buddies who liked hunting and playing cards together decided to start a field trial club. The Camden grounds have hosted field trials since November 5, 1959. In the 1980's, the SC House of Representatives passed a bill declaring the grounds as field trial grounds with the Mid-Carolina club responsible for the upkeep. It is now part of the Kershaw County Parks and still hosts horseback and walking trials, with several clubs using the grounds annually.

During the three days we were there for the Bob Lee Classic, we

experienced very low temperatures at night, warming to the 40s and 50s during the day. Heavy frosts delayed the start times to 9:30 a.m. Ice patches remained from the ice storm the weekend before our trial started. Conditions during the day were sunny and breezy.

On Friday, the decision was made that, in the interest of the safety of animals and participants, the best thing was to head home and wait out the predicted snowstorm. We would be able to resume the Futurity and Puppy Classic later in February, following the U.S. Complete Open Invitational Championship, which was to be held on the same grounds.

The Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog

Classic was first run in 2003. The stake honors Robert E. (Bob) Lee for being a founder of our organization. The USCSDA Futurity began in 1996. A 30-minute puppy classic has always accompanied the Futurity, but beginning in 2017, it was renamed the Les Hobbs Puppy Classic. Les Hobbs was an avid supporter of the U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association, and a revolving trophy displaying his name goes home with the Puppy Classic winner each year.

We wish to thank our national sponsors, Purina and Garmin, for their continued support. Purina provided small bags of dog food and hats for participants. Futurity winners received certificates for multiple bags of dog food. Garmin provided a collar for the Futurity winner and a bark collar for second place. A new sponsor this year, Lion Country Supply, provided gift certificates for the four Futurity placements.

Special thanks go to our bird planters, Bryan Rathbone and Dave Hughes at the Bob Lee Classic, and J. D. Waters and Dave Hughes at the Futurity. Also, thanks to Butch and Gaye Lilly from the Mid-Carolina club, who always show up to help out. Gaye's chocolate éclair dessert is always a hit. And thanks to all the ladies who offered to help out in the kitchen.

This was the third year the event was held at the Mid Carolina grounds. Does anyone remember the days when we were at the Drop Zone in NC? No water, electricity, bathroom, or shelter of any kind. It is SO much nicer to have grounds that have a clubhouse and water for the animals.

There was a total of 75 entries for this year's running. The entries were a bit lower than last year; however, this year we had several participants who were new to U.S. Complete. They all seemed to enjoy their experience, and we hope to see them again next year! Thanks for your support.

Warren Parrott and wife, Renee, provided a delicious spaghetti handlers' dinner Thursday night in



Robert E. Lee Classic (first row, l-r): Smoke Rise Jake with Mark Hughes, Hope Beauford (judge), Mohawk Mill Shake Up with Cliff Monroe, Lisa Monroe, and Mohawk Mill War Hawk with Roger McPherson. (Back row): Dennis Beauford (judge), Tony Bingham, Nick Mellon, and Russ Fazio.

honor of last year's Bob Lee Shooting Dog Classic winner, Hirollins Gone and Doneit. Thank you, Warren and Renee!

Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog Classic

The Winners

Thank you to Dennis and Hope Beauford of Troy, South Carolina, for judging this renewal of the Classic. It was great to see Dennis and Hope again. They are always a pleasure to be around.

The winner was Smoke Rise Jake, owned by Fred Rose and handled by Tony Bingham. Jake had finds at 19, 24, a beautiful limb find at 33, a find and excellent relocation at 38, 49, 52, and 58. Jake had a big race and was always found up front on point.

The second-place dog was Mohawk Mill Shake Up, owned and handled by Cliff Monroe. Shake had finds at 10, 32, 40, and 58. Shake had a big, strong, and classy race. He was always to the front.

The third-place dog was Mohawk Mill War Hawk, owned by J. D. Waters and handled by Tony Bingham. War Hawk had his first find off the breakaway at 15, all in order. He went on to have a UP at 31 and stylish finds at 39 and 51. War Hawk also had a big, forward race.

The 36-dog stake had many top-quality bird dogs in it.

Camden, S. C., January 28

Judges: Dennis Beauford and Hope Beauford
ROBERT E. LEE SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 30 Pointers and 6 Setters

1st-SMOKE RISE JAKE, F1684876, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Smoke Rise Mariah. P. F. Rose, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.

2d-MOHAWK MILL SHAKE UP, F1698765, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Legendary. Cliff Monroe, owner and handler.

3d-MOHAWK MILL WAR HAWK, F1691822, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk-Mohawk Mill Dolly. J. D. Waters, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.

U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Futurity

The 30th USCSDA Futurity was capably judged this year by Ronnie Rogers, from New Market, Tennessee, and Daryl Grantham, from Knoxville, Tennessee.

This year, 23 litters were nominated, with 26 entries from these litters. We are grateful to the breeders who nominated these litters and hope to receive even more great litter nominations next year.

The Futurity was postponed after the Robert E. Lee Shooting Dog Classic and began later on Thursday, February 19, at 8:30 a.m. We managed to get seven braces in on Thursday since we were expecting rain. Unfortunately, we had to take an unplanned break during the running on Thursday afternoon after the fifth brace. Just as that brace was ending, Gene Casale, who was riding in the gallery, had a horse wreck and suffered what seemed to be a head injury. The ambulance was called,



U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Futurity: Suemac's Southern Ambush with Roger McPherson, Tony Bingham, Smoke Rise Rock with Mark Hughes, Russ Fazio, Evan's Full Throttle with J. D. Waters, Meghan's Macavator with Sam Ridings, Daryl Grantham (judge), and Ronnie Rogers (judge).

and Gene was taken to the hospital. Thankfully, after scans and X-rays, Gene was released from the hospital and was able to join us later at the handlers' dinner. Gene, we hope you have fully recovered from your little adventure, and we will see you again next year.

Weather conditions for the Futurity were the exact opposite of those for the Bob Lee Classic. For the Classic, there was ice, frost, and freezing temperatures. For the Futurity, it was hot, temps in the high 70s, and the rain arrived just before lunch on Friday, thoroughly soaking everyone in that brace. Fortunately, it didn't last long.

Thursday night's handlers' dinner was provided by Nick Mellon and his wife, Valerie, owners of last year's winner, Hypointe Monarch Express. Words cannot adequately describe that dinner. It felt like a "black tie" affair. There were tables covered with tablecloths and chafing dishes loaded with delicious food. One whole table was filled with heavy hors d'oeuvres. (My personal favorite was the candied bacon.) Main dishes were smoked brisket and a low-country boil. Let me say that Nick and Valerie hit a home run with the handlers' dinner.

All placements received certificates for bags of Purina dog food. The first- and second-place winners received Garmin collars. All placements received a gift certificate provided by a new sponsor, Lion Country Supply. Handlers received small bags of Purina Pro Plan Sport.

The Winners

First place honors went to Suemac's Southern Ambush, owned by Roger McPherson and handled by Tony Bingham. This litter was bred by Gary and Ellen Winall. Ambush had the best ground race by a derby seen in a long time. She also had a beautiful and perfectly handled limb find.

Second place was Smoke Rise Rock, owned by Fred Rose and handled by Tony Bingham. This litter was bred by J. R. Hasty. Rock also had a great, forward race. He scored two finds, one of which was a stylish limb find.

Third place was Evan's Full Throttle, owned by Evan Smith, Ernie and Karen Saniga, and handled by Mark Hughes. This litter was bred by Mark Hughes. Full Throttle had three nice finds. She shortened in the middle but finished her brace strong.

Fourth place was Meghan's Macavator, owned by Meghan and Travis Riggs and handled by Sam Ridings. This litter was bred by Tommy Lloyd. Macavator had a good race, scored two stylish finds, and was pretty on point.

Judges: Darryl Grantham and Ronnie Rogers U. S. COMPLETE SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY – 24 Pointers and 2 German Shorthairs

1st-SUEMAC'S SOUTHERN AMBUSH, F1716176, pointer female, by Rocky River Halo-Mohawk Mill Lady Justice. Roger McPherson, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.

2d-SMOKE RISE ROCK, F1716094, pointer male, by Smoke Rise Jake-Hasty's Dolly Parton. Fred Rose, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.

3d-EVAN'S FULL THROTTLE, F1713964, pointer female, by Double Deuce Zeke-Braggabull. Evan Smith, Ernie & Karen Saniga, owners; Mark Hughes, handler.

4th-MEGHAN'S MACAVATOR, F1717847, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Fly In The Sky. Meghan Riggs & Travis Riggs, owners; Sam Ridings, handler.

Les Hobbs Puppy Classic

The judges for the Puppy Classic were Mark Hughes of Grampian, Pennsylvania, and Tony Bingham of Shelby, North Carolina. Mark and Tony are both qualified, experienced field trialers.

The Puppy Classic began in the rain on Saturday morning, February 21. Thirteen entries were competing



Les Hobbs Puppy Classic: Green Valleys Golden Goose with Bryan Rathbone, Tony Bingham (judge), CCUK Tar Heel Duke with Bradley Collins, Mark Hughes (judge), Gale Force Wind with David Theroux, Nick Mellon, and Kelly Hays.

for the opportunity to take home the Les Hobbs revolving trophy.

Receiving top honors for first place was Green Valleys Golden Goose, owned and handled by Bryan Rathbone. Goose had everything the judges were looking for in a stellar performance. He had a very strong, forward, and consistent race. He hunted the objectives when needed and made big casts when needed.

In second place was CCUK Tar Heel Duke, owned and handled by newcomer Bradley Collins. Duke had a very flashy and fancy race, always swinging to the front, searching for the objectives.

Third place was Gale Force Wind, owned and handled by another newcomer, David Theroux. Wind was a bye-dog, with a consistent, flashy, and fast forward race, always staying at a perfect hunting range.

All three placements showed they had the stamina and potential for making it as derbies next year.

The Les Hobbs Puppy Classic concluded six days of some very good dogs doing what they love, and handlers also doing what they love. There were some great stories swapped, and many training tips shared. This is always a fun trial experience, and this year didn't disappoint. I'm hoping the new folks participating were convinced to come back next year. A big thank you to all of you who made this trial a success!!

And again, we thank our national sponsors, Purina and Garmin, and our new sponsor, Lion Country

Supply.

Judges: Tony Bingham and Mark Hughes
LES HOBBS PUPPY CLASSIC
– 4 Pointers and 9 Setters

1st-GREEN VALLEYS GOLDEN GOOSE, F1720937,
pointer male, by The Treasure Chest-Mohawk Mill For
Real. Bryan Rathbone, owner and handler.

2d-CCUK TAR HEEL DUKE, F1722533, setter male,
by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Phillips Moonlite Lily.
Bradley Collins & Amanda Collins, owners; Bradley
Collins, handler.

3d-GALE FORCE WIND, F1723241, setter female, by
Super Storm Cliff-North Country Shooting Star. David
Theroux, owner and handler.



PLANT A SEED
in the minds of your customers by placing an ad in UKC® Field.
See sizes and rates on page 80.
For more information, email: fieldnewsletter@ukcdogs.com

NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Late Hit Named Champion of the 65th Running

By Elton Bray | Union Springs, Alabama | February 2, 2026

The 65th renewal of the prestigious National Open Shooting Dog Championship began Monday, February 2nd, and concluded Monday, February 9th. A string of 64, which included 53 pointers and 11 setters, was drawn to compete for the best of the best. Twenty-two of the most renowned, professional, and amateur dog handlers vied for their dog to be named champion.

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 member is the board president, Bill Lee. He is a major part of the Sedgefields operation. He is on hand



National Open Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Bonnie Campbell, August Campbell, Tom Shenker, Squire Lee with Late Hit, Chris Campbell, Melody Shenker, John Samuel Shenker, and Anne Jackson Shenker.

daily and does whatever it takes to make the trial run fluently. His love for our sport and 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 does it all. She takes care of the ad, entries, judges, dog wagon goodies, and does all the scheduling for each day and night's events. From flower arrangements to judges' books, Heather gets everything done. Klinck's time and dedication are two of the major parts of the trial's

success each year.

Steve Hutto oversaw the dog wagon duties. Hutto is always in the right place at the right time. He is also in charge of making sure the wagon is stocked full of snacks and drinks each day. Phil Bowden was also on hand to drive the Gibsons' bird buggy. He was a big help.

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 were also on hand each day.

Annie Buce oversaw washing off the official's horses. She does an excellent job and is very much

appreciated. Annie was also seen on horseback throughout the trial.

The judges advertised for this year's competition were Mike Jackson, Battle Ground, Indiana; Jonathan Burch, Holly Springs, Mississippi; and Kevin Stuart, Schenectady, New York. Unfortunately, Jonathan Burch was unable to attend due to an ice storm that hit the north Mississippi area just a few days before the running. Hunter McDuffie, of Cecil, Alabama, was asked to step in at the last minute and accepted the duty as the third judge. Each gentleman has a rich history with bird dogs, and they watched each competitor with careful intent.

The trial had a very special guest in attendance this year, all the way from Japan—Mr. Chiharu Niwa, former president for Region 15 and one of the founding members since 1962. Mr. Niwa celebrated his 88th birthday during his stay in Union Springs. His son-in-law, Mr. Patrick Scott, a retired Navy veteran of Hampton, Virginia, accompanied him. The current Region 15 president, Mr. Norio Yamazaki, was also in attendance and rode a horse one afternoon.

Purina is the official dog food sponsor. Their representative, Greg Blair, was in attendance for several days and was accompanied by his daughter, Maddie. Purina is a very important part of this championship; not only do they provide financial support, but they also award the winner with rewards, gifts, and dog food. Without the support of Greg Blair and Purina, our sport would be nearly dissolved. Other official sponsors for the trial were: Garmin, 5 Star Equine Products, Dan's Hunting Gear, and The Saddle Guy. Dinner sponsors for this year were: Jimmy Cook Chevrolet and Ford, Thompson Tractor, AmeriFirst Bank, Phillip's Feed and Seed, Eater Plantation, The Whithurst Family, Embrace Alabama Kids, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Harbert, Beck's Turf, Jim Wilson and Associates, and the Alabama Field Trial Association. Sponsoring the cocktails this year



Bill and Muriel Primm.

were: AmeriFirst Bank, Blackbelt Land Management, Dykes Quality Automotive, Frank Moorer, Old English Farm, Harrison Lee, Ted Roach, Hembree Furniture, Justin Clark, Tracy McPherson (ALFA), T. J. Williford Partners Realty, and Union Springs Home Center. 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 many 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 2025 National Champion, Late Hit. The meal and celebration were sponsored by his owner, Chris Campbell, and family. A beautiful portrait commissioned by Ross Young was presented to Mr. Campbell. The remainder of the week, dinners were held each night at the Field House.

This was the third year of releasing wild birds on the afternoon courses. Eight years ago, Tall Timbers started the wild bird project on the morning courses. The program Tall Timbers implemented has had a huge

impact on increasing the Bobwhite population.

The Champion

This year's National Champion, for the second consecutive year, was Late Hit. The orange and white pointer male (callname "Jay") is owned by Christopher Campbell of Point Clear, Alabama, and is handled by Tom Shenker of Hurtsboro, Alabama. Jay was scouted by Squire Lee of Pike Road, Alabama. The 7-year-old athlete put on a phenomenal show for all to see. Campbell was able to be in attendance on horseback to watch his champion compete for the title. The only other time a dog has won the National Shooting Dog Championship back-to-back was in 1968 and 1969 when Dean Lord handled Easy Mark. Jay competed in the 12th brace along with Sandridge Big Iron (Allen Vincent). They were turned loose at the end of Bill Lee's driveway. At 20, just after making the turn behind Duck Lake, both dogs were seen on point together. Both handlers produced game, and all was in order. Making the turn towards the Bill Rainer line at 58, scout Squire Lee called point for Jay. He was standing proud and tall as Shenker flushed the wild bevy. At 1:27, the gallery crossed Bill Lee's driveway, and both dogs were seen standing near one another again. A very nice covey of Bobwhites flushed as both handlers only made a few steps. Jay put on a phenomenal ground performance. He was smooth, strong, and always showed to the front over the next hill. He displayed a beautiful disposition around his game and a great rapport with his handler. It truly was a National Championship performance.

The Running

Starting the trial off on Monday morning was Miller's Heat Seeker (George Tracy) and Miller's Family Tradition (Squire Lee). It was sunny, with the temperature near freezing. Seeker had a nice find at 14 just after crossing the road. He was unsuccessful at 47 but finished the

90 minutes. Family Tradition was birdless but hunted until time was called.

Drawn in the second brace were Silver Wing (Tracy Swearingen) and Trumped (Mike Tracy). The pair was released from the Coke Barn. Trumped's owner, Allen Linder, was in attendance on horseback. Wing had no game contact but completed the brace. Tracy asked for the retrieval device at 20.

The first brace in the afternoon, No. 3, drew Cheap Thrill (Tommy Rice III) and Big Man On Campus (Shawn Kinkelaar). The sun brought about warmer temperatures for the afternoon. Only a few seconds passed when both dogs locked up just before the Dove Field. A nice covey flew as both handlers flushed. Thrill found birds again at 28, and 1:01 with only one unproductive at 42. She completed the 90 minutes. Kinkelaar asked for the tracker at 32.

Breaking away at the end of Bill Lee's driveway with the fourth brace were Miller's Special Cinderella (George Tracy) and Smoke'N'Mirrors (Matt Basilone). Cinderella's owners, Bill and Muriel Primm, were present to watch their young female. Smoke'N'Mirrors was unable to produce game at 1:03 but finished. Tracy requested the tracker at 58.

The fifth brace turned loose on Tuesday morning at 8:01 with Hale's Smooth Touch (Shawn Kinkelaar) and Ray Banne (Tony Reynolds). The temperature was in the mid-50s for most of the day. Touch pointed at 9 just after the road crossing. Unfortunately, no birds were found. Banne was standing behind honoring. At 47, just after crossing the New Bridge, both dogs pointed to the right side. The nice covey rose credited each with a divided find. They were both picked up at the one-hour mark.

Turning loose from the Coke Barn with Brace No. 6 was The Gray Ghost (Matt Basilone) and Lester's Another Shockwave (Shawn Kinkelaar). Ghost's owner, W. Smoot Carter, and two of Shockwave's owners, Jay Moisson and Tom



Heather Klinck and Bill Lee.

Jackson, were all on horseback to watch the competition. Shockwave was credited with a nice piece of bird work at 7, just after crossing the ditch. His handler requested the tracker at 40. Ghost was awarded finds at 30 and 45. He completed the hour-and-a-half.

Brace No. 7 was released from the Field Trial Barn with Minnesota Red Confidence (Tommy Rice III) and BK Locked N' Loaded (Sergio Velez). Loaded was unable to produce game at 46. Velez opted to pick him up at the hour mark. Confidence was harnessed at 52.

Drawn in the eighth brace were Bittersweet War Cry (Mike Tracy) and Great River Yellowstone (Tracy Swearingen). They broke away at the end of Bill Lee's driveway. War Cry suffered two unproductives, his first at 58 and his second at 1:29. Yellowstone was unable to produce game at 8 and 45. He was put on the wagon after his second.

The ninth brace's starting time was delayed an hour due to heavy rain. Turned loose at 9:04 were Wynona's Nickleback Sugar (Allen Vincent) and Touch's Steely Dan (Virgil Moore). Vincent requested the tracker at 30. Dan suffered an unproductive at 7 and another at 14. He was harnessed after his second.

The 10th brace broke away from the Coke Barn with C S Snapdragon (Steve Hurdle) and BK Cornerstone (Sergio Velez). Snapdragon was credited with a nice find at 43. He had an absence shortly after, and Hurdle asked for the retrieval device at 1:04. Cornerstone was unsuccessful at 55 and 1:05, and was picked up.

The Wednesday afternoon sun

brought the temperature to the mid-50s. As Brace No. 11 turned loose from the Barn with Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Ajay (Alex Mauck) and BK Bulletproof (Sergio Velez). One of Bulletproof's owners, Phil Bowden, was in attendance. Ajay was unsuccessful at 12 but found on point at 18 just before the crossing behind Bill Lee's house. Mauck flushed a nice covey. Unfortunately, he was unable to produce game at 32 and was picked up. Bulletproof stood proud to honor his bracemate. Just as pick up was called, Velez called point and produced a nice bevy for his stylish pointer.

The 12th brace produced the Champion and has been previously reviewed.

Released Thursday morning, with the temperature below freezing, was Brace No. 13 with Upfront's Southern Star (Shawn Kinkelaar) and C S Dirty Harry (Steve Hurdle). Both dogs were harnessed at 1:10.

Drawn for the 14th brace were Como Skyline (Steve Hurdle) and Miller's High Heat Index (Mike Tracy). The temperature was still freezing with a strong wind as the dogs were released from the Coke Barn. Skyline had a nice find at 33 just before making the swing back towards the Big Lake. Heat Index was also successful at 43 at the Big Lake, and Skyline was there to honor. They both completed the 90 minutes.

The 15th brace drew I'm Gallant (Allen Vincent) and Dominator's Wild Bill (Jeff Arnold). Bill's owner, Gene Brown, was in the gallery to watch his dog's performance. They were turned loose from the Barn at 1:30. Both were unable to produce game at 52. I'm Gallant was harnessed at 1:05 and Wild Bill at 1:10.

Breaking away at the end of Bill Lee's driveway with brace No. 16 was Hirollins Bad Boy (Matt Basilone) and Erin's Grey Ghost (Bill Owen). Boy and Ghost were both seen pointed at 25 after crossing Duck Lake. Both handlers flushed, rewarding their competitors with a divided find. They shared another nice find at 42 just

before the road crossing. They each completed the hour-and-a-half.

Friday morning brought about warmer temperatures and sunshine for the 17th brace with Laura Pergolizzi (Shaw Kinkelaar) and Waybetter Rebel (Mike Tracy). Bill and Muriel Primm were on horseback to watch Rebel hunt. Rebel produced game at 14, 1:05, and 1:08. He hunted to the front until the finish. Pergolizzi was picked up at 1:14.

C S Code Blue (Steve Hurdle) and Haneys Juggernaut (Shawn Kinkelaar) were turned loose at the Coke Barn for the 18th brace. Dr. Tom Jackson rode to watch his Juggernaut. Blue was unsuccessful at 45 and was harnessed at 1:03. Juggernaut was also picked up at 1:03.

Released from the barn in Brace No. 19 were Backus White Privilege (Shaw Kinkelaar) and Miller's Concealed Weapon (Bill Owen). Dr. Jackson also owns Privilege and watched him compete from the gallery. After making the swing out of the Dove Field at 21, Privilege was credited with a nice find on the right side. He was picked up at 52. Weapon made game at 37 and 57. He was put on the wagon after his second.

Finishing off Friday with the 20th brace was Parkway (Mike Tracy) and Mohawk Mill Gangster (Matt Basilone). Parkway's owners, Bill and Muriel Primm, were on horseback. Parkway had finds at 33 and 36 with a stop-to-flush at 41. He was unsuccessful at 42 and was picked up at 1:15. Gangster produced birds at 24 and 47. He suffered an unproductives at 41 and 43 and was harnessed.

Saturday morning was cool with a light breeze as the 21st brace turned loose with Miller's Newest Version (Bill Owen) and Ramblin Rivers Double Dot (Brian Gingrich). Dot's owners, Bill Stapleton and Jerry Moisson, were in attendance. Version was picked up after crossing the New Bridge at 50. Dot was credited with a nice find at 24 along the road, and a second that came at

47 just before crossing the bridge. She pointed once more at 1:22, nearing the Coke Barn Road, but was unable to produce game. She completed the 90 minutes.

Circle B Wanted Ryder (Sergio Velez) and Nonami's Johnny Come Lately (Ray Pierce) broke away from the Coke Barn with the 22nd brace. Phil Bowden was in attendance to watch Ryder's performance. Ryder pointed at 36, but no game was produced. The stylish setter found birds at 47 and 1:01. He was picked up at 1:20. Lately had a nice find at 24 and another at 55. He was there to honor his bracemate for his two finds. He finished the hour-and-a-half hunting the front.

The 23rd brace drew Fort River's Lucky Charm (Matt Basilone) and Awakened (Brent Cox). The pair was released from the Barn at 1:04. Charm had a nice find at seven in the Dove Field. He was unsuccessful at 16 and 47 and was picked up. Awakened had a find at 20 and honored his bracemate on his unproductives.

Drawn in the 24th brace, which broke away at Bill Lee's driveway, were Mohawk Mill King Pen (Matt Basilone) and Thunder's Wild Agin (Shawn Kinkelaar). King Pen pointed just before crossing the Duck Lake Levy. A nice covey flew as Basilone flushed. He had another nice find at the hour mark, just after crossing the road and making the swing towards the Bill Rainer line. King Pen completed the 90 minutes. Wild Agin scored his first at 21, making the right swing in the pines. He was credited with four more finds: 42, 51, 57, and 1:42. He was unsuccessful at 1:03. Wild Agin was hunting forward from start to finish and was stylishly well mannered around his game.

Sunday morning was warm and sunny. Chelsea's Mae West (Shawn Kinkelaar) and Outer Edge Jack (Virgil Moore) were paired in the 25th brace. Mae was picked up at 1:10. Jack made game contact at 29. He was also picked up at 1:10.

In Brace No. 26, breaking away at the Coke Barn were World

Class Terminator (Squire Lee) and Bryant's Give A Rip (Kenton Bryant). Terminator was unsuccessful at 6 but was awarded a nice piece of bird work at 39 near the Big Lake. Lee requested the retrieval device at 50. Rip went birdless and was harnessed at 1:10.

Drawn for the 27th brace on Sunday afternoon were Mauck's Wyeast Owyhee Dallee (Alex Mauck) and Ramblin Rivers Natural (Brian Gingrich). In attendance was Natural's owner, William Stapleton. Dallee was picked up at 12. Natural suffered an unproductive at 31 and was picked up.

The 28th brace concluded Sunday's running with LMD's Can't Touch This (Virgil Moore) and Melrose Big John (Terry Chastain Jr.). Can't Touch This was found on point near the deer stand. Moore flushed a nice covey of Bobwhites. He was picked up at 59 after crossing the road. Big John had nice game contact at 18 but was unsuccessful at 40. He was also picked up at the hour mark.

The last morning, Brace No. 29 drew Miller's Automatic Upgrade (George Tracy) and Grand Prairie Thrill (Tommy Rice III). Tracy asked for the tracker at 33. Thrill was put on the wagon at 1:01.

Drawn in the 30th brace was Miller's Little Duce Coupe (George Tracy) and B K Pablo Escobar (Sergio Velez). Coupe's owners, Allen Linder and Madison McDonald, were on horseback to watch their canine's performance. Coupe was awarded a stylish find at 31 and was harnessed at 1:02. Escobar was picked up at 1:05.

Starting Monday afternoon, with the 31st brace, was Silver W Thunderbolt's Boom (Shawn Kinkelaar) and Erin's Primetime (Tracy Swearingen). Boom's owner, Dr. Debbie Ozner, was on horseback for the hunt. Boom suffered unproductives at 17 and 48 and was harnessed. Primetime was picked up at 58.

The last brace of the trial, No. 32,

drew Erin's Ikon (Brian Gingrich) and Panther Creek Rosie (Tommy Rice III). Ikon's owners, Kristen and Jerry Moisson, and Rosie's owner, Frank Rutland, were all in the gallery for the finale of the National. Ikon was unsuccessful at 30 but had two nice pieces of bird work at 44 and 53. He was harnessed at 58. Rosie found a nice bevy at 23. She was also picked up at 58.



Norio Yamazaki, Tony Gibson, Chiharu Niwa, and Patrick Scott.

Union Springs, Ala., February 2
Judges: Mike Jackson, Hunter McDuffie
and Kevin Stuart

**NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [Ninety-Minute Heats]
– 54 Pointers and 10 Setters**

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

ASSOCIATED FIELD TRIAL CLUBS OF FLORIDA

Puppy Derby Classic

By Petie Brown | Punta Gorda, Florida | February 7, 2026

The Muzynski family once again outdid themselves as chairs for our club's Puppy Derby trial. Prior to the Friday night drawing, they put on a delicious fish boil that fed us all over the weekend. Besides using their buggy as a dog wagon, they are always ready to be of assistance; that's the kind of people you want around you at a field trial. Sure, we are competitive, but we also look out for each other.

Pleasant temperatures and dry conditions kicked off Saturday morning's Derby stake with Carl Womack and Justin Muzynski in the judicial saddles. Carl, a special education teacher, grew up field trialing with his parents, Jim and Maryanne Womack; coming to the Webb is a family reunion for Carl, and we are grateful for his support. Beth Brown teamed with Carl to judge the Shooting Dog and All-Age, and Judith Hamilton joined him for the Puppy stake. Their decisions were well received, and we are grateful for their time in the saddle and attention to our dogs and handling.

Saturday night's cookout, besides being a party concluding day one of the running, also came off like a history lesson of the club as many names of dogs, handlers, and owners are read off prior to the announcement of the winners and presentation of the trophies; in this case, the Derby, Shooting Dog, and



Open Shooting Dog: Justin Muzynski, Kenneth Muzynski with Holopaw's Mack, Judith Hamilton with Higby Bon Hiver, and Kayleigh Muzynski with Manatee Sam. (Second row): Beth Brown (judge), Carol Muzynski, Katie McEwen, Laura Dykstra, Page, Daniel Linehan, and Carl Womack (judge).

All-Age stakes.

Again, we thank Purina for their sponsorship, which is greatly appreciated, as they donated Purina Pro Plan to the winners. We thank the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission for their dedication to maintaining the land set up for field trialing.

The Puppy Derby Classic concluded our field trial season, and we all felt it ended too soon. We will gather again in April for our spring meeting, where we will celebrate

the marriage of the club's secretary, Katie McEwen.

The Winners

The Derby stake of littermates ended up with a first and second placement, as one was on the ground just getting exposure to the commotion of a field trial, and another, who started the season the same way, turned into an AWOL All-Age. "Goose," or "Gouda," as he is often called, handled by Katie McEwen, ran a decisive all-age with a few directional moments when the

courses turned, but definitely made contact with Katie, taking second place. Taking first was Myakka Mistake, handled by Beth Brown, who had a strong finish (didn't want to call time), listened attentively (until time was called), was out front running a big shooting dog until time was called, when she went all-age. With only four Derby entries, the Shooting Dog stake was also on board for the morning.

The first brace got off to a great start when Justin Muzynski's Manatee Sam went on point shortly before the one-hour turn. Justin did a great job getting the birds trying to slip away. There was a pine tree down at an angle, and the birds were nearly under it when they flew. Unfortunately, a good number of them flew back towards Sammy, nearly hitting him. He ducked a bit and did a spin to mark, as Judith Hamilton's Bonnie backed like a statue, taking it all in. The second brace was uneventful as far as bird work, and the temperature was rising, making the third brace very exciting for Justin Muzynski, as his dog "Mack", aka snake bite, was seen standing in the middle of the large open area just before the "horseshoe," so named because of the way the course turns. It is a very birdy area, but this time, instead of being in the palmettos, the covey was sprawled out feeding, and Mack handled the birds to perfection. The last three braces of the shooting dog were uneventful as the temperature climbed. Manatee Sam took third place, with Bonnie placing second, and Holopaw's Mack taking a justified first place.

Three braces of All-Age followed, but only one winner emerged. Multiple unproductives told us the birds were running as the



Open Derby: Beth Brown with Myakka Mistake and Katie McEwen with McEwen's One Night Stand. (Back row): Carl Womack (judge), Daniel Linehan, and Justin Muzynski (judge).

temperature cooled off, landing "Tawna" back on the dog wagon. Her bracemate, "Miller," was enjoying himself immensely, being naughty with multiple coveys before his handler, Katie McEwen, could get a handle on him. The excitement of calling point for this scout quickly turned to "Get on him, Katie!" The second brace had Justin Muzynski pulling the tracker out for Holopaw's Cracker ("Buddy") who got out of pocket as his bracemate had an exciting find for us to watch, because she looked like a coiled spring coursing with energy. The final brace had Alex pointing a newborn fawn and a moment later knocking into his bracemate who was picked up, leaving Checkmates Catch Me If You Can the clear winner.



Justin Muzynski flushing for Manatee Sam as Judith Hamilton's Higby Bon Hiver backs.

Congratulations to owner Vince Feltner and handler Paul Daniel.

Sunday morning's first of two braces of puppies, littermates who ran as derby dogs the day prior, placed the same, with Goose coming in second and Misty placing first. Petie Brown's Diva from breakaway was gone and when the tracker was pulled, it was given to Kenny Muzynski to collect her on the big area. The season may be over, but there is a lot of training and conditioning that still needs to happen. Since we only had an hour of running, we took out more dogs to train our way back to camp, winding down on an uplifting note.

Punta Gorda, Fla., February 7

Judges: Justin Muzynski and Carl Womack
OPEN DERBY – 4 Pointers

1st-MYAKKA MISTAKE, unreg., pointer female, by Checkmates Prime Time One-Silverline Destroyer Gold. Beth Brown, owner and handler.

2d-MCEWEN'S ONE NIGHT STAND, unreg., pointer male, by Checkmates Prime Time One-Silverline Destroyer Gold. Debbie & Katie McEwen, owners; Katie McEwen, handler.

Judges: Beth Brown and Carl Womack

OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats] – 6 Pointers

1st-CHECKMATES CATCH ME IF YOU CAN, F1706156, pointer female, by Myakka Time Shifter-Nacho's Drama Ma Ma. Vince Feltner, owner; Paul Daniel, handler.

OPEN SHOOTING DOG

– 9 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-HOLOPAW'S MACK, F1690237, pointer male, by Holopaw's Axel-Hot Dignity Dot. Kenneth & Justin Muzynski, owners; Justin Muzynski, handler.

2d-HIGBY BON HIVER, F1684702, pointer female, by Erin's War Creek-Higby Rilo. Judith Hamilton, owner and handler.

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

Judges: Judith Hamilton and Carl Womack

OPEN PUPPY – 4 Pointers

1st-MYAKKA MISTAKE, unreg., pointer female, by Checkmates Prime Time One-Silverline Destroyer Gold. Beth Brown, owner and handler.

2d-MCEWEN'S ONE NIGHT STAND, unreg., pointer male, by Checkmates Prime Time One-Silverline Destroyer Gold. Debbie & Katie McEwen, owners; Katie McEwen, handler.

UKC® FIELD PRINT DEADLINES

Don't miss the next deadline!

JUNE
Deadline: May 5

JULY
Deadline: June 5

AUGUST
Deadline: July 5

For more information, please email gsmith@ukcdogs.com

NGSPA REGION 7 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Series Held At Lake Murray Field Trial Grounds

By Terry Bomer | Ardmore, Oklahoma | February 7, 2026

The NGSPA Region 7 Amateur Shooting Dog was held at Lake Murray Field Trial Grounds, Ardmore, Oklahoma. A big thank you to the sponsors of Region 7—Purina and SportDOG. Greg Blair with Purina and Jim Morehouse with SportDOG have supported field trials for quite some time, and their help is very appreciated. Thank you to all the judges who spent their time in the saddle judging all the dogs. A big thank you to everyone for attending and making this trial a great event. The OFTCA has cleared, mulched, burned, and dozed the grounds, which were in top shape. We had 19 dogs drawn, and 19 dogs broke away. The stake was judged by Scott Bodenstab and T. J. Hidalgo. The stake broke away the morning of February 7. The weather was mild with cloudy skies and good scenting conditions. The champion was O B's Stick In The Mud ("Stick"), and the runner-up was M S R's Kiss My Lily ("Lily"). Both dogs had nice, forward-flowing races with good bird work.

The NGSPA Region 7 All-Age broke away on Monday, March 9. The wind was strong, making for tough conditions for the dogs and handlers. The judges were T. J. Hidalgo and Dan Campbell. There were 13 dogs drawn, and 13 dogs broke away. The champion was Ream's Winnie ("Winnie"), owned by Derrick and



NGSPA Region 7 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (front row): Terry Bomer with O B's Stick In The Mud and Brandon Blum with M R S's Kiss My Lily. (Back row): Scott Bodenstab (judge), James Messer, and Tim Hidalgo (judge).

Kaitlyn Ream, handled by Brandon Blum. The runner-up champion was Texas Preacher Man ("Mike"), owned by Kirk and Terry Bomer, handled by Keith Gullede, and scouted by Robbi Gullede. Winnie and Mike were braced together in the first brace, and both dogs had very forward races, working the cover with numerous bird contacts. This brace held up for the rest of the stake.

The NGSPA Region 7 Derby Classic ran on the afternoon of March 10. The stake was judged by James Messer and Brandon Blum.

We had five dogs drawn, and five dogs ran. First place Hi-Tailyn Sersi ("Sersi") is owned, handled, and bred by Scott Bodenstab. Second place went to LPK's Maverick's Running Wild ("Maverick"), owned by Joe Burch, handled by Keith Gullede, and bred by Robbi Gullede. This pair of dogs ran together with strong races and bird work.

The NGSPA Region 7 Open Shooting Dog was judged by T. J. Hidalgo and Dan Campbell. We drew 13 dogs, and 13 dogs broke away. The weather was nice, and



NGSPA Region 7 Open Shooting Dog Championship (front row): O'Brien's Ill Gotten Gains with Robbie Gullede and B D K's Sam I Am with Terry Bomer. (Back row): T. J. Hidalgo (judge), David O'Brien, and Dan Campbell (judge).



NGSPA Region 7 Open All-Age Championship (front row): James Messer with B M B's Freeloader and Robbie Gullede with Texas Preacher Man. (Back row): Brandon Blum, Dan Campbell (judge), T. J. Hidalgo (judge), Keith Gullede, and Terry Bomer.



NGSPA Region 7 Derby Classic (front row): Scott Bodenstab with Hi-Tailyn Sersi and Joe Burch with LPK's Maverick's Running Wild. (Back row): James Messer (judge), Brandon Blum (judge), Keith Gullede, and Tyler Burch.

the dogs were ready to run. The champion, O'Brien's Ill Gotten Gains ("Bonnie") from Brace 1, owned and handled by David O'Brien, had a nice forward-flowing shooting dog race with numerous bird finds. Bonnie set the bar for all of the rest of the dogs. The runner-up was B D K's Sam I Am ("Sam"), owned by David O'Brien, handled by Keith Gullede, and scouted by Robbi Gullede. Sam had a nice shooting dog race with several finds.

Ardmore, Okla., February 7

Judges: Scott Bodenstab and T. J. Hidalgo
NGSPA 7 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
- 19 German Shorthairs

Winner-O B'S STICK IN THE MUD, F1687879, German Shorthair male, by B D K's Sam I Am-B D K Allie's Miss Sassy Pants. David O'Brien, owner; Keith Gullede, handler.

Runner-Up-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.

Judges: Dan Campbell and T. J. Hidalgo
NGSPA 7 OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] - 13 German Shorthairs

Winner-O'BRIEN'S Ill GOTTEN GAINS, F1685653, German Shorthair female, by B D K Gold Mine Claim Jumper-B D K Jazz's Sylvania Blue. David O'Brien, owner and 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; Keith Gullede, handler.

NGSPA REGION 7 OPEN ALL-AGE
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
- 13 German Shorthairs

Winner-B M B'S FREELOADER, F1678664, German Shorthair male, by B M B's Free Ride-Hightailing Saddle's Mandolin. Brandon & Jennifer Bum, owners; Brandon Blum, handler.

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

Judges: Brandon Blum and James Messer
NGSPA REGION 8 DERBY CLASSIC
- 5 German Shorthairs

1st-HI-TAILYN SERSI, F1727328, German Shorthair female, by Uodibar's Shoot The Moon-Hi Tailyn Xena. Scott Bodenstab, owner and handler.

2d-LPK'S MAVERICK'S RUNNING WILD, F1718264, German Shorthair male, by O B's Stick In The Mud-B D K's Molly's Game. Joe Burch, owner; Keith Gullede, handler.

SUBMITTING A WRITE-UP & FORMS?

Please submit all information to:
dwellmann@ukcdogs.com

[Please note that results received well after the trial (60-90 days) cannot be assured that the trial will receive coverage in a printed issue.]

NBHA NATIONAL INVITATIONAL BREEDERS' CHAMPIONSHIP

Indian Creek Sprout Named Champion; Foxy Lady Sadie, Runner-up

By Christian Ogle | Grovespring, Missouri | February 10, 2026



NBHA National Invitational Breeders' Championship (front): Jillian Stuhr with Indian Creek Sprout, Andrea Wood Ward with Foxy Lady Sadie, and Tom Waite. (Standing, l-r): Kevin Western, Randy Zimmer, Garry Malzone, Mike Taylor, Mike Poehler (judge), Frank Christie, Doug Meyer (judge), Joe Zimmer, Chris Leeson, Tim Penn, Rick Torres, Bob Burchett, and Jim Ogle.

The 2026 National Bird Hunters Association Breeders Invitational Championship was held on the Sportsman's Association grounds near Grovespring, Missouri. The trial began on February 10 and lasted

three-and-a-half days. We had some of the most perfect weather Missouri could offer. We drew 40 dogs for this prestigious and coveted title. Our judges were Doug Myers from Tonganoxie, Kansas, and Mike Poehler from Strafford, Missouri. We

ran six braces a day and spent the rest of the day with chores and dog stories from the past.

The Missouri Bird Hunters were again on hand to help with the duties of this trial. It takes an exceptional team to make this go smoothly. Trial chairman and MBHA President Christian Ogle has the best team. Starting every morning was Randy Zimmer. Randy cooked biscuits and gravy to give everyone a full belly to start their morning. He would later hop in the truck and make sure the dogs were at the starting line on both ends of the course. He would also help with lunch duties. Next up is Joe Zimmer. Joe was always up early, helping with the bird planting. Throughout the day, Joe was driving his UTV to help with bird planting, hauling the trial reporter, or chasing down dogs that needed GPS pickup. Mr. Kevin Western drove his two-seater buggy borrowed from his lovely wife, Heather. Also hauling extra spectators, bird planting, and

being our second dog wagon. Thank you, gentlemen, for all the behind-the-scenes work you do to perfection. These gentlemen are leaving their families and chores behind for a week so you can run dogs. Please thank them every time you see them.

Purina Pro Plan is our largest sponsor and is donating a lot of dog food to our winners. Garmin donates collars to the winners of every championship. OnX is one of our new sponsors. They are donating an elite membership to our winners. Gun Dog Supply donates gift certificates. Mule Brand Clothing has coupons for our winners. Gundog Central takes care of our website. I would like to personally thank you all. Without your support, we would be lost.

The Running

Day one, Brace 1: Blair's Holy Thunder (Tom Waite) and Indian Creek Pearl Jam (Garry Malzone). Cut loose at 8:01 a.m., it didn't take "Pearl" long to be found pointed near the cemetery. At 8:04, a single was produced. At 8:13, she was pointed again, Thunder with a nice back. Pearl was picked up for manners at 24. Thunder was pointing in Sycamore bottoms near the big chute. At 38, he was picked up for manners.

Brace 2, breakaway 9:05 a.m.: Indian Creek Pineapple (Garry Malzone) and Bandit Hill Bess (Klaus Schmidt). Bess had her first find at 14. The birds were under a downed cedar tree near the Little Vine loop. She would go on to have two more finds, but was unable to produce birds on both. Garry picked his dog up at 35, with no infractions.

Brace 3, 10:19 a.m.: Cates Rocket Girl (Zach Erne) and Glover's Flintstone (Jack Glover). Rocket Girl had finds at 28 and 32, and a nice back at 54. Flintstone had a back at 32 and a UP at 54.

Brace 4, 11:30 a.m.: Dale Creek Tothe Max (Tom Waite) and Snow's Home Again Katy (Kenny Snow). Both dogs were picked up early.

Brace 5, breakaway 1:56 p.m.: Chippewa's Dog of War (Zach Erne)

and Haney's Big Country (Garry Malzone). Zack had to get his tracker after a long absence. Big had a UP at 34. At 48, he was pointing near the cedar tree in Little Vine loop. After a relocation, a single was produced.

Brace 6, turned loose at 3:05 p.m.: Erin's Pancho Villa (Chuck Leonard) and Raintree Blue Moon (Tom Waite). Blue Moon had a UP at 25. Both finished the hour.

Wednesday, Brace 7, 7:56 a.m. breakaway: Flint Ridge Ranger (Paul Ott) and Need For Speed (Tom Waite). Ranger had a find at 14 in the breakaway bottoms big hill. Ranger was again pointed at 19. Paul relocated but could not produce a bird. Tom picked his dog up for a failure to back. Ranger had his second UP at 49.

Brace 8, 9:09 a.m.: Indian Creek Spur (Garry Malzone) and Miller Creek's On The Horizon (Matt Miller). Spur had a find at 7. A single was produced in the Little Vine loop. Spur was found to the front pointed, but Garry found a dead bird. "Reyna" was found forward on the course in Sycamore bottoms. Matt was unable to produce a bird. At 38, both dogs were pointed, and the judges called a divided find. At the 50-minute mark, Reyna was pointed again with Spur backing. A small covey was produced. At 55, both dogs had another divided find. Both handlers elected not to flush.

Brace 9, 10:05 a.m.: Erin's Deja Vu (Garry Malzone) and Bakers Shining Star Duke (Tom Waite). Both dogs were found in breakaway bottoms on separate birds. "Tess" had a single, and Duke had a UP. At 25, Tess was pointed in Sycamore bottoms by the big chute. Garry flushed, and she went with the birds. Duke had a find at the big hill in Sycamore bottoms. Tom flushed a single, and they finished the hour.

Brace 10, 10:29 a.m.: Southern Shadow's Stoner (Klaus Schmidt) and River City Hit Man (Zach Erne). Both dogs were picked up for infractions.

Brace 11, breakaway 1:58 p.m.:

Hey Mr. Tin Man (Kenny Snow) and Full Red Afterburn (Tom Waite). Red had a pair in breakaway bottoms at 13. At 22, Tin Man was pointed where birds had been found earlier. No birds were produced. Red was picked up for failure to back. Tin Man would have his second UP at 54.

Brace 12, turned loose at 3:10 p.m.: Indian Creek Sprout (Garry Malzone) and Penrosa Hidncash (Tim Penn). It would only take Sprout five minutes to have her first find, standing tall while Garry kicked up a single. Her next find, she was again standing tall and proud on the hill behind the big Sycamore tree. Another single would be produced. At 30, Cash would be pointed in a briar patch in Sycamore bottoms. Cash got a UP as Tim couldn't produce a bird. At 38, both dogs were pointed across from Andy's house, in different locations on different birds. Both handlers were able to put birds in the air. Both dogs finished their hours strong and to the front. Sprout made a big move to the front, finishing her lines—all finds to the front with a big boost to get there.

Thursday, Brace 13, 7:58 a.m.: Dale Creek Janie Bell (Tom Waite) and Harbor City Pride (Garry Malzone). Both dogs were picked up at 5.

Brace 14, 8:45 a.m.: Snow's Sea Dollar (Kenny Snow) and Kissimmee Grousewoods Tea (Garry Malzone). Tea had her first bird contact at 7, and Garry flushed a pair in the Little Vine loop. Sea Dollar was found to the front, standing on the big hill in Sycamore bottoms. At 20, Tea had her second find by the dry creek bed in Little Vine loop. Her third find at 35 was the East timber in the breakaway bottoms. At 37, Kenny was unable to produce a bird for UP. Both dogs finished the hour.

Brace 15, 10:00 a.m.: Miller Creek's Misbehavin' (Matt Miller) was scratched; she was in season. Raintree Simply Singular (Tom Waite) was picked up early.

Brace 16: River City Free Agent (Zach Erne) and Glover's Pepper Shaker (Jack Glover). At 24, Pepper

was pointed on the big hill by the Sycamore tree. Jack flushed a single. At 36, she had a UP. At 46, Jack picked her up.

Brace 17, 1:29 p.m.: Flint Ridge Oakley (Paul Ott) and Indian Creek Courageous Cat (Garry Malzone). Oakley had a find at 5 in the breakaway bottoms; a single was produced. At 14, both dogs were picked up.

Brace 18, 2:23 p.m.: Southern Shadow's Bootlegger (Klaus Schmidt) and Blair's Calvary Mountain (Tom Waite). At 24, Shadow was pointed on the hill near the Sycamore. Klaus put a single in the air. At 30, another find near the south end of Breakaway bottoms.

Friday, Brace 19, 7:59 a.m.: Miss Grace (Dan Crunk) and Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior (Garry Malzone). Buddy had a find at 4; Garry flushed and then relocated. This time, he was able to put a pair of quail into the air. Grace had a find at 12. Dan flushed a single. Buddy was on point at 18 on the south end of Breakaway Bottoms. Dan picked up Grace at 28 for manners. Buddy pointed again at 31 on the hill by the big Sycamore. At 44, he had a UP. At 56, a single was flushed for Buddy in the Little Vine Loop.

Brace 20, 9:15 a.m.: Double D's Star Linebacker (Danny Draffen) and Foxy Lady Sadie (Tom Waite). Sadie had her first find at 15. A small covey flushed from the scrub brush on the big hill in the Little Vine Loop. At 26, she was pointed on the big hill by the Sycamore. Tom flushed a single. At 42, she had a find on the south end of Breakaway Bottoms. Double D had a nice back of Sadie. At 50, he was picked up for manners. Sadie was always fast and found on point to the front. Snappy and stylish finishing lines to the end.

This year's 2026 Breeders' Champion is Indian Creek Sprout, scouted by owner Jillian Stuhr and handled by Garry Malzone. Team Malzone continues their success and shows what teamwork and a good work ethic can get you in life.

Our runner-up champion is Foxy Lady Sadie, an Irish setter owned by Mike Fox, handled by Tom Waite, and scouted by Andrea Wood Ward.

Both of these dogs are a pleasure to watch. The excitement of watching both of these dogs slam point makes judges and the gallery alike smile and set up in their saddles. Congratulations to both of these dogs, breeders, owners, and scouts.

Grovespring, Mo., February 10
Judges: Doug Meyer and Mike Poehler
NBHA NATIONAL INVITATIONAL BREEDERS' CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 40 Entries
Winner-INDIAN CREEK SPROUT, F1693330, pointer female, by Indian Creek Perfect Storm-Indian Creek Ramona. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.
Runner-Up-FOXY LADY SADIE, F1691626, Irish setter female, by Zansett Simply Red-Foxy's Lil Red Missy. Mike Fox, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

40th NBHA 2026 Futurity

The grounds at Grovespring are the perfect venue for both the qualifying round and the one-hour callbacks. Our judges this year were Bob Burchett and Mark Livingston. We started on Friday after naming our champion and runner-up for the Breeders' Championship. Our numbers were down this year, and I expected this after last year's numbers were down for the Jerry Kilgore Puppy Classic.

I would like to apologize for my lack of notes during the qualifying rounds. We did have a lot of bird work—some clean and polished, some more of a happy puppy. I will say that having this trial in February can show different levels of maturity. A bad birthday could put a dog in the Futurity that was running in the puppy class two months earlier.

We still have standards to consider. This trial is special to me. I've put a ton of work into this for the last six years. It should be viewed as the best of each breed, which can be used to improve our breeding programs. Some of these dogs stood out with style, race, and new what they were there to do. We have to look for the potential that will take these dogs to the next level of success.

Our first-place dog, Run To Wynn, came from the first brace of the callbacks on Sunday morning.

This pointer male was bred by Matt Pendergrass. He is out of Cocklebur Dragon Tattoo x Imagine. Wynn also won the Jerry Kilgore Puppy Classic last year. Wynn had a back at 11. His first find was at 26 near the big chute in Sycamore Bottoms. He took a little pressure from his bracemate. At 35, he would have a stop to flush on the big hill past the Sycamore tree. He was always to the front and a pleasure to watch. Wynn was handled by Zach Erne and scouted by his brother, Andy Erne. These two are a great team. A new team on the rise, seeing success. And they are also great men to be around.

Our second-place dog, Loghome Lizzie, came from the third brace and was a standby dog. Lizzie was bred by Andrea Wood Ward, out of Dale Creek Rising Moon x Dale Creek Zed Babe. She is owned by Rick and Karen Torres. Lizzie's first find was at 14 in Breakaway Bottoms. Tom kicked up a single. Her second find was across the road, entering Sycamore Bottoms. This bird had help from her bracemate flushing. At 45, she was pointed near the Little Vine Loop. She again had pressure from her bracemate, and they both took the birds out. Lizzie is fast, snappy, and fun to watch.

Our third-place dog, Hard Hat's Andy, owned by Jim Smith and handled by Chris Leeson, was bred by Jim Smith. He is out of Hard Hats Bad Dotty x Buck Shamrock. Andy had three points in which he flushed birds himself before Chris got to him, catching the last one. Mark said he finished strong and to the front.

Our fourth-place finisher, JD's Happy Jack, is a pointer male owned and handled by Dan Crunk. He was bred by Wade Williams, out of Bluemounds White Reign x Phillips Linebacker. Jack was in the second brace of our callbacks. Jack had his first find at 18 in one of the long fields west of Sycamore Bottoms. At 30, Dan flushed a pair in Sycamore Bottoms. Jack had his last find at 46. Jack had a few steps with each find marking flight. He had a good race, hunting the edges and very stylish,

moving and on point.

Judges: Bob Burchett and Mark Livingston
NBHA 40TH FUTURITY – 7 Pointers and 8 Setters
1st-RUN TO WYNN, F1712002, pointer male, by Imagine-Cocklebur Dragon Tattoo. Brett Eikenbary, owner; Zach Erme, handler.
2d-LOGHOME LIZZIE, F1710848, setter female, by Dale Creek Zed Babe-Dale Creek Rising Moon. Rick & Karen Torres, owners; Tom Waite, handler.
3d-HARD HAT'S ANDY, F1711934, setter male, by Buck Shamrock-Hard Hats Bad Dotty. Jim Smith, owner; Chris Leeson, handler.
4th-JD'S HAPPY JACK, F1712298, pointer male, by Phillips Linebacker-Bluemounds White Reign. Dan Crunk, owner and handler.

2026 Jerry Kilgore Puppy Classic

This event was notably affected by rain, which may have affected the performance of some contestants. Despite the weather, several puppies excelled, demonstrating both promise and resilience.

In the first brace was Running With Scissors (Garry Malzone). She finished her 30 minutes, handled easily, and stayed forward; her race was not as strong as the top three, but earned her fourth place. Guard Rail's Cowboy Mickey (Mike Taylor) was picked up at 2 for interfering with a bracedmate.

In the second brace was Snow's Daisy (Kenny Snow). She moved nicely and hunted to the front, rewarded with third place. Dublin

Down (ESF/Brady Elmore) went to the front, hunted hard, and demonstrated top contender potential. She earned first place, standing out as the clear winner.

In the third brace was Erin's Cisco of Timbercreek (Chuck Leonard), a flashy pointer, capable of a big race, but didn't apply himself as well as the winners. Coon Creeks Pride Lakota (Corey Huchteman) used cover well, demonstrated great hunting effort, and earned second place.

In the fourth brace was Dancehall Dreamer (Jeff Hampshire), an attractive setter who made a good forward cast and close consideration for the podium. Indian Creek Branzino (Garry Malzone) was a hard-going puppy, difficult for the handler, who may show better another day.

In the fifth brace, Hackberry's Snake Lady McGee (Mike Taylor) and Livewire (Chuck Maxson) complemented each other, sought independence, but time ran out for them.

In the sixth brace was Coon Creeks Pride Ten Bears (Corey Huchteman). He hunted nicely, had a bird-contact pleasing performance, but not as strong as the winners. Indian Creek

Kalabar (Garry Malzone) started strong, but lost track of the handler at the road and was picked up at 22.

In the seventh brace were Snow's Lacey Jay (Kenny Snow) and Rim Rocks Desert Snake Pearl (Mike Taylor). Both made similar efforts and responded well to handlers, but not as strongly as the winners.

In closing, I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to host these trials for the last six years. I hope the next person who takes on the task of the Futurity will uphold the standards and keep our future breeding programs held to the highest level possible. Be honest with everyone and treat them fairly and with respect, and you will be treated the same. May God bless you all.

Judges: Mark Livingston and Tim Penn
NBHA JERRY KILGORE PUPPY CLASSIC
– 14 Entries

1st-DUBLIN DOWN, F1720080, setter female, by Skyview Black Onyx-Erin's Crossroads. Brady Elmore, owner and handler.
2d-COON CREEKS PRIDE LAKOTA, F1729614, German Shorthair female, by Coon Creeks Pride Crow-Bee Ridge Maggie Ann. Corey Huchteman, owner and handler.
3d-SNOW'S DAISY, F1728148, setter female, by G F Texas Ranger-Wynona's Atlantic Way Cookie. Kenny Snow, owner and handler.
4th-RUNNING WITH SCISSORS, F1724728, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Indian Creek Sprout. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.

REGION 3 (AFTCA) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP ***Bittersweet War Dance Named Champion; One Day Queen Bee, Runner-up*** **By Roger Duerksen, M.D. | Hoffman, North Carolina | February 20, 2026**

The Region 3 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship was held at Hoffman, North Carolina, February 20-22—a larger draw of 40 entries taxed the allotted time of three days. However, with the cooperation of the field trialers and judges Grayson Francis and Dan Knox, we were able to get it done. We had wonderful support from Gretchen and John Adsit and Maggie Maier, who provided lunches, handled receiving the Purina dog food, as well as multiple other tasks. Greg Robinson was efficient as the dog wagon driver, as always. Matt

White catered Saturday's lunch and dinner, and the food was exceptional. We thank Purina for their long-term support and again for supporting this trial.

We had a good trial, with 24 coveys moved during the three-day trial. The weather was unusually variable, with hot, muggy weather the first day, followed by rain at noon with hot (80F) temperatures. The following day was cooler with overcast skies, followed by rain, colder temperatures, and wind. Despite the weather, there were excellent dog performances on all three days.

The Winners

Champion: Bittersweet War Dance, pointer male, owned by Ralph Gillota and Pete Del Collo, and handled by Pete Del Collo.

Runner-up Champion: One Day Queen Bee, pointer female, owned by Lane and Darcy Hodges, and handled by Lane Hodges.

Both winners ran on the second day, with cool, overcast skies. War Dance ran a forward race, handled well for Pete Del Collo. He had covey finds at 24 and 42 with good manners.



Region 3 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (first row): Pete Del Collo with Bittersweet War Dance, Chris Del Collo, and Lane Hodges with One Day Queen Bee. (Second row): Dan Knox (judge), Grayson Francis (judge), D. Lane, and George Kimbrell.

Queen Bee also ran a forward race and handled well for Lane Hodges. A divided find with bracemate, I'm The Lone Ranger, and a second find finished a good performance.

The Running

Brace 1: Bonner's Lynn Grove (PF/Derek Bonner) had an unproductive and finished with no bird work. Calico's Over The Top (PM/Alex Smith) had two unproductives and was up at 30.

Brace 2: Excalibur River Queen (PF/Rodney Poston) was lost. "Ray" (D. Bonner) had one unproductive and one covey find and was picked up at 30.

Brace 3: One Day La Bandita (PF/L. Hodges) and Alibi Girl (PF/L. King) shared a divided find.

Brace 4: Calico's Country Strong (PF/Alex Smith) had two unproductives. I'm A Southern Natural (ESF/S. Giddens) was lost.

Brace 5: Both Panola Sugar (PF/M. Stidham) and Harbor City Express (PM/T. Brigman) were picked up.

Brace 6: "Flo" (PF/K. Courtney) finished with no finds. Hot Dog

Homer (PM/A. Smith) was picked up.

Brace 7: Dry Creek Ares (PM/J. Smith) and Silver W Thunderbolt's Boom (PF/D. Ozner) were scratched.

Brace 8: One Day Queen Bee is described above. I'm The Lone Ranger (PM/S. Giddens) had a divided find and a stop-to-flush.

Brace 9: Backcountry Bruiser (PM/Chris Catanzarite) was unproductive. Treetop Smokin Smudge (PM/J. Smith) finished with no bird work.

Brace 10: Bittersweet War Dance (PM/P. Del Collo) was named champion; see above. Palmetto Knight Light (PM/R. Poston) had a back, no finds.

Brace 11: Mac's Slim Jim (PM/T. McClurg) had two finds and two unproductives. "Sam" (PM/W. Lewis) was up with a manners violation.

Brace 12: Both Bad News Bob (PM/B. Conover) and I'm Crossroads (ESM/S. Giddens) were up early.

Brace 13: One Day Lucky Strike (PM/L. Hodges) had one find and an unproductive. L F Dialing Samantha (PF/L. King) had no bird work.

Brace 14: Buffalo Junction Klaus

(PM/T. McClurg) was lost. "Chip" (PM/P. Kelly) was scratched.

Brace 15: "Spike" (PM/Chloe Lewis). Fourteen-year-old Chloe did an excellent job handling, but was picked up after an unproductive. Miss Lucille (PF/G. Miller) was up after a manners violation.

Brace 16: Loveridge Ann (PF/Prevatte) suffered a manners violation. Backcountry Champagnesupernova (PF/Catanzarite) had a covey find.

Brace 17: I Dream of Jeannie (ESF/K. Whitfield) had one find. Bud Adams (PM/C. Adams) had two finds.

Brace 18: I'm Alley Cat (ESF/S. Giddens), and Seldom Best Legend (PM/Ralph) had no bird work.

Brace 19: "Karma" (PM/W. Lewis) and Ralphy's Chasehill Rip (PM/Ralph) had no birds.

Brace 20: Klee's Pearl (PF) suffered an unproductive and a manners violation on a large covey. Backcountry Pure Gold (PF/Catanzarite) was up with a manners violation.

The continued improvement in bird finding at Hoffman has increased the entries, and all field trialers owe a vote of gratitude to John Ivester and his team. When the Region 3 Shooting Dog Championship runs again at Hoffman, the dates will increase by one day to accommodate the expected increase in entries.

Hoffman, N. C., February 20
Judges: Grayson Francis and Dan Knox
REGION 3 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
- 36 Pointers and 3 Setters

Winner-BITTERSWEET WAR DANCE, F1705828, pointer male, by Bittersweet War Cry-Bittersweet Recovery. Ralph Gillota & Pete Del Collo, owners; Pete Del Collo, handler.

Runner-Up-ONE DAY QUEEN BEE, F1684579, pointer female, by Heard Hill's Memory Lane-Dubose's Snow White. Lane & Darcy Hodges, owners; Lane Hodges, handler.

Visit us at: www.americanfield.com

NBHA NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Bandit Hill Bess Named Champion; Blair's Holy Thunder, Runner-up

By Greg Blair | Dancyville, Tennessee | February 24, 2026

The National Bird Hunters Association (NBHA) "Dance in Dancyville" returned to the beautiful grounds of West Tennessee for the 2026 renewal of the NBHA National Open Championship. The West Tennessee Field Trial Club has been in existence since the early 1900's, and some of the largest and most storied field trials in history have been run on these grounds. A who's who of field trial royalty graces the walls of the clubhouse, and many of those individuals have joined us around the campfire. It is an HONOR to host our National Championship here. We hope our relationship adds to the history that is already there.

There aren't enough words to express our gratitude to Bill and Julia Currie, Dr. Gene Spiotta, Chris and Mechelle Mullen, Ross Callaway, Ike Todd, Brad Laverne, and all of the West Tennessee Field Trial Club for their generosity and help in providing such a quality venue. They go above and beyond every single day to make it a great event. These are truly special people who go out of their way to provide all we need. This year, the West Tennessee FTC handled ALL the meals. Each and every day, the lunches were prepared in a timely manner, and the handlers' fish fry, along with the Saturday night tenderloin dinner, were prepared to perfection! This year, the cost of our handler meal was provided by the 2025 winner. Tom Waite and Andrea Ward provided home-cooked meals (venison steaks, pheasant stir fry, and pork/ham and potatoes) for the judges and workers throughout the week! Every participant absolutely raves about this championship, the grounds, the people, and how it continues to be THE venue for the NBHA National Open Championship.

We also want to give special thanks to our judges, David Russell and Mike Lemons. David hails from Como, Mississippi, and Mike came



NBHA National Open Championship (l-r): David Russell (judge), Ann Forrester, Lance Servais, Chris Mullen with Bandit Hill Bess, Dr. Gene Spiotta, Mike Lemons (judge), Tom Waite, Andrea Ward with Blair's Holy Thunder, Ike Todd, Klaus Schmidt, Greg Blair, Julia and Bill Currie, and Mechelle Mullen.

to us from Little Rock, Arkansas. Both men kept a close eye on all the dogs; they knew a championship performance, were helpful to all participants, and rendered a decision that was greatly respected. They are also the kind of gentlemen you enjoy having around—honest, attentive, and fair. A big thanks also goes out to our sponsors. We couldn't do this without the amazing support of Purina Pro Plan, Garmin, Gun Dog Supply, Mule Brand Clothing, onX Hunt, Gun Dog Central, Andis Grooming, World Class Bird Dogs, and Crouse Kennels.

Championship Running

Wednesday—Day 1

The weather gave us a bluebird sky, with temperatures topping out in the low 60s. We had six dogs finish the hour, along with multiple dogs needing the assistance of the tracker. Rainstorms rolled in on Wednesday evening, but thankfully cleared for Thursday's running.

Thursday—Day 2

A strong eight dogs finished the hour, putting numerous dogs on the list to be used for Sunday's callbacks.

Friday—Day 3

The handlers added five dogs to the 'finished' list as temperatures hit the low 70s, making it difficult for others.

After the completion of the initial series, the top four dogs were selected, and an additional two were put on standby for Sunday's callback series.

The National Open Championship callback braces were announced Friday night. These are how the judges wanted to run them, along with notes from the initial series:

1a Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior (O: Stuhr/H: Malzone)—five finds, one unproductive.

1b Bandit Hill Bess (O/H: Schmidt)—five finds, one unproductive.

2a Foxy Lady Sadie (O: Fox/H: Waite)—four finds.

2b Touch's Maximus (O/H: Schmidt)—three finds, stop-to-flush, back.

Standby:

3a Blair's Holy Thunder (O: Grochowski/H: Waite)—four finds.

3b Southern Shadow's Stoner (O/H: Schmidt)—three finds, back.

For the last couple of years, World Class Bird Dogs has awarded a financial gift to the handler and owner of the Top Qualifying dog; they graciously offered it again. This year's World Class Bird Dogs' Top Qualifier was Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior. Congratulations!

Callbacks

Brace No. 1 with Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior (Malzone) and Bandit Hill Bess (Schmidt). The brace broke away at 8:00 a.m., with both dogs hunting to the front. Bess was handling nicely at a comfortable walking pace, and Trail Warrior was punching to the front. Bess carded the first two finds with Schmidt flushing and Bess handling them with style. Trail Warrior seemed to get stronger and stronger, but a bit out of touch with his handler; Malzone requested the tracker, ending his bid for the championship. Bess had the course to herself and went on to card three more finds. Lastly, she was found pointed, and the handler called, "Rabbit." She went on to finish the hour with a nice race.

Brace No. 2 with Foxy Lady Sadie (Waite) and Touch's Maximus (Schmidt). The brace broke away at 9:12 a.m. Sadie punched the front will a smooth race. She was found pointed, and Waite flushed birds in front of her with all in order. Maximus took advantage of Sadie's find and took to the front, carding a find of his own. After Sadie's find, she easily caught the front and was found pointed by the front judge. Schmidt kept Maximus to the front while Waite arrived to flush for Sadie; again, all was in order. In the meantime, Schmidt also found Maximus pointed and kept his bid alive. After Sadie caught the front, walking birds just off the path, got the best of her, and she was ordered up, finishing her bid for this championship. Maximus was sent forward, running gracefully to the front. Unfortunately, he hooked up on a lateral path and became out of pocket. Schmidt kept moving forward, singing and calling for him.



World Class Bird Dog Top Qualifier (l-r): David Russell (judge), Jillian Stuhr (owner) with Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior, Garry Malzone (handler), and Mike Lemons (judge).

To his demise, he was never to be seen under judgment again.

The judges requested the standby dogs. Brace No. 3 with Blair's Holy Thunder (Waite) and Southern Shadow's Stoner (Schmidt). The brace broke away at 10:22. Both dogs started strong and handled kindly. Holy Thunder unfortunately carded an unproductive in the first field, while Stoner was pointed across the field on birds. He handled them with style. Holy Thunder carded his first birds just after the first ditch crossing with Waite producing a single, and all was in order. As Holy Thunder continued to the front, Stoner was found pointed up the long hill, on the left side of the big field. Schmidt produced birds, and all was in order. Upon release of the dog, Stoner advanced back into the find area and bumped a sitting bird. That unfortunate circumstance ended his bid. Holy Thunder was found pointed on the right side of the piney woods and handled them with adult manners. Waite sent the dog on and secured another find prior to the last-ditch crossing. All was in order. Holy



NBHA Open Derby (l-r): Andy Erne, Mike Fox, Andrea Ward with Loghome Lizzie, Zach Erne, Tom Waite with Blair's Empty Tomb, Matt Miller, Bill and Julia Currie, Dr. Gene Spiotta, and Mechelle Mullin. [Not pictured: Meghan's Macavator and Sam Ridings].

Thunder finished the hour.

After a short break, the winners were announced. The winner of the 2026 NBHA National Open Championship is Champion Bandit Hill Bess, owned and handled by Klaus Schmidt of Wichita, Kansas, and scouted by Lance Servais. Runner-up Champion is Blair's Holy Thunder, owned by Dan Grochowski of Eagle, Wisconsin, handled by Tom Waite of Burlington, Wisconsin, and scouted by Andrea Ward.

Saturday, we ran the Open Derby and Puppy stakes. There were numerous fine performances and many great handlers. The juvenile stakes are always exciting and a great place for young dogs to gain experience. The judges were truly looking for potential and awarded their placements.

We want to thank all the people of the West Tennessee Field Trial Club for the fabulous grounds, facilities, and assistance with making the trial a success. Also, a big thanks goes to Mike Baker and Dan Grochowski for traveling from Wisconsin to handle the dog wagon responsibilities for five days! We look forward to continuing to run championships at West Tennessee! If you are a bird dog fan, you will thoroughly enjoy the people of Dancyville and should make every effort to attend a trial there.

Dancyville, Tenn., February 24

Judges: Mike Lemons and David Russell NBHA NATIONAL OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 37 Entries

Winner-BANDIT HILL BESS, F1706165, pointer female, by Touch's Smooth Rider-West's Lucy. Klaus Schmidt, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-BLAIR'S HOLY THUNDER, F1694985, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Alliwood's Shady Shay. Dan Grochowski, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

NBHA OPEN DERBY – 11 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-MEGHAN'S MACAVATOR, F1717847, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-Fly In The Sky. Meghan & Travis Riggs, owners; Sam Ridings, handler.

2d-LOGHOME LIZZIE, F1710848, setter female, by Dale Creek Zed Babe-Dale Creek Rising Moon. Rick Torres, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

3d-BLAIR'S EMPTY TOMB, F1728002, pointer male, by Haney's Hurricane Seeker-Como Lady May. Greg Blair, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

Judges: Andy Erne and Zach Erne
NBHA OPEN PUPPY

– 6 Pointers and 1 Irish Setter

1st-INDIAN CREEK BRANZINO, F1724723, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Indian Creek Sprout. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.
2d-HACKBERRY'S SNAKE LADY MCGEE, F1721939, pointer female, by Elhew Snakemaster-Hackberry's Elhew Leve. Michial Taylor, owner and handler.

3d-RUNNING WITH SCISSORS, F1724728, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Indian Creek Sprout. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.



NBHA Open Puppy (l-r): Forrest Miller, Tom Waite, Andrea Ward, Andy Erne (judge), Mike Fox, Jillian Stuhr with Indian Creek Branzino, Zach Erne (judge), Mike Taylor with Hackberry's Snake Lady McGee, Dr. Gene Spiotta with Running With Scissors, Garry Malzone, Bill Currie, Mechelle Mullen, Julia Currie, Kyleigh Mullen with "Hank," Sally Brown, and McKenzie.

**DON'T MISS
THE NEXT PRINT
DEADLINE**

The deadline for the June print issue is May 5!

CUMBERLAND VALLEY FIELD TRIAL CLUB

ABHA Tennessee State Classic Spring Trial

By Ben Weddington | LaVergne, Tennessee | February 25, 2026

The Cumberland Field Trial Club ended the month of February, hosting two back-to-back horseback trials at the Percy Priest W.M.A. Field Trial Grounds in LaVergne, Tennessee. The event kicked off with the two-day American Bird Hunters Association Tennessee State Classic, which ran all Open stakes, and was immediately followed by the Cumberland Field Trial Club's Amateur trial. The club also hosted its inaugural Youth Horseback stake on Sunday afternoon as part of the Amateur event, which drew a large crowd of spectators. Combined, the two events drew 62 dogs and brought together handlers, judges, scouts, and spectators in the gallery from seven states, including as far away as North Dakota. Many thanks to our veteran do wagon driver, Mr. Jimmy Gentry of Hixson, Tennessee, whose invaluable service kept us running smoothly and on schedule. Thanks to our fantastic judges, our volunteers, and everyone else who assisted in making the Cumberland FTC's two Spring 2026 trials such a success. Thank you also to the Youth Field Trial Alliance, Chris Mathan, Claudia McNamee, Allison Daniels, and Chris Sellers for graciously sponsoring all the awards and entry fees for our Youth Horseback event. Lastly, a giant thank you goes to both Purina and Greg Blair for sponsoring both



ABHA Tennessee State Classic Open All-Age (l-r): Julianne Bryant, Rachel Bryant, Clyde Bryant, Kenton Bryant, Hunter Sexton, Ben Weddington (handler) with Hytime Dixie, Briar Morrison, Mary Sue Schalk (scout) with Miller's Triple Digit Heat, Buddy Morrison, Amber Morrison, Raelyn Morrison, Bud Morrison, James Kleve (handler) with Boatright's Renegade, Jimmy Gentry, and James Heimdal.

of our trials and for continuing to support the great sport of field trialing around the country.

The ABHA Tennessee State Classic kicked off our five days of running and featured all Open Horseback stakes with 28 dogs drawn. Conditions were cool and rainy to start, but later dried up, with warm, sunny afternoons.

Open All-Age

The event officially began with the Open All-Age stake, judged by Mr. Aaron McAfee of Clinton, Illinois, and Mr. James Heimdal of Lebanon, Tennessee. Besting

the field of competitors and taking home both first place honors and the Open All-Age winner's plaque was Hytime Dixie, a fancy orange and white female setter sired by Hytest Paladin, owned and handled by Ben Weddington of Brentwood, Tennessee, and scouted by Buddy Morrison of McMinnville, Tennessee. Dixie has enjoyed an excellent 2025-26 season, with earlier Region 6 wins in both All-Age and Shooting Dog stakes. She exhibited a big forward race, running every edge, and her first find came at 21, several hundred yards to the front, where her scout pointed her out, standing along a distant hedgerow. A small covey

of quail was flushed, much to the delight of both handler and gallery. Her second and final find came at 39, her scout again noticing her pointed out front along a distant tree line, the next field over. Birds were again flushed, and all was in order. Dixie finished her brace, still hunting hard, far out front along a bean field edge as time was called.

Second place went to Miller's Triple Digit Heat, an impressive male pointer owned by Allen Linder of Livingston, Tennessee, and handled by Buddy Morrison, who was almost methodical in his large ground race and never seemed to tire. He recorded one find in his allotted time and was exceptionally stylish both running and on his game.

Third place went to the tri-colored male setter, Boatright's Maverick, owned by Terry Boatright of Richmond, Kentucky, and handled by James Kleve of Paris, Kentucky, who ran a very large race and sported a high, snappy tail throughout. Though he appeared to be absent several times throughout his brace, each time he showed far out front, where he continued searching every likely objective with great enthusiasm.

Open Derby

Eight dogs made the starting line for the Open Derby stake, which ran right after the conclusion of the All-Age and was judged by Mr. Ben Weddington of Brentwood, Tennessee, and Mr. James Kleve of Paris, Kentucky. First place was awarded to Princess Lea IV, a liver and white female GSP, handled by Justin Crook of Jasper, Missouri, for owner Samantha Willard of Neal, Kansas. Lea has been no stranger to the podium this season and was very stylish on the ground, running a large race with high enthusiasm throughout her 30 minutes. Buddy Morrison took second place with a fancy liver and white pointer male, Windy Hill Triple Digit. He was impressive on the ground and made a number of large, beautiful casts during his allotted time. Crouse's Grouse Feather, the orange and white male setter sired by Shagtime



ABHA Tennessee State Classic Open Derby (l-r): Justin Crook (handler) with winner Princess Lea IV, Charlotte Weddington, Ben Weddington, Buddy Morrison (handler) with Windy Hill Triple Digit, Emory Adams, Mary Sue Schalk (handler) with Crouse's Grouse Feather, and Anna Katherine Schalk.

Max, and his owner/handler, Mary Sue Schalk, took third place. "Patch" laid down a proper ground race and handled well, slamming point in the final five minutes of his brace and showing off his manners, though no birds could be produced.

Open Shooting Dog

The Open Shooting Dog stake, which was judged by Mr. Ben Weddington and Mr. Ronnie Rogers of New Market, Tennessee, ran immediately following the Open Derby and brought with it 14 starters to the line. First place honors and the Open Shooting Dog winner's plaque were awarded to Fast Money, a liver and white female pointer handled by Justin Crook for owners C.W. and Patty Moore of Toronto, Kansas. Truly a pleasure to watch, Molly was very stylish on the ground, ran a large race with a nice high tail, and recorded three staunch finds during her brace. Justin Crook also took second place with a stout liver and white male pointer, Chelsea's Thunderstruck, for owner Brad Sadler of Port Royal, South Carolina. Sired by 23x Open Shooting Dog



ABHA Tennessee State Classic Open Shooting Dog (l-r): Clyde, Rachel, and Julianne Bryant, Ann German, William Weddington, Emily Weddington, Emory Adams, James Kleve (handler) with Snyder's Hank, Mary Sue Schalk, Charlotte Weddington, Sara Adams, and Ben Weddington. [First and second place not pictured].

Champion Chelsea's Thunder Bolt, the big male pointer ate up the country and recorded a pair of nice, very stylish finds that were evenly spaced throughout his brace. Third-place honors were awarded to the orange and white male setter, Snyder's Hank, handled by James Kleve for owner Steve Snyder of Ellendale, Minnesota. Sired by the famous champion setter, Ponderosa Mac, Hank laid down a nice shooting dog race and handled extremely well. He finished his time on the ground the same way he started, hunting hard with a snappy, enthusiastic tail.

LaVergne, Tenn., February 25

Judges: James Heimdal and Aaron McAfee

ABHA TENNESSEE STATE OPEN ALL-AGE CLASSIC

– 4 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-HYTIME DIXIE, F1682354, setter female, by Hystest Palladin-Wynona's Bohawk Dixie. Ben Weddington, owner and handler.

2d-MILLER'S TRIPLE DIGIT HEAT, F1685675, pointer male, by Just Irresistible-Miller's Bring The Heat. Allen Linder, owner; Buddy Morrison, handler.

3d-BOATRIGHT'S MAVERICK, F1694705, setter male, by Rufus Del Fuego-Outcast Starburst. Terry Boatright, owner; James Kleve, handler.

Judges: James Kleve and Ben Weddington

ABHA TENNESSEE STATE OPEN DERBY CLASSIC

– 5 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 2 German Shorthairs

1st-PRINCESS LEA IV, F1725222, German Shorthair female, by Prince's Rocket Man-Rice's Ruby Houdini. Samantha Willard, owner; Justin Crook, handler.

2d-WINDY HILL TRIPLE DIGIT, F1714511, pointer male, by Miller's Triple Digit Heat-Windy Hill Shadow Dancer. Buddy Morrison, owner and handler.

3d-CROUSE'S GROUSE FEATHER, F1713380, setter male, by Shagtime Max-GF Southern Belle. Mary Sue Schalk & M. D. Crouse, owners; Mary Sue Schalk, handler.

Judges: Ronnie Rogers and Ben Weddington

ABHA TENNESSEE STATE OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC – 11 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-FAST MONEY, F1681232, pointer female, by Stash The Cash-Lester's Speed Queen. C. W. & Patty Moore, owners; Justin Crook, handler.

2d-CHELSEA'S THUNDERSTRUCK, F1697295, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Double Wild. Brad Sadler, owner; Justin Crook, handler.

3d-SNYDER'S HANK, F1703517, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Shamrock's Tomoka Sally. Steve C. Snyder, owner; James Kleve, handler.

Amateur Trial

Immediately following the club's ABHA Tennessee State Classic Open Trial, the Cumberland Field Trial Club held its Amateur Horseback Trial, which began on Friday morning with the Amateur Shooting Dog stake. Temperatures were cool to start but warmed throughout the

morning and reached 75 degrees by mid-afternoon. The highlight of the Amateur trial was the inaugural Youth Horseback stake, held on Sunday afternoon, which drew eight entries and a large gallery of spectators.

Amateur Shooting Dog

Sanctioned as a Purina Points, Invitational Points, Region 6 Points, and Southern Circuit Points trial, the Cumberland FTC's Amateur Shooting Dog Stake began on Friday morning, February 27. The day started with 18 dogs making the starting line. The highly competitive stake was judged by veteran dogmen, Mr. Hunter Payne of Spring City, Tennessee, and Mr. Dereck Layne of Chapel Hill, Tennessee, and featured many of the season's top Amateur Shooting Dogs in Region 6. Topping the podium and taking home first place honors and a custom silver belt buckle was the black and white male setter, Bryant's Give It A Rip, sired by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way, owned and handled by Kenton Bryant of Bowling Green, Kentucky, and scouted by Ben Weddington. A prior Region 6 champion and the season's current Region 6 runner-up champion, "Rip" was exceptionally stylish on the ground and was always to the front, running a huge race and sporting a snappy 12 o'clock tail. Rip didn't waste any time getting to work, and his first find came just five minutes after breakaway along a bean field edge. Ten minutes later, he was pointed again, this time along a tree line separating two soybean fields, nailing down a larger covey of quail with his bracemate, honoring from behind. At 30, both dogs were found standing out front along a short tree line. After some deliberation on whether Rip was honoring his bracemate or also pointed, his handler made the decision to take him on. Around 58, Rip had been absent for some time, but eventually showed several hundred yards to the front, where he was found standing point to conclude his hour.

Second Place was awarded to Shepherd's Blackfoot Jane, a black and white female setter owned and



Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Cindy Weddington, Ann German, Sara Adams, Emory Adams, William, Ben, Emily and Charlotte Weddington, Rachel, Clyde and Julianne Bryant, Dereck Layne, Kenton Bryant (handler) with Bryant's Give It A Rip, Ronnie Rogers (handler) with Shepherd's Blackfoot Jane, Laken, Courtney, Taylor, Landon, and Logan Henley with Gentry's Jenny, Jimmy Gentry, and Hunter Payne.

handled by Ronnie Rogers. Jane drew one of the toughest braces of the trial, running in hot, sunny 75-degree afternoon temperatures, but still put on a show, running every edge, staying out front, and finishing her hour with the same enthusiasm she started with. Jane recorded three finds, the first of which was a sizable covey of quail in a thick briar patch at 15. Her bracemate was slightly ahead and had already run past it, but Jane showed off her great nose and slammed point in front of the judges. After an extended flush, the covey was eventually produced some 40 yards into the cover. Her second find came at 30 in a thick brush pile. Her final find may have been her most impressive and came after an hour of hard running in the hot sun, with "point" being called just one minute before time expired.

Third-place honors on the day went to the black and white female pointer, Gentry's Jenny, and handler Taylor Henley of Soddy Daisy, Tennessee, for owner and grandfather Jimmy Gentry of Hixson, Tennessee. Jenny tore out from the breakaway fast and continued running bigger with every step. Her first find came at 18, pinning down a single along a crop field edge. Less than 10 minutes later, at 26, she was pointed again, and this time a small covey was produced out of the thick hedgerow. A bit later, around 40, after exiting a long graveled lane, Jenny took the left edge of the next soybean field and followed it around, where she pointed a hen/rooster pair out in front of both judges and the gallery. She finished her allotted time still hunting hard.



Amateur Derby (l-r): Rachel, Clyde and Julianne Bryant, Anne German, Sara and Emory Adams, Cindy Weddington, Ben, William, Emily and Charlotte Weddington, Dereck Layne, Buddy Morrison (handler) with Windy Hill Triple Digit, Mary Sue Schalk, Hunter Payne, Kenton Bryant (handler) with Bryant's Princess Kate, Jerone Boggs, Aaron McAfee (scout) with High Drive Zero, and Jimmy Gentry.

Amateur Derby

The Amateur Derby stake, which produced eight starters and was also judged by Dereck Layne and Hunter Payne, ran immediately following the conclusion of the Shooting Dog. Besting the field and taking first place was the strong liver and white male pointer, Windy Hill Triple Digit, owned and handled by Buddy Morrison. Windy Hill Triple Digit also placed in the club's Open Derby only a couple of days prior. He laid down a fantastic forward ground race and recorded one very stylish find midway through the brace. He demonstrated a large amount of natural ability and has the potential to make a very fine finished dog next season.

Second place went to Bryant's Princess Kate, an orange and white female pointer handled by Kenton Bryant of Bowling Green, Kentucky, for owner Jill Bryant of Glasgow, Kentucky. "Katie" was fancy running and highly enthusiastic, handling nicely for Mr. Bryant. As the final minute ticked off the judge's clock, Katie pointed along a tree line next to an old road crossing. Birds were flushed, and she stood stone broke as her handler fired his gun.

The final placement also went to Buddy Morrison, who handled Allen Linder's liver and white male pointer, High Drive Zero, to the third-place award. A littermate to the first-place dog, "Zero" was exceptionally stylish on the ground and recorded two nice finds in his allotted time. The first came a few minutes after the breakaway, where he was found standing with a perfect 12 o'clock tail along a field edge. His second

find was a sizable 15-bird covey that came around 20 and was flushed out of some thicker native cover.

Youth Horseback

The Cumberland Field Trial Club's inaugural Youth Horseback stake was held on Sunday afternoon, March 1, immediately following a catered lunch the Weddington Family provided for everyone. The Youth Horseback was the most highly anticipated stake of our entire five days of running and featured some of the best pieces of bird work of the entire two trials. Eight entries with seven different handlers, consisting of five girls and two boys, were drawn for the 20-minute stake, and every single brace had multiple finds. Our expert judging panel consisted of the honorable Mr. James Kleve and Mrs. Mary Sue Schalk of Dixon, Kentucky. Conditions were warm and sunny with a light breeze as the first breakaway commenced.

Up first were veteran field trialer Sterling Woodruff and his male pointer, Rester's Cash'n In, scouted by his father Woody Woodruff, who was braced with first-time field trialer Raelyn Morrison and her male pointer, High Drive Impact, scouted by her grandfather Buddy Morrison. It didn't take long for things to get interesting...seven minutes from breakaway to be exact, which is when Ms. Raelyn recorded her first find. Her dog pointed up front along a hedgerow, and she proudly produced three quail after some minor assistance flushing in the thick briars. Just a minute later, before she was even back in the saddle, Mr. Woodruff called point for his dog in a hedgerow on the opposite side of the same field, and he, too, produced a bird after an extended flush. Both dogs were beautiful on their game. In the final minutes of the brace, the gallery topped a hill and found High Drive Impact standing point along a distant tree line with Rester's Cash'n In honoring from the neighboring bean field. Raelyn raced enthusiastically up to her dog and flushed, again producing several birds that took flight. Both dogs were



Youth Horseback (back, l-r): Rachel, Clyde and Julianne Bryant, Hunter Sexton, Briar Morrison, Kenton Bryant (scout) with Bryant's Princess Kate, Jimmy Gentry, Bud and Amber Morrison, Raelyn Morrison (handler) with High Drive Impact, Buddy Morrison (scout), Dan and Heidi Waddell, Mackenzie Waddell (handler) with Hytime Dixie, Ben Weddington, James Kleve (judge), and Woody Woodruff. (Front): Mary Sue Schalk (judge), Vivian Woodruff (handler) with Sammy, Sterling Woodruff (handler) with Rester's Powered Up.

on their best manners as the shot fired. All was in order, marking an exciting conclusion to the first brace.

The second brace also featured a veteran/rookie pairing with Vivian Woodruff and her female pointer, "Sammy," scouted by her father Woody Woodruff, braced with first-time field trialer Mackenzie Waddell and her fancy female setter, Hytime Dixie, scouted by family friend Ben Weddington. At breakaway, the two 11 and under-aged handlers tore out on their matching pair of black and white spotted horses at a hasty all-age pace, racing after their big running dogs. The first find came just four minutes in with Ms. Mackenzie's Dixie slamming point along a tree line out in front of the two handlers and Ms. Vivian's Sammy honoring from the left. Birds took flight as the handler flushed, and both dogs remained staunch through the shot. Throughout the remainder of the brace, the girls were all business as they sang out to their dogs and used their horses to help direct the dogs around the course and keep them out in front. Minute 15 marked another find way up front for Hytime Dixie, who had been unseen for several minutes prior, with Sammy again coming in to honor her bracemate. As Mackenzie flushed, several quail flew out the end of a long hedgerow, which produced smiles from both handler and gallery. Again, both dogs proudly showed off their broke manners. In the final minute of the brace, Sammy was found by her

scout standing on point along a tree line. Vivian flushed enthusiastically for her dog in the thick cover, and birds were observed by the judges to be running. They eventually took flight, and a shot rang out from the handler's gun, signaling the end of an action-packed brace for the two young ladies.

The third brace again called Sterling Woodruff to the line, this time to run his strong male pointer, Rester's Powered Up, scouted by his dad, Woody Woodruff. They were braced with Hunter Sexton, another rookie field trialer who handled female pointer Bryant's Princess Kate, scouted by friend and mentor, Kenton Bryant. After breakaway the pair of handlers immediately began showing off their dogs, putting them on opposite edges and singing loudly as they progressed through the large crop fields. Both dogs stayed up front and handled particularly well for the young men. Towards the end of the brace, the action began heating up. At 15, Mr. Sexton's scout called "Point!" after noticing Bryant's Princess Kate standing in the distance along the edge of a soybean field. Her handler proceeded to flush, and Katie remained staunch as the birds took flight. Just three minutes later, shouts from Mr. Woodruff rang out up ahead as he, too, called "Point" for his dog. Though tricky to see at first, there in the distance along a tree-lined hedgerow was Rester's Powered Up standing tall on point. Sterling loped up on his pony and proceeded to flush in the thick cover. Judge Kleve noticed the birds take flight and instructed Sterling to fire his gun. Almost as soon as his dog was turned loose after the find, he was found stopped again on the backside of a large hill...this time honoring Katie, who had just pointed some 75 yards ahead. Officially, Katie's final find came a mere 20 seconds before time expired. Hunter proceeded to flush, and this time it was Judge Schalk who noticed the birds darting through the cover. The handler fired his gun, and both dogs remained steady; all was in order.

Besting the field of youth

competitors and taking first place honors, along with the blue ribbon, a custom silver belt buckle, and an assortment of other great prizes graciously donated, was the orange and white female pointer, Bryant's Princess Kate, handled by Hunter Sexton for owner Jill Bryant. Katie was fancy running and handled well, recording two great finds in her time on the ground.

Second Place, along with a red ribbon, plaque, and an assortment of other great prizes, was the liver and white male pointer, High Drive Impact, handled by Raelyn Morrison for owner Buddy Morrison. He was stylish on the ground and worked well for his youth handler, recording two fantastic finds in his time on the ground.

Third-place honors, along with

a yellow ribbon, plaque, and an assortment of other prizes, went to the fancy orange and white female setter, Hytime Dixie, handled by Mackenzie Waddell for owner Ben Weddington. She ran a huge race with a high, snappy tail and recorded two impressive finds during her brace.

Honorable Mention, along with a YFTA ribbon, plaque, and an assortment of other prizes, was awarded to Rester's Powered Up, handled by Sterling Woodruff for owner Woody Woodruff. He ran a great race and was beautiful on his game, recording one find and honoring his bracemate once. Lastly, the 11 & Under Top Dog award, along with a YFTA ribbon, plaque, and assortment of other prizes, was awarded to Sammy, handled by Vivian Woodruff for owner Sterling

Woodruff. Sammy was an all-around great bird dog during her brace and handled beautifully, recording one find and honoring her bracemate twice on the course.

Judges: Derek Layne and Hunter Payne
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]
 – 14 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-BRYANT'S GIVE IT A RIP, F1701553, setter male, by Erin's Wild Atlantic Way-Cline's Live Oak. Kenton Bryant, owner and handler.

2d-SHEPHERD'S BLACKFOOT JANE, F1701280, setter female, by Daphne's Gage-Katlyn's Jan. William Rogers, owner and handler.

3d-GENTRY'S JENNY, F1693423, pointer female, by High Drive Rocky-Walden's Ridge Chatter Box. Jimmy Gentry, owner; Taylor Gentry, handler.

AMATEUR DERBY – 5 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-WINDY HILL TRIPLE DIGIT, F1714511, pointer male, by Miller's Triple Digit Heat-Windy Hill Shadow Dancer. Buddy Morrison, owner and handler.

2d-BRYANT'S PRINCESS KATE, F1719742, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Silver W Thunderbolt's Boom. Jill Bryant, owner; Kenton Bryant, handler.

3d-HIGH DRIVE ZERO, F1714513, pointer male, by Miller's Triple Digit Heat-Windy Hill Shadow Dancer. Allen Linder, owner; Buddy Morrison, handler.

SIX RUNS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial

By Al Fazenbaker | Dancyville, Tennessee | February 24, 2026



Open Puppy: Adam Dubriske, Nick Mellon (judge), Steve Stuart (judge), Dave Theroux with Gail Force Wind, Russ Fazio with Hitail Perfect Storm, Al Fazenbaker and Charlie Howard with Conneaut Creek Colleen, and Hunter Dubriske.



Open Derby: Mike Harryman (judge), Tripp Howard, with Howards Last Stand, Robert Smith with Stump Hill Farms Salty Jewel, Andy Weik (judge), and Russ Fazio with Hitail Rolling Roxie.



Open Shooting Dog: Russ Fazio with Hitail Roxy Afield, Nick Mellon (judge), Steve McKalko with Mia Star, John Outlaw (judge), and Al Fazenbaker with CC Irresistable Rufus.

Although many of the details of the history of Six Runs Plantation are lost to the past, it is nearly certain that the land was utilized in the early days of the country as a source of naval stores. The region was covered by longleaf pine, which, when burned in earthen kilns, produced a tar highly prized by shipbuilders of the time. That, along with other naval stores such as turpentine and pitch, quickly turned the Cape Fear River basin into a boon for those willing

to work in this trade. The grounds in which the Six Runs Field Trial Club runs were, at one time, a large plantation of thousands of acres. Years of harvesting the longleaf pine and the introduction of iron-clad ships eventually doomed the naval stores trade, and many of the boom towns so vibrant in the day are now ghost towns. The land on which the Six Runs Field Trial Club is run is owned by Steve and Cathy Howard, direct descendants of the original settlers of the region. Several

of Steve's ancestors, including his grandparents David and Roswell Register, are buried on the property. These grounds are surrounded on three sides by the Black River and one of its tributaries, Spearman's Mill Creek, which is formed just north of the property by the confluence of Six Runs Creek and the Great Coharie Creek. These waters, which run to the Cape Fear River and on to the city of Wilmington on the Atlantic Ocean, transported thousands of barrels of naval stores prior to the



Joe Allen Edwards Amateur Shooting Dog Classic: Al Fazenbaker (chairman), Ashby Morgan with Mohawk Mill Charmer, John Outlaw (judge), Lee Flanders with Chippokes Cracker Jack, Steve with Mohawk Mill Big Stuff, and Mike Harryman (judge).



Amateur Derby: Mike Harryman (judge), Russ Fazio with Hitail Rolling Roxie, Joe Edwards with Come Back Barron, John Outlaw (judge), and Tripp Howard with Howards Last Stand.

Civil War. After the war, much of the property was utilized by the family for subsistence farming. Steve Howard, along with his son Carl and his grandsons Charlie and Tripp, who are avid bird hunters, found the property by mere coincidence and were shocked and overjoyed to find that this property, the land of their ancestors, was being offered for sale. Steve purchased the property from Red Setter Hall of Famer Joe Edwards, a veteran field trialer of Red setters, who had owned the property for nearly 40 years and had worked tirelessly to groom the place into a high-quality bird hunting and dog training grounds. In Steve Howard's hands, that process is continuing, as is the continuance of bird dog field trials.

The Six Run Field Trial Club conducted its running of the annual spring trial from February 27 to March 1, 2026. On behalf of the American Red Setter Bird Dog Club and its officers (sponsors of the trial), I want to extend a note of thanks to new owners Steven Howard, his wife Cathy, sons Carl and Phillip, and grandsons Tripp, Charlie and Parker Howard, who have offered these exceptional grounds, groomed for quail and quail hunting, to the field trial community. Six Runs Farms, now called the H3 Farm, is an outstanding venue for running bird dogs. The grounds, a mixture of piney woods, warm-season grasses, hardwood thickets, and cropland, are ideal for propagating and holding coveys of quail. Virtually every brace in this trial had multiple pieces of bird work. Our sport would not be what

it is today without the generosity of people like the Howard family. Thank you so much for promoting this sport that gives us such great bird dogs!

We want to thank our sponsor, Cargill Industries, maker of Black Gold Dog Food, a premium feed for superior performance. If you are looking for a high-quality feed for your performance animal, consider Black Gold. Special thanks to Cargill Rep James Costin, who spent the day at our trial and watched the dogs perform on these grounds.

Also, a huge thank you to the U. S. Complete Shooting Dog Association for their support, as well as Purina Products for supplying coupons for the winners. U. S. Complete and Purina are two of the backbones of walking trials in the United States, and we look to them for sponsorship of our sport. Thank you for your continuing support!

Regardless of your level of participation at this event, you will not go away hungry at Six Runs! A huge shout-out to Cathy Howard and Deb Fazenbaker, who made sure that everyone was well-fed through the weekend. Cathy cooked up a lunch of pulled pork with all the trimmings, and Deb set a table of homemade lasagna with all the required sides. Thanks for the many hours of work involved in keeping everyone fed.

Last, but not least, a big thank you to our judges, who spent long hours in the saddle to ensure a fair and impartial judgment of all the entries. Mike Harryman, Andy Weik, Nick Mellon, John Outlaw, and Steve Steuart took the time and effort to provide a critical evaluation of the entries, and we are grateful for their work.



Steve and Kathy Howard.

We also wanted to note that one of our most stalwart supporters of this trial and field trials in general is in our thoughts and prayers. Rev. Andrew Brown of Garland, North Carolina, has had recent health issues and, unfortunately, was unable to attend our trial. We wish him a speedy recovery and hope to see him again at our next event.

The Open Puppy had a very nice entry of 12 dogs, and the judges noted that this was a quality group of young dogs, boding well for the future of our sport! Taking the blue was Gale Force Wind, handled by David Theroux. Russ Fazio handled his nicely moving setter, Hitail Perfect Storm, to a second-place spot, and rounding out the placements was Charlie Howard, 12-year-old grandson of Steve and Cathy Howard, who handled this reporter's Red setter, Conneaut Creek Colleen, to a third-place finish. This was Charlie's first field trial, but I suspect it won't be his last!

The Open Derby was handily won by Howards Last Stand ("Gauge"), the most loved dog of Steve and Cathy Howard, and handled by their 14-year-old grandson, Tripp. This was, like his younger brother, Tripp's first field trial, and he handled his charge with the expertise that comes from experience gained quail hunting with his dad and granddad. Robert Smith garnered the second-place spot with his nice going female, Stump Hill Farms Salty Jewel, and Russ Fazio finished up the placements with a nice run with Hitail Rolling Dixie.

Winning the hotly contested Open Shooting Dog was Hitail Roxy Afield, handled by Russ Fazio. Roxy put on a show with wide and forward casts and perfect bird work to take the coveted blue. Mia Star grabbed the No. 2 spot for handler Steve McKalko, and CC Irresistable Rufus, handled by this reporter, finished up the placements with a third.

Russ Fazio's Hitail Rolling Dixie continued her winning ways, taking first place in the Amateur Derby. The red setter veteran Joe Edward garnered second place with his Red setter, Come Back Barron. Howards Last Stand stayed in the game, taking the third-place spot, handled by the now veteran handler Tripp Howard.

The Virginia contingent swept the one-hour Amateur stake, with Mohawk Mill Charmer scoring the top spot for handler Ashby Morgan. Lee Flanders took second place with Chippokes Cracker Jack, and Ashby came back with Mohawk Mill Big Stuff to take the No. 3 spot.

We hope you will plan to attend the 2027 renewal of our trial at H3 Farms next year.



The Howard Family: Steve Howard, Cathy Howard, Charlie Howard, Carl Howard, Tripp Howard, Parker Howard, and Phillip Howard.

Rose Hill, N. C., February 27
Judges: Nick Mellow and Steve Stuart
OPEN PUPPY – 1 Pointers, 5 Setters,
and 6 Irish Setters

1st-GALE FORCE WIND, F1723241, setter female, by Super Storm Cliff-North Country Shooting Star. David Theroux, owner and handler.
 2d-HITAIL PERFECT STORM, F1720599, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. Russ Fazio, owner and handler.
 3d-CONNEAUT CREEK COLLEEN, F1721926, Irish setter female, by S C Simply Irresistable-Keep On Shining. Allen Fazzenbaker, owner; Charlie Howard, handler.

Judges: Mike Harryman and Andrew Weik
OPEN DERBY – 4 Pointers, 1 Brittany,
3 Irish Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-HOWARDS LAST STAND, F1719646, setter male, by Dryfork Mac I'mbringinit Back-Class Act Tomoka Rose. Steve Howard, owner; Tripp Howard, handler.
 2d-STUMP HILL FARMS SALTY JEWEL, F1722218, pointer female, by Harbor City Express-Harbor City Bell. Daniel Bell, owner and handler.
 3d-HITAIL ROLLING DIXIE, F1714644, by Hifives Rolling Stone-Speed Dialing Kaia. Russ Fazio, owner and handler.

Judges: Nick Mellow and John Outlaw
OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 2 Pointers, 6 Setters,
1 Brittany, 5 Irish Setters, and 1 German Shorthair
 1st-HITAIL ROXY AFIELD, F1705101, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Freeze. Russ Fazio, owner and handler.
 2d-MIA STAR, F1702751, setter female, by Windstar-Hometown Queen. George Najor, owner; Steve McKalko, handler.
 3d-CC IRRESISTABLE RUFUS, F1705229, Irish setter male, by S C Simply Irresistable-Cut Loose. Deborah Fazzenbaker, owner; Al Fazzenbaker, handler.

Judges: Mike Harryman and John Outlaw
AMATEUR DERBY

1st-HITAIL ROLLING DIXIE, F1714644, setter female, by Hifives Rolling Stone-Speed Dialing Kaia. Russ Fazio, owner and handler.
 2d-COME BACK BARRON, PL024410, Irish setter male, by Come Back Trump-Class Act Tomoka Rose. Joe Edwards, owner; Tripp Howard, handler.
 3d-HOWARDS LAST STAND, F1719646, setter male, by Dryfork Mac I'mbringinit Back-Class Act Tomoka Rose. Steve Howard, owner; Tripp Howard, handler.

JOE ALLEN EDWARDS AMATEUR SHOOTING
DOG CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]

– 3 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter
 1st-MOHAWK MILL CHARMER, F1682716, setter female, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Fort River Jackie. Ashby Morgan, owner and handler.
 2d-CHIPPOKES CRACKER JACK, F1691321, setter male, by Skyview New Edition-Grid Iron's Sorrell's Penny. Lee S. Flanders, owner and handler.
 3d-MOHAWK MILL BIG STUFF, F1691821, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Ashby Morgan, owner and handler.

MASTERS OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Rampage Named Champion; Waybetter Rebel, Runner-up

By Steve Standley & Tim Moore | Albany, Georgia | March 1, 2026

The 2026 Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship commenced on March 1, 2026, over two of South Georgia's most prestigious quail hunting estates. The three morning braces were contested over Wildfair Plantation, owned by businessman Joe Davenport and managed by Kevin Beane. The afternoons were spent on Ted Turner's Nonami Plantation. Nonami is managed by Ray Pearce. Both places are successfully managed for wild quail, and the opportunities for bird contact are great. Sincere thanks are extended to Mr. Davenport and Mr. Turner for allowing this noted

Championship to be contested on their private grounds.

The Southern Field Trial Club has a dedicated group of men who work to ensure the continued prestige of the stake. Along with Ray and Kevin, other principals include long-time Secretary/Treasurer Tim Moore, Shon Powell, and Steve Wiley. Past Wildfair manager Ronnie Beane rode each morning and helped marshal the group over the courses. Staff member Robbie McCue marshaled over Wildfair. On Nonami, Shon and Ray managed marshaling duties. They were assisted by Nonami colleague Justin Hunt. Buster

Cobb, retired Pineland Plantation dog handler, expertly drove the dog wagon. Thanks are extended to Flint Ag & Turf for the new John Deere tractor to pull our dog wagon. Flint Ag & Turf also supplied financial support for this Championship.

The Southern Field Trial Club always provides excellent meals and opportunities to socialize in the pavilion. Home-cooked meat and vegetable lunches were prepared by Hannah Sholar Marchbanks and her cheerful crew. Hannah always has delicious food and a big smile. All enjoyed a very tasty seafood dinner that included fried shrimp, bay



Masters Open Shooting Dog Championship: Stephens Walker and Tracy Swearingen with Rampage, and Bo Brewer and Mike Tracy with Waybetter Rebel, joined by participants.

scallops, fried oysters, and all the trimmings. The Club sponsored this delightful meal.

Judges for this Championship were Derek Bonner of Mooresboro, North Carolina, and Scott Griffin of Charlotte, North Carolina. Both men work at Knight's Hill Plantation in Camden, South Carolina. Scott grew up quail hunting, and as that faded out, he entered the field trial arena. He went north for several years with Whitley Stephens and also had dogs with Randy Anderson for a number of years. Scott has also competed in and judged many noted trials and spent many hours in the saddle at the Hoffman grounds. He and his family own a masonry and concrete business in the Charlotte area. At their Knight's Hill Plantation, Scott and Derek quail hunt many of their friends and business associates.

Derek grew up in the walking horse world, where he and his wife, Deb, competed in all aspects of the Tennessee walking horse world. He has judged the Walking Horse Celebration in Shelbyville, Tennessee, for a number of years. As of late, he has put his efforts into the bird dog business. Associated early with Ferrell Miller, he has gone on to develop as a successful dog trainer and a champion of the sport.

The Qualifying Series

It was determined by the club that if there were more than 60 dogs

entering this stake, a 30-minute qualifying series would be run. From that, the judges could select up to 12 dogs for one-hour callbacks from which a champion and runner-up champion could be named. The normal morning three hours were contested over Wildfair's three one-hour course grounds. The afternoons were spent on Nonami.

There were 67 dogs in the initial series, and many fine, multiple-find performances occurred within the 30-minute time period. This writer is sure that there were numerous disappointed handlers whose dogs did not make the cut after a worthy performance. All of the courses have many coveys of wild quail offering ample opportunity for game contact.

The judge's decisions were made, and the callback braces are described below.

The Callbacks

The first brace of the callbacks was released onto Nonami and featured Mo's Curtain Call (Tracy) and Thunder's Wild Agin (Kinkelaar). Call pointed at 4, and a single was put up, then the balance of the bevy immediately took flight.

Just prior to this action, Kinkelaar suffered a barren stand with Wild Agin. Wild Agin redeemed himself with a good find, some 150 yards off the judges' path.

By the quarter hour, both dogs had

applied themselves in good form with one find each.

At 16, Curtain Call had a breach of manners and found herself on the rope. At the same time, Wild Agin had a find in the first chopper swath off the judges' path, and Shawn put up a large covey for his composed pointer.

At 26, Shawn called point and then the flight of birds; unseen officially, he took his dog on. We made the turn at Blue Springs headquarters at the half. When Shawn got his dog lined out to the fore, Wild Agin stood for a strong covey and displayed excellent manners.

Next, Shawn called point on a small hill. Flight was again called but not seen by the judges. At 38, as the handler had his dog to the front, he scored a clean find ahead.

Some 10 minutes later, as we made the final turn toward Sam's old church, Wild Agin went on to show deep to the left fore and pinned a nice covey in good form. This dog was offering a bold performance in the strong heat.

At 51, near the last brood field before the small lime sink, Wild Agin produced once more among the pines. She showed well despite the strong heat as we continued past the large lime sink.

The last quarter hour was probably Wild Agin's best effort as she "guttled it out" and offered a good finish in demanding conditions. This dog probably pushed the winners the closest.

Released onto Nonami, Dominator's Wild Bill (Daniels) was paired with Nonami's Ben Lately (Pearce). Ben pointed right off the breakaway but ended up with an unproductive after a relocation. Ray went on to have his second empty stand and was out.

Wild Bill had a good find at 5 behind Cody's old house. Next, just past the road, Jamie had another good find in the bottom amid the big timber.

When the course turned at the

north end of the property, Bill had an empty stand. He went on to show well on the ground in tough conditions. Not seeing what he wanted, Jamie put Bill on the rope at 38.

The third brace of the callback featured both the champion and runner-up, as later described.

The fourth brace of the callbacks began Thursday at 8 a.m. over Wildfair Plantation. Featured were Strut's Bee Sting (Tommy Davis) and Steel Valley Raven (Mike Tracy). At 3, Davis called point for Bee Sting, then flushed to no avail. Meanwhile, Raven came in and ran over a bird. Bee Sting stopped, and Davis shot over his dog and took her on.

Next, Bee Sting pointed, then someone in the gallery called flight. After a short effort, Davis continued. The judges later described this as a non-event.

Bee Sting had looked animated and attractive on the ground and had a find on a single bird at 23. She continued with a workman-like effort but was on the rope at 47.

The fifth brace of the callbacks featured Parkway (Tracy) and Panther Creek Rosie (Rice III). At 3, Rosie carded an empty stand. At 7, Tracy handled birds for Parkway at the Shack Haynes Rd.

Just as we crossed the road at the old Confederate soldier's house site, both dogs showed well through the next pretty bottom and ahead. Both dogs had offered good, strong, and forward ground applications that required little scouting.

At 20, Rosie offered good work on a single about 300 yards east of the Pineland crossing. Some five minutes later, she had a clean find on a single in a briar thicket as Parkway honored. Rosie again stood perfectly for another single near the Pineland crossing. Rosie went on to offer a smooth forward shooting dog race.

At 35, in the southwest corner of the property, before we get to the 100-acre grass pond, she stood properly for a pair of well-located

Bobwhites. Rosie went on to offer another barren stand and was up. Disappointing to see.

When we regained the front, Tracy withdrew his entry.

Wiregrass Wayne (Dustin Kirby) and No Denying (Daniels) made up the final brace in the callbacks. Wayne made a good swing to the south and came back across the front and pointed. Kirby put a bird up just where the dog said they were. No Denying drove toward the northwest corner of Wildfair and went unseen for enough time that Daniels requested his tracker.

The Wiregrass entry was a fast-moving and classy dog that attracted attention. At 30, south of Wolf Pond, Kirby had a good find on a hillside with all in order. Just as Wayne was released, he immediately had another clean find.

At 55, the judges had a conversation with Dustin that ended the brace. It was a commendable effort, but it could not top what the officials were carrying.

The Winners

Waybetter Rebel (Mike Tracy), owned by Bill and Muriel Primm and Allen Linder, was braced with Tucker Johnson's Rampage (Tracy Swearingen) as they were cast at the second pivot field back to the south on Nonami. At 6, Rebel had a find on the right, and at this time, Rampage had his own independent find with all in order.

At 9, Rebel stood, but Tracy could not raise a bird. When released to relocate, Rebel made three jumps and pinned the covey. This was a good find and an even better relocation.

At 17, near the main entrance, both dogs established independent stands, some 50 yards apart. Both handlers flushed and put a good covey up between the rigid dogs. These birds were pointed the day before in this area.

By the half hour, Rampage showed well and strong in the more open areas, offering numerous big forward

driving casts. Rebel was out of pocket through the breeding grounds but came in shortly to be viewed working the front.

At 38, Rampage was out of contact as we made the turn to the west. Meanwhile, Rebel came back to the front, and Bo Brewer called point for him at 41. Jamie Daniels handled the bird work, which was successful following a clean, deliberate relocation.

Meanwhile, scout Stephens Walker called point off to the right in the old irrigation field for Rampage. This resulted in a clean find after which Rampage regained the front at 47 at the old hayfield.

Rebel pointed at 48 as Rampage came in from a different angle to establish point on the same covey. Both handlers shot, and both were credited for the divided work. At 53, Rampage scored again on a single in good form.

At 57, we were at the last brood field before Hardup Road, and Rampage scored once again, his last bevy of the day.

Two great jobs, both with short absences, but they were excellent performances. Rampage was named champion, and Waybetter Rebel claimed the runner-up title.

In later discussions with the judges, they described the brace as a heavyweight boxing match. They went on to state that both dogs were beautiful around their game. Judge Bonner also stated that everyone appeared excited to see the pair afield. He also commented that you don't often see two dogs offer this level of performance at the same time.

Albany, Ga., March 1
Judges: Derek Bonner and Scott Griffin
**MASTERS OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 63 Pointers and 4 Setters**

Winner-RAMPAGE, F1705323, pointer male, by Touch's Red Rider-Southpoint's Dixie Chick. S. Tucker Johnson, owner; Tracy Swearingen, handler.
Runner-Up-WAYBETTER REBEL, F1689139, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Country Strong. Bill & Muriel Primm & Allen Linder, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

SOUTHEASTERN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Haney's All In Named Champion; Erin's Code of Honor, Runner-up

By Lamar Childers | Dancyville, Tennessee | February 24, 2026



Southeastern Open All-Age Championship (front): Michael Jackson with son Bo. (Behind): Woody Watson, Jacob, Stacy Croy, Steve Croy, Lee Phillips, Mark McLean, Tessa Hughes, Cody McLean with Haney's All In, Joe Hughes (judge), Davey Deal, Ron Deal, Larron Copeland, Luke Eisenhart with Erin's Code of Honor, Jeff Gibbons (judge), Rita Corder, Dr. Fred Corder, and Shannon Nygard.

Marking the 36th running of the Southeastern All-Age Championship, and the 40th year of field trials on these grounds, the championship competition commenced on March 1, the traditional start date. As in all previous renewals, the trial was headquartered on Hall of Famer Dr. Ron Deal's Chickasaw Plantation and is contested over the grounds of Chickasaw, Abigail, and Ecila Plantations. We are extremely grateful to Richard Burk for the use of Abigail, to Frank Foley for Ecila, and to the Deal family for Chickasaw. Thanks to Purina for their regular support of this event.

The conditions here in March, with the seasons changing, can be challenging, but the birds are plentiful, and the opportunity to see these canine athletes compete on these plantation grounds is exciting. Rainfall has been low this winter, and the numerous wet-weather ponds are dry, allowing better use of the grounds.

Judging was two experienced arbiters who knew and agreed upon what they were looking for in an all-age champion. Both hail from

the state of Alabama: Jeff Gibbons of Deatsville and Joe Hughes of Moulton. Joe was accompanied by his lovely wife, Tessa. Tessa had the distinction of having her horse depart for home during the break between braces one afternoon and returned to her after a lengthy chase by some in the official party. Tessa also got to practice her mud bogging skills, driving their nice Ford dually through the "shortcut" to the local fish house on Gillionville Road.

For the first several years, Truman Cowles reported both our All-Age and Shooting Dog trials, as well as being a mentor and advisor to our team as we sought to gain championship status for our trials. Several individuals handled the reporting duties until Dr. Ron Deal became our reporter and did such a good job for many years. Claudia McNamee has reported for the last couple of years and was scheduled to report this year, but had something come up that prevented her. Your scribe was enlisted, and after an unplanned return home after Brace 12, Dr. Deal provided the brace-by-brace report from 13 on to complete this report.

Wilson Napier handled the dog wagon with his usual efficiency, maintaining as close contact with the gallery as possible to allow the wagon riders to view the action. The club provided lunch each day, prepared and served by Chickasaw employee Mike Jackson and his wife, Alexa.

Willis Wright, with a 35-year tenure on Abigail Plantation, was present as always to lend a hand and served as the front marshal.

The Winners

Winning the gold was multiple champion Haney's All In, ably handled by Mark McLean, braced with Erin's Legacy, handled by Judd Carlton, appearing in the 15th brace, the last brace in the morning. The first two braces of the morning were cut short, using only a combined 50 minutes of the first course. The eventual champion and bracemate were released at the normal start of the second course, after the aforementioned horse roundup was concluded. Released in the course path these two sped away and pointed simultaneously less than a minute into the brace. As the saying goes, "point 'em where they are." Both dogs running strong on the right front making contact with handlers to cross Rock Story Road around 7. At 14, All In was standing well ahead in a pine strip with excellent manners as the covey was put to flight. This was repeated on another covey at 19. Both dogs were laying down a good race with All In having the edge. At 33, well ahead, Legacy was seen pointing and nearing his stand. All In was seen in the backing position. A good piece of work with all in order. At 40, both dogs were seen well ahead, nearing the county road to cross back onto Abigail. All In shown on Abigail in the green fields on the right at 42, Legacy crossing the creek with Carlton at 44.

McLean crossed the creek about 46, but he did not have his charge. He continued to ride the course. Legacy showing on the left and gathered at 52 for the turn toward the water crossing back to Chickasaw, and made the crossing at 56. As McLean approached the crossing, he inquired of the judge how much time he had left. McLean crossed to Chickasaw and rode straight ahead. Momentarily at 58, he called point for All In on a little knoll, with his dog looking tall and sure. Birds were flushed, and he immediately sent the dog away to a strong finish.

Claiming runner-up honors was Erin's Code of Honor, appearing in Brace 12 with Beyond The Pine. Honor was handled by Luke Eisenhart for owner Allen Linder, and Pine was handled by Lee Phillips with co-owner Dr. Ron Deal on the dog wagon to observe his derby age entry.

After a shortened Brace 11, these competitors were released and headed into a hard right turn. They broke away strong and straight ahead at the turn. Both handlers rode to regain contact with their charges and were soon spotted with the dogs in front and regaining the course in front of the field trial party as the course path turned left. Both dogs continued strong and to the front, seen occasionally on good casts. Handlers had contact with their charges as we crossed the county road. After going through the water crossing back onto Chickasaw, as we were traversing the rock crossing, Honor was seen on the far right side of the grass pond reaching to the front. At 45 point was called from the dog wagon to our right. This was on a line frontward from where Honor was last seen across the dry pond area. All in order. Both dogs continued their reaching race behind the barn and across the road by Davey's house, and finished strong, reaching toward the end of the big peanut field across the ditch.

The Running

The first brace consisted of Miller's Blindsider (Jamie Daniels)

and Touch's Shadow Rider (Mark McLean), with both dogs carding finds way to the right at about the 5-minute mark. Both dogs had good races with Shadow Rider carding additional finds at 45 and 60. Blindsider concluded a good hour found pointed ahead just after the hour with all in order.

In the second brace, Jackie Hutwagner handled Dominator's High Maintenance, and Luke Eisenhart put down Comanche. Hutwagner was at a disadvantage in that he was unfamiliar with the course and was unable to maintain contact with his charge, and got the tracker at 25. Comanche had a find at 15. Eisenhart got his tracker before time.

Brace 3 featured Just First Class (Daniels) and Touch's Midnight Rider (McLean). Class made some good casts and recorded stylish finds at 30 and 36, and an unproductive at 42. Rider and McLean were not on the same page, and the tracker asked for early.

In Brace 4, the first of the afternoon, Carlton put down Erin's Three Amigos with Notorious Sweet Ginger handled by Mathys. Carlton's dog ran a pretty good race but went birdless. Finding birds in the early to mid-afternoon had been difficult the last couple of weeks of the hunting season. Ginger ran a moderate race with unproductives at 48 and 59.

Brace 5 pitted Dominator's Lilyrose (Daniels) against Haney's Silver Dollar (Eisenhart). Rose is a nice young dog showing promise with a good race with no bird work, and picked up at 50. Dollar ran a big and bold race with a find deep to the left front at 7; at 30, the call of point for Dollar came from afar. The judge made a long, hard ride with Eisenhart calling flight of birds before the judge got line of sight. Brought on, Dollar was leaning into the bridle and carded another good find at 59. Strong throughout.

Brace 6 paired Showtime Game Changer (Copeland) with Woodville's Long Hard Ride (McLean). Copeland was having trouble maintaining

contact with Game Changer and asked for the retrieval device early. Ride ran a hustling race reminiscent of his sire. He did not have quite the forward reach of the winners, but impressed with his speed, hustle, and finds at 8, 40, and 46.

Coming to the line on the second morning in Brace 7 were Late Hit (Shenker) and Quail Woods Pine (Carlton). Late Hit was found pointing on the left front in the blackjack oaks before the hourglass field at 8. When released, he took the right side of the hourglass field on the left of Watts Pond, and at 18, as we traversed the Chute, point was called for Late Hit on the left at the end of Watts Pond. A good find. About the same time, point was called for Pine on the right of the chute. After showing most of the hour, Hit was out of pocket after 50 as we headed toward the hard right turn at the property line swamp. He regained the front just before time. Pine ran a mostly forward, strong race to go with his one find. He closed his hour with a good cast.

Brace 8 featured Notorious Reserve (Mathys) with Erin's Bold Ruler (Eisenhart). Away at the right turn on the back side of Ecila, both dogs are making the turns that take us to Rock Story Road crossing. At 7, Ruler pointed, then corrected and went on. Both dogs ahead through the end of the pine rows, across Hog Hill, and bearing right through the row of live oaks. Reserve was out of contact, and Mathys got his tracker. Ruler had finds at 19 and 32, but his appearance was not pleasing to Eisenhart, and he picked up.

The 9th and last brace of the morning had Southern Thunder (Shenker) with DS Riptide (McLean), away at 10:02 near the end of the Ecila courses and soon across the road and on to Abigail, through the creek crossing at 10. Tom riding, trying to keep contact with Thunder, asked for the tracker at 25. Riptide covering the country in good order but out of pocket at times. On through Chickasaw, passing the burned tractor behind the barn, then across the road by Davey's house at

47, McLean called point and flushed the birds. He elected to pick up at this point.

Brace 10 saw Night Hawk Rebel (Swearingen) with Joe Nation (Bush). Released behind the barn at the usual start, Bush had recruited Willis Wright to handle Nation. Nation was not responding, and Bush assumed the handler role at 12 as we made the turn out of the hourglass field. Rebel had traversed the blackjack oak area and down through the hourglass field, continuing on around Watts Pond, coming around to join us at the front as we rode down the chute. At the beginning of the chute, Bush got his tracker as Nation was not reaching out. Rebel crossed the water to Abigail, and at the top of the field, a left turn was spied on point. All in order. He continued on always forward, but working laterally across the front at times. He had finds at 50 on the left and at 54 to the right of course. At 57, where the course turns sharply right at the swamp, Rebel was seen going deep to the left front, and Tracy rode to get him, calling point from the distance at 59. A good piece of work that ended his hour.

Brace 11 saw Shagtime Bill (Cagle) and Game Heir (Corder) released well before the usual start of the second course. The course turned right in about a ¼ mile with Bill making the turn and Game Heir not seen at this time. At the crossing of Rock Story Road, Bill pointed, birds were flushed, with Bill not handling it well, and he was picked up. Although seen in the distance two or three times, Heir could not get on the same page with the handler, and he elected to pick up at 28.

Brace 12, Beyond the Pine, with Erin's Code of Honor, previously reported.

Brace 13 saw Erin's War Eagle (Eisenhart) and Nonami's Johnny Come Lately (Pearce). Both dogs had an early find before being picked up at 20 before the water crossing off Chickasaw.

Brace 14, Notorious Southern Son (Mathys) and World Class High Def (Siebels), started just across the

water on Abigail. The handlers got their trackers on Ecila at 30 without bird work.

Brace 15, Erin's Legacy (Carlton) and Haney's All In (McLean) was described earlier.

Brace 16—Strut's Bee Sting (Davis) was scratched. Game Star (Corder) had a good find on the right at 14 and another at 52. The dog ran a commendable hour but suffered a non-productive event at time.

In Brace 17, Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton) and Mayfield Storm Front (Siebels) began on Ecila. Heat Advisory had a find just off the breakaway at 1. Siebels called point on the left at 3. Momentarily, Heat Advisory pointed on a rise about 30 yards away. Siebels could not flush birds. Carlton put birds up in front of his charge. The wind direction raised the possibility that both dogs could have pointed the same covey. Storm Front was put on the wagon shortly thereafter. Heat Advisory continued to show well on the ground and finished in the long field heading toward Chickasaw without additional bird work.

In Brace 18, Confident Nation (Jordan) and World Class Migraine (Siebels) crossed onto Chickasaw at 3. Confident Nation was picked up on his second non-productive stand at 25. Siebels followed suit to end the day.

In Brace 19, Miller's Triple Crown (Siebels) and Tate Island Nation (Jordan) started the last morning after an hour delay due to fog. Triple Crown had a good find on the right side at 3. Seibels regained the front at 5. Jordan found his dog pointed on the left side at 7 and put up birds. Both dogs were running aggressively. Point was called for Nation deep on the left side of the chute at 14. Jordan flushed birds in front of his dog, then caught the front at 16. Siebels found his dog about 100 yards beyond where Tate Nation had birds on the left and carded a good find at 16. Both handlers crossed the water onto Abigail at 22 after four finds in the first 16 minutes. At 27, both handlers flushed and shot.

The creek was crossed at 36. Triple Crown subsequently had two non-productive stands and was picked up. Jordan crossed onto Ecila at 51 and carded additional finds at 53 and 58.

In Brace 20, Erin's Copper Colt (Carlton) and Shagtime Jay (Cagle) were released on Ecila. Cooper Colt suffered a non-productive at 9, and Jay had a similar fate at 33. The brace ended early without bird work.

In Brace 21, Lester's Front Porch (Siebels) and DS Superfly (McLean) began on Ecila about 14 minutes from the crossing back onto Abigail. Superfly pointed at 3, but no birds were produced after a relocation attempt. The handlers crossed the creek at 16 and the water back onto Chickasaw at 30. Superfly had a second non-productive stand at 32. Siebels continued with Front Porch until 44.

In Brace 22, Showtime Houston Solution (Copeland) and Mayfield Storm Messenger (Siebels) began the last afternoon brace. Storm Messenger had a find on the left side at 3. Both handlers had their dogs for the water crossing at 17, ahead of the usual schedule. Houston Solution was found pointed just before the creek. Storm Messenger was backing. Siebels took his dog on when Copeland asked for a relocation. No birds were put up. Both handlers called it quits at the creek crossing.

In Brace 23, Seranoa's Ramblin' Man (McLean) and Game Surge (Corder) were released just beyond the creek crossing at 2:49 p.m. Both dogs ran well in spite of the heat. Game Surge was found pointed at 23 with Ramblin' Man in the backing position. Nothing was produced. McLean picked up shortly thereafter. Corder continued with Game Surge but picked up before time without bird work.

Dawson, Ga., March 1

Judges: Jeff Gibbons and Joe Hughes
SOUTHEASTERN OPEN ALL-AGE
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 43 Pointers and 3 Setters

Winner-HANEY'S ALL IN, F1698756, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Steve Croy, owner; Mark McLean, handler.
Runner-Up-ERIN'S CODE OF HONOR, F1696057, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Erin's Miss Maggie. Allen Linder, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.



GET THE WORD OUT!

Put your advertising dollars in the right place by delivering your message through UKC Field.

Place your ad today by emailing:
fieldnewsletter@ukcdogs.com

ALL-AMERICA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Rester's Wildflower Named Derby Champion; Bandit's Hill Avenger, Quail Champion

By Jim Atchison | Pinckneyville, Illinois | March 6, 2026

One hundred years after the first running of the All-America Derby Championship, the Hoosier Field Trial Club hosted the Centennial Renewal of the Championship, accompanied by the All-America Quail Championship, the companion All-Age competition that received championship designation more than 25 years later. The championships were held in Illinois at Pyramid State Park from March 6-10. Every aspect of the five-day renewal was of celebratory quality, thanks to the advance efforts of some of the local club members, the on-site efforts of the entire club, the superior venue, the quality of the judges, the number of outstanding entries, the number of game contacts, and OK weather conditions, all coming together perfectly.

Gary McKibben, from Hernando, Mississippi, and Kent Walker, from Piperton, Tennessee, judged. The judges' combined years of field trial experience probably equaled or exceeded the 100 years of the competitions they judged. Their placements were well-received and their services appreciated.

Purina's continuing sponsorship was acknowledged, and their always being the primary sponsor of the stakes was greatly appreciated. The club and all participants also appreciated two evening meals hosted by Escape Ranch, represented by Nathan Phillips, and a Sunday night steak dinner hosted by Gary Lester.



All-America All-Age Championship (front, l-r): Judd Carlton with Bandit's Hill Avenger and Luke Eisenhart with Haney's Silver Dollar. (Back, l-r): Mike Lemons, Gary Lester, Mike Small, Korry Rinehart, Doug Burgess, Kent Walker (judge), Gary McKibben (judge), David Russell, Mike Jackson, Jon Lam, and Jim Lawless.

Weather conditions varied significantly, with temperatures ranging from mid-30s to mid-70s, and one night and one morning of rain, which caused only two braces to be run on Sunday, starting at 2:00 p.m.

The Hoosier Club members came together to create a team of excellent hosts. Husband-and-wife duo Jim Lawless and Kay Morrison contributed countless hours and a great portion of the energy that made the championships a success. Lawless's outstanding relationship with Pyramid's management team, his year-round dedication to the park, and funding from several sources contributed greatly to autumn olive eradication during the last year, making the venue better than ever. Morrison prepared

three meals each day for everyone participating, handled all the secretary-treasurer business, and rode in most braces. Jon Lam, vice president of the club, was busy every day, planting birds each morning with Lawless, marshaling, scouting, and always helping. Doug Burgess provided the ATV, handled all the dog wagon tasks, and agreed to serve as president of the group for the upcoming year. Additional club members, Mike Jackson, Mike Small, Nathan Phillips, and Jim Atchison, were available to help as needed.

The number of game contacts achieved during the championships was impressive. The game contact count was 40 during the Derby stake and 50 during the All-Age stake. Jim Lawless and Jon Lam planted birds each morning at 5:30, always in the

same places as the day before. Their efforts were another example of club members' commitment to providing fair and equitable opportunities for all competing entries.

Champions and Runners-up

Derby Stake: Luke Eisenhart swept the Derby Championship as he campaigned both Rester's Wildflower to stand on the winner's table as champion and Silver W Orange Crush to stand as runner-up champion. Rester's Wildflower is a white and liver female pointer, owned by Julie and Pat Roach of Fort Wayne, Indiana. Silver W Orange Crush is a white and orange male owned by Dr. Debbie Ozner, Dr. Baker Hubbard, and Dr. Tom Jackson, with the registration address being Ochlocknee, Georgia.

All-Age Stake: Bandit's Hill Avenger had an outstanding performance to earn champion of the All-Age stake. His capable young handler was Korry Rinehart, from Rienzi, Mississippi. Avenger, whelped in 2022, is owned by Ann Forrester, who traveled from South Fulton, Tennessee, to watch her champion win. Luke Eisenhart, from Dawson, Georgia, also stood at the All-Age winners' table with Haney's Silver Dollar, the 5-year-old runner-up champion, owned by Chris Cagle Sr. and Chris Cagle Jr., from Woodlawn, Tennessee.

Derby Championship Competition

Rester's Wildflower, the Derby Champion, was the top dog drawn to run in the first brace of the Championship. Her performance set the bar for the competition, a level not surpassed as the field of 22 derbies competed and scored 40 game contacts. Eisenhart dismounted three times during the hour and raised birds each time, at 24, 44, and 54. The champion's style, speed, big, smooth race, and absence of need for scouting reflected that she and her nationally recognized handler created a winning combo.

Silver W Orange Crush won runner-up for Eisenhart and his owners in the third brace. He had birds at 10, 32, 39, and 59 during his

strong, front-running hour. His tight demeanor and superior style, both while running and on game, were impressive and certainly contributed to his placement.

Millers Inspiration, owned by Al Bryson and handled by Gary Lester, was braced with the champion in the first brace. Lester shot at 12, 20, and again at 52, with both dogs finding birds about 30 yards apart. He also backed his brace mate at 24, and everything was in good order.

Ike Todd had Edge's Ripper, owned by Gordy Jones, while Judd Carlton had Erin's Banshee, owned by Allen Linder, in the second brace. Banshee had birds at 23, 32, and an unproductive at 48. Ripper had birds once, in the last quarter hour of the brace.

Haney's High Dollar, owned by the Cagles—Chris Sr. and Chris Jr.—and handled by Ike Todd, ran in the third brace, with the runner-up. High Dollar had birds at 17, 30, and backed his bracemate at 39.

Red Dirt Road Mondo, owned by Jay McKenzie, who was in the gallery, was handled by Allen Vincent, while Ike Todd had Phantom's Zip, owned by Erick and Holly Parsons. Zip found birds at 6 and 22 prior to an unproductive stand at 48. A couple of minutes later, Mondo pointed in the same general area, but Vincent was not able to produce game for the judges.

Silver W Season Ticket, handled by Luke Eisenhart, went next, loosed with Knight's Iceman, owned by Scott Griffin and handled by Ike Todd. Season Ticket found birds at 15 and 44, before standing by a kill pile at 51. Iceman had a find at 34 and stood at the same kill pile, with his brace mate, at 51.

Sunset Jack and Erin's Desert Storm were the last pair to compete on the first afternoon. Jack, owned by Matt and Stacey Brown, was handled by Ike Todd. Desert Storm, owned by Mike Sweet, was handled by Judd Carlton. Jack found birds at 10 and 23, with Storm backing both stands. The pair had a divided find at

35, and Jack had an unproductive at 47. Storm's final find was at 52, but the bird almost hit him in the face; he ducked, and Carlton took him out of the competition.

The first day ended with the game count standing at 24, plus kill piles. Braces did not start until 2 p.m. the following day because of rain that started overnight.

Cadron Creek Sam, handled by Allen Vincent for Doctors Mills, McDonald, and Lightner, and CK Playmaker, owned by David Melnick and handled by Judd Carlton, were loosed at 2:00. Sam pointed at 13, but erred and was picked up. Playmaker had an unproductive at 5 and pointed at 19, but also erred, so the brace ended early.

The second, and last of the two braces that ran on Sunday was No. 8 and had Erin's Forged In Fire and Como White Lightning loosed together. Sean Pat Derrig had Forged In Fire from his family's kennel, and Luke Eisenhart had White Lightning, with owner David Russell in the gallery. Both dogs had an excellent hour, with Derrig flushing birds at 12, 23, and a woodcock at 59, while Eisenhart flushed at 30, 38, 45, and again at the end of the hour.

The last three Derby braces were completed on Sunday morning. Gary Lester had Lesters Thunder Road, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton, and Judd Carlton had Erin's Dreamcatcher, owned by Mike Sweet. Thunder Road bumped a bird at 12, on relocation, and was picked up. Dreamcatcher finished the hour, backing his bracemate at 12, and producing additional game at 38 and 56.

Brace 10 had Apache Storm, handled by Korry Rinehart for Jake Davis, paired with Whippoorwill Out Rider, owned by Dale Bush and handled by Larry Huffman. Out Rider backed Apache Storm in a find at 22, and both dogs stood pointed about 100 yards apart at 31. Rinehart was able to flush birds, but Huffman had no luck. Moving toward the end of the hour, Apache had an unproductive and Outrider found birds at 58.

Texas Blue Northern, owned by Dr. Robert Rankin and handled by Allen Vincent, and Rester's In Sync, owned by Adam Houston and handled by Luke Eisenhart, were the last derbies to compete. In Sync had a find at 47, with Blue Northern backing, and then both dogs were picked up in the last quarter hour. The birds found at 47 in this brace raised the total number of derby game contacts to 40.

Pinckneyville, Ill., March 6

Judges: Gary McKibben and Kent Walker
ALL-AMERICA DERBY CHAMPIONSHIP

[One-Hour Heats] – 21 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner-RESTER'S WILDFLOWER, F1718696, pointer female, by Rester's Johnny Ringo-Wynona's Funseeker Dixie. Julie & Pat Roach, owners; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

Runner-Up-SILVER W ORANGE CRUSH, F1719746, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Silver W Thunderbolt's Boom. Dr. Debbie Ozner, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

Quail Championship (All-Age) Competition

Bandit's Hill Avenger, the All-Age Champion, competed in the first brace of the All-Age competition, which started after lunch on Sunday afternoon. Awesome is the best description imaginable for every minute of his winning performance. With Ann Forrester watching, Korry Rinehart flushed birds at 20, 30, 38, 48, 50, and finally at 59. He ran a monstrously fast race the entire hour, covered the course thoroughly, was tight, stylish, responsive, and totally in sync with Rinehart the entire hour. This first brace must have certainly taken the pressure off the judges, relative to knowing they already had a dog they could use in their judicial roles.

Haney's Silver Dollar, owned by the Cagles—Chris Sr. and Chris Jr.—was runner-up champion and handled by Luke Eisenhart in the fourth brace. Silver Dollar had a terrific hour, with birds at 5, a divided find at 20, birds again at 28, 35, and 43, plus another divided find at 53. The 5-year-old's hour was a great one, pleasing in every way expected in the sport, and certainly impressed the judges, earning the runner-up placement.

Erin's Mighty Quinn, handled by Sean Pat Derrig, competed in the first



All-America Derby Championship (front, l-r): Judd Carlton with Rester's Wildflower and Luke Eisenhart with Silver W Orange Crush. (Back, l-r): Mike Small, Brad Hargis, Doug Burgess, Kent Walker (judge), Gary McKibben (judge), and Mike Jackson.

brace, running with the champion. He ran well and had birds at 13, 22, 25, and 47.

Erin's Southern Comfort and Erin's Bold Ruler went next. Sean Pat, declaring himself one of two Sean Derrigs, had Southern Comfort, while Luke Eisenhart had Bold Ruler, owned by Claudia McNamee and Dr. Bill Bruchey. Bold Ruler had game at 6 and 15 but moved and was picked up. Southern Comfort found birds at 15, 25, 35, 47, and 55, keeping the hour interesting and fast-moving.

The third brace drew Beeler's Final Solution, owned by Rick Stallings and handled by Scott Beeler, and Miller's Heat Advisory, owned by Mike Sweet and handled by Judd Carlton, to the line. Heat Advisory had birds first, at 15, backed Final Solution at 28, had birds again at 38, and ended the hour with an unproductive at 59. Final Solution pointed, and Beeler flushed at 28 and 47. He also backed at 38 and 59.

Lester's War Bird, owned by Tommy and Bonnie Hamilton and handled by Gary Lester, was braced with the runner-up in Brace 4. War Bird had birds at 13 and 58. He backed at 5, 35, and 43, plus shared divided finds at 20 and 53.

Through the first four braces of the All-Age competition, the game count soared to 31 and slowed, but continued to reach the aforementioned number of 50 in the following braces.

Wynona's Rebel, handled by Allen Vincent for owners Bruce Sooter and Dennis Beauford, and Erin's Three Amigos, handled by Judd Carlton for

owners Mike Sweet, John Mathys, and Jerry Moisson, were loosed at 8:00 on Monday morning, but the brace ended quickly. Rebel moved during a divided find at 5 and was put into his harness. Then, Three Amigos chased a bird during relocation at 10, and the brace was over.

Brace 6 ended quickly, also. Matt Brown had his and wife, Stacey's, Sunset Jack, while Nathan Phillips had Phillips Linebacker that he co-owns with Orrin Ingram. But both were soon picked up.

Gary Lester had Sunset Sam Houston, and Luke Eisenhart had Erin's Copper Colt in the seventh brace. Copper Colt, owned by Allen Linder, had the first find at 5, backed by Sam Houston. Colt then had a find at 12 and soon backed finds Sam Houston had at 19 and 23. However, both handlers chose to pick up their dogs at 37.

Wynona's Nickleback Sugar, handled by Allen Vincent for Bruce Sooter and Brad Tolson, went next, paired with Miss Arkansas, owned and handled by Mike Lemons. Sugar moved during a divided find at 5 and was picked up. Lemons let his dog hunt the rest of the hour, with finds at 40 and 53.

Brace 9 was also a short brace. Gary Lester had Black Rock Snow Goose, owned by Nick Cummings, while Luke Eisenhart had Erin's Code of Honor, owned by Allen Linder. Code of Honor had birds and 6, but both handlers chose to pick up by about the quarter hour.

On Tuesday morning, in Brace 10, Korry Rinehart had Miller's Last Call, owned by Scott Griffin and Derek Bonner, while David Russell had his Haney's Hurricane Seeker. Rinehart flushed birds in front of Last Call at 20 and 30 but picked him up following an unproductive at 48. Hurricane Seeker's whereabouts were unknown, and Russell asked for his tracker at 20.

Blackhawk Lucky Charm, handled by Allen Vincent and owned by the Drs. Mills, McDonald, and Lightner went next, braced with Erin's

Legacy, owned by Mike Sweet and handled by Judd Carlton. The pair experienced a mishap at 4, and the brace ended abruptly.

The last All-Age brace had I'm Gallant, owned by Jay McKenzie and handled by Allen Vincent, paired with Quail Pine Woods, owned by Greg

Adams and handled by Judd Carlton. Both handlers picked up their dogs at 17.

ALL-AMERICA QUAIL CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 27 Pointers and 2 Setters
Winner-BANDIT'S HILL AVENGER, F1702642, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Bandit's Hill Daisy, Ann Forrester, owner; Korry Rinehart, handler.
Runner-Up-HANEY'S SILVER DOLLAR, F1698758, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

PLANNING A FIELD TRIAL?

Be sure to submit your dates as soon as possible.

Previous ads may be downloaded at:
www.americanfield.com/calendar

Contact us with any questions!
 (269) 343-9020

ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA FIELD TRIAL CLUBS
I Dream of Jeannie Wins First Annual South Carolina Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational
By Barbara Teare | Nesmith, South Carolina | March 6, 2026

The 2025-2026 Association of South Carolina Field Trial Clubs' (ASCFTC) season hit a high note with the inaugural running of the South Carolina Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational at storied Little Hobcaw Plantation in Nesmith, South Carolina, on March 6 and 7. The Invitational brought together 12 dogs that earned their way through faithful participation and success in ASCFTC Amateur Shooting Dog stakes throughout the season. A few original qualifiers were unable to attend, and invitations were extended to additional dogs and handlers whose consistent participation supported the Association's trials during the year. This trial was conceived to celebrate dogs and handlers by focusing on fun and fellowship, while rewarding each with the singular opportunity to perform on this historic, privately owned wild bird venue.

At the time of the Invitational, one trial remained on the club's 2026 calendar, with those points going toward next year's event.

This championship stake called for the 12 invited dogs to be paired in one-hour qualifying braces on Friday, with the top four called back to compete for the title on Saturday. North Carolinian Kyle Whitfield's classy black and white setter female, I Dream of Jeannie, was the clear winner, with a well-defined ground race and two good finds to her credit.

Credit is due to ASCFTC President Mac Stidham, whose vision helped



South Carolina Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational: I Dream of Jeannie with Kyle Whitfield. Prizes courtesy of Purina Pro Plan and Quail Forever.

bring this trial to life. Conceived to encourage participation while recognizing amateur handlers and their dogs, the event was made possible through his leadership with the help of committee members: Tim Ruff, Rodney Poston, Allen Johnson, Katie Courtney, and Paul Kelly.

Katie Courtney, ASCFTC secretary, deserves special mention for her contribution of time and effort behind the scenes and on-site. In addition to handling her usual administrative and field duties, she assisted this reporter as the "eyes up front," attending the action on horseback while the reporter observed from the dog wagon.

Sponsorship is key to a successful event, and a roster of supporters ensured that all were well fed and that the winner and participants

were amply rewarded. The South Carolina Chapter of Quail Forever hosted Thursday night's steak dinner, welcoming handlers and attendees. Names pulled from a bucket determined the running order for Friday's competition, and all 12 dogs were posed with their handlers for a commemorative photo.

Purina Pro Plan was a strong presence, always a stalwart supporter of field trials and bird dogs across the country. Other generous contributors included the Carolina All-Age Derby and Jamboree, Carolina Seed Supply, Kalmbach Feeds/Tribute Equine Nutrition, Jack Haggis Saddles, Southern Pines Land and Timber, Drowning Creek Bird Dogs, and Coach Allen Johnson. A big thank you goes out to all!

Much appreciation and gratitude are owed to the Thompson family for their generosity and hospitality in making Little Hobcaw and its resources available for the trial. The Thompsons are hands-on landowners committed to preserving the historical significance and the rich hunting heritage of Little Hobcaw Plantation, engaging the expertise of Tall Timbers Research Station to bring the bobwhite quail population back to the numbers of the plantation's glory days. Quail habitat across Hobcaw's broad acreage is prime, the layout spectacular. Wild birds were seen throughout this event.

Two longtime, highly qualified bird dog men, George Kimbrell and Tim

Ruff, were in the judiciary saddles. Having served the field trial sport at every level, they rode attentively and considered each performance from the perspective of long experience.

The Venue

Little Hobcaw Plantation, located in the rural Nesmith community of Williamsburg County, South Carolina, was established in the 1930s by Camden native and Wall Street financier Bernard Baruch. An influential advisor to Presidents Wilson and Roosevelt, Baruch first leased and later purchased thousands of acres for his private hunting preserve, where he often hosted world leaders for social and political gatherings as well as for shooting sport.

Most famous among those guests was Winston Churchill, a frequent visitor who developed a strong friendship with Baruch and so enjoyed painting during his stays that a cottage with an art studio was built especially for him near the main lodge. His artwork still graces the property.

Little Hobcaw features in American literature as well. Renowned author and University of South Carolina professor, Havilah Babcock, visited both Little Hobcaw and Baruch's larger plantation, Hobcaw Barony, where he found inspiration for his classic books.

North Carolina writer Robert Ruark, a world traveler, was also a close friend of Baruch and spent much time at Little Hobcaw, where the two pursued their passions for wing-shooting and whiskey. Between 1946 and 1955, Ruark missed only one hunting season at Little Hobcaw. The Lowcountry background and shooting adventures that Ruark enjoyed at Little Hobcaw featured in his writings, including his best-known work, *The Old Man and the Boy*, and his regular columns for *Field and Stream* magazine.

It was a privilege to step in the tracks of such notables as we followed the hunting courses over Little Hobcaw's vast acreage during

the trial.

James Sigmon purchased the plantation in 1965 after Baruch's death, adding to the huntable acreage by draining much of the swampland and converting it to productive habitat. An avid quail hunter, Sigmon maintained a kennel of class bird dogs and devoted much effort to propagating wild birds while devoting other areas of the property to agriculture and timber. After his death in 2013, Little Hobcaw's status was not publicly documented until it came under its current ownership.

The Winner

Coming five years old, setter female I Dream of Jeannie has been a dream of a bird dog for owner Kyle Whitfield of Seven Springs, North Carolina. She is the product of a breeding between Tom Green's female, Shamrock's Miss Grace, and Skip Brown's Hot Blooded, strong genetics reflecting Commander lineage. Her 15 derby wins earned her the 2023 South Carolina Amateur Derby of the Year title, while simultaneously winning the 2023 South Carolina Open Derby of the Year runner-up title. The striking black-and-white long-haired runs fast and forward, handles kindly, and points with a lofty, captivating style, with both all-age and shooting dog wins on her card.

Here she ran in the second brace of the callbacks, when foggy conditions had mostly cleared, and temperatures were rising. She laid down a pleasing ground race, flashing in and out of occasional patchy fog to show out front or swinging ahead on the turns. Her two finds were located and handled with intelligence and class, and one unproductive did not detract. Details of the winning effort are covered in the callback section of this report.

The Qualifying Braces

Heavy fog delayed the start of the trial on Friday and persisted through most of the morning. Early temps in the mid-50s gave way to challenging conditions later as the mercury hovered well into the eighties. Six

continuous course braces offered each dog the opportunity to excel, and dedicated groundwork did not disappoint. Though a strong bird population is monitored here by the Tall Timbers study, after a busy hunting season, quail were elusive. Though some coveys were seen flushing wild, and others pinpointed by Tall Timbers telemetry, the hot, dry weather and dusty afternoon further contributed to limited contacts.

Brace 1: Hirollins Gone And Doneit ("Gunner"). Harry Cook had the whistle for Warren Parrott, took this handsome pointer through the country with a good jump and a willing handle, scored a back just after the half, and finished well.

Backcountry Bruiser, with Chris Catanzarite, showed frequently with a forward ground race and a clean find at 23. Several coveys were seen flying wild from the area after the shot for this work. The hat was up again at 37 with a promising pose and a long relocation employed, but no feathers were flown.

Brace 2: I Dream of Jeannie ("Jen"), an engaging little black and white setter female down with Kyle Whitfield, and B K Bonafide Stallion ("Cash") with Harry Cook, hunted varied terrain early at a good shooting dog pace. Visibility was limited in places by fog. Cash got out of pocket early and was brought in on a lead. Nimble-footed and bright, Jen covered her country with snappy style and determination. She stood near the half, but the birds had gone.

Brace 3: Worth Lewis had the sprightly liver-headed pointer female Nomads Redemption ("Karma"), down with Paul Kelly and Erin's Demolition Man ("Chip"). It was notably warmer, partly sunny, and much drier by late morning. Redemption worked both sides of the course in energetic and animated fashion and was not deterred by the heat. Chip kept Kelly moving, as the big pointer was full of ambition and often outran the plan. Neither found birds.

Brace 4: It was sunny and climbing into the 80s with a light



All 12 dogs during Thursday's celebration dinner and drawing.

southwest wind when pointer female Backcountry Pure Gold ("Dee") with Chris Catanzarite ran as a bye. Mac Stidham's Panola Sugar was scratched. The heat was a concern for all, and the afternoon schedule was delayed until 3 p.m. Dee pointed at 9 for an encouraging start, but the stand was unproductive. She hunted on smartly, zipped through the country and handled smoothly, was not daunted by adverse conditions, and was rewarded with a good find near the end of the hour.

Brace 5: Two pointer males went out in the hottest hour of the day, Palmetto's Knight Light ("Ike") with Rodney Poston and Shoulder's Lone Wanderer with Jesse Brown, were going places early. Knight Light had a good find near the half and maintained his composure when Wanderer took liberties. Rodney shot for the departing covey, and Jesse picked up. Knight hunted on in forward fashion, had an unproductive at 48 and a good finish.

Brace 6: Still hot, bright and dusty as the last brace went out into the lowering sun, released at 5:18. Miss Lucille ("Lucy") used a lot of the course for Gary Miller but had no luck finding Mr. Bob. Katie Courtney took her Munson Pond Flo through to hunt likely objectives with a happy style and a dedicated effort, but Flo was in the harness after no birds were raised at either of two nicely styled points.

After an outstanding supper of South Carolina chicken bog and barbecue, callbacks for Saturday's

program were announced. I Dream of Jeannie, Backcountry Pure Gold, Nomads Redemption, and Backcountry Bruiser were named to run on Saturday's showplace course. A coin toss was suggested to establish the order of running, and a good laugh was had, but handlers agreed to have all four dogs on the wagon by 7:30 the next morning, ready to run per judges' choice.

The Callbacks

Anticipation was high Saturday morning to see the top four dogs sent out over Little Hobcaw's best grounds, a stunning layout featuring all the elements of prime southern quail country, where changes in elevation often provided panoramic views. As elsewhere on the plantation, mixed timber, bicolor, and partridge pea strips offered edges along the many plowed fields that interspersed open pine woods. Gently rolling ground sloped to lines along swampy hardwood bottoms. Natural objectives were abundant. The cover on this side was thinner, allowing better air flow and improved scenting conditions.

The party left headquarters at 7:30 with the dog wagon and a convoy of horse trailers. Dogs were on the ground shortly afterward. Judges paired Backcountry Pure Gold and Nomads Redemption for the first brace. It was 62 degrees. Fog had thinned to a high, light mist, and heavy dew covered the ground. No wind stirred the pinetops.

Dogs were loosed down a bicolor

strip along plowed ground and cut quickly into the woods. We proceeded at a good shooting dog pace with a strong hunting effort by both dogs, but no birds were seen. Dog wagon driver Junior, whose time on the plantation goes back over 30 years to the days of previous owner James Sigmon, noted that we had passed at least three known covey locations in the first 10 minutes. Tall Timbers representative Davis Balsler, using radio telemetry, determined that birds had not yet left the roost.

These dogs laid down some big, showy casts in open country, handled kindly and hunted the closer objectives on the run, but found no birds.

Conditions had faired off, and the cover was drier when the winner, I Dream of Jeannie, and Backcountry Bruiser went down at 9:14. There was no detectable wind. Dogs made a big jump going out, taking a bicolor and timber edge that bisected two large fields. Three minutes into the race, the setter scored with a lofty stand, mannerly to wing and shot. Still in the first quarter, dogs were swinging through with some scouting required on the turns. We approached a section of the course under the Tall Timbers study known to be well-populated. Kyle Whitfield had the hat up for Jeannie at 9:28 in brushy cover at a swamp head. Birds were flown to good manners and high style, and the cheerful little setter was sent on.

At 9:34, Bruiser answered the challenge with a classy stand in a



Tim Ruff (judge), Barbara Teare (reporter), and George Kimbrell (judge).

bicolor patch. It looked promising, and Chris Catanzarite asked him to relocate when no birds got up, but it was unproductive. A deer jumped out and crossed the adjacent field behind the action.

At 9:46, we sat while handlers collected and watered the dogs. Whitfield called point a few minutes later, the setter's pose well defined at first, but the birds had run or flown undetected, and she was released.

Both dogs applied themselves vigorously through the remainder of the hour in comfortable conditions, not always seen but responding well. Catanzarite called point for Bruiser at 10:02 in bicolor under a sprawling

live oak. These birds had vacated the territory, as proven by Bruiser's wide but unproductive attempt to relocate. I Dream of Jeannie was still jumping and hunting at pickup, and her earlier work proved sufficient to secure the championship of this inaugural running.

The Association of South Carolina Field Trial Clubs also extends sincere appreciation to Barbara Teare for traveling to Little Hobcaw to report the inaugural event. Her long dedication to documenting the sport is well known, and we look forward to bringing her out of reporter retirement in the following years. Other notable guests include Mr. Richard Wood, who rode along on the dog wagon with Junior, reminiscing about old times working dogs with Mr. Sigmon, and recalling the championships that were once held on Little Hobcaw.

Plans are already in the works for the second running of the South Carolina Amateur Shooting Dog Invitational. We have a verbal commitment from another beautiful private South Carolina plantation to



Junior (dog wagon driver and Little Hobcaw lifelong employee) with Richard Wood.

host the event next year, with details to be announced once everything is finalized. The same qualification criteria will apply — dogs must participate in at least two Horseback Amateur Shooting Dog stakes hosted by ASCFTC member clubs during the season. We look forward to continuing this tradition and building on the success of this inaugural event.

Nesmith, S. C., March 6

**Judges: George Kimbrell and Tim Ruff
SOUTH CAROLINA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
INVITATIONAL [One-Hour Heats]
– 11 Pointers and 1 Setter**

Winner-I DREAM OF JEANNIE, F1699099, setter female, by Hot Blooded-Shamrock's Miss Grace. Kyle Whitfield, owner and handler.

MID-STATE BIRD DOG CLUB

Erin's Southern Comfort Wins Illinois Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

By Jeff Wagoner | Chandlerville, Illinois | March 6, 2026

The Max Eldred Open Derby started Friday morning, March 6. We want to thank our judges, Dave Capstick and Jack Alexander, for their time in the saddle. They judged both stakes and gave us their full attention.

We drew six derbies, and each brace had bird work. Even with a small entry, the quality was still there. First went to pointer female, Allie, owned and handled by Jeff Hainline. Second went to pointer male Gunsmoke, owned and handled by Sean Pat Derrig. Third went to pointer female Lola, owned and handled by Mike Duvall.

The weather was challenging at times. We had super warm temperatures with scattered



Illinois Amateur Shooting Dog Classic: Jack Alexander (judge), Rolling Hills Ty with Mark Johnson, Jeff Wagoner, Adam DeLude, Alliwood's Shady Street with Bob Bakas (scout), and Dave Capstick (judge).

thunderstorms on Friday. Saturday was a bit better, but foggy in the morning, and still some rain. Sunday, we woke up to 37 degrees.

The Illinois Amateur Shooting Dog Classic started after lunch on Friday. We drew 22 dogs, giving the judges plenty to look at. Every brace had

some kind of bird work. Thanks to our well-seasoned bird planter, Pat Sheehan.

First honors went to Erin's Southern Comfort, a pointer male owned by Sean Pat Derrig. Comfort had a big forward race and handled to three nice, spaced-out finds. Second went to Rolling Hills Ty, who also had a huge race but a bit wilder than Comfort. Ty had one back, a divided, and two other finds. Third went to Alliwod's Shady Street, braced against Ty, and was putting down a nice race. He finished with one find, one divided, and two backs.

I want to thank Purina, AFTCA, SportDOG, and UKC for the support and donations to putting on this trial.

I must thank Mark Johnson for helping put on the trial and getting



Max Eldred Open Derby: Sean Pat Derrig, Spoon River Allie with Jeff Hainline, Mark Johnson, Gunsmoke with Brian Sheehan (scout), Jeff Wagoner, Erin's Stellar Cabernet with Mike Duvall, Mike Vicari and newborn, and Heather Packard.

Purina and AFTCA support. Also, Aaron McAfee for coordinating with the site superintendent and helping put on a great trial.

We had all the handlers willing to step up and make this a great trial. Mike and Suanne Duvall and Aaron McAfee made sure we were fed.

Aaron's Saturday night fish fry was wonderful.

**Chandlerville, Ill., March 6 – One Course
Judges: Jack Alexander and Dave Capstick
ILLINOIS AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats]**

– 20 Pointers and 2 German Shorthairs
1st-ERIN'S SOUTHERN COMFORT, F1693833, pointer male, by Erin's Lone Star Law-Erin's Irresistible Jane. Sean Derrig & Sean Pat Derrig, owners; Sean Pat Derrig, handler.
2d-ROLLING HILLS TY, F1697536, pointer male, by Redhawk's Clyde-Homestead Johnnie. Jeff Wagoner, owner and handler.
3d-ALLIWOOD'S SHADY STREET, F1706020, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Alliwod's Shady Shay. Adam DeLude, owner and handler.

MAX ELDRED OPEN DERBY – 6 Pointers
1st-SPOON RIVER ALLIE, F1724381, pointer female, by Erin's Grey Justice-Erin's Miss Daisy. Jeff Hainline, owner and handler.
2d-GUNSMOKE, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given. Sean Derrig & Sean Pat Derrig, owners; Sean Pat Derrig, handler.
3d-ERIN'S STELLAR CABERNET, F1725916, pointer female, by Erin's Grey Justice-Erin's Miss Stuart. Mike Duvall, owner and handler.

**REGION 7 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
Rayrays Juke Point Named Champion; Ain't Easy To Be Me, Runner-up
By Dr. Buck Neil | Roby, Texas | March 6, 2026**



Region 7 Amateur All-Age Championship: Royce Gustafson, Jon Smith, Bobby Davidson with Rayray's Juke Joint, Lynn Oxendine, Kevin White (judge), Joe Wurster (judge), Buck Neil with Ain't Easy Being Me, Jason Super, Lindsay O'Neill, Aziliz Martinez, Johnny Martinez, Alex Mauck, Kris Wall, and John Benoist.

The 2026 Region 7 Amateur All-Age Championship, with accompanying M. G. Perkins All-Age Derby, Amateur Shooting Dog, and Open Derby, was held March 6-8 at the Rolling Plains Quail Research Ranch in Roby, Texas. The Rolling Plains Quail Research Foundation was established in 2006 as a dedicated research and education facility for quail. By using physical trapping, radiotelemetry, and helicopter surveys, key demographic

data, including population size, nesting rates and success, and adult bird survival, have been gathered for the last 18 years, giving them an extensive quail data set, the most comprehensive in Texas. The property is a picturesque West Texas quail habitat. Many thanks go to Dr. Ryan O'Shaughnessy, executive director, and Mitchell Riggs, operations manager, for making sure the trial was a success.

Our judges this year were Kevin

White from Choctaw, Oklahoma, and Dr. Joe Wurster of Wichita Falls, Texas. Judging is a thankless job, and these two gentlemen were very attentive to the performances even in the hot, windy conditions. They were professional, and their decisions were well-received.

Mary Ann and Royce Gustafson were on hand as usual to keep everything running smoothly in camp. Mary Ann handles the event's secretarial duties and has the uncanny ability to keep things from falling through the cracks. She makes sure the contestants and officials are served hot lunches while organizing a judges' supper that all participants are welcome to attend at a local restaurant in Snyder, Texas. Mary Ann and Royce provide all the extras that make a field trial enjoyable for all. Thank you very much to Mary Ann and Royce.

As anyone who puts on a trial knows, there are people picking up the slack to keep the event flowing. Jason Super, Region 7 President,

and Sean Anderson marshaled and did whatever was necessary to ensure a good trial. John Benoit and Lindsay O'Neill manned the dog wagon and were always "Johnny on the Spot" with dogs ready for the next brace.

Thanks go to Purina and Greg Blair for sponsoring our trial with dog food and AFTCA online store credits. Purina has done a great deal for our sport for many years.

The weather for the Championship was not ideal, with temperatures ranging from 50 degrees to the high 80s, 25 mph winds, gusts in the high 35-40 mph, and bright, sunny days. Even with the weather, an average of 40 coveys of quail were seen per day, and multiple find dogs even in the middle of the day.

This year's Region 7 Amateur All-Age Champion is Rayray's Juke Joint, who had a big race and two

finds to win the championship for his owner, Lynn Oxendine of Joplin, Missouri. Rayray was bred by Keith Wright and was purchased by Dr. Pat McInteer, whom Lynn Oxendine credited with Ray Ray's early development and training.

Runner-up is Ain't Easy Being Me. "Willie" had three finds with a big race and one unproductive for Dr. Buck Neil of Fort Worth, Texas.

A big thank you goes out to all the participants in this year's trial. It was a fun group of people who all helped to make it a successful trial for Region 7.

Roby, Tex., March 6

Judges: Kevin White and Joe Wurster
REGION 7 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 12 Pointers and 2 Setters
 Winner-RAYRAYS JUKE JOINT, F1700806, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Touch's Wimbledon. Lynn Oxendine, owner and handler.
 Runner-Up-AIN'T EASY TO BE ME, F1716299, pointer male, by Texas Cool-Baby's On Speed Dial. Buck Neil, owner and handler.

M. G. PERKINS AMATEUR DERBY – 12 Entries
 1st-NIANTIC RIVER PINK CADILLAC, F1713985, setter female, by Skydancer Skyview Ace-Money Moves. Jennifer Lindsey & Dave Phillips, owners; Jennifer Lindsey, handler.
 2d-BNK SUPER STORMIE, F1724864, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Wiggins Super Sin. Buck Neil, owner and handler.
 3d-THE ROUNDER, F1719959, pointer male, by Wahoo's Black Rail-T D Sugar Snow. Douglas W. Holmes, owner; Meadow Thornton, handler.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 12 Entries
 1st-MAUCK'S WYEAST MOLLY, F1699454, setter female, by P W Sunrise-High Prairie Gypsy. Alex Mauck, owner and handler.
 2d-CAZADOR'S RED OAK SAVANNAH, F1727759, setter male, by Red Oak Island Cazadors-Cazadors La Freeway. Chris Daniel, owner and handler.
 3d-UPTOWN'S WEST MOUNTAIN BOONE, F1706402, pointer male, by West Mountain Lucky Luke-M H Rockford Peach. Jonathan Smith, owner and handler.

AMATEUR DERBY – 12 Entries
 1st-HPK CHAOS, F1722398, pointer male, by K C's Tye Oneon-Rock Acre Margarita. Trey Baer & Melissa Sauer, owners; Jason Super, handler.
 2d-CCR'S REBEL RAIN, F1719955, pointer female, by Wahoo's Black Rail-T D Sugar Show. Karl Nyquist, owner; Meadow Thornton, handler.
 3d-CCR'S COWBOY UP, F1719954, pointer male, by Wahoo's Black Rail-T D Sugar Snow. Tim Thornton, owner and handler.

NBHA NATIONAL FREE-FOR-ALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Texas Frostbite Named Champion; Cates Rocket Girl, Runner-up

By Tim Penn | Booneville, Arkansas | March 7, 2026

The NBHA Open Free-For-All Championship was held at Booneville, Arkansas, and was hosted by the Westark Field Trial Club, with Kenny Snow handling the chairman duties for this event. The NBHA extends our sincere thanks to everyone who helped make this event a success. Our appreciation goes to the Westark Field Trial Club for their hospitality and dedication, and to the judges, Mr. Eddie Smith and Mr. Dickie Sorrell, for their time in the saddle evaluating each dog's performance, which was greatly appreciated. And all the handlers and participants who traveled and competed. In addition, the many volunteers who worked behind the scenes.

The NBHA would also like to thank all of our sponsors: Purina Pro Plan, Garmin, OnX Hunt, Mule Brand Gear and Apparel, Gun Dog Supply, and Gundog Central. And a special



NBHA National Free-for-All Championship (front, l-r): Matthew Puckett (owner/handler) with Texas Frostbite and Andy Erne with Cates Rocket Girl. (Behind): Zach Erne (handler).

thanks to bird dog training and industry leaders, Smith Kennels, the exclusive sponsor of the Champion's Choice Buckles for the National Free-For-All Championship winners.

Free-For-All Callbacks

In the first brace were Texas Frostbite (Matthew Puckett, owner/handler) with Cates Rocket Girl

(David Cates, owner; Zach Erne, handler).

In the second brace were Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior (Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler) with T S Blindside Ransom (Mark Dunlap, owner/handler).

The standby brace saw Doc's Second Wind (Jim Smith, owner/handler) with Hey Mr. Tin Man (Kenny Snow, owner/handler).

After the two callback braces were run, the judges made their selection by naming Texas Frostbite as champion and Cates Rocket Girl as runner-up champion. Their performances were pleasing to the eye and met the standards that the judges were looking for. They were

forward in their application, strong in their race, and they displayed broke manners on their game.

Booneville, Ark., March 7

Judges: Eddie Smith and Dickie Sorrell

NBHA NATIONAL FREE-FOR-ALL

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats; One-Hour Callback] – 13 Pointers and 8 Setters

Winner-TEXAS FROSTBITE, F1713341, pointer female, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Rester's Maybe Baby. Matthew Puckett, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-CATES ROCKET GIRL, F1690282, setter female, by Swift Rock Iced Cash-Swift Rock Splash. David Cates, owner; Zach Erne, handler.

Judges: Ronnie Miller and Jerry Oswalt

NBHA OPEN DERBY – 9 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-RUN TO WYNN, F1712002, pointer male, by Imagine-Cocklebur Dragon Tattoo. Bret Eikenbary, owner; Zach Erne, handler.
2d-LIL ELHEW CHIEF SNAKEFEATHER, F1709748, pointer male, by Hackberry's Elhew Chief-Hackberry's Elhew Ashlee. Michial Taylor, owner and handler.
3d-RTK REBEL GUNSLINGER, F1711748, pointer male, by Erin's Perfect Storm-Erin's Little Faye. Taylore Sartain, owner and handler.

NBHA OPEN PUPPY – 17 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st-INDIAN CREEK BRANZINO, F1724723, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Indian Creek Sprout. Julian Stuhr, owner; Gary Malzone, handler.
2d-RAPID FIRE DENALI, unreg., pointer male, by Jett Quest-Rapid Five Ellie. Charles Eads, owner and handler.

3d-DUBLIN DOWN, F1720080, setter female, by Skyview Black Onyx-Erin's Crossroads. Brady Elmore, owner and handler.

REMINDER:

The June print deadline is May 5.

For more information, please email:
fieldnewsletter@ukcdogs.com

PITTSBURGH FIELD TRIAL CLUB

2026 Smith Celebration

By Margaret C. Drew | Waynesboro, Georgia | March 10, 2026



Inez Smith Open Shooting Dog Classic: Tommy Rice Sr., George Tracy with Waybetter Rebel, Jeff Brown, Mary Tracy, Burl Hicks (judge), Tracy Swearingen with Rampage, Ron Lambert (judge), David Steele with Walden's Ridge Dot Com, Robert Jones, Eli Taylor with Hatteras Rip Tide, Earl Drew, Margaret Drew, and Sheila Cassidy. (Front, left): Squire Lee with Silver Wing and Doug Ray with Miller's Upgraded Patent.

2026 at the Smith Plantation was a continuation of the 2025 commencement of trials in honor of Elwin and Inez Smith on the 2,000 acres they developed off Ben Hatcher Road in Waynesboro, Georgia. The Smiths lived in Wexford, Pennsylvania, but wintered at their Shell Bluff Farm in Waynesboro, Georgia. Their

desire to have smart-looking and smart-hunting setters as well as a plantation that was wildlife-friendly, especially for quail. The Smiths hired Harold Ray in 1964, who, with the encouragement and funding from the Smiths, began and continues to foster a quail hunting paradise at the Smith Setter Plantation grounds.

With the teamwork of Roger

Duerksen and members of the Pittsburgh Field Trial Club, an amateur trial, the Ga-Lina Classic, was held on these grounds for several years. During a discussion with Harold Ray, it was stated that the amateur trials at the Smith Setter Plantation began around 1991. The discussion to revive this trial began in 2024. A team event needs a chairman, so Joe Cincotta assumed the role and put together a truly amazing group of people, partnering with Doug Ray to bring a major event back to Smith Setter Plantation. The team includes Brian Sanchez and Marty Robinson as co-chairmen. Other committee members are Doug Ray, Harold Ray, Sherry Ray Ebert, Chris Mathan, Margaret Drew, Anna Cruse and David Steele among countless hours by others during the event including Lea Ray, Bill and Jayne Bonnetti, Kyle Ebert, Aimee Atkins, Joyce Taylor and Doug's "crew" including Eli Taylor, Robert Jones, Kaley Anne Lee and the Smith Setter Plantation grounds crew. In the early 2000s, the Pittsburgh Field Trial Club was held in Mingo,

Ohio, East Windsor, Connecticut, and New Jersey. It was not held for a few years; however, in 2024, talks began between Doug Ray and Joe Cincotta and developed into the 2025 Smith Celebration. This newly titled event included both amateur and open stakes on the Smith Setter grounds, the rightful venue for the long-standing Smith Classics. No event at the Smith Plantation would be possible without the support and efforts of Doug and Harold. The grounds here are in constant care by Harold and Doug. In 2025, a total of 223 dogs were drawn for the event. In 2026, the Open Derby expanded to a one-hour Bill McNamee Open Derby stake and drew 25 entries. It also carried Purina points and the SBHA National Open Derby title. This year, the Amateur Derby was named the Jack Sanchez Amateur Derby Classic in honor of Jack Sanchez, who had recently passed. It drew 19 entries for this 30-minute stake. The hour Elwin Smith Amateur Shooting Dog Classic drew 76 entries. It is also a Purina Points stake, an SBHA National Amateur Recipient stake, and an AFTCA Invitational Points stake. The hour Inez Smith Open Shooting Dog Classic drew 66 entries. This stake is a qualifier for the National Open Shooting Dog Championship, as well as SBHA points, a Purina Top Shooting Dog Award Points stake, and a U. S. Invitational Points stake. Each stake had numerous prizes as itemized below. The Smith Top Setter in all four stakes received a crystal trophy and a stamped black metal setter ornament provided by Tim Hammon. All these entries totaled 186 for 2026.

The Bill McNamee Open Derby had three placements with a purse divided 50/30/20, crystal trophies from the Smith Celebration, SBHA crystal trophies, and one Smith Top Setter Award. The winner received a 410 shotgun and gift certificates from Eukanuba.

The Jack Sanchez Amateur Derby had three placements, crystal trophies from Smith Celebration, as well as a Smith Top Setter Award. With the combined contributions

of the Pittsburgh FTC, SBHA, and the Smith Celebration, three gift certificates in the amounts of \$200, \$150, and \$100 were given, as were gift certificates from Eukanuba, Dogs Unlimited, and Gun Dog Supply. Training Collars were awarded to the top three placements courtesy of SportDOG.

The Elwin Smith Amateur Shooting Dog Classic had three placements, two honorable mentions, and a Smith Top Setter Award. First place received a 410 shotgun and a painting of the dog. Gift certificates were given in the amounts of \$400, \$300, and \$200. Honorable mention received \$100 gift certificates. Second place received a leather scabbard, and third place a pistol holster. Crystal trophies to all, as well as SBHA crystal trophies to first, second, and third in recognition of the SBHA National Amateur Classic. All placements received gift certificates from Eukanuba. Additional gift certificates from Lion Country Supply and Dogs Unlimited. Training collars were awarded to the top three placements courtesy of SportDOG.

The Inez Smith Open Shooting Dog Classic had three placements, two honorable mentions, and a Smith Top Setter Award. A 50% purse divided 40/30/20. Honorable mentions received 5% of the entry fees. Crystal trophies to all. The winner received a 410 shotgun, second place a leather scabbard, and third place a leather pistol holster. Gift certificates from Eukanuba.

Shotguns were donated by Four Seasons (Doug Ray), as were the 3-shotgun scabbard made by Nyk Feller (ND), which went to the second-place winner. The pistol holsters given to the third-place winner were made by the Corlisses in Colorado.

Someone at the trial stated that a calm plantation was brought back to life with the arrival of the 2025 and 2026 Smith Celebration entries. In 2026, it even brought with it four seasons of weather. It was indeed a premier shooting dog event, topping

numbers of entries and spectators from all other 2026 bird dog events.

This year, the Smith Celebration hosted special tributes at the Smith Celebration Dinner. Harold Ray was presented with a custom laser-cut wall hanging of two setters on point on quail surrounded by the title of Smith Celebration. Harold pointed above the clubhouse door where it will be hung. In addition, the Pittsburgh Field Trial Club, along with the Smith Celebration, presented Marty Robinson with a National Bird Dog Foundation Life Patron Award. The presentation was a surprise for Marty, and thanks to the help of Teresa Justice, we were able to surprise Marty with his family being in attendance. A tribute certainly deserved. One evening, Chip Kohser spoke to the group concerning Elite Nutrition and how it applies to horses, dogs, and people.

Special features that highlighted the Smith Celebration included many participants taking and posting photographs. In addition, each night your reporter posted the results of the braces, which could be read on the Smith Celebration Facebook page or in a daily journal covering each of the 15 days on the Field Trialer. Special thanks to all who added to helping keep everyone informed and up to date. The event featured a 16-page color booklet recognizing sponsors and judges, and provided a history of the Smiths and the beautiful Smith Setter Plantation grounds. Daily events were posted in the clubhouse. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner were provided daily by MANY people. Some sponsorships arrived after the book had gone to press; consequently, if I have left anyone out, I apologize.

Thank You

The following list may seem unnecessary; however, for three meals a day, as prepared and/or served by Lea Ray and often Ryan Mobley, I cannot express our appreciation loudly enough. Evening meals included marinated thick pork chops, the traditional Smith Family turkey and ham feast,

prime rib, BBQ of every description, spaghetti, southern country broil, lobster ravioli with shrimp, pork loin, always southern vegetables, or a fresh salad, and let's not forget a full ice cream sundae bar! We work hard to run all these dogs and keep everything going; therefore, meals are important. Thanks to Sweet Pea's Café and Fish Eye Grill for their support. Also, we saw Sherry Ray Ebert and David Steele often helping with prep and cleanup.

When I think of the history of this trial, I think of how families have always been a big part of it. In the '90s, many children were present, and they made friendships, as did their parents, that are still active today. At this year's celebration, many children were once again present, developing these friendships and field trial development. Handling two dogs was Madi Lee, and scouting for her dad was Chloe Lewis. Also evident was the female involvement in handling dogs, scouting, and driving the dog wagon daily (Aimee Atkins), as well as your reporter. Another female, Chris Mathan, is pointed out by Chairman Cincotta for her graphic design work, Facebook posting, and endless support to elevate the trial.

SBHA, Marty Robinson, Pete and Chris Del Collo, Ralph Gillota, Mark and Karen Janiec, Kevin and Maureen Joyce, Matt, Darci, and Blaye Key, Quentin and Tasha Wiseman, Bill and Jayne Bonnetti, Daryl Gunby, Allen, Sandra and Madison Linder, Claudia McNamee, David and Kim Steele, Joyce and Johnny Taylor, Dr. Terry Terlep, Tommy Brigman, Dr. Robert Canada, Earl and Margaret Drew, Sherry and Kyle Ebert, Chip Kosher and Elite Nutrition, Eukanuba, Jett Ferebee, Burt Geary and Trent Hubert, Tony and Becky Gibson and Harold Ray, Tommy Liesfield, Ryan Mobley, Sanchez Family, Chris Sellers, Burke County (Waynesboro) Chamber of Commerce, Joseph and Maureen Cincotta, Doug and Lea Ray, Sweet Pea's 73 Café. Darrell Gunby's donation also covered the ice, beverages, and snacks for

the 15 days on the morning and afternoon dog wagon supplies. Of course, there were a few days when homemade cookies were the choice of the hour, as provided by Melissa Thomas. On Sunday evening, we had an Ice Cream Social: making your own ice cream sundae or ice cream cone. All choices of topping were available. This well-received event was sponsored by Joe Lordi.

For three days, the clubhouse had the large picnic tables and benches removed so that rented round tables with chairs could be set up. The tables had blue tablecloths with center decorations. For Friday evening, the centerpieces celebrated Jack Sanchez. For the other two days, the centerpieces had hanging wood-burned sport dogs. Anna Cruse had once again been responsible for the decorations. Each table had a thank-you card for all to sign, which was being sent to Carman Musto, who designed and constructed all the sport dog centerpieces and cake decorations.

The Smith Celebration had a card drawing, conducted much as the past Ga-Lina trials had. This drawing was a "winner-take-all" drawing. The items included a saddle donated by David Steele, a Dakota large kennel donated by Bill and Jayne Bonnetti, and two Quality Wildlife Quail Recall systems donated by Jim Evans. The cards were drawn, and every pre-winning card owner received a black water bucket. (Even the buckets and cards were donated by Four Seasons Plantation.) When the winning card was drawn, the suspense heightened. David Steele had his card drawn; he graciously and generously donated the saddle back for an immediate auction. The top bidder was Harold Ray.

One evening, we held an auction with all items donated. The items included three months of horse training and boarding by Matt Key and family from Walking Horse Cartel Stables in Kentucky, Box of Primers from Four Seasons, Chris and Sabrina Corliss (CO) handmade knife and leather case, Cooler from

Sweet Pea's Café, 20th Century Print, roading harnesses donated by the Eberts, Waynesboro sweatshirts, vest and hats from Chamber of Commerce, "water hole" portable dog waterer from Melissa Thomas, Debbie Walker a painting on canvas, laser cut and powder coated setter and pointer mailbox toppers by Tim Hammon.

The 2026 course was well trimmed and marked with large, bright fluorescent paint on the trees. Some turns were marked by fluorescent hanging tape as you approached. The course had been laid out and marked by Harold Ray, David Steele, Sherry Ray, and Kyle Ebert before the trial began. A map of the course was nicely provided by Brian Gingrich on day three. It is hoped that the printed description and map will be posted in the clubhouse during the 2027 Smith Celebration.

The Three Courses

The course starts after the gate on Ben Hatcher Road, both in the morning and afternoon.

Go west through the sage field and into the small pines parallel to Ben Hatcher Road. Take a slight left down the slope with a house on your right and proceed through the pines into the powerlines. Keep right as you enter the powerlines.

Turn left toward the Trent Hurbert and Bert Gerry property line.

Circle past the pine deer stand and tall pines beside the swamp edge.

Turn right at the long, lovegrass area and then bend left under the powerlines. Dogs will work both sides of the powerline as the course continues in the field to tall pines. At the end, keep right toward the gun range.

Work east toward Howard land and cross Snake Hole, going up the hill and keeping left through the pines toward the spot we began near the gate. (A crew will open the gate and patrol the road for crossing).

After crossing Ben Hatcher Road, head toward the small house, passing northwest up a slight hill

toward lovegrass fields, more pines, and a swamp on the left. Follow the field to the top of Rolling Hill to turn right toward the pond. Keeping the pond on your left, continue across the top and down the hill to Bottom Oaks. Keep left to cross Smith Road.

In the field, travel up the hillside and into the pines, passing the church deer stand and continuing down to Newbury Creek and up to Scott Hill. Keep left at the water tub to go through Long Leaf Pines into the oaks before winding toward Danny's Crossing.

At the top of the canyon, turn right and follow westerly along top edge of three ponds. After the third pond, turn left and go up and over East Hill (this is the east property line). Pass little Johnny's house on the left before going down through the canyon to pass the middle land gate on the north property line and proceed to the top of the hill. (pass barrel stand on the right).

Turn left down the edge of the layout field to tall pines and go right across Turkey Hill to the old hay field and little pines. At Newbury Creek Crossing, keep slightly right toward Big Oak on the left to head west toward a quail pen, pastures, and Smith Road.

Cross right and go down through the middle of the fenced pasture to the parking area and clubhouse. **Occasionally, this turn is not made, and we continue down the field, crossing Smith Road and continuing straight across the lower field and up the knoll until time is called.

Bill McNamee Open Derby Classic

The Bill McNamee Open Derby ran March 10-11. This one-hour event was judged by Jason Williams of Blakely, Georgia, and Tommy Brigman of Rose Hill, North Carolina. Thirty-two coveys were reported during those two days. The winner was Silver W Cowgirl Candy (PF), bred, partially trained by, and handled by Debbie Ozner. At the 5-minute mark, a distant call of point was heard from the scout, Kaley Ann Lee. A staunch and sure derby stood

awaiting the arrival of the handler, the judge, and a large gallery. When quail rose, and the shot was taken, Candy remained a statue until Debbie's praise and hands passed her to the scout for release. At 18, the situation was repeated for a second off-course find, with all handled with mature manners. After crossing the road, this course passes a small gray house and pole barn, as we leave the open and travel down and up a slight knoll with brushy cover on either side. Guess what? There she stood with a precisely located covey to be flown. Meandering forward through a wooded area and uphill to cross the ridge, looking down on the pond and houses on Smith Plantation, the committee had placed one on many water tubs for dogs to refresh in. Following a brief stop at the water tub, she scored another perfect find at 36. She worked her way along the ridge onto the lower side toward the big green field; however, when she stopped at 48, no birds were flown, and a nonproductive was marked. Running in brace two, this merry running, classy pointer had set the bar high to be in the winner's circle.

A littermate to Silver W Cowgirl Candy, Silver W Hot Pink was in Brace 3, although handled by Shawn Kinkelaar. In this brace, owner and breeder Debbie Ozner was scouting her pointer female. At 4, on the right hillside near the small pines, scout called point for a well-handled covey. Again at 7, she stood proud and sure, awaiting her handler to flush. She hunted "spiritedly"; however, when she stood at 12, no birds flushed. The course travels southeast above three ponds before dropping down to cross an earthen dam. At 35, she stopped in a brushy growth for the handler to flush three quail. It was at this point that her bracemate, Walden's Ridge Dot Com, was standing on the other side of this area for her own pair of quail to be flushed. Handlers had scouts take their dogs to the edge of the water before releasing them to continue their hunt. When released, Hot Pink took a few steps and promptly stacked up. As her handler walked toward her, two quail burst

quickly into the air. With a smile on his face, Kinkelaar ear reached his dog and took her on. After crossing the earthen dam, this course climbs an open grassy hill and works through some open woods. During her hunting tour in a side-to-side forward march, she was once again rewarded with a find at 55. At this time, a lengthy flushing attempt was made, and many would have given up; however, Kinkelaar read his dog and eventually got a covey up.

Third place went to pointer male Bad Prairie Storm Seeker, owned and handled by Quintin Wiseman. Despite very high temperatures, he ran a highly animated race. His range was medium to long, making several mature casts. As with the winner, Storm Seeker had drawn the course that crosses the road. After being given a good water tub soaking before being taken across the road, he eagerly bounded forward in a determined quest for quail. At 29, he located and stood with a positive location of a covey for the handler to flush. His finds were spread out, with other finds at 42 and 58.

The Open Derby Smith Top Setter Award went to Ravenwood Ball of Fire, owned by Joe Cincotta, under the whistle of Doug Ray. Ball of Fire ran in the first brace, putting down a good forward ground application, reaching very at times but always aware of her, scoring two finds, a stop to flush, and a nonproductive during her hour.

Jack Sanchez Amateur Derby Classic

The Jack Sanchez Amateur Derby Classic was a 30-minute stake judged by Sherry Ray, Mott, North Dakota, and Joyce Taylor, Little Rock, Arkansas. There were 19 entries in search of the 26 coveys found by dogs or reported by the gallery and scouts.

The inaugural running of the Jack Sanchez Amateur Derby Classic began at 2 p.m. on March 12. This derby stake was named in honor of Jack Sanchez. His family has supported and helped run trials for

many years. Today, Brian serves as a top amateur handler and co-chairman of the Smith Celebration. His family sponsored breakfast and a fabulous Friday evening dinner with lobster ravioli, shrimp, and a chicken dish for those who couldn't have seafood. It was a true honor for Brian to handle his pointer male Great River Titan to the first-place spot. Titan ran in Brace 5 as bracemate for Bad Prairie Storm Seeker. His first location came at 6 in the cover above the pasture, followed by a stop to flight at 7 as he started up the hill. At 9, he was seen to be standing again, although no quail were located for flush. Across the top of the hill, he hunted with determination and style in good sync with the handler who guided him down the red clay hill. Once having navigated the hill, his snappy body was seen locked high and tight, awaiting the handler to flush. At 14, Brian flushed with all in order. Polishing his 30 minutes was a desirable finish following a back at 19. Titan and Brian appeared to have a mutual understanding: Titan's job was to run, hunt, point, and await the handler for flush and shot.

Second place went to Walden's Ridge Dot Com, pointer female, owned and handled by David Steele. Dot Com ran in Brace 3 and was scouted by Brian Sanchez in the usual help others attitude of the Sanchez family. Dot Com rolled forward with beautiful casts scoring the precise location of quail at 6. While standing at 14, she withstood the stress of a bracemate running by her. Handler chose not to attempt a flush but just took her on. Showing determination and intelligence in hunting, she scored additional pleasurable finds at 18 and 28.

Third went to Cape Point Wildfire, a pointer male with Bill Bonnetti from Massachusetts. Wildfire stretched forward, hitting the cover so as to be stopped to the right of the course by a well-hidden covey at 8. Manners and style were very good. He slowed a little through the wooded area; however, we soon saw him vigorously searching the front. As the 30 minutes were counting down, he



Elwin Smith Amateur Shooting Dog Classic: Greg Strausbaugh and niece Ella, Doug Ray, Burl Hicks, David Steele with Two Spot Tommy, Stacy Goodie, Kyle Ebert, Chris Mathan, Robert Jones, Sherry Ebert, Izmel with Hard Truth, Whitley Stephenson, Sheila Cassidy, Eli Taylor with Miller's Upgraded Patent, Aimee Atkins, Earl Drew, Betty Shearouse with Shearjoy's Smooth As Silk, Harold Ray, Debbie Ozner, Margaret Drew, and George Hickox.

scored a find at 23 and again at 29 when scout called point. Following a lengthy search and a relocation, a small covey was flushed.

The Elwin Smith Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

The Elwin Smith Amateur Shooting Dog Classic, a direct tradition of the Smith family and their desire to celebrate and promote amateur trials, drew 76 entries. Judging this class were Sherry Ray Ebert and Whitley Stephenson, president of the NC Field Trial Association. My daily tally of quail count for this amateur stake totals 239. The winner was Two Spot Tommy, a 6-year-old pointer male owned by Jett Ferebee of Greenfield, North Carolina. As Jett was ill, David Steele handled Tommy to his placement. Drawn for Brace 22, this brace benefited from 14 coveys seen during their hour. He ran with eye-catching animation, seldom in the path, and as expected, proper for wing and shot. His race was consistent from beginning to end, his cast ending with well-located birds. He had two backs and one nonproductive. His first find was at 27, followed by others at 35 and 42. He did have a stop to flight after his 35-minute pair of quail flushed. At 48, he required a little scouting, but was found standing. Buried in the tall sedge grass, he scored a nice covey at 50. Finishing his hour, he was credited with a find along the fence at 56. Pleasing appearance in action and on point had earned him a well-deserved placement.

Second went to Hard Truth, a 7-year-old pointer male owned by Dr. Bob Canada. He ran in Brace 27 and was handled by Brian Sanchez. His intense desire to find quail was exhibited with his attack to the cover at a proper range and pace in areas where quail would likely be found. With head and tail high, he had a divided find early in the hour, followed by a find at 26, where a quail was under a log. Once again, making a long cast, he was found at the end of a long field where a covey was flushed. He had a back at 55. He had strong casts that ended in point being called and birds being flushed.

Third went to Miller's Upgraded Patent, a pointer female owned by Dr. Bob Canada and Harold Ray, who was drawn for Brace 37. She sailed out of sight through the opening field, passed into the small pines area, and was found standing adjacent to the bracemate hidden beyond the small pine row on the Ben Hatcher side of the course. As the handlers called point, the judges were crowded by the gallery with someone calling out the flight of bird in the air; however, no birds were seen by the judges. Due to the confusion, both dogs were taken on with no record of the situation. The gallery was reminded to stay back and allow the handlers to flush without interference. She made several long casts, sometimes we would be thinking that she was standing out of sight, when she would appear or be found standing. She was found poised attractively at 29, 40, and 47; however, no birds were flown at 47. Just before time was up, scout called point deep to the left of course. With the bracemate having been picked up, judges and a few from the gallery responded to the call with the handler. With all in order, birds were located. She finished her hour by marching swiftly around the remaining gallery, passing down the right side of the field, before crossing at the end of the field along the edge of the woods, where she stopped once again.

Named as honorable mention were Touch's Lone Dominator, a pointer female with Dr. Kirk Cantrell,

and One Day Queen Bee, a pointer female with Lane Hodges. Both dogs ran wide races. Both entries put down fine performances and showed their potential as top-flight contenders. The Smith Top Setter Award went to Shearjoy's Smooth As Silk, a setter female owned and handled by Betty Shearouse. The beautiful orange and white female setter showed nicely on her game. She opened up to show off her legs midway through the hour to earn her the coveted recognition of Smith Celebration Top Setter.

Inez Smith Open Shooting Dog Classic

The Inez Smith Open Shooting Dog Classic was to be held in Arkansas; however, due to an emergency, it was held in Waynesboro once again. With four large stakes, it took 17 days to complete the 2026 Smith Celebration. This was a monumental task for the working committee. Harold and much of his plantation help had their controlled burn behind us on the afternoon of Wednesday, March 26. During the Open Shooting Dog Classic, 92 coveys were seen during these 33 braces.

Placing first in the Inez Smith Open Shooting Dog Classic was Waybetter Rebel, a pointer male owned by Bill and Muriel Primm, Madison McDonald, and Allen Linder with Mike Tracy. Rebel ran in Brace 17, displaying the kind of race the judges were looking for. He had a forward race with a rhythmic lick and always to the front at a medium range. On point, he was high and tight on his five finds, even pumping himself up

as birds were flown and shot was taken. On one find, the judges said he showed great bird sense, as with the wind against him he still had precise location of the covey. Rebel had his finds spread out starting at 2, with more at 13 and 15 near the powerlines. He had a stop-to-flush while returning to the course after his off-course find, as well as one other. He had one nonproductive at 25 at the end of the tall pines. At 39, the scout once again found him standing deep in the cover.

Second place went to Rampage, a pointer male owned by S. Tucker Johnson and handled by Tracy Swearingen. Rampage ran a fast, wide sweeping race with a very snappy gait. He had six finds and one nonproductive.

Third place was given to Walden's Ridge Dot Com, a pointer female owned by David Steele, with Doug Ray. Dot Com ran a good shooting dog race, required little scouting, and held her tail and head high on point as well as holding steady to wing and shot. She had five coveys flushed for her and scored one nonproductive. She had a back at 16. The judges commented on her ease of handling with classy, intelligent hunting.

Receiving honorable mention were Miller's Upgraded Patent, a pointer female owned by Dr. Bob Canada and Harold Ray, and handled by Doug Ray. Tracy Swearingen handled S. Tucker Johnson's pointer male, Silver Wing, to an honorable mention placement as well. The Smith Top Setter Award went to Hatteras Rip Tide, owned by Jett

Ferebee, under the whistle of Doug Ray.

Waynesboro, Ga., March 10

**Judges: Tommy Brigman and Jason Williams
BILL MCNAMEE OPEN DERBY CLASSIC**

[One-Hour Heats] – 18 Pointers and 7 Setters

1st-SILVER W COWGIRL CANDY, F1719738, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Silver W Thunderbolt's Boom. Debbie Ozner, owner and handler.

2d-SILVER W HOT PINK, F1719740, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Silver W Thunderbolt's Boom. Debbie Ozner, owner; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.

3d-BAD PRAIRIE STORM SEEKER, F1717167, pointer male, by Haney's Hurricane Seeker-Como Sis. Quintin Wiseman, owner and handler.

**Judges: Sherry Ray Ebert and Joyce Taylor
JACK SANCHEZ AMATEUR DERBY CLASSIC**

– 13 Pointers and 6 Setters

1st-GREAT RIVER TITAN, F1718692, pointer male, by Rester's Johnny Ringo-Wynona's Funseeker Dixie. Brian Sanchez, owner and handler.

2d-WALDEN'S RIDGE DOT COM, F1714516, pointer female, by Miller's Triple Digit Heat-Windy Hill Shadow Dancer. David Steele, owner and handler.

3d-CAPE POINT WILDFIRE, F1718378, pointer male, by Miller's Heat Seeker-Steel Valley Wardance. Bill & Jayne Bonnetti, owners; Bill Bonnetti, handler.

**Judges: Sherry Ray Ebert and Whitley Stephenson
ELWIN SMITH AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG**

CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]

– 49 Pointers and 27 Setters

1st-TWO SPOT TOMMY, F1690417, pointer female, by Zip Tye-Cedar Ridge Shopper. Jeff Ferebee, owner; David Steele, handler.

2d-HARD TRUTH, F1685784, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Pearl Again. Dr. Bob Canada, owner; Brian Sanchez, handler.

3d-MILLER'S UPGRADED PATENT, F1704924, pointer male, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Miller's Special Edition. Dr. Bob Canada & Harold Ray, owners; David Steele, handler.

Judges: Burl Hicks and Ron Lambert

**INEZ SMITH OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC
[One-Hour Heats] – 54 Pointers and 12 Setters**

1st-WAYBETTER REBEL, F1689139, pointer male, by Dominator's Rebel Heir-Calico's Country Strong. Allen Linder & Bill & Muriel Primm, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.

2d-RAMPAGE, F1705323, pointer male, by Touch's Red Rider-Southpoint's Dixie Chick. S. Tucker Johnson, owner; Tracy Swearingen, handler.

3d-WALDEN'S RIDGE DOT COM, F1714516, pointer female, by Miller's Triple Digit Heat-Windy Hill Shadow Dancer. David Steele, owner; Doug Ray, handler.

**LOOKING FOR A GIFT?
SHOP NOW**



shop.ukcdogs.com 

DELAWARE VALLEY BIRD DOG CLUB

Pennsylvania Woodcock Classic Walking Trial

By James Humes Jr. | Bernville, Pennsylvania | March 15, 2026



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): James Humes Sr., Jeff Keller with Mountain Top Ryn, Marty Festa with Ironstone's Shenanigans, James Humes Jr., and Nikos Pleyritis with Glassilaun Parabellum. (Photo taken by Robert Ecker).

On Sunday, March 15, 2026, the Delaware Valley Bird Dog Club held its fourth trial. This trial was run in several locations through State Game Lands

280.

Handlers and dogs performed in sunny skies, but with heavy winds and temperatures between 40 and 50 degrees.

Throughout the day, five woodcock were moved on nine braces. All dogs, along with their handlers, completed their braces until the judges' call of stoppage due to time.

We want to thank all those who came and participated in this trial and assisted with the foundation of the trial, course development, traveling from course to course, and participating. Things ran very smoothly, and we look forward to holding this trial again next year.

Bernville, Pa., March 15

Judges: James Humes Jr. and James Humes Sr.

OPEN SHOOTING DOG

– 4 Pointers, 13 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

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

2d-IRONSTONE'S SHENANIGANS, F1702783, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Moonshine Sage. Eli Richardson, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

3d-GLASSILAUN PARABELLUM, F1688344, setter female, by Islander-Richfield Oakley. Jim Millett, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

NGSPA REGION 5 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Series Held At Pyramid State Park

By Diane Rakers | Pinckneyville, Illinois | March 15, 2026

The 2025 NGSPA Region 5 Championship began March 15 at Pyramid State Park near Pinckneyville, Illinois. We would like to thank Purina for their continued support of this trial. Shoutout to Greg Blair, Terry Trzcinski, Karl Gunzer, and Scott Johnson. Jim Moorehouse is our generous supplier of SportDOG collars for our amateur champions. A trial doesn't happen without volunteers to drive the dog wagon, plant birds, make trips into town, provide food, etc. It was refreshing how well everyone worked together this week. Thank you to everyone who donated for meals—Dan and April, Abe and Katelyn, and Jack Marchese. **THANK YOU TO OUR JUDGES.** Thank you to Dan DiMambro for his help

in securing judges and bird planting. We'd like to thank Diane Coppens for her secretary, treasurer, drawing, lunches, suppers, and dog wagon duties, and staying on us to get our write-ups turned in. Without her dedication to these championships, we would not have the organization and ease of running them. Thank you to the President of Region 5, Peter Coppens. If it weren't for his love and dedication to this sport, there would not be a Region 5 Championship. Finally, thank you to Brad, the site superintendent, Henry, Mike, and Jason for all you do to make sure our trial runs successfully. The scribe was Peter Coppens, with the help of the judges.

Amateur

The Amateur was judged by Mike Jackson and Lee Long. We thank both of you for your time and expertise. We had 14 dogs and would like to thank all the amateurs who support us: Abe Macke, Kirk Loftin, Jack Marchese, JJJ, Mike Patrick, Fred Ryan, and Hank Lewis. It was a very windy day, but many of the dogs still found the birds. We hustled and finished the stake before the storm rolled in. A great supper was held, and everyone celebrated in the clubhouse.

The champion was Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee ("Dee"), who is owned and handled by Kirk Loftin. Abe Macke scouted for Dee. She was in the fourth brace. Dee had multiple

clean finds (with one NP) throughout the hour. She had a huge race with nice moves. Dee handled kindly for her owner.

The runner-up was Two Ponds Blanco Roux ("Roux"). Roux is owned by Jason Brooks and handled by Hank Lewis. Roux came from the seventh brace. She started off a little slow with a rabbit find at 6 and an NP at 8. At 27, she had a stop-to-flush, a back at 33, a find at 39, and a covey find at 41. Roux handled nicely and was stylish with good manners.

Open All-Age

The All-Age followed the Amateur. We did take Monday off because of the wind and cold. The All-Age stake was capably judged by Lee Long and Tim Zick. Big thank you to you both for filling these judging spots. Five braces were drawn.

High Standing Cuttin Edge ("Woody") was named the champion. Woody is owned by Anthony and Dayna Rusciano and handled by Dan DiMambro. April was the most capable scout. Woody ran in the fourth brace. He impressed the judges with his mature, powerful moves. Woody had big, all-age moves and all manners in order. He had a find at 4 and two NPs. He worked in conjunction with his handler and had a strong finish. With all these elements put together, Woody was named our All-Age Champion this year.

Runner-up went to Twin Creeks Running Rocky ("Rocky"). Rocky is owned and handled by Kirk Loftin. Rocky was also a great contender in this stake. He came from the fourth



NGSPA Region 5 Amateur Shooting Dog Championship (front row): Sherri Tangsrud with Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee and Katelyn Macke with Two Ponds Blanco Roux. (Back row): Mike Jackson (judge), Kirk Loftin, Lee Long (judge), and Peter Coppens.

brace. He was strong and had a big all-age run. Rocky had a find at 5 and two NPs. Rocky listened well to his handler and was stylish on his bird work. This performance earned him the runner-up All-Age title.

Open Shooting Dog

The last stake run was the Shooting Dog. It was capably judged by Lee Long and Tim Zick. A big shoutout for your time in the saddle and dedication to this sport. We appreciate your dedication to this trial. The judges were presented with six braces of quality dogs to watch. Thank you to the handlers.

The judges announced Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee, owned and handled by Kirk Loftin, as the champion. Dee was from Brace 3 and had finds at 17 and 31. Dee had a strong/smooth run, and the judges commented that she was a pleasure to watch.

Runner-up went to Uodibar's Lover Boy ("Blue"), owned by Sherri Tangsrud and handled by Kirk Loftin. Blue was from the second brace and had finds at 18, 45, and 54. He had a back at 9, an NP at 33, and a covey find at time. Blue had a strong forward race, constantly hugging with good application. Good style on point.

Congratulations to our winners. Thank you to everyone in attendance; without your support,

Region 5 wouldn't happen. We look forward to seeing all participants at the 2027 Region 5 Championship in March 2027 at Pyramid State Park.

Pinckneyville, Ill., March 15

Judges: Mike Jackson and Lee Long

NGSPA REGION 5 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

- 14 German Shorthairs

Winner-STONEY HILL'S PINNACLE DEE, F1694168, German Shorthair female, by Twin Creeks Running Ruger-P J Wildfire's Little Lexi. Dr. Kirk A. Loftin, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-TWO PONDS BLANCO ROUX, F1698966, German Shorthair female, by Riden High Rudy-Hi N's Family Ties. Jason Brooks, owner and handler.

Judges: Lee Long and Tim Zick

NGSPA OPEN ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] - 10 German Shorthairs

Winner-HIGH STANDING CUTTIN EDGE, F1675198, German Shorthair male, by Slicks Cuttin Wild-C L K's Point Me The Way. Anthony & Dayna Rusciano, owners; Dan DiMambro, handler.

Runner-Up-TWIN CREEKS RUNNING ROCKY, F1685652, German Shorthair male, by Twin Creeks Running Ruger-P J Wildfire's Little Lexi. Dr. Kirk A. Loftin, owner and handler.



NGSPA Region 5 Open All-Age Championship (front row): April DiMambro with High Standing Cuttin Edge and Abe Macke with Twin Creeks Running Rocky. (Back row): Lee Long (judge), Dan DiMambro, Kirk Loftin, Peter Coppens, and Tim Zick (judge).



NGSPA Region 5 Open Shooting Dog Championship (front row): Katelyn Macke with Stoney Hill's Pinnacle Dee and Abe Macke with Uodibar's Lover Boy. (Back row): Lee Long (judge), Peter Coppens, Kirk Loftin, Tim Zick (judge), and Dan DiMambro.

**NGSPA REGION 5 OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**

- 12 German Shorthairs

Winner-STONEY HILL'S PINNACLE DEE, F1694168,
German Shorthair female, by Twin Creeks Running
Ruger-P J Wildfire's Little Lexi. Dr. Kirk A. Loftin,
owner and handler.

Runner-Up-UODIBAR'S LOVER BOY, F1689423,
German Shorthair male, by Diamond R S Texas
Express-Uodibar's Bet Your Booty. Sherri L. Warren,
owner; Kirk Loftin, handler.



MISSOURI OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP TRIALS

Wild Covey Strikezone Wins Missouri Open

By Bonnie Hidalgo | Bernville, Pennsylvania | March 15, 2026



Missouri Open Championship (front): Matt Cochran with Wild Covey Strikezone and Judd Carlton with Haney's Silver Dollar. (Back row): Andy Daugherty, William Smith (judge), Richard Beaver (judge), Tim Self, Dave Capstick, Bonnie Hidalgo, Tommy Davis, and Luke Eisenhart.

Wild Covey Strikezone is the 2026 Missouri Open Champion! Andy Daugherty handled the 5-year-old pointer male for owner Ryan Westfall. Haney's Silver Dollar was named runner-up for handler Luke Eisenhart. Haney's Silver Dollar is bred and owned by Chris Cagle, Woodlawn, Tennessee.

The Missouri State Field Trial Association hosts the Missouri Championship; the Field Trial Sportsmen's Association of Southwest Missouri hosts the Missouri Open All-Age stake and the Don Fox Memorial Open Derby. Both the Championship and the Open All-Age stake are one-hour qualifying stakes for the National Championship. The Field Trial Sportsmen's grounds at Grovespring, Missouri, have been the permanent home of these stakes since the late

1990s. The trial originated at Busch Wildlife Area near St. Louis in the 1950s.

The Missouri Open-All stake is the first stake on this trial's roster; its placements were swept by handler Luke Eisenhart. The winner was Miss Arkansas, a pointer female owned by Mike Lemons of Conway, Arkansas. Erin's Perfect Storm, pointer male, placed second for owner Brad Woodie. In third was Erin's Code of Honor, a pointer male owned by Allen Linder of Livingston, Tennessee. The Missouri Open All-Age drew a field of 33 dogs with all but one starting.

The Don Fox Memorial Derby follows the Open All-Age. It is named in memory of a long-time member of the Field Trial Sportsmen's Association. This year, the Derby drew a record entry of 40 dogs. Haney's High Dollar emerged victorious in this top-quality stake. He

is owned by Chris Cagle, Woodlawn, Tennessee, and was handled to the win by Luke Eisenhart. Taking second place was Haney's Cloud Nine, owned by Pat Siebels and Jake Davis. Donalsonville, Georgia. Red Dirt Road Mondo came in third for owner Jay McKenzie of Eureka, Kansas. "Dirt" was capably handled by Allen Vincent.

Sharleen Daugherty hosted the drawing at the Daugherty home on Saturday, March 14. At that time, it was decided to delay the start of the trial by one day, to Tuesday, March 17, due to inclement weather predictions and a larger-than-normal entry at the Heartland Open All-Age stake, which precedes this trial. The drawing was conducted by Dennis and Bonnie Hidalgo, the trial's co-chairs, and Sharleen. Sharleen took all the entries and had things well organized for an efficient drawing process.

The grounds were in good shape; winter had knocked down some of the fall cover, making it easier to see the dogs. Quail were plentiful, with some pre-released coveys being found in addition to the twice-daily planted birds. All of the facilities were neat and orderly for the start of the event.

Purina sponsors this event through a generous donation of Purina Pro Plan Sport dog food and a credit at the AFTCA store, which is used to purchase gifts for the judges. The Missouri State and Field Trial Sportsmen's associations greatly

appreciate the assistance that Purina provides. Thanks to Purina and its ambassador, Greg Blair, for your support!

A special thank you to all the professional trainers who have steadfastly supported this trial through the years with your entries. We want you to know that you are all appreciated for the sportsmanship you demonstrated each and every day of this trial. You make hosting this event an enjoyable experience. Although we don't get many amateur handlers, you can be assured that we appreciate you, too!

There is a friendly, social atmosphere at this trial; every night after the running, there is either a social hour with drinks and hors d'oeuvres or a full dinner served. These are all sponsored by the host club or by generous donors. It gives everyone the opportunity to relax and visit.

Hosted meals included the John Evans Memorial Fish Fry on Thursday night, which was sponsored by Betty Evans and Dennis and Bonnie Hidalgo. Allen Vincent kindly agreed to do the frying; Matt Cochran and Andy Daugherty assisted. Sides and details were organized by Sharleen Daugherty. On Saturday night, Ken Schmidt, Kipp Linard, and George Hill came down from St. Louis and cooked a pork chop dinner with sides and dessert for all. The dessert was a special cake, celebrating Dave Capstick's recent induction into the Brittany Hall of Fame. On Sunday night, Luke Eisenhart sponsored a grilled hamburger meal. Sharleen Daugherty fixed sides and cobbler for dessert. Allen was the chef, assisted by Luke and Matt. On Monday evening, Sharleen grilled hot dogs for everyone. She also prepared the hors d'oeuvres she served every evening when no dinner was planned. Everyone was well fed at this field trial!

No birds, no trial! We certainly didn't have that problem! Thanks to the efforts of Tim Self, Dave Capstick, Dennis Hidalgo, and William Smith,



Missouri Open All-Age (front): Luke Eisenhart with Miss Arkansas, Judd Carlton with Erin's Perfect Storm, and Tommy Davis with Erin's Code of Honor. (Back row): William Smith, Dave Capstick, Tim Self, Bonnie Hidalgo, Eddy Smith (judge), Justin Hess (judge), and Ann Forester.

there were plenty of opportunities for the canine competitors to find quail.

Dog wagon duties were handled by Tim Self on seven of the eight days. Dennis Hidalgo drove the day that Tim could not. Dave Capstick assisted Tim with the dogs and coffee break items. Bill Westfall or Dennis was in the field with dog boxes on a UTV, giving early-pick-up dogs a lift back to the dog wagon.

Dennis created and printed the running orders and figured entry payments due and payouts for the winners. He also made all of the important announcements. Sharleen collected the fees and paid the bills. Your scribe handled all of the duties of a field marshal, but thankfully, most handlers were quite familiar with the courses.

The weather was certainly a factor this year. We experienced numbing cold, then extreme heat, strong winds with cool temperatures, and back to extreme heat. March threw everything she had at us, including sleet and snow.

Missouri Open All-Age Stake

The Field Trial Sportsmen's Association's Open All-Age stake was the opening stake of this eight-day trial. It is a National qualifying stake for 2027. It commenced on Tuesday morning, March 17, a day with a sunrise temperature of 10 degrees! The high for the day may have reached 38 degrees. Thirty-one pointers and one setter made up the starting field.

Judges for this stake were Eddy Smith of Fruitvale, Texas, and Justin

Hess from Exira, Iowa. They set a good pace and watched all the dogs closely. Eddy Smith is a trainer who occasionally competes in field trials and works as a hunting guide. He has developed and sold many young bird dogs for competition and hunting. He brought a lot of bird dog knowledge to the team. Justin Hess develops and trains his own Vizslas as an amateur. He has sharp eyes and plenty of experience with bird dogs. Justin has judged many championships for various breeds and is well respected. Together, they made a great team, and we appreciate them for lending their services to the Missouri Open trial.

Open All-Age Winners

Miss Arkansas was the popular choice to win this stake, and she made it look easy. This 4-year-old pointer female is owned by Mike Lemons, Conway, Arkansas, and was handled by Luke Eisenhart. She was sired by Lester's Storm Surge; her dam is Game Snow.

Miss Arkansas showed a beautiful edge running race; her forward pattern and excellent range created a smooth, flowing ground heat. Point was called for Miss Arkansas at 25; she could be seen far to the front along the creek at the end of Davis bottom. She stood like a statue while the gallery rode to her. She was lofty and held her pose through flush and shot. Released, she was forward across the creek, rimmed the area leading to vacuum hollow, and took the left edge of Island field. She headed up Horse Killer hill, and then her whereabouts were unknown until Luke spotted her in the grass on the east end of Apple Tree hill at 47. She was high on both ends and very intent on her quarry. A covey of quail was put up in front of her; she remained high and tight. Sent on, she took the edges forward all the way to Little Vine. She finished there, powering away on the ridge, a fitting end to a splendid performance!

Erin's Perfect Storm, handled by Luke Eisenhart, placed second for owner Brad Woodie. Storm was sired by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt; his dam

is Erin's Bet On Me. The white and orange pointer male was whelped on January 17, 2020. He drew the eighth brace, the second to run on Wednesday.

Erin's Perfect Storm was released heading up the hill into Little Vine loop. Point was called for him at 4, in the far northwest corner of the ridge loop; he was backed by his bracemate. Storm exhibited excellent style and manners. Storm was pointing in the upper end of Sycamore at 22; he looked attractive, and his manners were above reproach on his game. At 26, Storm was spotted far down the alley on the left; he was pointing with intensity and was yet again a gentleman on his game through flush and shot. Storm pointed at 40, near the big pond west of the barns. It was another first-rate find. Storm pointed in the bull pasture at 44, but it didn't look right to his handler, and he was taken on. Erin's Perfect Storm finished nicely, forward coming out of Climer's property.

Erin's Code of Honor placed third in this very competitive stake. This 6-year-old pointer male is owned by Allen Linder of Livingston, Tennessee, and was handled by Luke Eisenhart. Erin's Code of Honor was sired by Erin's Redrum and is out of Erin's Miss Maggie.

Erin's Code of Honor was released heading west, toward the bull pasture, in the final brace on Tuesday. He was quick to the front, making short work of the bull pasture before entering Climer's pasture. He ran with an easy, ground-covering gait. He shared in a divided find at 20, in the clubhouse loop, where he showed intense style throughout. Near the end of Clubhouse loop, Code scored a second find at 34. He stood beautifully with excellent manners. At 40, Code carded an unproductive, just south of the twin barns. Taken on, he made bold, forward moves through the alley and beyond. Eisenhart called point at 57, Code was standing on the far right front, beyond Daugherty's house. He was high and tight for the flush of his

birds. Erin's Code of Honor finished well to the front.

Open All-Age Running

Miss Arkansas (Eisenhart) and Westfall's Mandalay (Daugherty) were paired together when Mayfield Storm Charger was scratched. Mandalay had been drawn as the bye-dog in the 17th brace and was moved up. Mandalay was seen far to the front shortly after the breakaway but was subsequently lost. Miss Arkansas's winning performance is described in the Winners' section above.

Erin's Three Amigos (Carlton) and Wild Covey Sundial (Daugherty) released heading up the Little Vine ridge. They made fast work of that ridge and showed beyond it. At 12, Sundial was on point, everything looked great until it wasn't, and Sundial was picked up. Amigos continued forward and was found on point, just around the first curve in Sycamore. He stood with good style but took a couple of steps at the flush. He continued on, with good moves that took him to the far end of Sycamore bottom, where he slammed into point. He left with the birds to end his bid.

Bandit's Hill Avenger (Rinehart) ran with Lester's Front Porch (Siebels). Avenger pointed below the barns at 17; Korry called flight of a bird, but it was not seen by the judge. He caught the front in time to honor Front Porch, who was pointing staunchly; unfortunately, the work did not produce game. In Climer's first field at 31, Front Porch pointed beautifully, with Avenger backing, but once again, no birds could be produced, and Front Porch was up. Avenger continued mainly forward into the clubhouse loop. He pointed there at 44, but it was a barren stand, and he was picked up.

Arkansas' Headliner (Eisenhart) and World Class Instigator (Cochran) were the first to run following the lunch break. Instigator was strong and mostly forward when seen. Just into Davis, he pointed stylishly at 17, he opted to flush them, and was on

the wagon. Headliner showed well through Davis bottom and was seen on point at the far end at 24. His birds were elusive, and relocation was needed. He relocated and pointed nicely three times before he decided to show his handler their exact location.

Mayfield Storm Front (Siebels) and Erin's Bold Ruler (Eisenhart) were released into Island field at the dog wagon crossing. Storm Front scored a beautiful find at 4, just before Horse Killer hill; Bold Ruler honored politely. Just into Sycamore, Storm pointed on the left at 41, with all in order. A third find came for Storm at 46, along the east fenceline of Sycamore bottom. Bold Ruler honored naturally and with style. Birds were flushed while both dogs stood mannerly. Eisenhart opted to pick up. Mayfield Storm Front finished the hour forward,

Haney's Hurricane Seeker (Russell) and Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart) were released heading west toward the bull pasture. Erin's Code of Honor placed third, and his performance is described above. Seeker was fast off the line. He made a left turn, putting himself out of pocket for a short time. Returned to his handler by his scout, Seeker caught the front in Climer's pasture. Seeker is built to run and did a great job of it. He took part in a divided find in the clubhouse loop at 20; he was attractive and mannerly throughout. At 40, he was discovered south of the barns, on point. Seeker had his bird well located and scored a very nice find. He continued his hour fast and predominantly forward, finishing beyond the horse corrals.

Erin's Legacy (Carlton) and Wild Covey Strikezone (Daugherty) were Wednesday's opener. They went quickly to the front. At 12, point was called for both dogs. They were on the south side of the Double Gates field; both were standing tall. As the handlers approached, the setter flushed the birds and was up. Strike remained mannerly throughout. Strike scored again on the first cross line in Davis at 21, all in order. He was released and quickly pointed

again, but it was mentioned that his last bird had set in at that spot, and he was taken on. Strikezone pointed again at 29, which was on the center line. He showed style and manners. At 31, he suffered a nonproductive stand. Strikezone's fourth and final find came at 46, in the field before Horse Killer hill. Again, he was high on both ends but made a slight move at the flush. He finished the hour forward in Little Vine.

Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart) and Blackhawk Lucky Charm (Vincent) ran on Course 2 on Wednesday morning. Storm's hour was described earlier. Jim Mills was riding to watch his Lucky Charm perform. Lucky honored naturally and with style at 4 in the far corner of the ridge loop. Lucky made an outstanding move through Sycamore bottom. On the hillside at 23, Lucky scored a beautiful find. Lucky was absent as the course traversed Daugherty ridge; she was not recovered under judgment.

Haney's True North (Eisenhart) and World Class Mayhem (Cochran) were released heading into the Clubhouse loop. Mayhem pointed at 10 beside the pond; True North came in for a back. True North was under birds at 15. Mayhem scored another good find at 20; he was stylish and mannerly. His handler opted to pick up at 30, as the dog was not running his typical race.

Quail Woods Pine (Carlton) and World Class Migraine (Siebels). Migraine was lost shortly after his release; the tracker was out by Davis bottom. Pine was forward in pattern but went birdless.

Strut's Bee Sting (Davis) and I'm Gallant (Vincent) were released in Little Vine loop; it was getting hot. They were forward through the ridge loop, with Gallant the stronger. Coming into Sycamore, Gallant seemed to suffer from the heat, but after a dip in a mud puddle and a drink from his handler, he took off like a shot, making a beautiful move that took him rapidly through the bottom. From that point on, he ran a big, attractive race. He scored a find



Judges Eddy Smith and Justin Hess.

at 32, near the barns; all was in nice order. Gallant pointed again at 37, near the former blue house site. He showed high style and was perfectly mannered. Gallant was far forward in the bull pasture and Climer's fields. He finished his hour with another quality find in the clubhouse loop. Bee Sting was predominantly forward and showed a snappy, high-tailed gait; unfortunately, she found no birds. She had a barren stand just before pick-up.

Miller's Last Call (Rinehart) and Miller's Triple Crown (Siebels) began their brace on the first hill in the clubhouse loop. They were strong on the ground, covering a lot of country. They showed a few times in the loop; by the barns, they were nowhere to be seen. Last Call's tracker was out at 26; Triple Crown's was taken at the end of the alley at 30.

Beeler's Final Solution (Beeler) and Haney's Silver Dollar (Eisenhart) ran Course 1 on Thursday morning. A scout's call of point led to a limb find for Silver Dollar at 10. He demonstrated extreme intensity, style, and good manners throughout. Final Solution had a good find on the north edge of Double Gates field at 12. They were credited with a divided find just into Davis at 17. On the center line of Davis bottom, Silver Dollar was on point at 22, Solution was coming up the line and honored on sight. Silver Dollar corrected a few feet, locked up again, and was steady for flush and shot. They took different routes from this find; Solution took the right edge forward, while Silver Dollar took the left edge. Solution locked up on point at 25. Silver Dollar came down the line and was slow to back. Solution made a bold move down the left line in the Island field.

He pointed there at 34, Silver Dollar backed, but no birds were produced. Silver Dollar pointed with intensity on the approach to Horse Killer hill. Solution came around the corner and backed. Birds were produced, and the dogs were steady. Silver Dollar could be seen standing, far to the front in Little Vine at 52, Solution honored nicely. Both dogs showed perfect decorum through flush and shot. This big running pair flew around the Little Vine ridge. When time was called, they were found standing below at 103, with the find going to Silver Dollar and the back to Solution.

World Class High Def (Siebels) and Westfall's Power Trip (Daugherty) turned loose just beyond the scene of the last brace's find. Power Trip was on point at 1, Def roaded in before stopping. At 3, Power Trip pointed again, Def backed with style. Trip released, then Def moved up and pointed. Daugherty collared Trip out; the bird was flushed for Def. Both dogs were picked up.

Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton) and Mayfield Storm Messenger (Siebels) were released heading toward Sycamore bottom. They scored a divided find at 6, all in order. Heat pointed at 19, below the barn with attractive style and good manners through flush and shot. In the bull pasture at 27, Heat scored a third find of good quality. Both dogs were up before the hour ended.

Erin's Copper Colt (Carlton) and Wynona's Rebel (Vincent) were released in Horse Corral bottom, heading to the twin barns, but both were absent at the barns. Colt required a tracker; Rebel showed forward, coming off the ridge into Sycamore. He continued nicely forward but found no birds.

Grovespring, Mo., March 16
Judges: Justin Hess and Eddy Smith
OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]
- 32 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-MISS ARKANSAS, F1705667, pointer female, by Lester's Storm Surge-Game Snow. Mike Lemons, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.
2d-ERIN'S PERFECT STORM, F1692323, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Erin's Bet On Me. Brad Woodie, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.
3d-ERIN'S CODE OF HONOR, F1696057, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Erin's Miss Maggie. Allen Linder, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

The Don Fox Memorial Open Derby

Eddy Smith and Justin Hess were once again serving in the judicial roles. They rode hard to view this fine young crop of dogs on their game. The 40-dog entry was comprised of 23 pointers, 16 shorthairs, and one setter.

Haney's High Dollar won this stake for his owners, Chris Cagle Sr. and Chris Cagle Jr., Woodlawn, Tennessee. He was capably handled by Luke Eisenhart. Haney's High Dollar is a son of Haney's Silver Dollar out of Pete's Greystone Jill. The white and orange pointer male was whelped on February 2, 2024. Haney's High Dollar ran the first brace on Saturday morning, the 13th brace of the stake. He put down a strong, far-ranging race with a good gait and a forward pattern. Haney's High Dollar scored a well-polished find at 12, which put the win in his pocket.

Haneys Cloud Nine captured second place for handler Pat Siebels and Jake Davis and was handled by Pat. Cloud Nine appeared in the fifth brace and was the early favorite. He turned in a forward race and made intelligent use of his course. Cloud Nine scored a nice find at 8, near the twin barns, all in order. His next find came after the road crossing, at 20 on the fence line south of Daugherty's. Near the cemetery at 25, Cloud Nine carded his third, high-quality find in close proximity to his bracemate's find. Cloud's manners and style were perfect.

Red Dirt Road Mondo, owned by Jay McKenzie of Eureka, Kansas, and handled by Allen Vincent, was third. He was sired by Texas Wild Rex and out of Hard Rock April Showers; he was whelped on January 6, 2024. He performed in the first half of the third-hour course and was braced with the second-place winner. Dirt was predominantly forward at excellent range. He pointed on the right edge, across from the cemetery at 25. Dirt showed finished manners and high style on his bird.

The most noteworthy of the unplaced dogs (in order of running)



Don Fox Open Derby (front): Judd Carlton with Haney's High Dollar, Derek Rogers with Haneys Cloud Nine, and Matt Cochran with Red Dirt Road Mondo. (Back row): Tommy Davis, Luke Eisenhart, Tim Self, Eddy Smith (judge), Jake Davis, Pat Siebels, Allen Vincent, and Justin Hess (judge).

were Westfalls Georgia Line (Daugherty), with a beautiful race and one find where steps were taken; and CK Playmaker (Carlton), with a very nice find on Apple Tree hill, a good race, and a great finish.

Other derby dogs with bird contact and good races were in order of appearance: Silver W Orange Crush (Eisenhart), Erin's Desert Storm (Carlton), MSK Vegas (DiMambro), Erin's Dreamcatcher (Carlton), Cadron Creek Sam (Vincent), MSK Chisel (DiMambro), and MSK Athena (DiMambro).

DON FOX MEMORIAL OPEN DERBY

- 23 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 16 German Shorthairs
1st-HANEY'S HIGH DOLLAR, F1714646, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Pete's Greystone Jill. Chris Cagle, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.
2d-HANEYS CLOUD NINE, F1708717, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Bluemound's Charged Up. Chris Cagle, owner; Pat Siebels, handler.
3d-RED DIRT ROAD MONDO, F1711695, pointer male, by Texas Wild Rex-Hard Rock April Showers. Jay McKenzie, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.

Missouri Open Championship

Judges for this prestigious Championship were William Smith of Moscow, Tennessee, and Richard Beaver of Wichita Falls, Texas. Rich Barber had been advertised to judge, but a death in the family precluded that. Howard Burbach agreed to step in, but when he saw the size of this trial's draw, he had to decline due to a scheduling conflict. Richard Beaver graciously changed his own schedule to help us out. It turned out to be a great thing as William and Richard were very compatible. They both have a wealth of field trial experience, including judging numerous championships. They set a pace that kept us on schedule

for the courses. Both men watched closely, knew what they were looking for, and made succinct decisions. The Missouri State Field Trial group appreciates their time and effort. We all missed the presence of William's wife, Tommi, who usually accompanies him.

The Championship commenced on Saturday afternoon, following the conclusion of the Derby stake. Two braces were run in the late afternoon to enable the Championship to conclude on Tuesday evening. This allowed the American Derby Invitational Championship to begin on Wednesday, March 25. Forty dogs were drawn in this National qualifying stake; however, two were scratched. Twenty-nine pointers, eight shorthairs, and one setter came to the starting line: not our best entry, but certainly a respectable one.

Missouri Championship Winners

Wild Covey Strikezone, owned by Ryan Westfall and handled by Andy Daugherty, won this coveted championship title. Strike is a 5-year-old black and white pointer male. He was sired by Open Range Terminator out of the dam, Open Range Ice Breaker. He appeared in the 10th brace, which ran on Monday morning, March 23.

Wild Covey Strikezone released heading up the hill in Little Vine loop. He was absent at the northwest corner. Strikezone showed in the bottom several minutes later. Strikezone scored his first find at 26, at the east fence line of Sycamore bottom, nicely done! At 30, he stood attractively on the hillside, birds flushed with all in order. At 40, he pointed with beautiful style on the line near the barns. At the bull pasture's cross fence, he pointed birds with attractive style at 52. Wild Covey Strikezone finished forward in Climer's pasture. He covered a lot of country in his hour while staying forward for the better part of it.

Haney's Silver Dollar is proudly owned by Chris Cagle Sr. and Jr. of Woodlawn, Tennessee. Luke Eisenhart handled the multi-titled

champion. Haney's Silver Dollar was bred by the Cagles. He was sired by Ransom and is out of the blue hen, Haney's North Star. Silver Dollar is a 5-year-old white and orange pointer male.

Haney's Silver Dollar released up Little Vine hill. At 17, he was well down the right line of Sycamore when he swapped ends to point. Silver Dollar scored a classy find in the first draw of the bull pasture, above the old shed at 38. He ran a huge, predominantly forward race, finishing in the Clubhouse loop.

Missouri Championship Running

Haney's True North (Eisenhart) and World Class Instigator (Cochran). True North was scratched. Instigator was lost before Davis bottom.

Miller's Heat Advisory (Carlton) and In Country's Apache (DiMambro). Considering the 90-degree temperature when Heat Advisory ran, he was incredible on the ground! He was consistently forward. Heat scored a nice find on Apple Tree hill at 30. Style and manners were excellent. Miller's Heat Advisory finished forward while showing off his grit, determination, and conditioning. In Country's Apache did not complete the hour.

Erin's Code of Honor (Eisenhart) and Blackhawk Lucky Charm (Vincent) were the first brace on Sunday morning. Dr. Jim Mills was mounted to see his Blackhawk Lucky Charm perform, and perform she did! Code of Honor pointed stylishly at 8, but it was a hawk kill. He failed to back at 20 and was picked up. Lucky was pointed in the timber on a hillside at 9; a quail was flushed with all in order. At 14, near the second creek crossing, she stood beautifully through flush and shot. Lucky scored a third time just into Davis bottom at 20, she made a slight turn to mark. A fourth find came at 28, on the west line of Davis. She put down a flowing forward race. She ran her edges and covered Apple Tree hill superbly; she took the right edge all the way and showed forward. Lucky Charm finished nicely to the front in Little

Vine.

Macke's Jim Bob (DiMambro) and Mayfield Storm Messenger (Siebels). Owner Jake Davis was riding for Messenger. Abe Macke was scouting for Jim Bob, who ran a strong, predominantly forward race. Jim Bob pointed near the site of the old blue house at 38. He stood high and tight for the flush and shot. He was forward through the bull pasture and into the private ground. He pointed at 54, in the corner of Climer's first pasture. Relocation was called for, and he flushed the bird in his attempt. Storm Messenger pointed in Sycamore at 18; he was mannerly for flush and shot. On Daugherty's ridge at 29, Messenger pointed birds that were in the open. He held until the flush, then went with them.

Miller's Last Call (Rinehart) and Wild Covey Sundial (Daugherty) started in Clubhouse loop. Sundial was not performing to expectations and was up at 14. Miller's Last Call topped the hill to the barns and was absent for a time. In the alley, Korry pointed him out just as he went up the hillside. When the dog returned, Korry opted to pick him up.

Erin's Perfect Storm (Eisenhart) and Mayfield Storm Front (Siebels) were the first brace after lunch on Sunday. Both dogs were forward in pattern, but the heat took its toll. No birds were pointed this hour, and they were both up before it expired.

Wynona's Rebel (Vincent) and Strut's Bee Sting (Davis) were released in the Island field. Rebel had an early absence but showed before Horse Killer hill; his handler was still searching, so Davis kindly turned him up the hill, where Allen reclaimed him. Bee was absent at the bottom of the hill climb but showed several moments later on top of Apple Tree hill. Rebel was bothered by the extreme heat and was up early. Bee Sting ran stronger as time went on; he finished his hour well forward on Daugherty ridge, but no birds were moved this brace.

Erin's Three Amigos (Carlton) and World Class Migraine (Siebels). Migraine was scratched due to an

injury. Three Amigos was forward in pattern but found no birds.

Monkeyshines Callme The Breeze (DiMambro) and Erin's Copper Colt (Carlton) were first to run on Monday. Breeze pointed below the Double Gates at 13, he stood with high style and intensity for the flush of his quarry. Colt honored nicely. Breeze was on point again at 20, just inside Davis bottom on the left. Again, he impressed with his intensely stylish stance. Colt scored at 26, with Breeze backing, in the midline of Davis bottom. Colt showed superb style, which he retained throughout. On the left front edge in Island field, Colt pointed again at 38, all in order. Breeze was on point at 40, approaching Horse Killer hill. The two dogs went up the hill well ahead of their handlers. Colt was pointing in the grass on top of Apple Tree hill; he was steady for the flush of his birds at 48. Breeze was pointing on the fence line, with birds flushed at 49. They finished the hour forward in Little Vine.

Wild Covey Strikezone (Daugherty) and Chicoree's Riden High Trixie (DiMambro) were paired in the 10th brace. Wild Covey Strikezone was the eventual winner. You can read about his performance above. After the release up Little Vine hill, Trixie was absent on the back of the ridge loop, and the tracker was out at 22.

Miss Arkansas (Eisenhart) and Miller's Triple Crown (Siebels). Jake Davis was mounted to watch Triple Crown. They were released in Climer's first pasture and were nicely forward through the Clubhouse loop. Miss Arkansas was strong and forward as she moved toward the barns. She pointed there with a world of class, remaining so until collared. She was quick to the front upon release. Crown was briefly absent as we headed into the alley, but showed a short time later. Miss Arkansas was absent at the road crossing and not recovered under judgment. Crown was found on point at 44, but it was a hawk kill. He had a nice find on the right below the corrals at 48. At 50, Crown pointed again with beautiful

style, but no birds were found, and he was picked up.

Bandit's Hill Avenger (Rinehart) and Westfall's Mandalay (Daugherty) were paired in the first brace after lunch. Ann Forester was riding to cheer on Avenger. Bandit's Hill Avenger broke fast and forward. He was lost early in the hour. Mandalay scored a nice find at 13 along the ditch in the Double Gates field. He showed forward into Davis bottom where he pointed at 20 with high class. Unfortunately, he moved on the flush and was taken up.

High Standing Cuttin Edge (DiMambro) and Erin's Legacy (Carlton) were turned loose midway through Davis. Cutting Edge pointed intently at 1 in the right corner, but no birds were found. He was absent at Horse Killer hill, and the tracker was out at 34. Legacy ran a nice forward race. This pretty setter had a stylish find on the east fence row of Sycamore bottom at 53; all was in perfect order. He finished forward on Daugherty ridge.

Mayfield Storm Charger (Jake Davis) and Slate Rock's Rommel (DiMambro). There was a brief delay before this brace could be run since the dog wagon overheated and had to be replaced by another truck. We were underway in short order. Charger was handled by his owner. This pair had an attractive divided find in the bull pasture at 15, and

both dogs were mannerly. Charger pointed in the Clubhouse loop at 40, but the work was unproductive. Rommel's point at 44 was also barren. Near the barns at 53, Rommel was pointing with Charger honoring. Both were mannerly for the flush and shot. They finished the hour heading forward in the alley.

Westfall's Power Trip (Daugherty) and Erin's Bold Ruler (Eisenhart) were the first brace on Tuesday morning. Trip pointed near the double gates at 13, with Ruler backing nicely. Relocation was required; Trip flushed the bird and was picked up. Ruler wasn't suiting his handler and was up before the hour mark.

I'm Gallant (Vincent) and Quail Woods Pine (Carlton) began their brace in Davis bottom. I'm Gallant ran a big, beautiful, forward race. He used the edges nicely. Gallant scored a classy find, well forward in Sycamore bottom at 58. Pine scored a nice find at 14, all in order.

Arkansas' Headliner (Eisenhart) and PW Lily In The Field (DiMambro) were headed up the hill from Sycamore to start. Headliner pointed at 2 and was solid throughout the work. Lily honored at 2. Near the barns at 14, Headliner retrieved a bird and was taken up. Lily continued forward but was eventually up before the hour elapsed.

Beeler's Final Solution (Beeler)

and In Country Jazz (DiMambro). Jazz pointed at 3, but it was a barren stand. Solution suffered an unproductive at 12. In Davis bottom at 20, Jazz carded a second unproductive and was put on the wagon. Solution was not himself, and Beeler opted to pick up.

World Class Mayhem (Cochran) and World Class High Def (Siebels) were turned loose in Davis bottom. Both were absent before Horse Killer hill; Def's tracker was given out. Mayhem was also up early. No birds were pointed this brace.

Haney's Silver Dollar (Eisenhart) and Lester's Front Porch (Siebels) were released up Little Vine hill. Silver Dollar took runner-up honors, and his performance was listed earlier. At 17, on the right line of Sycamore, Front Porch was credited with a mannerly back. On Daugherty's ridge, Def pointed stylishly at 24. Someone said a bird left, but neither the handler nor the judge saw it. As the situation was discussed, the dog self-relocated and was picked up.

Judges: Richard Beaver and William Smith
MISSOURI OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 37 Pointers, 1 Setter,
and 8 German Shorthairs

Winner-WILD COVEY STRIKEZONE, F1697326, pointer male, by Open Range Terminator-Open Range Ice Breaker. Ryan Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.

Runner-Up-HANEY'S SILVER DOLLAR, F1698758, pointer male, by Ransom-Haney's North Star. Chris Cagle, owner; Luke Eisenhart, handler.

NBHA MIDWEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Indian Creek Spur Named Champion; Flint Ridge Ranger, Runner-up

By Kevin Western | Williamsburg, Missouri | March 19, 2026

Whetstone Conservation Area near Millersburg, Missouri, was the site for the 2025-26 Midwest Regional Championship. The grounds were in great condition; those attending would agree that these grounds will allow a dog to naturally hunt the cover and show the good qualities that judges are looking for in their winners. Whetstone area manager Clinton Prenger and his team of

dedicated workers have continued to improve the area for quail habitat, making for excellent grounds to run dogs. The weather was warm to hot, and keeping the dogs cool was an ongoing challenge.

The Missouri Bird Hunters team, consisting of Kevin Western, Joe Zimmer, Randy Zimmer, Jack Glover, and Tim Penn, kept the trial moving from start to finish. Their efforts and

time were well appreciated by all who participated.

Judicial duties were carried out by Dr. Bill Wright of Bellflower, Missouri, and Dan Draffen of Bunceton, Missouri. A big thank you to them for their time evaluating each dog's performance throughout the trial.

Big thank you to the NBHA sponsors who continue to support the NBHA at all their events: Purina

Pro Plan, Garmin, Gun Dog Supply, OnX Hunt, and Mule Brand clothes.

This year's championship had 22 entries competing for the hardware. And this year's champion is Indian Creek Spur (PM), owned by Black Meadow Kennels of Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey, and handled by Garry Malzone. Spur ran in the sixth brace on Friday afternoon when the temperature was climbing to 85 degrees plus. Spur had five well-spaced finds and a stop to flush on a woodcock. His race was the strongest of the trial, and he was always to the front, and his manners were good on each of his finds. He was able to catch the eye of the judges with his performance in the heat of the day.

Runner-up champion is Flint Ridge Ranger (PM), owned by Paul and Rae Ott of Andover, Kansas, and he was handled by Paul Ott. Ranger ran in the second brace and set the standard early in the trial with his five-find performance and a back. His style was breathtaking when on point, and his manners were great. He was an attractive dog to watch throughout the hour. Both the winner and runner-up complemented each other in their performances. The nod is going to the winner, as he showed the endurance needed to perform in



NBHA Midwest Regional Championship: Tim Penn, Gary Malzone, Jill Stuhr with Indian Creek Spur, Bob Wilson, Jason Williams, Paul Ott with Flint Ridge Ranger, Dr. Bill Wright (judge), and Danny Draffen (judge).

the heat of the day.

The Open Derby and Open Puppy stakes finished out the trial on Saturday when the day's temperature was at its hottest, with little to no breeze.

Williamsburg, Mo., March 19

**Judges: Danny Draffen and Dr. Bill Wright
NBHA MIDWEST REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 22 Entries**

Winner-INDIAN CREEK SPUR, F1695312, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Legacy's Pride-Mohawk Mill Dolly. Black Meadow Kennels, owner; Gary Malzone, handler.

Runner-Up-FLINT RIDGE RANGER, F1688374, pointer male, by Chelsea's Thunder Bolt-Babe of Flint Ridge. Paul E. & Rae Ott, owners; Paul Ott, handler.

NBHA OPEN DERBY – 5 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-INDIAN CREEK ARROWHEAD, F1716828, pointer female, by Indian Creek Spur-Indian Creek Mascara. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Gary Malzone, handler.
2d-RTK REBEL GUNSLINGER, F1711748, pointer male, by Erin's Perfect Storm-Erin's Little Faye. Taylore Sartain, owner; Joe Shearer, handler.
3d-PENROSA MIZZ GROVY, F1715060, setter female, by Trail Boss Grover-Penrosa Forbidden Eve. Tim Penn, owner and handler.

NBHA OPEN PUPPY – 7 Entries

1st-RUNNING WITH SCISSORS, F1724728, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Indian Creek Sprout. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Gary Malzone, handler.
2d-INDIAN CREEK BRANZINO, F1724723, pointer female, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Indian Creek Sprout. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Gary Malzone, handler.
3d-INDIAN CREEK KALABAR, F1724852, pointer male, by Indian Creek Spur-Indian Creek Blackeyed Pea. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Gary Malzone, handler.

**DELAWARE VALLEY BIRD DOG CLUB
Greater Northeast Woodcock Classic Walking Trial
By James Humes Jr. | Coolbaugh, Pennsylvania | March 22, 2026**

On Sunday, March 22, 2026, the Delaware Valley Bird Dog Club held its fifth trial. This trial was run on several locations through State Game Lands 127. Handlers and dogs performed throughout partly cloudy skies and temperatures from 40 to 50 degrees.

Throughout the day, 16 woodcock were moved on nine braces. All dogs, along with their handlers, completed their braces until the judges' call of stoppage due to time.

We would like to thank all those



Open Shooting Dog (l-r): James Humes Jr., Mark Dreyfus with Marjo's Dirty Deeds and James Humes Sr. (Photo by Luke Hauserman).

who came and participated in this trial and assisted with the foundation of the trial, course development,

traveling from course to course, and participating. Things were running very smoothly, and we are looking forward to holding this trial again next year.

Coolbaugh, Pa., March 22

**Judges: James Humes Jr. and James Humes Sr.
OPEN SHOOTING DOG**

– 9 Setters, 5 Pointers, and 4 Brittany

1st-MARJO'S DIRTY DEEDS, F1720342, Brittany male, by Marjo's Sam I Am-Copper Penny Heads Up. Mark Dreyfus, owner and handler.
2d-IRONSTONE SHENANIGANS, F1702783, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Moonshine Sage. Eli Richardson, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.
3d-BUCK OF PINEY WOODS, F1696648, pointer male, by Bo of Piney Woods- Grouse Hill Prima. Richard Wartens, owner; Robert Ecker, handler.

REGION 4 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Dialed Again Named Champion; Imagine, Runner-up

By Jim Pendergest | Kevil, Kentucky | March 22, 2026



Region 4 Amateur All-Age Championship (l-r): Steve Towery, Ben Weddington, Dialed Again with Jim Pendergest (scout), Donnie Duckworth (judge), Imagine with Amy Pendergest, Brett Towery (judge), and Mary Sue Schalk.

The Region 4 Amateur All-Age Championship concluded Monday morning, March 23, with the announcement that derby-aged pointer Dialed Again was the 2026 champion. Owned and handled by Matt Pendergest, Dialed Again rendered an exciting four-find performance the day before to best a field of 16 dogs. Imagine, owned and handled by Jim Pendergest, provided an hour with four finds and a stand on a dead bird that challenged the winner to the last minutes of the heat to gain the runner-up spot.

The 2026 renewal of the Region 4 (AFTCA) Amateur All-Age Championship was held at the West Kentucky Wildlife Management Area near Kevil, Kentucky. The West Kentucky Field Trial Club hosted this year's event.

Judges for this year's championship were Brett Towery of Murray, Kentucky, and Donnie Duckworth of Morganfield, Kentucky. Both Brett and Donnie were very attentive to the handlers and dogs, carefully evaluating the performances before reaching their conclusions. There were no fewer than six performances worthy of the title of Champion for them to consider. The members of Region 4 and the West Kentucky Field Trial

Club wish to express their gratitude to both for a job well done.

The West Kentucky Field Trial Club was this year's host, and members supported the running of the stake over the two days. Mary Sue Schalk led the way in ensuring the trial was run efficiently and effectively. She provided lunch each day and hosted a Sunday evening dinner for all of the participants and attendees. As secretary of Region 4, Mary Sue carries a large load of the work needed to put on the three regional championships.

Purina and Greg Blair are once again to be commended for their support of not only Region 4 but also field trials across the country. Purina provided dog food to the champion and runner-up, as is their custom, and it is appreciated by those fortunate enough to take home the prize.

The Winners

Champion Dialed Again, owned and handled by Matt Pendergest, is a young pointer male derby, being whelped May 27, 2024. He has had success on the Amateur Derby circuit this year and made this stop just days before heading to the United States Amateur Derby Invitational, where he would ultimately make the finals. Here at the Region 4 Championship

in the third brace of the stake, he combined a strong forward ground race with finds at 12, 22, 36, and 48 to best the field. "Spec" was stylish and exhibited perfect manners on all his finds and runs with a high cracking tail.

Imagine, a 5-year-old pointer male, owned and handled by Jim Pendergest and scouted by Mary Sue Schalk, garnered the title of Runner-up Champion with his four find performance in the fourth brace of the stake. Imagine began with a find at 6, a stand on a dead quail at 9, and added finds at 32, 38, and 46. The find at 46 required a relocation after an extensive flushing attempt. The dog moved up a few steps and froze again. After another flushing attempt, the dog was asked to relocate again and refused to move. A stubborn single quail was then spied and then put to wing for the shot. Imagine's range was moderate to begin the hour, and his pattern grew stronger as the hour progressed, and he finished with a distant cast to the front, disappearing around the wood line.

Haneys Live Wire, a pointer male owned and handled by Ben Weddington, gave the winners a stiff challenge in the last brace of the stake. Wire's first find came at 8 along the wood line in the bottom near the concrete crossing. It was picturesque and well handled by the stylish pointer. His second find came at 15 and was handled equally well. Point was called again at 35, but Wire corrected and worked through the scent as the judges and gallery arrived. Wire applied himself industriously through the rest of his hour, but did not score on birds again.

Kevil, Ky., March 22

Judges: Donnie Duckworth and Brett Towery
REGION 4 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 9 Pointers and 3 Setters

Winner-DIALED AGAIN, F1715261, pointer male, by Haneys All In-Dialed Up. Matt Pendergest, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-IMAGINE, F1693699, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Dialed In. Jim Pendergest, owner and handler.

NBHA NORTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior Named Champion; Tallgrass King, Runner-up

By Greg Blair | Argyle, Wisconsin | March 27, 2026

The 2026 NBHA Northern Regional Championship was held at the Yellowstone Wildlife Management Area, near Argyle, Wisconsin. The grounds are rolling with plenty of acreage to allow a dog to stretch their legs, yet be in touch with their handler. No mowing was done this past summer, which provided dense cover with patches of thorns. The Twelve O'clock Field Trial Club hosts a very welcoming, warm event, and this year was no different. The field consisted of American Field/UKC champions as well as major Futurity winners. Thank you to each owner and handler who joined this Championship.

Our judges this year were Chad Chadwell of Springfield, Illinois, and Michael Rodegherio of Duluth, Minnesota. These two gentlemen are duly qualified and kept a keen eye on all the competitors. They did a great job and were welcomed kindly by all participants. Thank you, Chad and Mick!

This year drew a reputable entry from across the country. We welcomed entries from professional trainers traveling from New Jersey, Ohio, Kentucky, and Wisconsin, as well as a handful of amateur handlers. We experienced cool temperatures and brisk winds, with wind chills between 35 and 40 degrees each day. The cool temperatures, strong wind, and a bluebird sky made it tough for bird finding! Numerous dogs finished the hour, including: Indian Creek Spur (Malzone), Indian Creek Pineapple (Malzone), Blair's Holy Thunder (Waite), Erin's Deja Vu (Malzone), Raintree Simply Singular (Waite), Bakers Shining Star Duke (Baker), Boatrights Iron Eagle (Kleve), Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior (Malzone), Kissimmee's Grousewood's Tea (Malzone), Tallgrass King (Waite), and Hytime Dixie (Kleve).

The 2024 NBHA Northern



NBHA Northern Regional Championship (l-r): Zach Erne, Chelsea Novak, Mick Rodegherio (judge), Brandon Smith, Garry Malzone, Jillian Stuhr with Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior, James Kleve, Mary Sue Schalk, John Dlobik, Deb Dlobik, Andrea Ward with Tallgrass King, Tom Waite, Ken Millikin, Chad Chadwell (judge), and Chris Fields.

Regional Champion is Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior (Malzone), who ran in the seventh brace (first on Friday morning). The runner-up champion this year is Tallgrass King (Waite). King ran on Friday morning, just prior to lunch.

Ch. Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior ("Buddy") is a male pointer owned by Jillian Stuhr, handled by Garry Malzone, and scouted by Jillian all from Indian Creek Kennels out of Franklin, New Jersey. Buddy and his bracemate, Boatright's Maverick, both started boldly to the front after the breakaway. Neither dog was seen after the first few turns, but Buddy was found pointed to the front at the 18-minute mark. Garry flushed, and all was in order. Buddy was carried forward, and after another 5-7 minutes, James requested the tracker for Maverick. Garry handled Buddy through the back of the course, securing another two finds. He punctuated his win with a good finish to the front. He was classy on the ground, handled kindly, and stayed comfortably to the front.

R-U Ch. Tallgrass King ("King") is a male Gordon setter owned by Michael Tewes of Sioux Falls, South

Dakota, handled by Tom Waite, and scouted by Andrea Ward, all from Dale Creek Gundogs. King and his bracemate Kissimmee's Grousewood's Tea both started strong, with Tea disappearing to the front. King was quick, snappy, and light on his feet, always seen to the front. Tea appeared at the 15-minute mark and secured a find with all in order. As we approached Tea, King was found pointed 75 yards in front of her. Tom flushed with all in order. King continued to be bold and snappy. He was hitting the edges and the cover even through the thorns. King's finish sealed the deal for this young and exciting Gordon setter!

After completing the Championship, we started the Derby stake on Sunday morning. Our judges were John and Deb Dlobik. We can't thank them enough for sticking around and watching these youngsters. The stake drew eight competitive derbies—two of which are battling it out for NBHA Open Derby of the Year! Derby placements were secured as follows. First place went to Lohome Lizzie, a tri-color female English setter, owned by Rick Torres of Burlington, Wisconsin, and

handled by Tom Waite. Indian Creek Arrowhead ("Scooter"), an exciting female pointer owned by Jillian Stuhr and handled by Garry Malzone, placed second. Rounding out the placements was Run to Wynn, a male pointer, owned by Brett Eikenbary of Mt. Croy, Ohio, and handled by Zach Erne of Rittman, Ohio. Wynn is the "leader in the clubhouse" for the NBHA Derby of the Year, with Lizzie a close second! All three placements showed application and desire for the entire 30 minutes.

The Twelve O'clock FTC would like to thank our national sponsors, Purina Pro Plan, Garmin, Mule Brand Clothing, OnX Hunt, Gun Dog Supply, and Gun Dog Central.



NBHA Open Derby (l-r): Karen and Rick Torres, Tom Waite, Andrea Ward with Loghome Lizzie, Brad Toutant, Ken Millikin, Jillian Stuhr with Indian Creek Arrowhead, Garry Malzone, Andy Erne with Run to Wynn, John and Deb Dlobik (judges), Zach Erne, Chris Fields, and Mike Duvall.

We also would like to thank our dedicated dog wagon driver, Milt Shafer, bird planter John Dlobik, and scouts, who helped everyone who needed assistance, for their time and hard work. It is greatly appreciated!

Argyle, Wis., March 27

Judges: Chad Chadwell and Michael Rodeghiero
NBHA NORTHERN REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 28 Entries

Winner-MOHAWK MILL TRAIL WARRIOR, F1676193, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Hirollins Fancy Lady. Jill Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.

Runner-Up-TALLGRASS KING, F1704981, Gordon setter male, by High Plains Scout-Breezwood Zoli. Mike Tewes, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

Judges: Deb Dlobik and John Dlobik
NBHA OPEN DERBY

– 4 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 1 Irish Setter

1st-LOGHOME LIZZIE, F1710848, setter female, by Dale Creek Zed Babe-Dale Creek Rising Moon. Rick Torres, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

2d-INDIAN CREEK ARROWHEAD, F1716828, pointer female, by Indian Creek Spur-Indian Creek Mascara. Jillian Stuhr, owner; Garry Malzone, handler.

3d-RUN TO WYNN, F1712002, pointer male, by Imagine-Cocklebur Dragon Tattoo. Brett Eikenbary, owner; Zach Erne, handler.

CORRECTIONS/CLARIFICATION

In the Georgia All-Age Championship report (March issue, page 18), the winners were inadvertently reversed. Please see the correct placements below.

GEORGIA ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats]
- 21 Pointers and 2 Setters

Winner-WOODVILLE'S LONG HARD RIDE, F1705218, setter male, by Woodville's Saddle Tramp-Yukon Gold Rush. Carl Owens, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

Runner-Up-SERANOA'S RAMBLIN' MAN, F1705774, pointer male, by Touch's Malcolm Story-Seranoa's On Guard Annie. Alex Rickert, owner; Mark McLean, handler.

In the winners' photo, Jerry Raynor is shown with Woodville's Long Hard Ride and Mark McLean with Seranoa's Ramblin' Man.

In the report for the Gulf Coast Open Shooting Dog Championship (April issue, page 21), Real Thing Cuz, a 5-year-old pointer male owned and handled by "Big" Tommy Rice and ably scouted by Tommy Rice Jr., was bred by Terry James Chastain, not the ownes.

UKC® FIELD COVER PHOTOS

Submit a photo to be considered for the cover of UKC® Field online at:
ukcdogs.com/cover-dog

All cover dog submissions must include FDSB number, name, and a brief description of the dog(s) pictured.

For questions, email:
fieldnewsletter@ukcdogs.com

Boarding & Training

"CLASS WILD BIRD DOGS"

ROBERT ECKER

Midnight Kennel

P.O. Box 84, Wertman Rd.

Quakake, PA 18245-0084

(570) 778-3009

www.midnightkennel.com

Field Trials



GREENSBURG POINTER & SETTER CLUB

Member AFTCA, PWSDA & USCSDA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

MAY 1-3, 2026 • STARTS 7:30 A.M. EACH MORNING

Horseback & Walking Trial

Grounds: Oak Ridge Pointer & Setter Club, 555 Porter Rd., Harrisville, PA 16038.

Drawing: Tuesday, April 28, 8:00 p.m., at the home of Justin Mason.

STAKES & RUNNING ORDER:

| | |
|--|---------|
| *OPEN HORSEBACK DERBY | \$45.00 |
| *OPEN HORSEBACK SHOOTING DOG | \$55.00 |
| OPEN HORSEBACK SHOOTING DOG QUALIFIER—Ribbons/Certificates | \$45.00 |
| OPEN WALKING PUPPY—Ribbons/Certificates | \$30.00 |
| *OPEN WALKING DERBY | \$45.00 |
| *OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG..... | \$55.00 |
| AMATEUR DERBY—Ribbons/Certificates | \$45.00 |
| AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG—Ribbons/Certificates | \$45.00 |
| OPEN GUN DOG—Ribbons/Certificates..... | \$55.00 |

*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.





SUMMERHILL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member SBHA, AFTCA & EPFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

May 2-3, 2026 • 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 1, 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: Tim Cavanaugh, Robert Ecker, Dave McKay, Joe Lordi, and others to be announced.

Entries to: KAREN SANIGA, Nottingham, PA
Cell: (610) 350-7373 • **Email:** ksaniga@hotmail.com




MID-COAST MAINE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA & ANEFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

MAY 2-3, 2026 **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:** Wednesday, April 29, 8:00 p.m., at the home of Russ Ogilvie.

(Sat.) *OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—50%, 70-30..... \$40.00
 — 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..... \$25.00
 **GUN DOG CHALLENGE (20 Min.)—Ribbons..... \$25.00
 **OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Ribbons..... \$40.00
 **OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—Ribbons..... \$40.00

**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 —

WOLVERINE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

— On behalf of the Association of Michigan Field Trial Clubs —

Member USCSA & AMFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

MAY 8-10, 2026 • STARTS 7:30 A.M.

Horseback/Walking Trial • AMFTC & USCSA Points Trial

Grounds: Highland Recreation Area, Highland, MI. **Entries Close:** Tuesday, May 5, 7:00 p.m. **Drawing:** Wednesday, May 6, 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 \$10 per dog are deducted from the purse.

Judges: Bruce Barlow, Rich Hollister, Paul Tutro, and Evan Toutant

Trial Committee Members: Paul Tutro, Brian Wood, and Ron Sposita

DAVE FLETCHER, Secretary/Reporter
(517) 214-6404



MAINE BIRD DOG CLUB

Member USCSA, AFTCA & ANEFTC • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

MAY 9-10, 2026 • 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 6, 6:00 p.m., at the home of Bruce Burnell, 80 Chicopee Rd., Standish, ME 04084. **Entries close** at time of drawing. U.S. funds only.

(Sat., 7:00 a.m.) *CLIFTON HALE-GARFIELD WALL
 OPEN DERBY CLASSIC—40%, 50-30-20..... \$45.00
 *PETER MOONEY OPEN SHOOTING DOG—40%, 50-30-20..... \$45.00
 (Sat., 8:00 a.m.) *MICHAEL S. ROBINSON OPEN PUPPY—40%, 50-30-20.... \$35.00
 (Sun., 7:00 a.m.) BERNIE MURRAY AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG..... \$40.00
 AMATEUR DERBY..... \$35.00

Judges: To be announced.



Entries to: KELLIE SHORT, Stake Manager
 Phone: (207) 929-6781 • Buxton, ME

-or BRUCE BURNELL • Email: bburnell001@outlook.com



SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA BIRD DOG CLUB

Member AFTCA & NBHA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026 • STARTS 8:00 A.M.

Grounds: York Pointer & Setter Club, 7730 Carlisle Rd., Wellsville, PA 17365.

Directions: On Rt. 74, one mile west of Rossville, PA. **Drawing:** Tuesday, May 5, 7:00 p.m., at the home of trial chairman Joe Faggiola, 201 Lawrence Rd., Broomall, PA 19008.

| | |
|---|---------|
| OPEN PUPPY..... | \$40.00 |
| OPEN DERBY..... | \$50.00 |
| OPEN SHOOTING DOG..... | \$55.00 |
| AMATEUR GUN DOG—Judgment ceases at flush..... | \$55.00 |

Judges: To be announced



Entries to: JOE FAGGIOLA, President -or- JANINE FAGGIOLA, Secretary
Call or Text: (610) 496-2679 • **Email:** janinefaggiola@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.

NAZARETH FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Member AFTCA & EPFTA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

May 16, 2026 • Starts 7:00 a.m.

Freeland Kennel Club

258 S. Stagecoach Dr., Weatherly, PA 18255

Drawing: Thursday, May 14, 8:00 p.m.,
 at the home of Tiffani and Alex Smith.

| | |
|--|---------|
| AMATEUR RESTRICTED DERBY (30 Min.)..... | \$60.00 |
| AMATEUR DERBY (30 Min.)..... | \$60.00 |
| AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)..... | \$60.00 |
| *AMATEUR RESTRICTED SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.).... | \$60.00 |

*Time permitting

Judges: To be announced



Entries to: TIFFANI SMITH • Cell: (973) 865-6826 • Nazareth, PA
The Nazareth Field Trial Club, their officers, and landowners are NOT responsible and cannot be held liable for accidents, injuries, losses or damages incurred to any person, dog, horse or equipment.

DAKOTA SHOOTING DOG CLASSICS

HOSTED BY NORTH DAKOTA POINTING DOG CLUB

MAY 8-10, 2026

— National Open Shooting Dog Qualifier & Amateur Invitational Points Trial —

- **GROUNDS:** Sheyenne National Grasslands, Hankinson, ND.
(Coordinates: 46.11797, -96.98606)
- **ENTRIES CLOSE & DRAWING:** Monday, May 4, 5:00 p.m. (CT).
Drawing will be held the evening of Monday, May 4.
- **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**
Amateur Invitational Points Trial | 60 Min. | \$150 entry*
Prizes: Trophy, Purina Pro Plan, and SportDOG Collar to winner
Judges: Sherry Ebert and Mary Sue Schalk
- **Dakota Open Shooting Dog Derby**
45 Min. | \$100 entry*
Prizes: Trophy, Purina Pro Plan, and SportDOG Bark Collar to winner
Judges: Scott Hadley and Daniel Tang
- **Dakota Open Shooting Dog Classic**
NOSDCH Qualifier | 60 Min. | \$200 entry*
Payout: 50% less bird fees split 50-30-20 • Trophy, Purina Pro Plan, and SportDOG collar to winner
Judges Sherry Ebert and Daniel Tang

*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!

Members AFTCA & MWFTA
Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

GENEROUSLY SPONSORED BY



ENGLISH SETTER CLUB OF AMERICA
Member AFTCA & AFTCNJ • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns Only!

MAY 14-15, 2026 • MEDFORD, NJ
LEE BIRD CLASSIC
— An SBHA Points Trial —

Grounds: English Setter Club of America, Medford, NJ. One course on liberated quail. Entries Close: Friday, May 8, 7:00 p.m. (EST). Drawing: Monday, May 11, 8:00 p.m., at 1871 Campbell Rd., Wall Township, NJ 07719.

*OPEN SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Horseback \$60.00
*OPEN DERBY (30 Min.)—Horseback \$60.00
*Purse: 50%, 50-30-20 & Rosettes

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG (30 Min.)—Horseback; Rosettes..... \$60.00
(Sun., May 17) YOUTH STAKE..... FREE

Youth Field Trial

Judges: Brian Sanchez, Dayna Rusciano, and others to be announced.
Chairperson(s): Karen Lordi and Megan Kirby McCay
Entries to: **KAREN LORDI**
Phone: (609) 820-5744 • Email: **ESCALeeBird@gmail.com**

All entries not scratched prior to close of entries must pay entry fees. The running order will be posted on the Facebook page the day after the drawing. The order of running is subject to the discretion of the field trial committee. All stakes are subject to start time based on the number of entries and time permitting. The English Setter Club of America accepts your entries and application to participate in this event with this understanding that the Club, its officers, directors and/or members are not liable for loss or injury to person, animals, or equipment resulting from participation in this event and accepts your entries and application to participate with this understanding.

ASSOCIATED FIELD TRIAL CLUBS OF CONNECTICUT
& SPRUCE BROOK BIRD DOG CLUB
Members AFTCA, ANEFTA & SBHA • Blank Ammo & Manufactured Barrel Guns only!

May 22-24, 2026 • East Windsor, CT

A PURINA TOP AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG AWARD & AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG INVITATIONAL POINTS TRIAL
Drawing: Tuesday, May 19, 7:00 p.m., at the home of the chairman. Lunches available. Dinner (Friday and Saturday 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—John Stolgitis, Gary Tavares, Alene LeVasseur, Tom Tracy, and Gene Casale; OSD—Bill Bonnetti and Joe Lordi; ASD & AD—Tim Cavanaugh and Mitch Swierczynski.

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.



2026



Bird Dog Awards

JUNE 27, 2026 The Purina Bird Dog Awards will recognize this year's award winners from the 2025-2026 season! Join us as we honor the top handlers, dogs and owners! Relax and enjoy a ceremony, highlighted with awards, food, and fun in LOUISVILLE, KY.



PURINA ALL AGE AWARDS

- 63rd Top All Age Dog Award
- 38th All Age Handler Award
- 19th Amateur All Age Dog Award
- 14th All Age Derby Award

PURINA SHOOTING DOG AWARDS

- 44th Top Shooting Dog Award
- 38th Shooting Dog Handler Award
- 23rd Amateur Shooting Dog Award
- 14th Shooting Dog Derby Award

Saturday June 27, 2026 • Social Hour: 5:30 pm • Dinner: 6:30 pm • \$60.00

Crowne Plaza Louisville Airport

830 Phillips Lane • Louisville, KY • 502-367-2251

For a SPECIAL ROOM RATE, reservations must be made by Wednesday May 29, 2026.

To receive this rate, call 502-367-2251 select Option 1 and mention that you are with the **Purina Bird Dog Awards** - [or CLICK HERE to reserve your room.](#)

** BANQUET TICKETS **

Tickets must be reserved prior to the event.

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

Sponsored and hosted in part by



Your Pet, Our Passion.®

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA



@ukchuntingops



@ukchuntingopspodcast



@youtube.com/ukcdogs

Amateur Field Trial Clubs of America

www.aftca.org

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@ymail.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

Todd Meyer
Phone: (414) 531-9390
Email: Tmeyer2243@wi.rr.com

Southern Bird Hunters Association

www.southernbirdhunters.org

Marty Robinson, President
Phone: (770) 862-6568
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

Andrea Northwood
Phone: (608) 220-4151
Email: anorthwood13@gmail.com

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: margaretmunden@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: mercerbruce@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

Northwest Field Trial Association

May 1, 2026 / Hankinson, SD
Contact: Nik Zewers
Phone: (763) 777-2944
Email: nikzewers@gmail.com

Cascade Field Trial Club

May 2, 2026 / Ontario, OR
Contact: Alex Mauck
Phone: (503) 320-2847

Mid-Coast Maine Field Trial Club

May 2, 2026 / Prospect, ME
Contact: Jon Cullen
Phone: (207) 991-7039
Email: Jonathancullen7@gmail.com

NGSPA Region 4 Championships

May 3, 2026 / Ionia, MI
Contact: Dan DiMambro
Phone: (231) 301-3290

**NGSPA Hawkeye Shooting Dog
Championships**

May 4, 2026 / Ionia, MI
Contact: Dan DiMambro
Phone: (231) 301-3290

Pacific Northwest Championship

May 4, 2026 / Ontario, OR
Contact: Bill Owen
Phone: (805) 886-7339

Dakota Shooting Dog Classics

May 8, 2026 / Hankinson, ND
Contact: Lance Schulz
Phone: (701) 426-0425
Email: ndpdcentries@gmail.com

Nazareth Field Trial Club

May 16, 2026 / Weatherly, PA
Contact: Tiffani Smith
Phone: (973) 865-6826

ABHA TRIALS

[No trials scheduled]

NBHA TRIALS

Southeastern Pennsylvania Bird Dog Club

May 9, 2026 / Wellsville, PA
Contact: Joe Faggiola
Phone: (610) 496-2679
Email: janinefaggiola@gmail.com

SBHA TRIALS

Summerhill Field Trial Club

May 2, 2026 / Glenville, PA
Contact: Karen Saniga
Phone: (610) 350-7373
Email: ksaniga@hotmail.com

English Setter Club of America

May 14, 2026 / Medford, NJ
Contact: Karen Lordi
Phone: (609) 820-5744
Email: ESCALeeBird@gmail.com

**Associated Field Trial Clubs of Connecticut
& Spruce Brook Bird Dog Club**

May 22, 2026 / East Windsor, CT
Contact: Alene LeVasseur
Phone: (860) 634-3263
Email: alenev721@gmail.com

USCSDA TRIALS

Greensburg Pointer & Setter Club

May 1, 2026 / Harrisville, PA
Contact: Justin Mason
Phone: (724) 889-6878

Arcadia Field Trial Club

May 2, 2026 / Exeter, RI
Contact: Richard Giuliano
Phone: (401) 225-5281

USCSDA Northeast Regional Championship

May 4, 2026 / Exeter, RI
Contact: Bill Bonnetti
Phone: (508) 648-0598

Northern New Hampshire Bird Dog Club

May 7, 2026 / Fryeburg, ME
Contact: Lloyd Murray Jr.
Phone: (603) 723-4020
Email: lloydbmurrayjr@gmail.com

Wolverine Field Trial Club

May 8, 2026 / Highland, MI
Contact: Dave Fletcher
Phone: (517) 214-6404

Maine Bird Dog Club

May 9, 2026 / Fryeburg, ME
Contact: Kellie Short
Phone: (207) 929-6781

Northeast Ohio Field Trial Club

May 15, 2026 / Polk, PA
Contact: Chris Jaeger
Phone: (440) 935-3652

Ocean State Bird Dog Club

May 16, 2026 / Exeter, RI
Contact: Richard Giuliano
Phone: (401) 225-5281

AMERICAN FIELD™



SUBSCRIBE NOW to the all-new *American Field*.

Steeped in tradition and with a legacy spanning over 150 years, the *American Field* is back in production as a leading authority for hunting dog enthusiasts.

With a special nod to our rich history of field trialing, we are showcasing our way of life with all sporting dogs—including bird dogs, retrievers, hounds, beagles, and other types of hunting and working dogs—together in one publication.

We also embrace the outdoor lifestyle, bringing attention to wild game cooking techniques, evolving veterinary medicine, emerging conservation matters, and game shooting topics.

As the heartbeat of the hunting dog community, the pages of *American Field* are filled with captivating photography, in-depth features, informative articles, heartfelt stories, and other artistic and literary works that chronicle the unique partnership between humans and hunting dogs.



**SCAN TO SUBSCRIBE OR VISIT
[JOURNAL.AMERICANFIELD.COM/SUBSCRIBE](https://www.journal.americanfield.com/subscribe)**



PUBLISHED BY THE UNITED KENNEL CLUB®

PROTECTING THE DOGS THAT DO MORE...



RAINWALK

PET INSURANCE

The Official Pet Insurance Partners of **UKC**

Performance deserves protection, get trusted insurance built for dogs and their partners—now with **10% off for UKC competitors.**

Scan for your exclusive offer!



Rainwalk

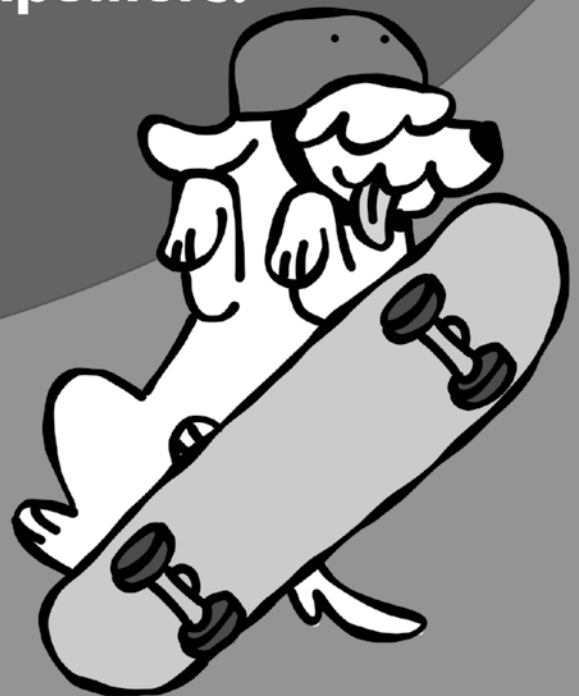
4.6 • Excellent



✓ VERIFIED COMPANY

✉ help@rainwalk.io

☎ 1 (844) 520 0041



UPCOMING PRINT DEADLINES

AD RATES

| | |
|-----------------------|-------------|
| June Issue | May 5 |
| July Issue..... | June 5 |
| August Issue..... | July 5 |
| September Issue | August 5 |
| October Issue | September 5 |
| November Issue | October 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.

Stud Dogs, Pups & Kennels

- Full Page—\$245
- Half Page—\$195
- Quarter Page—\$145
- 1/8 Page—\$95
- Column Inch—\$25

Field Trials/Events

- Full Page—\$845
- Half Page—\$495
- Quarter Page—\$285
- 1/8 Page—\$165

Commercial ad rates and discounts also available!
 Email fieldnewsletter@ukcdogs.com
 for more information.

UKC® FIELD ADVERTISERS INDEX

BOARDING & TRAINING

ECKER, Robert (Midnight Kennel) 74

FIELD TRIALS

| | |
|---|----|
| Associated Field Trial Clubs of Connecticut | 76 |
| Dakota Shooting Dog Classics | 76 |
| English Setter Club of America | 76 |
| Greensburg Pointer & Setter Club | 74 |
| Maine Bird Dog Club | 75 |
| Mid-Coast Maine Field Trial Club..... | 75 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Nazareth Field Trial Club..... | 75 |
| Southeastern Pennsylvania Bird Dog Club | 75 |
| Spruce Brook Bird Dog Club..... | 76 |
| Summerhill Field Trial Club | 75 |
| Wolverine Field Trial Club | 75 |

GENERAL

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| American Field Merchandise | 82 & Back Cover |
| American Field..... | 80 |
| Eukanuba..... | Inside Back Cover |

| | |
|-------------------------------|----|
| Kennel Fixtures..... | 79 |
| Purina Awards Banquet..... | 77 |
| Rainwalk Pet Insurance..... | 81 |
| UKC Hunting Ops Podcast | 17 |

**HONOR THE RICH LEGACY
 AMERICAN FIELD**

only at **SHOP** 
shop.ukcdogs.com

SHOP NOW!





Eukanuba™

**The Official Performance Dog
Nutrition Partner of UKC**

Eukanuba™
CROWN PARTNERS
PROFESSIONAL LOYALTY PROGRAM

With our Professional Feeding Program,
UKC members can access exclusive perks
on Eukanuba nutrition.



10% back in Crown Credits
for every food purchase
made on my.royalcanin.com*



25% average savings
vs. retail



Free shipping
and no minimum order



**SCAN NOW TO SIGN UP FOR
AN ACCOUNT AND SAVE AN
ADDITIONAL 20%
ON YOUR FIRST ORDER***



*Valid for purchases from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2026, or while quantities last. Limit of one 20% discount redemption per customer. Valid on first purchase only, on in-stock items only and only on my.royalcanin.com. Sales tax calculated on product price before coupon discount applied. Offer valid in United States only. Void where prohibited or restricted by law. Pricing and promotion are subject to change without notice. Not valid with any other discount or offer. Not redeemable for cash or credit.



United Kennel Club
100 E. Kilgore Rd.
Kalamazoo, MI 49002

CHECK OUT OUR ONLINE STORE

AND GET EXCLUSIVE AMERICAN FIELD™ MERCHANDISE
SHOP.UKCDOGS.COM/AMERICAN-FIELD



AMERICAN FIELD
BY
UNITED
KENNEL CLUB