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UKC'S MISSION STATEMENT

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

A Reminder *from* Augusta National

The concluding round of the recent Masters at Augusta National in Georgia provided an exciting and competitive finale on a sunny Sunday afternoon.

Accompanying the competition was a timely reminder of a hallmark tradition at Augusta National — decorum — respect, sportsmanship, conduct of the highest order, both by the competing golfers and the galleries, and any breach of this longstanding tradition would be dealt with decisively.

The field trial sport has a much longer history than the Masters at Augusta National and shares the same high caliber of the tradition of decorum, a word that entails foundational requirements of behavior and responsibilities.

It is incumbent, for example, on club officials to provide and assure participants of a fair and impartial “playing field” by their management of the trial.


Participants, those attending the trial and those competing, are obligated to conduct themselves with the highest level of sportsmanship. Impugning the judges, for example, is considered a violation of the highest level. Abuse of animals, an anathema.

Another aspect, distinct from the actual field trial competition that has impacted sport adversely in recent years, is social media, the use of forums and platforms to criticize without merit individuals, decisions, and sanctions imposed on those who violate the customary courtesies and traditions of the sport.

Such critical comments do nothing but bring a tenor of negativity to the field trial pastime, making the sport less inviting and welcoming to the potential newcomer, and disheartening to those working to promote and engender participation in the sport.

Not everyone will agree with all the decisions made in the sport, just as not everyone may agree with the judges’ opinion of who won the field trial. But field trials are unique in that those who choose to be involved participate — owner, breeder, club official, trainer-handler — and assume the unwritten expectation that each will contribute to the sport’s permanence and perpetuity for future generations to enjoy.

Such has sustained field trials for 152 years.

Heartening how a recent Sunday afternoon at Augusta National could provide exciting competition and the highest level of decorum comparable to the longstanding traditions of the field trial sport. 

National Champion



GAME SURGE

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

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ON THE
COVER

10x CH./5x R-U CH. SILVERWOOD

#F1415868 • Pointer Male • Sire: R-U Ch. Flatwood Jake • Dam: Flatwood Nailtat
Dr. Everett Crouch, Owner • Robin Gates (1956-2020), Handler • Painting by Ross B. Young

Owner Dr. Everett Crouch with Silverwood.

10x Ch.
SILVERWOOD
A Dog for the Ages

**Barbara Teare's phone interview with handler Robin Gates,
as published in the 2002 Fall Issue of *Field Trial Magazine***

*"It's breeding, and it's training
And it's something unknown
That drives you
And carries you home ..."*

— Dan Fogelberg "Run For The Roses"

Pop musician Dan Fogelberg had thoroughbred racehorses in mind when he penned the lyrics to his ballad, "Run For the Roses." But the same unquenchable fire that fueled the engines of Man O'War and Secretariat inflames the hearts of our greatest bird dogs, transcending the realm of reasonable expectations and thrusting them far beyond the ordinary limits of physical and mental capability.

They come on the scene all too infrequently, those extreme animals whose sublime ferocity of intellect, power and will make our spirits our spirits soar and our breaths catch in our throats. They thrill us, they inspire us, and they humble us. They embody much that we seek to admire, not only in horses and dogs, but also in people.

Silverwood is such a dog.

Unquestionably one of the elite field trial performers of the past decade, pointer male Silverwood capped a sensational season June 1 before a standing-room-only crowd in Albany, Georgia, when he was honored for the second time with the prestigious Purina Award as the top all-age field trial bird dog of the year. His dramatic comeback at the advanced age of ten, winning three coveted titles in quick succession

following a critical spinal injury and an arduous period of recuperation, truly elevates him to heroic stature.

Four men have had key roles in the making of the champion. Frank Cox of Flatwood Kennels in Bennett, North Carolina, bred the litter and gave the pup a solid start. Robin Gates took the strapping youngster in hand at an early age, turned him over to Jimmy Buchanan, who routinely worked puppies for Gates on Jimmy Honea's Silverwood Plantation, and was the first to spot his potential. Gates finished him and has handled him to each of his 29 wins. As his dedicated owner and patron since his derby year, Dr. Everett Crouch of Jacksonville, Florida, has supported him unfailingly through the euphoric highs and inevitable lows of an unforgettable career.

Whelped February 28, 1992, he is the third Purina Award winner to emerge from Cox's Flatwood Kennel, and the second dog from that breeding program to claim the distinction twice. He is a grandson of 1985 National Champion and two-time Purina Top Field Trial Bird Dog, Flatwood Hank, and a half-brother to 1995 Purina Award winner, Flatwood Rusty, through the sire, Flatwood Jake.

For all those close to him, Silverwood has truly been that "once in a lifetime" dog.

A few days before making his annual trip to summer camp in Canada, Robin Gates shared his remarkable story with *Field Trial Magazine* (FTM) in a telephone interview:

FTM: Robin, you've been with Silverwood all the way down the road. He is a versatile dog whose



Silverwood's first Purina Award portrait by John Donaldson.

multiple tides were gained on the northern prairies and across the southern quail belt. As an endurance dog, he's proven himself by winning the Continental Championship twice, where he was also named runner-up twice, and he was runner-up in the two-hour Quail Championship Invitational. Not too long ago, it was thought that his field trial career might be finished, but he overcame serious

disabilities and returned to competition for a banner season in 2002, wrapping it all up with the Purina Award. It's been quite a ride! Where did it all begin?

Gates: Well, Frank Cox brought the pup down here to me in Leesburg when he was, oh, six or eight months old. And now, he was running! He was just a big pup, but he was running all over the country, and we just started turning him a-loose and stuff. He never had been around a horse or anything, so the first few times he was looking at the horses, barking at the horses, but we kept on turning him loose and we'd go on in there with him. He'd just fade right out of sight. And we'd ride in there and see him pointing, and we'd get just about to him when he'd knock 'em and take off, and then he'd be gone again. And we'd ride on through

there, working another 'dog, and just ride up on him, pointing again.

And it was funny, because we had some deer hunters here on the place, and he'd get off from us, and those deer hunters would be in those stands. They said he'd come up under those deer stands, and they'd see him pointing and then knock the birds and take off. And he was just a little ol' pup.

FTM: Was this about the time you turned him over to Jimmy Buchanan?

Gates: Yes, Jim Buck was running shooting dogs back when I was running shooting dogs. He started off with Bob Lamb. Then he was working for Jimmy Honea when Flatwood Hank and those dogs were out there, and Mr. Honea had Hank. So Buck would come to all the trials and ride the front for us. Mr. Honea had bought this place down here in Georgia and named it Silverwood, and Buck had ol' Big and was fooling with him down there.

I had got real busy with trials and I let ol' Jim Buck take him. I told Jim Buck, I said, "This is a pretty nice ol' pup!" So Jim Buck would put him in the back of his truck when they took out the hunting parties, just let him ride back there. And Buck swears that he'd pull up on the side of the road, and the ol' dog would be standing in the back of the truck pointing. He could smell the birds right out the back of the truck. Buck would see birds come across the road, and he'd get out and put a checkcord on ol' Big, and he just went to working him like that. He worked several pups for me like that.

FTM: How long did this go on?

Gates: I'd been at trials, and I'd come back and asked Buck, "How's ol' Big?" And he said, "Now, I'm gon' tell you something! This ol' Big dog, you better come look at him! I have never seen a dog had the kind of nose this dog has."

Buck told me, "I swear, I have stopped this truck, and he'd be standing in the back pointing, and I'd let him down, and he'd go twenty yards in there and be pointing a covey of birds!" And Buck did that with him all though his puppy year.

FTM: He showed tremendous promise as a young dog, yet he was not an outstanding competitor as a juvenile.

Gates: Yes, I sold him to Mr. Honea, and he kept him through his derby year, but we didn't win anything

with him. We could have won the Continental Derby Championship with him, but the ol' boy that was helping me had just started working for me. And he found him way in there on point, and I could hear him calling "Point!" I had the judges with me; we were trying to get to him. And we finally got pretty close, and I saw him coming with the dog, and I said, "What in the world?" He said, "Well, I called point in there about five, ten minutes, and I didn't hear y'all coming, so I just got down and flushed the birds and came on." And that ol' dog went on and ran a heck of a race. If I could have flushed those birds ...

FTM: When you went to Canada at the end of that season, were you looking for a new owner for the dog?

Gates: Mr. Honea had gotten out of it by then. So I carried the dog to Canada. And Dr. Crouch had sent a couple of shooting dogs to Canada with me that summer. So Doc came up, and we worked him, and I said, "Doc, you know, you ought to buy this dog." Doc got home and thought about it, and he called me back and bought the dog, and it was about two days before we went to the Border International Championship. Then I carried him over there and got runner-up.

FTM: Talk about beginner's luck! Was this Dr. Crouch's first field trial dog?

Gates: It was his first major circuit all-age dog. It just worked out that he came to the camp right then. It was just good timing.

FTM: You had Flatwood Hank, made a lot of history with him, and he's the grandsire of Silverwood. How do the two compare?

Gates: Ol' Hank was a good bird dog, too, but he was a funny dog for me. I mean, he was silly about things. He was silly around people. Sometimes you'd get ol' Hank to a field trial, and he might not eat for two days. He was just an entirely different dog. Hank wasn't a real good dog on the prairie, and of course, Silverwood has won both the Saskatchewan Championship and the Dominion, and he got runner-up at the Border, so he's won or got runner-up in all three of the prairie championships. Hank wasn't a good chicken dog.

FTM: I remember the thrill of watching Silverwood win the '97 Masters Quail Championship. It was one of the most exciting dog races I've ever seen. That was relatively early in the game; he was five years old at that time, but he's shown himself to be an extremely consistent dog, a strong, reliable performer throughout his career.

Gates: Well, he's won ten championships and five runners-up. His biggest quality is, every step he takes, he's got birds on his mind.

FTM: The year he won the Masters, he'd just come straight from winning the Southeastern. He'd plow through that cover like a fast train, and we wouldn't see

him for a little while, and then there he'd be, way on out there, pointing in from, straight up on both ends, the birds dead-on every time.

Gates: And the Florida Championship this year, and then Southeastern that he won again after that, both of them were repeats of that race at the Masters. The Florida Championship was probably one of the best performances I've ever seen, on the prairies or anywhere.

FTM: That came through loud and clear in Tom Word's report of the trial for The American Field. Everyone who saw it was talking about it. What a fantastic achievement for any dog, but particularly for Silverwood, so soon after his re-entry into the game. What was involved, and how did you get him back up to speed after his injury? This terrific 2002 season might never have been.

Gates: I'll tell you how it all happened. It was at the Continental, the last time he got runner-up. That was in 2000. We turned him loose in the qualifying ... I was braced with Collier Smith, and right off the breakaway, he and Collier's dog collided. Well, it just turned ol' Big over. He just turned a flip and went to hollerin'. There was a little ol' hill, and he rolled down that hill. When he got up, he was limping, and I said, "Well, he'll work it on out."

Anyway, two or three minutes, and he worked it out, and we went on and qualified him. That was in the afternoon. We put him in the kennel, and everything looked fine, and then the next morning when I got up there, scout Ron Smith met me. He said, "Ol' Big won't come out the house." So we brought him out of the house, and his left back leg, he wouldn't even put



Hunter Gates prepares to release Silverwood at the Masters last March. (Photo Courtesy of Dr. Crouch).

it down. I said, "Well, that was that lick yesterday," and I gave him a little medicine, and we had to turn right back around and run him in the finals two days later. We rubbed him down a little bit, and he started putting a little weight on it that first afternoon, next day, and then he went on and got runner-up.

FTM: It says a lot about a dog's fortitude, his character, for him to take up the challenge so willingly under those conditions.

Gates: Well, he was in pain because when we first turned him loose, he was gimpy on it, but then he went on and got warmed up.

FTM: That tremendous drive and focus in a dog like Silverwood, it just overrides everything else. You can hardly keep one down.

Gates: That's right. But after that, the rest of that season ... well, I went on and ran him at the National. He ran the three hours at the National, and that was the year that Marques Gold Rush won it, and they said he was the second-place dog. But he started getting lamer and lamer. From the National, we leave and come to the Masters, the Southeastern. I tried to run him in the Southeastern, and we got him around, but he was hurting. And I turned him loose at the Masters, but I picked him up. He was limping. He was in pretty bad shape.

FTM: By then, you knew this was serious business, something chat wouldn't get better on its own.

Gates: No. That spring, we carried him to a specialist, Dr. D. C. Sorjonen, who was retired from Auburn University. He was a neurologist. He had an office in Birmingham, and we carried ol' Big over there, and he did surgery on him. Went in the vertebrae there and removed some spurs where it was putting pressure on those nerves. That lick he took at the Continental, what it did was it shifted in there, and it went to pinching that nerve.

FTM: But that wasn't the end of the problem, was it?

Gates: The surgery went good and I got him back home. Then I took him to Canada that summer and ran him over at the Pelican, the Alabama Prairie trial, and won that, and qualified him for the National. We had him in the Quail Championship Invitational that year. We got back home, and I didn't run him anywhere until we got ready to go to the Invitational. He was doing fine. But we put a little heavier workouts on him, getting ready to go to Paducah, and I noticed him start limping again, just a little bit. Well, we tried to run him at the Invitational. You know, you run three days there, and when we ran him that second day, he was three-legged. So we came back, and Mary Ann carried him back over to Dr. Sorjonen.

FTM: The prognosis wasn't good.

Gates: That vertebra had broken where they had gone and done the first surgery. In other words, when they hulled it out, it weakened, and then it had broken. So he literally had a broken back, and Dr. Sorjonen did not know how the dog could even possibly be standing up.

FTM: At that point, it looked like his field trial career was finished. What was the best-case scenario?

Gates: The biggest thing then was, we were just hoping the dog wouldn't be paralyzed. We didn't think we could do any more surgery. They said anything could happen, and the dog could be paralyzed, so he put him on complete rest, put him where he couldn't move around. They put him on physical therapy, and about three or four weeks later, Mary Ann picked him up.

We had to keep him out here in a crate because he could have absolutely no movement, just certain little exercises that Mary Ann would do when she got home from work, moving his back legs, just hoping it would fuse together to the point where he could walk again. He couldn't put any pressure on his back end. He was just pulling himself along with his front end. So basically, his career was over with. We were just hoping the dog would get to where he could walk again. We never dreamed . . .

FTM: No one could have imagined that the old campaigner

could beat this thing the way he did, be competitive to the extent that he was, after the devastating effects of that injury and a long layoff so late in his life. How did he do it?

Gates: Well, that was all last year. And then we were getting ready to load up and go to Canada this one morning, and I walked out there, and he was just jumping up in the kennel, and he was standing on his back end! We hadn't seen that in a year. And I told Hunter, "We'll go on and carry him to Canada." You know, he'd be cooler up there, anyway.

So we got up there and started reading the old dogs and stuff, and every afternoon, late in the evening, we'd get those dogs and load 'em on the four-wheeler, and he was just raisin' hell in the kennel, wanting to go. Just jumping up in that kennel on his back end, and I said, "Well, look at this old son-of-a-gun!"

So I said, "I'll try him a little bit." I started roading him about fifteen minutes, you know, and the next day he was okay, so I increased it. I increased it a little bit more every day, every day for about three weeks, and about a week before I went to the trials, Sandy Walker was there and had ol' Round Pond Silverspur. Remember ol' Tommy?

FTM: He was the Masters Open Shooting Dog Champion in 1996.

Gates: I'd already told Sandy that morning, 'I'm gon' turn ol' Big loose this morning and just see whether I'm gon' run him in any of these trials up here.' And I'd already decided I wouldn't call Doc 'til after I'd turned him loose, see what he'd done for me. So Sandy says, "Well, I got ol' Tommy. I'm gon' run ol' Tommy with him. We'll have a good time!"

So we broke 'em loose, and I told Hunter, 'I'm just gon' let him go, and all you got to do is just go on in there and follow him, and we'll see what he does.' And I turned him loose, and I wasted a championship right there!

I mean, he took off flying like he was three years old. And we went in there and made a big ol' swing, and Hunter was in there kind of keeping an eye on him and pointing him out, and it was literally a mile



Robin Gates poses Silverwood at the Florida Championship, January 2002. Scout Hunter Gates is kneeling as Dr. Everett Crouch stands behind them.

in there the last time we saw him. And we could just see Hunter in there, calling point. I rode all the way in there, and he had a covey of chickens right in front of him.

FTM: You can't tell me that didn't put tears in your eyes.

Gates: It did! I had tears in my eyes. I said, "Put the harness on him, boys. We just wasted a championship." And I got back to camp and called Doc, and we ran him in the championships up there last summer, and I'm gon' tell you, he ran some tremendous races. We just didn't get the chickens pointed with him.

FTM: Then you came home and won a grand slam, the Georgia, the Florida, and the Southeastern one right after the other.

Gates: I was excited! I came home and told Doc, "Doc, we won't run him in anything but the championships after the first of the year." So I worked him a little bit and stuff, then during Christmas I started putting a little more time on him, carried him out, and killed him some birds and all that. And we turned him loose at the Georgia and won that, left there and went straight to the Florida, won that, and was doing a heck of a job at the Continental, just had a bad break on a covey of birds. We didn't run him anymore until we turned him loose at the Southeastern, went out there, and did a heck of a job. And I'll tell you, he did a good job at the Masters. Had four finds at the Masters with him, and I think that, really, he was a little bit too much dog for the first 30 or 40 minutes. They didn't see too much of him, you know.

FTM: What plans do you have for him now?

Gates: We'll just play it by ear. We're going to Canada and just get him up there and see. It's like I told Doc, and Doc agrees with me. I said, "Doc, no way will we embarrass him." I don't ever want him to be embarrassed. We'll get him up there and start reading him and everything and see what to do. But I'll tell you, when we quit this spring with him, he was still just jumping as fast as he could be.

FTM: You have to attribute a lot to the veterinary care, to the physical therapy, and your bringing him back to condition the way you did, but the bottom line is, you've got to attribute most of it to the dog's heart, his own inner drive.

Gates: Dr. Crouch called the neurologist, Sorjonen, after he'd won the Georgia and the Florida, and he just

could not believe it. And Dr. Sorjonen said, "Well, you've got to attribute every bit of it to the dog." He said, "I haven't done a thing. It's nothing but intestinal fortitude with that dog. He's got a heart."

FTM: You've been close to some famous dogs in your lifetime. Where does Silverwood fit into the ranks?

Gates: You know how your memory plays tricks on you. Some of those old dogs you've had, they get a lot better over the years! But that year we got runner-up at the Invitational, well, John Rex had ridden the front for me, and we got to talking about it, and he said, "You know what? I didn't realize that ol' Big dog was that kind of dog." He said, "He's probably one of the best ones I've ever seen." And he got to where, especially this year . . . he came and rode the front for me at the Southeastern, and I think when I picked ol' Big up, John Rex was more excited than I was!

FTM: That would say a lot in any case, but when you look at it from the perspective of your family heritage, some of the greatest dogs of all time have passed through your family's hands. That puts Silverwood in some high company.

Gates: Oklahoma Flush was the best one John Rex ever had. I feel like ol' Silverwood's the best one I ever had. So far, at least, there's no doubt he's the best one, and he'll probably be the best one anyway.

FTM: They say you only get one in a lifetime.

Gates: Well, I sold Frank Cox a little ol' puppy that was by Joe Shadow out of a Silverwood bitch, and Frank took it and been working it and everything. So, year before last, Frank brought him to Canada, and I fooled with him a little bit. He wasn't running much. But Hunter came up there on a break from college, and I told Hunter, "You take him, Hunter, and every time you cut him loose, you put the whistle in your mouth, and you stay behind him the whole time." And Hunter did that for two weeks, and he got him started running a little bit, and we got back home and started working him, and that little ol' dog ... I could see Silverwood in him!


FTM: This was during the crisis with Silverwood, when you thought he might never run again?

Gates: Yes, ol' Big was finished, we thought. So I cold Doc, "Frank's got a dog you might need to come on up here and look at." So Doc came up and looked at him in one workout, and said, "He's mine!" And he

bought the dog, and darn if we didn't go to Canada with him and win the Border International, the youngest dog that's ever won it!

FTM: That almost sounds like history repeating itself.

When Silverwood retired from competition at 14, he spent the remainder of his days in Robin's kennel and his nights curled up in Robin's living room. He was one of a kind!

"Big" died January 4, 2008 and was elected to the Field Trial Hall of Fame the very same year. 

MOST NOTABLE CHAMPIONSHIP WINS

1995	R-U, Border International Championship
1996	Wr, Continental Open All-Age Championship Wr, Dominion Open Chicken Championship R-U, Quail Championship Invitational Championship
1997	R-U, Continental Open All-Age Championship Wr, Masters Open Quail Championship Wr, Southeastern Quail Championship
1998	Wr, Continental Open All-Age Championship Wr, Saskatchewan Open Chicken Championship
1999	R-U, Kentucky Open All-Age Championship
2000	Wr, Georgia Quail Championship R-U, Continental Open All-Age Championship
2002	Wr, Florida Open All-Age Championship Wr, Georgia Open Quail Championship Wr, Southeastern Open All-Age Championship

AWARDS

1996-1997	Purina Award Winner
1999-2000	Joe H. Hurdle Award Winner
2001-2002	Purina Award Winner

SBHA NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

Miller's Little Duce Coupe Takes First

By Marty Robinson | Union Springs, Alabama | February 11, 2026

The 2026 running of the SBHA National Open Shooting Dog Classic is in the books, and what a grand event it was! We were blessed to have an entry of 68 of the best shooting dogs in the country. The event started on February 11 and was completed on February 17. Conecuh Station, the beautiful piney wood plantation owned by Tony and Beck Gibson of Union Springs, Alabama, was in pristine condition, and the dogs took advantage of its beautiful terrain. The weather during the trial was typical February weather in the South, with lows in the mid-40s to mid-50s and highs in the mid-60s to low-70s, with only one day of precipitation.

The Winners

Taking first place this year was Miller's Little Duce Coupe, a pointer female owned by Allen Linder and Madison McDonald and handled by George Tracy. She ran in the seventh brace and had a flowing race with two dug-up finds.

Second place was BK Locked N' Loaded, a pointer female owned by Boss Kennels and handled by Sergio Velez. Locked N' Loaded ran in the very first brace and set the bar early with an effortless, flowing, and forward race with one find.

Third place went to Cool Hand Luke, a pointer male owned by Robert Bergen and handled by Mike Tracy. Luke ran in the 31st brace and had a forward race with two finds.

There are many people to thank for the support and help that continually make this trial one of the most prestigious of the year. We thank Eukanuba for their "Elite" sponsorship. They always step up and are such great partners, having truly supported the SBHA's mission to make field trials great again. Eukanuba rep Lynn Carridine is the best. She is always present, either through her attendance or her influence. She always has a keen eye for ideas and ways to improve our sport. Also, SportDOG, a Gold sponsor, and James O'Neal Dodge



Winners of the SBHA National Open Shooting Dog Classic and participants.

and Gundog Central, who are Silver sponsors. We could not offer all we do without the support of each of these sponsors, and we thank them with serious appreciation.

Our judges this year were Doug Hinton of Dacula, Georgia, and Burl Hicks of Smithville, Mississippi. These gentlemen were attentive to each entrant, and we appreciate them so much for taking on this duty for our trial.

Jeff Gibbons was our Field Marshal and, as always, kept everyone on course and is always on hand to assist in making the trial a success. Our dog wagon was ably handled by Steve Hutto, who wears many hats around Conecuh Station and always has the next brace of dogs ready to go.

Teresa Justice, National Secretary of the SBHA, was also on hand, receiving entry fees and assisting in any way possible, and a special shout-out to Shana Gibbs for producing our unique, one-of-a-kind running orders.

Our meals were expertly handled by Steve Hutto and George Cole (breakfast), and Ban and Allison Stewart (lunches and dinners). I overheard someone say, "This is the only trial I go to and ride for seven days and still gain weight!" Banjo makes sure no one has a hungry

moment during the trial.

A special word of thanks always goes out to Tony and Becky Gibson for allowing, not only our trial, but so many trials to be run on this remarkable venue. We can never thank them enough! Many thanks also go to the owners and handlers who continue to support this event. We work very hard to put on professionally organized, enjoyable, and fair events. We are rooted in fairness and will never waver from this commitment. We look forward to hosting this event again next year and will soon begin preparations for the annual SBHA Banquet, where we will award our dogs and handlers of the year. If you've never attended an SBHA banquet, we invite you to come and witness what a great banquet honoring the sport really looks like.

Union Springs, Ala., February 11

Judges: Burl Hicks and Doug Hinton
SBHA NATIONAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]

– 57 Pointers and 11 Setters

1st-MILLER'S LITTLE DUCE COUPE, F1700309, pointer female, by Miller's Upgraded Version-Walden's Ice Breaker. Allen Linder & Madison McDonald, owners; George Tracy, handler.

2d-BK LOCKED N' LOADED, F1699229, pointer female, by B K Bonafide Stallion-B K Hirollins Wild. Sergio Velez, owner and handler.

3d-COOL HAND LUKE, F1714223, pointer male, by Southpoint's Speedy G-Lone Tree Last Snow. Robert Bergen, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.

REGION 15 (AFTCA) AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Minori Long Pete Named Champion; Treasure Grouse Romi, Runner-up

By Yoshiharu Akisada | Ibaraki Pref., Japan | March 1, 2026



Region 15 (AFTCA) Amateur Shooting Dog Championship winners and participants.

The day of the race, the temperature rose to around 15 C, making for some very tough conditions for the dogs. There were six braces, with one setter and 10 pointers. Among them, the winner, Minori Long Pete, who started in the first brace, spotted a graceful figure with a high head and high tail in the woods of the first bird field. His handler easily handled the game with a flash. A Bobwhite flew in, but Pete

watched it fly by without moving an inch. He grabbed and mowed ahead, then spotted a good-looking one in the cover on the left edge near the third bird, which he handled with ease. He then made a good run, running left and right on the edge about 300-400m ahead, and then finished with a powerful white dot at the end of the pasture, about 1,000m away. It was a fantastic finish. Pete's running power, which comes from his

physique, and his good pointing style were all perfect.

Runner-up Treasure Grouse Romi, a setter female, hunted with speed. Ten minutes after the start, she found a spot in the woods of the first bird field, neatly processed it, grabbed it, and sent it forward. She continued hunting at her usual speed, and in the second bird field, she made a second find, which she also processed without difficulty. She then found game three of four times in a good rhythm, doing a good job. She finished by refilling water on the left riverbank just before the pasture. They went out into the pasture ahead and finished without slowing down in the distance. Her speed was also impressive.

Ibaraki, Pref., March 1

Judges: Yoshiharu Akisada and Hideaki Aoki

REGION 15 AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]

– 10 Pointers and 1 Setter

Winner-MINORI LONG PETE, F1690630, pointer male, by Wining Little John-Graysyamato Elhew Jane. Tadaaki Akiba, owner; Sakae Ohisuki, handler.
Runner-Up-TREASURE GROUSE ROMI, F1698410, setter female, by The You Pinekone Great-Treasure Grouse Mary. Fumio Takarada, owner and handler.

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

GEORGIA-FLORIDA INVITATIONAL FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Handlers' Trial

By Maria Bassham | Boston, Georgia | March 6, 2026

This year's Georgia-Florida Invitational Field Trial Club's Spring Handlers' Trial was held at the glorious Seminole Plantation in Boston, Georgia, on March 6 and 7, 2026. Spring weather turned a little prematurely warm that early March weekend with temperatures reaching the mid-80s. Thirty-seven canine athletes were drawn to run in the classic quail woods of Seminole, amongst majestic live oaks and soaring pines. Eleven of the 37 dogs were in the Derby stake that ran that Saturday afternoon. Lunch was catered both days by Fallin's BBQ out of Thomasville, Georgia. Everyone enjoyed socializing under the shade of big, moss-covered oak trees while taking a break and recharging for the afternoon braces.

We want to thank our judges, Sean Derrig of Sale City, Georgia, and Ed Epp of Tallahassee, Florida, for sharing their time and knowledge with us for the duration of the trial. We wouldn't be able to hold these trials without supporters like these two gentlemen, who have a passion for the sport. We would like to sincerely thank the Rankin Smith Family, the Knox Family, Wallace Reed, and the entire staff of Seminole Plantation for allowing us to run on their beautiful South Georgia plantation. A huge thank you to all our sponsors and members of this club for keeping this field trial running for 63 years. We couldn't do it without all of you.

The first dogs braced together that Friday morning were Johnny Come Lately, with handler Ray Pearce, and "Queen," with handler Ethan Whidden. "Johnny" had an impressive race with four finds over the course of his 45 minutes on the ground. He held steady to wing and shot each find and ran a clean brace. "Queen" had a beautiful find early on, but her handler opted to pick her up after two unproductives.



Open Derby (r-l): Miles Green with Green's Florida, Tommy Rice with Standin' Rock Chief, Jason Armstrong with Strongdog Little Robin, joined by participants and spectators.

In Brace 2 were Easy Does It with Justin Hunt and "Bud" with Andrew Bozeman. The second brace of the day started off strong with both dogs stopping at 4 with "Easy" backing and flight of birds for Bud. Bud then had a stop to flush at 12. Both dogs stopped once again at 22 with a beautiful divided find and an abundant covey rise. Easy had two additional finds during his 45 minutes, and both dogs were seen when time was called.

The first-place winner, Nonami's Ben Lately with Ray Pearce, and the third-place winner, "Wayne" with Dustin Kirby, were in the third brace. Brace 3 was exciting as two of our future winners were braced together. "Ben" had a strong run with four solid finds. He held steady to wing and shot with each one, and birds were plentiful. Wayne started with a point at 5, resulting in a rabbit. He continued his impressive hunt with another find at 35. Both dogs were seen at pick up.

In Brace 4, "Rita" with Justin Hunt and "Willie" with Devin Harden were picked up and had no bird work.

Brace 5 saw "Buddy" with Danny Tankersly and "Boone" with Jessie Graffam. These four handlers asked

for their trackers and picked up before the brace ended.

Brace 6 saw Sioux Bull Run with Jason Sanders and the second-place winner, Mayhaw New Money with Trey Mills. Mayhaw New Money ran an impressive race with four classy finds and a sizable covey rise with each flush. Bull Run was picked up after several relocations, resulting in two unproductives.

In Brace 7, "Beth" with Shon Powell and "Mike" with Erik Small were picked up and had no bird work.

In Brace 8 were "Bee" with Marty Adams and "Lucy" with Ben Braswell. Due to rising afternoon temperatures, all four of these contenders were picked up by their handlers.

Brace 9 saw Merrily Rollin Thunder with Terry James Chastain III and "Lou" with Marty Adams. Lou stopped at 2 with flight of birds before the handler's arrival. He continued to move on without his handler firing a shot. At 6, he had a double relocation that resulted in an unproductive. Rolling Thunder stopped with a snappy find at 14. He also had a stop to flush and one additional find at 43. Both dogs stopped, facing each other, with a nice divided find at 21,

and both handlers flushed and fired their guns. Lou had two more finds before the brace ended.

In Brace 10 were “Ken” with Shon Powell and “Jake” with Greg Shepherd. Both dogs stopped at 19 with a divided find. Both handlers shot after flight of birds was seen. Jake had one additional find at 41 and was with his handler when time was called. Ken was not performing to his handler’s liking and was picked up.

Brace 11 saw Melrose Big John with Terry James Chastain III and “Joe” with Greg Shepherd. Big John’s first and only find was a rabbit and a single bird that took flight. Joe stopped at 16 but moved on and continued to hunt. Both dogs came back with their handlers when time was called.

In Brace 12, “Bud” with Greg Shepherd and “Spur” with Tommy Rice III, and in the final brace, No. 13, were “Pearl” with Tommy Rice III and “Jack” with Matt Parramore. All four dogs were picked up by their handlers, bringing the Open Shooting Dog stake to its conclusion.

Boston, Ga., March 6

Judges: Sean Derrig and Ed Epp

OPEN SHOOTING DOG – 24 Pointers

1st-NONAMI’S BEN LATELY, F1713524, pointer male, by Nonami’s Johnny Come Lately-Broomsedge Tiny Rebel. R. E. Turner, owner; Ray Pearce, handler.
2d-MAYHAW’S NEW MONEY, F1721752, pointer male, by Tallokas New Business-Diamond R Netta. Mayhaw Plantation, owner; Trey Mills, handler.
3d-ONE DAY WAYNE, F1715425, pointer male, by One Day Lucky Strike-Panda Express. Payton Gunby, owner; Dustin Kirby, handler.

Open Derby

First-place winner “Florida,” with Miles Green, had three class finds during the fifth brace of the Derby

stake that Saturday afternoon. He held steady to wing and shot with each abundant covey rise.

In second place was “Chief” with Tommy Rice III. Chief ran a clean race during his 30 minutes on the ground, resulting in one strong find and flight of birds.

Third-place winner “Robin,” with Jason Armstrong, was braced with the first-place winner. Robin also ran an impressive race and had two finds, resulting in third place.

OPEN DERBY – 12 Pointers

1st-GREEN’S FLORIDA, F1725464, pointer male, by Dogwood Cash-Meander Georgia On My Mind. Miles Green, owner and handler.
2d-STANDIN’ ROCK CHIEF, F1711165, pointer male, by Oahe Buck-Bodacious May. Thomas Rice, owner and handler.
3d-STRONGDOG LITTLE ROBIN, F1710230, pointer male, by Miller’s Blindsider-Strongdog Rebel Annie. Jason Armstrong, owner and handler.

HANOVER FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Tenacee Franklin Wins Waverly Coleman Amateur Shooting Dog

By Kirk Regensburg | King William, Virginia | March 7, 2026

The Hanover Field Trial Association’s spring U. S. Complete trial was held on Saturday, March 7, at the Cohoke Shooting Preserve. The Association would like to thank the Gottwald family for allowing the trial to be held on their private shooting preserve.

The facilities were in good condition for the field trial. The club is fortunate to have use of these pristine grounds for field trials. It was a beautiful sunny day, a good day to run dogs.

Sadly, the groundskeeper, Dennis Boswell, passed away suddenly shortly before the trial. The Hanover Club will surely miss him.

We want to thank Purina for being the National Sponsor of the U. S. Complete weekend and championship trials. Purina is providing discount coupons for their dog food to all dogs who have earned placements in the various stakes.

Several club members pitched in to make this field trial a success.



Waverly Coleman Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Greg Isenberg with Tenacee Franklin, Lee Flanders with Chippokes Cracker Jack, and Tyler Wolf with Ringo’s Sweet Heart. (Standing): Ralph Fleming, Verlene Stephenson, and Johnny Lewis. (On the wagon): Julie and Steve Moore, Bobby Phillips, and Jenna Johnson.

David Coleman and Kirk Regensburg planted birds. Retta Ramkey typed the program. Eleanor Mourino provided the Kawasaki Mule, which Steve Graham used to transport both dogs and handlers to the starting line. Pat Brooks provided the gallery wagon. Dennis Kivikko drove the truck that pulled the gallery wagon.

Charlotte Regensburg provided lunch. The Hanover Club is fortunate to have many members and wives

who help make this trial a success. We appreciate everyone’s help in making our trial a success.

There were 12 dogs in the Puppy stake, judged by Jenna Johnson and Kirk Regensburg. The Derby stake had four dogs, and 16 dogs were entered in the Shooting Dog stake, both judged by Ralph Fleming and Johnny Lewis.

“Marlo” took first in the Puppy stake. Owned and handled by Mike McIntyre, Marlo is a nice, big running male setter and handled very well. He hit his objectives purposefully and was very impressive. Marlo is very attractive on the ground. Second was “Molly,” a pointer female. Handled by Greg Isenberg, she had a big run and handled well. Molly is a nice, pretty running dog on the ground. Third place was “Mack,” a pointer male. Handled by Mike McIntyre, Mack handled well and hit all his objectives. The Puppy stake was large and impressive, with good running on the ground.



Amateur Puppy (l-r): Mike McIntyre with Charm City Marlo, Greg Isenberg with Molly, and Tyler Wolf with Charm City Mac. (On the wagon): Dennis Kivikko and Matthew Kleinfelter.

In the Derby Stake, “Tuff,” a pointer male, took first place. Handled by Frankie Barnes, Tuff had five finds and hit all his objectives. He finished well. Second place was “Kelly,” a pointer male handled by Kirk Regensburg. Kelly had six finds and hunted for his birds. He finished with a big run. Third place was “Coco,” a pointer male handled by Bobby Phillips. Coco had a big run with three finds and two backs. He is a nice dog on the ground.

The Shooting Dog stake was very competitive. The grounds at Cohoke can be challenging, as they are not very big and can be tight at times. At the same time, between big turns in the course and the ups and downs of the terrain, it can be easy to lose a dog, especially on foot. The winning dogs in this stake were always found forward, stayed in touch with their handlers, and showed themselves consistently, with style and composure, on a lot of impeccable

bird work.

In the Shooting Dog stake, “Frank,” a pointer male handled by Greg Isenberg, took first. Frank chewed up the course with gusto and had seven finds. He was steady and handled well. Throughout the course, Frank appeared to be a happy dog, cracking his tail and covering lots of ground with a nice rhythm between finds. Frank did a great job on the ground and stood like a statue on his birds.

“Jack,” a setter male handled by Lee Flanders, had four finds and two backs. Jack had a great run and finished nicely. “Heart,” a pointer female, was third. Owned and handled by Verlene Stephenson, she had five finds and one back. Heart had a big finish at the end.

Frank was named Dog of the Day, winning the Waverly Coleman Shooting Dog trophy.

The Club would like to thank all the participants and guests for coming. The Association looks forward to its next U.S. Complete trial, scheduled for the fall of 2026.

In closing, we would like to pay tribute to two long-time members of the Hanover Field Trial Association who sadly passed away last year: Art Mourino (April 9, 2025) and George Ramkey (December 8, 2025).

Both Art and George were instrumental in putting on our trials. Always there to help with whatever was needed. They will be greatly



Amateur Derby (l-r): Frankie Barnes with Mohawk Mill Reckless Jack and Kirk Regensburg with Kirk’s Ray of Joy. (Standing): Ralph Fleming (judge) and Johnny Lewis (judge). (On the wagon): Cathy Horton, Jenna Johnson, Julie Moore, Matthew Kleinfelter, and Dennis Kivikko.

missed.

King William, Va., March 7

Judges: Jenna Johnson and Kirk Regensburg
AMATEUR PUPPY – 7 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st-CHARM CITY MARLO, F1721340, setter male, by Boatright’s Maverick-Outcast Siren Song. Michael McIntyre, owner and handler.

2d-MOLLY, unreg., pointer female, breeding not given. Greg Isenberg, owner and handler.

3d-CHARM CITY MAC, F1721991, pointer male, by Hifive’s Sonny Side Up-Hifive’s Top Shelf. Michael McIntyre, owner and handler.

Judges: Ralph Fleming and Johnny Lewis

AMATEUR DERBY – 3 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-MOHAWK MILL RECKLESS JACK, F1713921, pointer male, by Daddy’s Little Boy Butch-Mohawk Mill Double E. Gary & Ellen Winall, owners; Frankie Barnes, handler.

2d-KIRK’S RAY OF JOY, F1714961, pointer male, by Rocky River Loaded-Sadie Ridge Sally. Kirk Regensburg, owner and handler.

WAVERLY COLEMAN AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 8 Pointers and 8 Setters

1st-TENACEE FRANKLIN, F1686506, pointer male, by Elthew Money-maker-Class Act Pretty Penny. Greg Isenberg, owner and handler.

2d-CHIPPOKES CRACKER JACK, F1691321, setter male, by Skyview New Edition-Grid Iron’s Sorrell’s Penny. Lee Flanders, owner and handler.

3d-RINGO’S SWEET HEART, F1668688, pointer female, by Southbend Ben-Shadow’s Carolina Molly. Verlene Stephenson, owner and handler.

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NATIONAL VIZSLA ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIPS & CLASSIC

Shiloh's Cinnamon Girl Wins Amateur and Open Championships

By Bonnie Hidalgo | Grovespring, Missouri | March 9, 2026



National Vizsla National Amateur Championship (standing, l-r): Matt Wheaton, Kim Kitchen, Vincent Tuttle, Tonya Tuttle, Frank Vicari, Matt Rogers, Andrea Northwood, Mike Northwood, Rob Tomczak, Heather Vicari, Chad Chadwell. Mike Vicari, Bonnie Hidalgo, Denise Chenoweth, and Ron Chenoweth. (Kneeling): Justin Hess with Shiloh's Cinnamon Girl and Todd Meyer with N V Jasper.

The 2026 National Championship trial of the National Vizsla Association ran the second week of March over the Field Trial Sportsmen's grounds at Grovespring, Missouri. It has been held here for nearly three decades.

This trial begins with its one-hour Amateur Championship, which was convincingly won by Shiloh's Cinnamon Girl, owned by Kim Kitchen, Ontario, Canada, and handled by Mike Northwood. Runner-up honors went to N V Jasper, a male owned and handled by Mike Northwood of Waunakee, Wisconsin.

Next on the slate was the National Derby Classic, a 30-minute stake. The winner was NV Trouble, and second place went to Tizabec's Easy Breezy; both Vizslas are owned and handled by Matt Rogers. In third place was NV Hess Farms Blue, owned by Justin and Michelle Hess and handled by Justin.

Shiloh's Cinnamon Girl continued her winning ways in the National Championship! Once again, she outperformed the competition to take the title for Kim Kitchen and her handler, Mike Northwood. The

new runner-up emerged as Meyer's Bustin The Coop, owned and handled by Todd Meyer.

The drawing for the entire event was held on the eve of the trial, Sunday, March 8, at the clubhouse. It was conducted by Mike and Andrea Northwood and Justin Hess. The Amateur Championships drew an entry of 12 starters, and the Open Championship attracted 14. The Derby Classic attracted 10 young dogs.

The Grovespring grounds were in good shape for this renewal. The NVA released a plethora of quail, which complemented the birds already present on the courses. This made for plenty of bird work, and, as everyone knows, bird work makes a great trial.

Four men handled the judicial roles for the trial. The NVA greatly appreciates the efforts of Frank Vicari, Mike Vicari, Mark Johnson, and Tony Isajiw. Their decisions were well received.

Purina's sponsorship of this event is very important to its success. The NVA wishes to thank Purina and its Emissary, Greg Blair, for their

continued support. The winners were all pleased to receive Purina Pro Plan Sport as part of their prizes. Thank you, Purina, for everything that you do for the sport of bird dog field trials.

Garmin was also a supporter of this prestigious event. Their contribution of product for the winners is most appreciated. Their training and tracking products help make our dogs great, and more importantly, they keep them safe. Thank you, Garmin, for your sponsorship.

Dogs Unlimited of Brighton, Colorado, is owned and operated by Alan and Marcia Davison. Alan successfully campaigns his German Shorthairs; he knows what type and quality of products field trialers need. Dogs Unlimited sponsors many events around the country. The NVA is grateful for their support and asks that the trial community support Dogs Unlimited in return.

Leather goods were awarded to the winners of the Derby; Steve Zoebel donated them. A set of saddlebags and a scabbard were made of top-grade leather and were absolutely beautiful prizes. The NVA appreciates Steve's support of this event.

Chris and Sabrina Corliss donated knives handmade by Chris, in scabbards created by Sabrina, for judges and reporter gifts. The recipients of these handcrafted works of art are very appreciative, as is the NVA.

Matt Rogers generously donated beautiful silver belt buckles for the winners of the Amateur and Open Championships, as well as for the Open Derby. They were a coveted prize. Thank you, Matt, for your terrific contribution.

There isn't a field trial in the world that just happens! Mike Northwood and Justin Hess put a lot of time and thought into this event as its

co-chairmen, and it showed. They handled the pre-trial organization and kept the event running smoothly. Securing sponsors is no easy task, yet they rocked it. Andrea Northwood handled the paperwork and financials.

On dog wagon detail at various times during the trial were Todd Peterson, Steve Gallagher, Chad Chadwell, and Nancy Brown. Bird planters were Justin Hess, Todd Meyer, Vincent Tuttle, Matt Rogers, Matt Wheaton, Chad Chadwell, and Kim Kitchen. It was great to see a club with so many people stepping up to the plate to get the work done.

Food details were organized and implemented by Andrea Northwood, with help from Michelle Hess, Nancy Brown, and Tonya Tuttle. Elsa Gallagher pitched in to help with kitchen clean-up.

NVA National Amateur Championship

Judges for the Amateur Championship were the father/son team of Frank and Mike Vicari. They watched all the dogs closely and were helpful to the handlers. They are both lifelong bird dog men, having been raised in the sport by Frank's father, the late Joe Vicari. At the conclusion of the running, the judges handed in a popular decision.

They named Shiloh's Cinnamon Girl as the 2026 NVA National Amateur Champion. Cinnamon is proudly owned by Kim Kitchen of Ontario, Canada; Mike Northwood capably handled her. She appeared in the second brace of the stake and rendered a thrilling performance.

The runner-up champion was N V Jasper, a male owned by Mike and Andrea Northwood of Waunakee, Wisconsin, and handled by Mike. Jasper ran in the first brace of the stake and displayed some beautiful birdwork in a quality race.

The judges gave honorable mention to B & E Energy To Burn, a female known as "Ida," which is owned and handled by Patty Rundell of Kentucky. Ida had exceptional bird work to claim this honor. She was

braced with Jasper in the opening hour.

The Running

N V Jasper (Mike Northwood) was paired with B & E Energy To Burn (Patty Rundell) for the first brace of the trial. Jasper took the right edge forward at the breakaway; at 9, he was pointing stylishly on the hillside above the rocky creek crossing. Ida was honoring him, also with fine style. Both dogs were mannerly through flush and shot. Ida seemed to lack confidence on the ground early, but improved as the hour progressed. Shortly before the road crossing, both dogs were seen standing on the right at 26. It was determined that they were backing each other, and they were taken on. Jasper scored another pretty find on the first cross row in Davis at 28. He was on to the front quickly. At 32, Ida pointed with excellent class and decorum. At 36, Jasper pointed in the Island Field, but it proved to be unproductive. They were both forward from the Island field, up Horse Killer hill, and down the first line on Apple Tree hill, where, at 49, they shared in a divided find. Everything was perfect on both dogs' parts. At 54, on the south edge of Apple Tree hill, Jasper scored again and was honored by Ida. These dogs showed high style and wonderful manners on every contact. Both Vizslas were forward at time. They were a fun pair to watch.

Shiloh's Cinnamon Girl (Mike Northwood) and C K Ginger's Cowboy Wyatt (Vincent Tuttle) appeared on Course 2. They were both fast running and forward reaching. They flew through Little Vine loop and ate up the edges of Sycamore bottom, where they disappeared beyond the cross row. Cinnamon was found pointing at 19, in the left corner. She had her birds well located as she stood high with great intensity. Her manners were beyond reproach. At 20, Wyatt was standing, unnoticed on the right, as the handler and judge nearly passed him by. At that moment, Wyatt opted to pop the bird, thus ending his

performance. Cinnamon's second find occurred at 27, on Daugherty's Ridge; her third came at 33, just below the twin barns. Both times, she oozed style and intensity and never a bobble in manners. She was on the left side on the way toward the old blue house site. She pointed there at 39; intensity and manners were again superb through flush and shot. Her fifth and final find came at 44, in the bull pasture. Cinnamon was fast and forward into Climer's; she took the right side, stopped on the far edge of the first field, but went on. Mike rode to collect her and collared her out of the corner. With a race of the highest caliber, she impressed with range and pattern. That race, along with her five flawless finds, made her the one to beat.

B G K's Bolt Action (Mike Northwood) and Hess farms Pyromaniac (Justin Hess) began in Horse Corral bottom, heading into the Clubhouse loop. The temperature had risen drastically by the third morning brace. Bolt pointed a hawk kill at 15 and was taken on. Neither dog was pushing an earlier performance. Both handlers opted to pick up their dogs early in the hour. Running was suspended until Tuesday morning due to the heat.

Meyer's Running on Tulsa Time (Todd Meyer) and Tizabec's Easy Breezy (Matt Rogers) were first up on Tuesday, turning loose in Breakaway bottom. They were away nicely, going forward on the right. Covey was under birds at 12, ending his bid. Tulsa continued forward but was picked up at the road crossing. He was not suiting his handler with his race.

Meyer's Bustin The Coop (Todd Meyer) ran with N V Clyde (Mike Northwood). They turned loose heading into Davis bottom; both dogs were directed left to rim the first field. Clyde pointed with Cooper backing at 1, next to the cemetery. Both showed style and manners. They pointed at the mid-line in Davis at 8; Cooper took the birds out and was picked up. Clyde was credited with a second find, in good order. Clyde's third find



National Derby Classic (standing, l-r): Tony Isajiw, Patty Rundell, Matt Rogers, Rob Tomczak, Todd Peterson, Bonnie Hidalgo, Chad Chadwell, Kim Kitchens, Mark Johnson, Denise Chenoweth, Justin Hess, Tonya Tuttle, Vincent Tuttle, and Ron Chenoweth. **(Kneeling):** Mike Northwood with NV Trouble, Matt Wheaton with Tiszabecs Easy Breezy, and Todd Meyer with NV Hess Farms Blue.



National Vizsla Open Championship (standing, l-r): Tony Isajiw, Andrea Northwood, Kim Kitchen, Todd Peterson, Mike Northwood, Vincent Tuttle, Tonya Tuttle, Todd Meyer, Jeff Moody, and Mark Johnson. **(Kneeling):** Justin Hess with Shiloh's Cinnamon Girl and Elsa Gallagher with Meyer's Bustin The Coop.

was as the course turned toward Little Vine at 37. His birds were well located, and his manners were good. Clyde's handler was aware that the dog's performance was falling short of the marks set earlier in the stake and opted to pick up at 41.

Reve's Wiki Wiki Royal Hawaiian (Chad Chadwell) and CK Rudi Toot Toot (Justin Hess) were the final brace of this Championship. They were released at Little Vine Road, heading up the hill. They were across the hills quickly; Aly took the left and rimmed the far corner. They were forward out of the loop and on toward Sycamore. Aly was briefly absent. They worked their way through Sycamore bottom and disappeared through the cut. Point was called for Rudy in the left corner at 19. He made a slight movement at the flush. Meanwhile, Aly started up the hill but had an overly close encounter with a quail at 22, to end her performance. Rudy went up the hill and across the Daugherty Ridge with good forward motion. He was found on point on the line below the barns at 34, his handler flushed and shot, but was not happy with Rudy's demeanor and opted to pick up.

NVA National Derby Classic

This stake ran in its entirety on Wednesday, March 11. Judges for the National Derby stake were Tony Isajiw and Mark Johnson. They were extremely attentive to all the dogs in the stake. Ten were entered, but one dog was scratched. Eight dogs

had bird contact, some with multiple finds. The ninth starter had a lengthy absence; no one knows if he had bird contact. This derby stake was loaded with quality and was a pleasure to watch. Even though the wind and the cold made for unpleasant conditions, it was more welcome than the heat of the past two days. There were many high-class contenders in this stake, and their breeders should be proud.

NV Trouble, owned and handled by Matt Rogers, was released at the end of Little Vine loop in the second brace of the Derby. Trouble had a strong, predominantly forward race with one excellent, high-style find.

Tizabec's Easy Breezy was second for Matt Rogers, who owns and handles her. Covey ran a big race with one solid find and a mannerly back. Covey showed beautiful style on her game.

NV Hess Farms Blue, handled by Justin Hess, placed third. He put down a forward race, showing a good pattern and a fast gait. He pointed early in the brace, but it was not productive. Blue pointed a second time and showed excellent manners for the flush.

NVA National Open Championship

Coming in for her second title this week was Shiloh's Cinnamon Girl, owned by Kim Kitchen and handled by Mike Northwood. She scored four finds in her forward reaching race.

The runner-up honors went to Meyer's Bustin The Coop, owned and handled by Todd Meyer. Cooper scored two brilliant finds in an attractive race.

Mark Johnson and Tony Isajiw, both Wisconsin residents, officiated the National Vizsla Championship, which commenced on March 12 and concluded the following morning. They were attentive and kept a reasonable pace for the Championship running. They both compete with Irish Setters and are knowledgeable bird dog men.

The Running

B & E Energy To Burn (Patty Rundell) ran with N V Jasper (Mike

Northwood). Jasper and Ida shared a divided find at 8. Ida stopped to flush on the hillside above the creek crossing at 13. At 16, Jasper pointed stylishly with Ida backing, but no birds were found. The two dogs were together again for a divided find at 26 in Davis bottom, all was in order, with both dogs displaying style and intensity. Jasper pointed staunchly on the upper edge of the approach to Horse Killer hill at 49. Mike had seen a bird leave, but it was not seen by the judges. The attempt to produce a second bird was unsuccessful. Ida scored her third find on the east edge of Apple Tree hill at 54. She stood with good style and manners for the flush. Both dogs finished forward.

B G K's Bolt Action (Mike Northwood) and Meyer's Bustin The Coop (Todd Meyer) broke away from Little Vine Road. At 6, scout Justin Hess called point for Cooper. The dog was at the deer stand in the far corner of the ridge loop; his bird was flushed with all in good order. At the cross line in Sycamore bottom, Cooper was seen pointing on the left. He was high and tight for the flush of his game at 19. Bolt scored a good find at 23. Both dogs were pointed at 41 but took a divided nonproductive. Cooper scored a nice find in the northwest corner of the bull pasture at 55; he finished forward in the private property. Bolt pointed, on the right front at time, but no birds were produced.

Shiloh's Cinnamon Girl (Mike Northwood) and Reve's Wiki Wiki

Royal Hawaiian (Chad Chadwell) were the third brace of the championship. Cinnamon scored her first find at 6, in the clubhouse loop; her second came at 13 on the west side of the loop. Both finds were first class. Cinnamon pointed next at 32, but no birds were found. At the end of the alley where it meets Sycamore bottom, Cinnamon pointed again. Her style was lofty and her intensity high throughout. She was approaching the Double Gates field when she locked up again at 57. As with her first three finds, she was staunch and stylish. She finished the hour going for the next edge. Cinnamon ran her edges admirably; she covered the course intelligently and with good speed and range. Aly made a good effort but had a feather find at 10, followed by two more nonproductive stands, and was picked up early.

C K Ginger's Cowboy Wyatt (Vince Tuttle) and Meyer's Running On Tulsa Time (Todd Meyer) were first up after lunch. Wyatt was in fast forward from the word go, but stopped at 2 to score a nice find. Tulsa honored him. Wyatt pointed again at 8, Tulsa backed. No birds were located. Wyatt was again in

fast forward and disappeared, not to be recovered under judgment. Tulsa was picked up early for not suiting his handler.

Southwind Bully's Green Fire (Jeff Moody) and CK Ginger's Gin Girl (Ken Chenoweth) were released in the Island field. Hatch scored a good find at 8, approaching Horse Killer hill. Gal went out the front upon leaving Island field and was recovered with the tracker. At 44, Hatch scored another mannerly find in Sycamore bottom; all was in order. Hatch's race was steady and forward; he handled kindly.

CK Rudi Toot Toot (Justin Hess) and CK Guy's Grand Gin Girl (Ken Chenoweth) were the final brace on Thursday. No birds were found in this abbreviated brace. Rudy was not running his best, and his handler opted to pick him up. Gin had been absent for some time, and her handler called for the tracker at 25.

Hess Farms Pyromaniac (Justin Hess) and N V Clyde (Mike Northwood) ran on Friday morning. Pyro pointed at 5, but after attempting relocation, the work ended at 9 with a non-productive. Catching the front,

he scored a nice find on the right edge at 14, all in order. Clyde was seen forward at 6 but went missing shortly after, and his tracker was out at 21, in Davis bottom. Pyro was picked up there, as well.

Grovespring, Mo., March 9

Judges: Frank Vicari and Michael Vicari

NATIONAL VIZSLA NATIONAL AMATEUR

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 12 Vizslas

Winner-SHILOH'S CINNAMON GIRL, F1704672, Vizsla female, by Shiloh's Roscoe-Shiloh's Vesta. Kim Kitchen & Brennan Kitchen, owners; Mike Northwood, handler.

Runner-Up-N V JASPER, F1703719, Vizsla male, by C K Post Route Scout-C K Touchdown Sassy. Mike Northwood, owner and handler.

Judges: Tony Isajiw and Mark Johnson

NATIONAL VIZSLA DERBY CLASSIC – 10 Vizslas

1st-NV TROUBLE, F1721641, Vizsla male, by N V Jasper-Rockwoods Home Grown. Matt Rogers & Ruth Rogers, owners; Matt Rogers, handler.

2d-TISZABECS EASY BREEZY, unreg., Vizsla male, by Tiszabecs Walk The Line-Tiszabecs Win For The Gipper. Tyler Czrniak, owner; Matt Rogers, handler.

3d-NV HESS FARMS BLUE, F1729738, Vizsla male, by N V Jasper-Rockwoods Home Grown. Justin Hess, owner and handler.

NATIONAL VIZSLA NATIONAL OPEN

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 14 Vizslas

Winner-SHILOH'S CINNAMON GIRL, F1704672, Vizsla female, by Shiloh's Roscoe-Shiloh's Vesta. Kim Kitchen & Brennan Kitchen, owners; Mike Northwood, handler.

Runner-Up-MEYER'S BUSTIN THE COOP, F1683581, Vizsla male, by Bangert's Red Barron-Meyer's Bella. Todd Meyer, owner and handler.

MIDWEST OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Topp's First J R Named Champion; Rob's Edge, Runner-up

By David Taylor | Elk City, Kansas | March 11, 2026

The Midwest Open Shooting Dog Championship concluded on March 13. The trial was held on the Westfall Ranch near Elk City, Kansas. The Championship Association is grateful to Bill Westfall for generously providing the venue for this championship. He also made facilities and equipment available to assist the club in hosting the trial. Bill has provided grounds for this championship for nearly three decades.

Ken Chenoweth had been scheduled to judge but suffered an injury and was unable to ride. Lynn Oxendine, an area veteran, agreed

to fill the void on 24 hours' notice. He joined Scott Thielen to judge the Championship. Virgil Moore and Scott judged the Derby. Thanks to each of these gentlemen for helping the club during a difficult situation.

Topp's First J R was named the 2026 Midwest Champion. The 10-year-old white and black pointer male ran a commendable race and pointed a wild covey. His style on point and his manners at flush were beyond reproach. Harold Gearhart handled J R for owners Luke and Rita Topp. The runner-up in the championship was Rob's Edge, a white, liver and ticked pointer male. Edge was handled by his

owner, Ryan Eichelberger. Edge pointed birds three times, with one stand being on a wild covey. Edge displayed finished manners on each occasion when his birds were flushed.

A strong field of juveniles was entered in the Derby stake. The winner was Hale's Southern Flyer. Flyer ran a strong forward race and pointed a wild covey. She stood with polished manners for Shawn Kinkelaar to flush her birds. Dr. Jeff Hale owns Flyer. Touch's Maximus, owned and handled by Klaus Schmidt, placed second. Maximus ran a forward race and shared a find on a wild covey with his bracemate,



Midwest Open Shooting Dog Championship (l-r): Luke Topp with Topp's First J R and Ryan Eichelberger with Rob's Edge. (Standing): Garvin Collins, David Taylor, Harold Gearhart, Lynn Oxendine (judge), Scott Thielen (judge), Bob Davidson, and Ryan's mother holding the trophy.

with everything in order. Silver W Ringafire placed third. Sunny ran a forward race, shared a find with Maximus and stopped to flush mannerly as a covey lifted. Shawn Kinkelaar handled Sunny for owners Mike Blanton and David Taylor.

Thanks to Purina for its continued support of the Midwest Championship by providing product to the winners. A special thanks to Greg Blair for his work promoting field trials and helping clubs stay active.

Thanks to each owner and handler for supporting the trial with their entries.

Lance Schulz and Shawn Kinkelaar provided steaks for the traditional champions' dinner honoring Upfront's Southern Star's 2025 Championship.

Virgil Moore manned the grill, and the steaks were cooked to perfection.

The club appreciated the use of ATVs provided by Luke Topp, Jay McKenzie, and Walley Olson. The ATVs served as the dog wagon and



Open Derby (front row, l-r): Curtis Teare with Hale's Southern Flyer, Klaus Schmidt with Touch's Maximus, and Mike Blanton with Silver W Ringafire. (Standing): Scott Thielen (judge), Shawn Kinkelaar, Garvin Collins, Virgil Moore (judge), and David Taylor.

in releasing birds each evening.

Ranch manager Olson and his family are on hand to lend a hand if needed. Trip Olson opens the gates and checks the release sites each evening. The family often joins the group for evening meals.

Others not already mentioned who should be commended for their efforts in making the trial a success are: Club President and Trial Chairmen Garvin Collins, Harold Gearhart, and Randy Wilson. Garvin coordinates the entire trial; Harold sees that no job is left undone; and Randy provides great meals for those in attendance.

Come join us in 2027!

Elk City, Kan., March 11

**Judges: Lynn Oxendine and Scott Thielen
MIDWEST OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 27 Pointers and 3 Setters**

*Winner-TOPPS FIRST J R, F1672426, pointer male, by Merrill's Bravo-Aaron's Mae Be Good. Luke & Rita Topp, owners; Harold Gearhart, handler.
Runner-Up-ROB'S EDGE, F1703302, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Erin's Little Faye. Ryan Eichelberger, owner and handler.*

**Judges: Virgil Moore and Scott Thielen
OPEN DERBY – 12 Pointers**

*1st-HALE'S SOUTHERN FLYER, F1727725, pointer female, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Hale's High Flyer. Dr. Jeffrey Hale & Rick Thone, owners; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.
2d-TOUCH'S MAXIMUS, F1710169, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Bandit's Hill Pazzo. Klaus Schmidt, owner and handler.
3d-SILVER W RINGAFIRE, F1719739, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Silver W Thunderbolt's Boom. David Taylor & Mike Blanton, owners; Shawn Kinkelaar, handler.*

CALENDAR

- **Region 16 (AFTCA) Annual Meeting**
Saturday, June 6, 1:00 p.m. (CT)
Lake Point State Park at the
Lodge and Convention Center
Eufaula, AL
Contact: Alex Rickert
(406) 209-0676

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PONY EXPRESS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Wild Covey Strikezone Wins Larry Smith Heartland Open All-Age

By Tommy Smith | Gentry, Missouri | March 12, 2026

The Pony Express Field Trial Club members came together and hosted a successful event. This year's event was not only highlighted by amazing performances but also maintained the camaraderie that everyone looks forward to each spring. The club is honored to carry on the tradition and standard that Mr. Larry Smith envisioned for Smith Farms while continuing to live up to Larry's well-known statement of "whatever is best for field trials!"

We would like to thank in advance all the bird dog breeders, owners, and handlers, as well as all the sponsors, for this year's National Qualifying event. Without their support, this event would not be possible. Sponsors for this year's event include Purina Pro Plan, SportDOG, Gun Dog Supply, and Good Life Fitness.

The Heartland Open All-Age commenced on March 12 over the rolling north Missouri countryside known as Smith Farms west of Gentry, Missouri. The field trial venue owned by Mrs. Linda Smith has been laid out with 3+ continuing one-hour courses to showcase all-age dogs. The grounds include covered horse corrals and 55 dog kennels available on-site for all participants.

For all spectators and owners present, a Polaris Ranger UTV was provided for those in attendance who did not want to ride a horse to view the field trial. The Pony Express Field Trial Club provided horse hay and all meals for participants and spectators. We would like to thank Mrs. Donna Gladstone and her niece, Wendy Hanson, for all their work in the kitchen, ensuring that no one leaves Smith Farms hungry! These ladies do an amazing job, and we appreciate them greatly. Thanks go out to Mr. Bill Westfall for utilizing his Can Am UTV and assisting with the dog wagon duties, along with Mr.



Larry Smith Heartland Open All-Age (front row, seated): Emeric Smith and Wren Smith. (Second row): Thomas Smith, Linda Smith, Tony King with Wild Covey Strikezone, Korry Rinehart with Lester's War Bird, Matt Cochran with I'm Gallant, Cindy Worsham, Gary Lester, and Howard Burbach (judge). (Back row): Tommy Smith, Bill Westfall, Wes Bowlby, Kirk Swanson (judge), Andy Daugherty, Steve Auxier, Allen Vincent, and Joe Worsham.

Kelly Kain and Mr. Wes Bowlby, who are close personal friends of Larry and Linda, and graciously assisted with driving the dog wagon on very short notice. These gentlemen stepped up to ensure that all dogs were accounted for and ready when needed.

Smith Farms has a quail program with habitat designed to sustain wild quail and pheasants. Plus, birds are released every day prior to the day's running, to provide every entry ample opportunity to find and produce game.

The judges for the Heartland Open All-Age Derby and the Larry Smith Heartland Open All-Age were Mr.



Open Derby (front row, seated): Emeric Smith and Wren Smith. (Second row): Thomas Smith, Linda Smith, Ashley Clark with Millers Inspiration, Matt Cochran with Westfalls Florida Line, Korry Rinehart with Lester's Thunder Road, and Cindy Worsham. (Back row): Steve Auxier, Tommy Smith, Kirk Swanson (judge), Gary Lester, Bill Westfall, Andy Daugherty, Joe Worsham, Tony King, Howard Burbach (judge), and Wes Bowlby.

Kirk Swanson of Red Oak, Iowa, and Mr. Howard Burbach of Pleasant Hill, Missouri. The Pony Express Field Trial Club is truly honored to have these fine gentlemen in the judging seats. The judges had many great performances with multiple pieces of bird work and good races. The judges noted they enjoyed the field trial, the grounds, the great performances, and the multiple bird contacts from the dogs, as well as the hospitality from the Pony Express Field Trial Club.

Heartland Open All-Age Derby

This year's derby contest was an exciting stake to watch with many solid performances. All this year's contenders have had a very successful derby season thus far, which made for an exciting stake all around. First place was credited to Millers Inspiration, handled by Mr. Gary Lester. This nice young pointer male proved that his future potential looks extremely bright, showcasing his speed/class on the ground with several huge all-age casts and multiple broke finds on birds. Second place was Westfalls Florida Line, handled by Mr. Andy Daugherty. This young dog did a nice job with several all-age casts and multiple finds. Third

place was Lesters Thunder Road, handled by Mr. Gary Lester. Thunder Road put on a nice performance with a nice, stylish finish to secure his spot in the Top 3.

Gentry, Mo., March 12

Judges: Howard Burbach and Kirk Samson

OPEN DERBY – 16 Pointers

1st-MILLERS INSPIRATION, F1724253, pointer male, by Miller's King Poast-Bryson's Dialing On Line. Al Bryson, owner; Gary Lester, handler.
2d-WESTFALLS FLORIDA LINE, F1720655, pointer male, by Westfall's Black Ice-Westfalls World Class. Ryan Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.
3d-LESTERS THUNDER ROAD, F1723244, pointer male, by Miller's King Poast-PHP Southern Storm. Gary Lester, owner and handler.

Larry Smith Heartland Open All-Age

Wild Covey Strikezone, handled

by Mr. Andy Daugherty and scouted by Mr. Ryan Westfall, placed first. Strikezone ran a nice forward all-age race and was credited with several finds. Strikezone was seen at time with a strong forward finish, showing his endurance and stamina!

Lester's War Bird, handled by Mr. Gary Lester and scouted by Mr. Korry Rinehart, placed second. War Bird started strong and was credited with multiple finds, showcasing his strong desire to find birds along with his all-age stamina/endurance.

I'm Gallant, handled by Mr. Allen Vincent and scouted by Mr. Andy Daugherty, came in third. I'm Gallant

had several nice finds with nice style and intensity. Gallant continued to push the front, showing his independence on several nice casts. He finished the hour strong to lock in his third-place performance.

**LARRY SMITH HEARTLAND OPEN ALL-AGE
[One-Hour Heats] – 29 Pointers**

1st-WILD COVEY STRIKEZONE, F1697326, pointer male, by Open Range Terminator-Open Range Ice Breaker. Ryan Westfall, owner; Andy Daugherty, handler.
2d-LESTER'S WAR BIRD, F1705485, pointer male, by Lester's Storm Surge-R W Susie Q. Tommy & Bonnie Hamilton, owners; Gary Lester, handler.
3d-I'M GALLANT, F1696254, pointer male, by Valiant-Double Swami Dexie. Jay McKenzie, owner; Allen Vincent, handler.

BEAVER VALLEY POINTER & SETTER CLUB

Annual Spring Trial

By Al Fazenbaker | Rochester, Pennsylvania | March 14, 2026

The Beaver Valley Pointer and Setter Club hosted its annual spring trial on the weekend of March 15 at its iconic grounds in Rochester Twp., Pennsylvania. The Beaver Valley club, founded in 1949, has run field trials continuously since its inception, and this weekend was no exception, with over 70 dogs coming to the line. The trial ran smoothly under the guidance of longtime club member Norm Meeder, who kept things moving in a timely manner. Special thanks to Kathleen Smith, who ran the kitchen and ensured plenty of food for participants and judges. On Saturday, Jim Winnen put on one of the best fish fries in recent history, with Lake Erie Walleye the main plate, plus all the fixings. Donna McMullen provided a delicious pot of chili, and Joe Ann Sampson made some fabulous desserts. Deb Fazenbaker provided her famous Beaver Valley blackberry dessert, and a crowd of folks gathered for an evening of friendships and tall tales.

Our judging staff was a group of dedicated bird dog enthusiasts, and their input was much appreciated as they evaluated the dogs in play. Special thanks to Dave Park, Jason Ketchel, Reese Carroll, Justin

Mason, Curtis Fry, and Brian Ralph for their time in the judging saddle. Thanks as well to Purina, a stalwart supporter of field trials in our region.

Open Puppy

Brace 1: Lucy (PF/Dye) and Gator (PF/Catanzarite). Both dogs showed a very classy and forward pattern, with a medium range. Gator reached out and showed very nicely on some edges to earn the second-place ribbon.

Brace 2: Stormy (ESF/Fazio) and Colleen (RSF/Fazenbaker). Stormy showed a wide, forward pattern, reaching out and touching many potential areas for bird contact. She showed a very classy pattern on the ground and was a pleasure to watch, and her efforts earned her the win in the stake. Colleen likewise showed a moderate and forward pattern, and the judges gave her an honorable mention for her efforts.

Brace 3: Ellie (PF/Hughes) and Remi (PF/Catanzarite). Remi was wide from the breakaway and was absent for a portion of the brace; she showed at last and settled into a nice forward pattern to finish. Ellie was classy but was close for some of the brace. She finished to the front.

Brace 4: Letti (PF/Lasica) and Tater (PF/Solomen). Lettie showed a wide, forward pattern and hit some edges, showing nicely to earn third place. Tater showed a nice forward race and finished to the front.

Brace 5: Aiden (RSM/Fazenbaker) and Jet (PM/Tippe). Aiden hit some edges very nicely, showing a moderate and forward race. Aiden was closer in application, but hunted very nicely.

Brace 6: Jean (PF/Bowser) was a close-to-moderate dog, but hunted hard and stayed busy and to the front to finish.

Open Derby

Brace 1: Bud (PM/Hughes) and Pork Chop (PM/Ralph). Bud scored a find at 12 down in the valley, displaying broke manners. Pork Chop pointed up the hill on the tree line and gave a merry chase on the flush. Both dogs showed a pleasing, moderate race, and Bud earned second place for his efforts. Pork Chop took third-place honors.

Brace 2: Blue (PM/Hughes) and Dixie (ESF/Fazio). Blue and Dixie both showed wide and forward races. Blue pointed on the top tree line, showing broke manners. Dixie

pointed at 12, with Blue honoring, but no bird was produced. Blue's efforts earned him the blue for the stake.

Brace 3: Charlie (PF/Hughes) and Cash (PM/Lasica). Charlie was found standing at the top of the hill in the tree line, showing broke manners. Cash pointed in the lower field at 12, with Charlie honoring. Both dogs finished wide and to the front.

Open Shooting Dog

Brace 1: Winston (ESM/Hughes) and Caroline (PF/Munden). Both dogs were hard out of the gate and showed a strong forward pattern. Caroline scored the only find of the brace at 6, with Winston backing. Winston was found standing at 16, but no bird was produced.

Brace 2: Jack (PM/Hughes) and Patch (PM/Bishop). Jack scored a find at 5 at the top of the hill; he scored again at 7 on the back of the course, with Patch honoring. Patch was found standing at 10, but was on the leash after pushing the bird.

Brace 3: Roxie (ESF/Fazio) and Blaze (PM/Hughes). Roxie was quick to find a bird, standing just to the right of the breakaway in the valley; she spun and took a small step on the flush as the bird flew directly over her head. Blaze scored his first find at 8 on the tree line, with Roxie honoring. He scored a nice lateral find in the backside woods at 18. Both dogs were strong and to the front at the finish.

Brace 4: Sadie (PF/Hughes) and Chuck (PM/Munden). Chuck was found standing at 5 on the tree line. He scored again at 11, on the backside of the course, with Sadie honoring. Chuck was found standing again in the lower field at 18, and his efforts earned him the blue ribbon.

Brace 5: River (RSM/Fazenbaker) and Penny (PF/Hughes). River scored his first find at the top of the hill and scored again at 16 on the backside of the course. He showed a strong forward pattern to earn second place in the stake.

Brace 6: Moose (PM/Hughes) and Lucky (BM/Jarosinski). Lucky scored the first find of the brace at 8, with Moose honoring. Lucky showed

some movement after the flush. Lucky scored again at 14, showing good manners. Moose pointed at the lower tree line at 18, with Lucky honoring. Both dogs showed a moderate pace.

Brace 7: Dusty (PF/Hughes) and Rufus (RSM/Fazenbaker). Rufus was found standing on the upper tree line at 8, with Dusty honoring, but no bird could be produced. He was found standing at 10 in the back of the course with Dusty again honoring, but again, no bird was able to be flushed. At time, Rufus could not be found, and the tracker was pulled. He was found standing a bird in the woods. Dusty had no birds.

Brace 8: Star (PF/Bishop) and Dash (PM/Hughes). Both dogs were strong out of the gate, but Star was on the leash at 8 after moving on a bird. Dash backed Star and then had her own bird at 18. She showed a powerful, forward race to finish.

Brace 9: Lennie (RSM/Fazenbaker) and Lino (ESM/Smith). Lennie pushed hard out of the gate and was found standing on the back side of the course. He was on the leash after going with the bird as it lifted wild. Lino scored a find at 16 but suffered two nonproductives. He showed a moderate ground race.

Brace 10: Miles (PM/Hughes) and Wayne (PM/Munden). Both dogs were strong and forward. Wayne scored a find at the top of the hill along the tree line; both dogs were found standing at 14 in the woods near the bottom of the course, and a divided find was called. Wayne was found standing at 18; Miles was on the leash after stealing point from his bracemate. Wayne finished strong and to the front.

Brace 11: Cricket (PF/Hughes) and Tess (ESF/Fazio). Cricket was found standing at 8 along the back of the course; Tess was found standing in the same area four minutes later. Cricket pointed in the wooded island, and again in the woods near the bottom. Tess pointed again in the woods, and again several minutes later. Both dogs showed a productive and forward race, with Tess garnering the third-place finish for her efforts.

Brace 12: Coach (PM/Hughes) and

Annie (ESF/Smith). Coach was on the leash after self-relocating on a bird on the back of the course. Annie scored her first find in the bottom to the right of the breakaway. She scored again at 13, 19, and in the woods at 23. She showed a pleasing, moderate forward race to finish.

Brace 13: Odis (PM/Hughes) scored his first find at 5, then suffered a nonproductive in the back of the course. He was found standing at 20 and finished to the front.

Amateur Puppy

Brace 1: Stormy (ESF/Fazio) and Tater (PF/Solomen). Stormy was wide, forward, and classy going. Her efforts earned her the blue. Tater was close behind, with a medium race and hunted hard to earn the second-place spot.

Brace 2: Jean (PF/Bowser) and Kasey (ESF/Drawl). Both dogs showed a medium hunting pattern.

Amateur Derby

Brace 1: Pork Chop (PM/Ralph) and Dixie (PF/Fazio). Dixie scored a nonproductive early but then scored a nice find on the top of the hill; she showed good composure in spite of some pressure from her bracemate. Pork Chop scored shortly after and showed good derby manners on his bird. Both dogs showed a strong forward pattern, and Dixie and Pork Chop earned first and third place.

Brace 2: Bud (PM/Butts) and Millie (PF/Solomen). Millie was found standing with Bud honoring, but no bird could be produced. Millie scored a find at the top of the feed strip; Bud scored a find at the lone tree. Both dogs finished strong and to the front, and Bud earned the second-place finish for his efforts.

Brace 3: Louie (PM/Ralph) and Joy (PF/Fazio). Louie scored a find at 4, showing derby manners on his find. Joy had no birds. Both dogs finished forward.

Amateur Shooting Dog

Brace 1: Sage (PF/McMillen) and Cece (PF/Munden). Cece was found pointing at 6 at the tree line; a bird was produced after a relocation effort. Sage scored her first find at

the lone tree on top of the hill at 8. Cece scored again at 11, and Sage was on the hook after failing to honor. Cece scored two additional finds on the back of the course and finished with a find in the open field.

Brace 2: Roxio (PF/Fazio) and Coach (PM/Munden). Coach produced a bird at 6 after a relocation. Roxio was found standing at the lone tree, with Coach honoring. A bird was produced with good manners by both. Coach pointed again at 13 but moved on the flush and was up. Roxio was likewise on the leash after going with a bird at 15.

Brace 3: Lenni (RSM/Fazenbaker) and Denver (PM/Park). Lenni was wide and forward from the breakaway; he was found standing at 11 on the backside. Denver was on the leash after moving on a bird. Lenni suffered a nonproductive at 15 in heavy cover but scored a find at 21; he finished strong to the front.

Brace 4: Lola (PF/Munden) and Zeke (PM/McMillen). Zeke scored the first find at 7 with Lola backing. He scored again at 15 with Lola honoring. Lola scored her first find at 17, with Zeke honoring. Both dogs finished to the front, and Zeke was awarded first-place honors for his efforts.

Brace 5: Wayne (PM/Munden) and Sonny (BRIT M/Klein). Wayne was found standing in heavy cover on the top of the course; a bird was produced after a vigorous relocation effort. Sonny scored in the back side, and both dogs finished the brace moving forward.

Brace 6: Bodie (PM/Lasica) and Rufus (RSM/Fazenbaker). Bodie pointed at the top of the course along the tree line at 6 and again at 10. Rufus was found standing in the upper tree line, but no bird could be produced after a relocation. He suffered another nonproductive in the woods along the back side. Both dogs finished to the front.

Brace 7: Georgia (PF/Munden) and Uno (ESM/Smith). Georgia suffered a nonproductive at the tree line but then scored two finds along the back of the course. She finished to the front. Uno scratched and did not

complete the brace.

Brace 8: Buddy (PM/Bowser) and Mile (PM/McMillen). Both of these dogs were wide and fast out of the gate. They were strong and forward and were found standing in the lower field at time. The bird lifted wild, and both dogs went with the bird.

Brace 9: Chuck (PM/Munden) and Annie (PF/Smith). Chuck scored a single in a feed strip along the top side of the course. He showed a strong and forward race to earn the No. 2 spot. Annie scratched and did not complete the brace.

Brace 10: Tess (PF/Fazio) and Walt (PM/Guides). Walt scored the first find at 8 at the lone tree on the upper course. Tess was observed under a bird, on the leash. Walt scored an additional find at 18, in the woods along the back side of the course. He showed a medium race and finished to the front.

Brace 11: Jack (PM/McMillen) and Nick (PM/Munden). Both dogs showed strong, forward races, reaching the limits of the course. Nick scored the first find in a feed strip near the oil well, with Jack honoring. Both dogs were found standing at 19 along the woods on the bottom side. Jack scored again at 22 in the woods, a nice lateral find. Nick suffered a nonproductive at 22. Both dogs showed a strong forward finish.

Brace 12: Moose (PM/Park) and River (RSM/Fazenbaker). River dug up his first find at 6, along the upper tree line. Moose scored his first find a few minutes later. Both dogs scored finds along the lower wood lines, and they finished to the front.

We invite you to join us this fall for our annual fall gathering. Come run a dog, have some great food, meet old friends, and make some new friends. See you then!

Rochester, Pa., March 14

Judges: Jason Ketchel and Dave Park
OPEN PUPPY

- 8 Pointers, 1 Setter, and 2 Irish Setters

1st-HITAIL PERFECT STORM, F1720599, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. Russell Fazio, owner and handler.
2d-BACKCOUNTRY GATOR, F1724440, pointer female, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Chris Catanzarite, owner; Reese Carroll, handler.

3d-OUTLAWS LET IT RIDE, F1724441, pointer female, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Nick Lasica, owner and handler.

OPEN DERBY - 5 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-CERULEAN STONE, F1714642, pointer male, by Hifives Rolling Stone-Speed Dialing Kaia. Tim & Sharon Perschke, owners; Mark Hughes, handler.

2d-HEARTBREAKER BUD LIGHT, F1710620, pointer male, by Toth's Tornado Reloaded-Grouse Trails Warrior Cat. Tom Butts, owner; Mark Hughes, handler.

3d-SELDOM REST PORK CHOP, F1712849, pointer male, by Ralph's Chasehill Rip-Grouse Trails Firestorm. Brian & Randy Ralph, owners; Brian Ralph, handler.

Judges: Curtis Fry and Brian Ralph

OPEN SHOOTING DOG - 16 Pointers, 5 Setters, 1 Brittany, and 3 Irish Setters

1st-WILDLAND HIDE THE WINE, F1697105, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Beaver Meadow Rose. Eric Munden, owner and handler.

2d-CONNEAUT CREEK SCENIC RIVER, F1693481, setter male, by Cedar Creek Talon-Cedar Creek's Skyline Belle. Al Fazenbaker & Ed Liermann, owners; Al Fazenbaker, handler.

3d-HYPOINTE MONARCH EXPRESS, F1704239, pointer female, by Springflow's Backcountry P-Apple Annie's Sweet Delight. Russ Fazio, owner and handler.

Judges: Reese Carroll and Jason Ketchel

AMATEUR PUPPY - 2 Pointers and 2 Setters

1st-HITAIL PERFECT STORM, F1720599, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. Russell Fazio, owner and handler.

2d-LET HER RIP TATER CHIP, F1718083, pointer female, by Bryan's Damascus Jack-Nelson's Jazz. Jesse Burkert, owner; Jeana Sampson, handler.

Judges: Jason Ketchel and Dave Park

AMATEUR DERBY - 6 Pointers

1st-HITAIL ROLLING DIXIE, F1714644, pointer female, by Hifives Rolling Stone-Speed Dialing Kaia. Russ Fazio, owner and handler.

2d-HEARTBREAKER BUD LIGHT, F1710620, pointer male by Toth's Tornado Reloaded-Grouse Trails Warrior Cat. Tom Butts, owner and handler.

3d-SELDOM REST PORK CHOP, F1712849, pointer male, by Ralph's Chasehill Rip-Grouse Trails Firestorm. Brian & Randy Ralph, owners; Brian Ralph, handler.

Judges: Curtis Fry and Justin Mason

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG - 19 Pointers,

1 Setter, 1 Brittany, and 3 Irish Setters

1st-DOUBLE DEUCE ZEKE, F1673940, pointer male, by Double Deuce Peter-Funseeker's Holiday. Douglas E. McMillen Jr., owner and handler.

2d-WILDLAND HIDE THE WINE, F1697105, pointer male, by Double Deuce Zeke-Beaver Meadow Rose. Eric Munden, owner and handler.

3d-WILDLAND NICK OF TIME, F1705670, pointer male, by Miller's Heat Seeker-Wildland Warrior. Eric & Krysta Munden, owners; Eric Munden, handler.

GROUSE & WOODCOCK TRIALS — A HELPING HAND

By David Fletcher

Answering my phone on April 6, it was my good fortune to be talking to longtime friend Billy McFadden, who needed a phone number of a Michigan field trialer. I had not talked to him or seen him personally in over 30 years. Calling him back with the phone number he needed, I mentioned the many years we had not communicated and suggested we get together at a trial and renew our friendship. Our initial meeting, years ago, was at the Gladwin Field Trial Area near Prudenville, Michigan, where Billy had brought his dogs to compete in the Lake States Grouse Championship. I was president of the Lake States Club at the time. We had a great association during that era, then our paths failed to cross again for many years.


Billy called a day or two later after his first call, and invited me to attend a Grouse and Woodcock trial near Ellenberg, New York—the Braeval Club wild bird trial staged on seven, 45-minute courses in superb Grouse and Woodcock cover in the far northeast corner of the State of New York. We traveled together, along with Billy's friend Mike Brown and three dogs, landing at Prattsburgh, New York, on the shores of Lake Champlain. On we went and stayed at the beautiful home of Debbie and Bruce Bennett on the shores of Lake Chateaugay. We began the Friday morning braces at the Stone Creek course with Bruce Bennett driving me in the McFadden electric four-wheeler at the rear of the walking gallery. There were 28 entries in the trial, all amateur owners and handlers, and officials gave me the bird count for two days: 44 Grouse and four Woodcock. The courses are full of regrowth aspen, poplar, and other Grouse livelihood cover species; the thick regrowth a haven for hens with their broods feeding on the insect life, and with thick leafy cover overhead to foil predators. The soil is very fertile, lots of worms for the Woodcock, and for the Grouse, winter-time budding on the mature aspen is almost an essential.

A history of the trial site, about 900 acres at present, goes back to the mid-80's. When Bruce Bennett purchased about 200 acres for his bird hunting, the cover in his native Massachusetts was not near the caliber of the Ellenberg area. Bruce added land as the years passed, bringing his total to nearly 1,200 acres. He improved the site with walking trails and forest management help from the Ruffed Grouse Society and the State of New York, and a cutting program of mature aspen was put into effect. A trail route cutting program is now happening to allow vehicles to follow the running. At present, judges walk, but the future may make it necessary to transport judges instead of having them walk. Suitable judges' horses are hard to find and expensive.

With a suggestion from his wife, Debbie, Bruce Bennett put some of his land up for sale in 2024 and advertised it.

Billy McFadden noticed the ad, and his McFadden Trust was the buyer. The use of the land was now for Grouse and Woodcock trials. The area has already hosted very successful field trials, the Braeval Amateur walking Classic has been staged twice, and the Grand National Grouse and Woodcock Invitational Championship once, all with great success and plenty of birds. There may have been others that this scribe is not aware of. The bird dog handlers competing here are avid, very keen about the grounds, and the future looks bright for this organization and this venue. The key figure managing this event is Gregor McCluskey of Connecticut. He has secured many sponsors, raised the necessary funds to make the future secure for the club, and runs raffles, stages a great Saturday night banquet with awards and prizes, and the event is simply a great place to be. Bruce Bennett's structure (he calls it his barn) at the start of Course 1 serves as headquarters and has a dining area for lunches.

During the many years I served as an American Field staff reporter, I visited a lot of major field trials. Several privately owned superb grounds stood out. Jimmy Hinton's Sedgfields near Selma, Alabama, in excess of 10,000 acres, was purchased by Jimmy Hinton for the sole purpose of providing a continuing site for the National Free-For-All, a three-hour Championship with a great history. Henry Berol of Waynesboro, Georgia, provided Di-Lane Plantation for a host of Georgia Championships, both All-Age and Shooting Dog. The McFarland/Ingersoll Ranch near Claremore, Oklahoma, owned by Win and Kay Ingersoll, hosted many Championships and the American Field Quail Futurity for many years, another privately owned site of great excellence. I am sure that in this article I will omit many other privately owned field trial sites that should surely be mentioned. I do need to mention one more. Dr. Tom Flanagan and family's Grouse Ridge Farms have hosted both the Grand National Grouse Championship and the Grand National Grouse Invitational Championship, as well as other wild bird titular stakes.

Thanks and acknowledgment of what these generous landowners have done to enhance field trials should be recognized. What my longtime friend Billy McFadden has done near Ellenberg, New York, is a major move to create grounds for wild bird Grouse and Woodcock trials in the Northeast, and I commend him hugely for his actions. The grounds are forested, bird populations are doing extremely well, and the site management is directed by wildlife and forestry professionals. You have made the future bright for the Grouse and Woodcock people, Billy. I applaud. 

CENTRAL PRAIRIE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Amateur Trials

By Dan Crunk | McLeansboro, Illinois | March 14, 2026

On March 14, 2026, the Central Prairie Field Trial Club held an amateur field trial at Hamilton County Fish and Wildlife Area. Many refer to the area as Dolan Lake.

Our club would like to thank the crew at Dolan for their support of our trials. We left this facility many years ago because the course was so overgrown that it was impossible to hold a trial there. The crew at Dolan has done an unbelievable job clearing and burning so we can host trials at this facility.

My wife, Jae, prepared Sloppy Joes for lunch and homemade cookies. This was a great lunch. We want to thank our judges, Scott Kermicle and Jim Ashby, for working so hard watching each dog in every brace, and your scribe, Dan Crunk. Good grounds, good judges, good lunches, and good weather make for a really good trial.

Butch Spelbring Amateur Shooting Dog

Sixteen dogs were drawn for this stake, set in honor of our longtime friend and fellow competitor, Butch Spelbring. In the fall, scenting conditions were really bad, but this day they were very good. The judges had eight or nine dogs clean, giving them several to consider. In the 7th brace, Jack Glover brought "Flint," a male setter, to the line, and Don Heisner brought "Abby," his young female setter, to the start line. Flint finished the brace with four finds and one back to earn first place. Heisner's Abby had three finds and two backs to earn her second. Judges and spectators felt this was the best brace of the day. Third place went to "Shooter," Ken DeLong's male Brittany, with two finds and a big race.

Amateur Derby

The second brace of the Derby

stake had the first and second-place dogs. The first-place dog was "Jack," a pointer male owned by Dan Crunk. Jack had a broke find and a big forward race. Second place was awarded to "Preacher," a pointer male owned by Brian Stockrahm. Preacher also had one broke find and a strong forward race. Third in this strong derby stake went to Declan Wheat with "Scout," a pointer male. Scout had one find and a strong race.

Amateur Gun Dog

John Landolina won the gun dog competition with "Diamond," his German shorthair female. Diamond had three finds and a strong hunting race. The second-place dog, coming to us from Wisconsin, was "Hank," a pointer male owned by Jack McCarty. Third place went to "Maddie," a pointer female for Brian Stockrahm.

Amateur Puppy

Six entries were drawn in the Puppy stake. "Joker," a pointer male for Brian Stockrahm, was the first-place puppy. Chris Grandolfo's setter male, "Charlie," was second with two bird contacts.

What a wonderful day! Your scribe got to be at a field trial with good friends and bird dogs. Does it get any better?

McLeansboro, Ill., March 14

Judges: Jim Ashby and Scott Kermicle

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 16 Entries

1st-GLOVER'S FLINTSTONE, F1691597, setter male, by Islander-Kodiak Island Bird Dog. Jack Glover, owner and handler.

2d-BEAUCOUP CREEK ABBY, F1704344, setter female, by Beaucoup Creek Buck-Glover's Pepper Shaker. Don Heisner, 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.

NBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 8 Pointers

1st-JD'S HAPPY JACK, F1712298, pointer male, by Phillips Linebacker-Bluemounds White Reign. Dan Crunk, owner and handler.

2d-PB JOHN THE BAPTIST, F1708723, pointer male, by Small's White Charger-Blue Mound's Mainstreet. Brian Stockrahm, owner and handler.

3d-WHEAT'S SCOUT, F1717649, pointer male, by I'm Gallant-Huber's Ice Queen. Declan Wheat & Frank Christie, owners; Declan Wheat, handler.

Judges: Dan Crunk and Scott Kermicle

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 6 Entries

1st-NO LIMITS LITTLE SLICK, F1702850, German Shorthair female, by Right Stuff's Rock N Roll-Outbak's Attitude. John & Myah Landolina, owners; John Landolina, handler.

2d-DUTCHS HUGHEY HOLLOW HANK, F1690233, pointer male, by Dunn's Tried'n True-The White Pearl. Scott C. Sedivy, owner and handler.

3d-PB HARD DRIVING MATTIE, F1705951, pointer female, by Shorty Gotta Skeet-Peregrine's Jersey Girl. Brian Stockrahm, owner and handler.

Judges: Jim Ashby and Scott Kermicle

NBHA AMATEUR PUPPY

– 3 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-JOKERS WILD, F1720600, pointer male, by Small's White Drifter-Blue Mounds Ransom Fee. Brian Stockrahm, owner and handler.

2d-CAPT CHARLIE EVERYWHERE, unreg., setter male, by Wynona's Nickleback George-Wynona's Davinci Abby. Chris Grandolfo, owner and handler.

On Sunday, March 15, 2026, the Central Prairie Field Trial Club held its second amateur field trial of the weekend. FTCl and the NBHA now recognize and count points from multiple trials from the same club. Taking this into account, the club has elected to host two amateur trials on the same weekend. This also allows amateur handlers and owners to come to a location for two opportunities to earn points.

The weather for the day was very good. The impending threat of a serious storm sent some handlers home early. The group from Wisconsin stayed to the end, and I am sure they hit bad weather before they left Illinois on their way home. Lunch again today was prepared by your scribe's wife, Jae Crunk. We ate quickly and returned to running dogs.

Judges for the day were Brad Hire, Scott Kermicle, Rick Stanford, and Dan Crunk. The judges remarked that they were able to judge many

really nice dogs.

Butch Spelbring Memorial

Amateur Shooting Dog

Fourteen dogs were drawn for this stake. Again, on Sunday, this stake had several dogs that were clean for their 30-minute brace. First place in the Shooting Dog stake went to "Diamond," a female German Shorthair owned by John Landolina. Diamond finished the brace with five finds, a forward searching race. Second place went to "Trigg," a pointer male for Stevan Fuess. Trigg had two finds and one back. This scribe is very happy for Stevan and Trigg, as he finished Trigg both days. Third place went to Ken DeLong's pointer male, "Justice." Justice had two nice finds for this brace.

Amateur Derby

On Sunday, the top two dogs switched places, with "Preacher" for Brian Stockrahm taking first place. Preacher had one find and a strong race to the front, and always hunting areas that should hold birds. Second went to "Jack," a pointer male for Dan Crunk. Jack had an extended absence but was found on point; absent at time, but was found on

point. Third place went to Rebecca Garcia with her pointer female, "Emma." This was the first time Rebecca had trialed with us, and she brought a very nice pointer female that finished with one find and a very nice race.

Amateur Gun Dog

"Maddie," a pointer female for Brian Stockrahm, finished first with one find and a forward race, always hunting for game. Second place went to "Buddha," a setter male for Jack McCarty. Buddha hunted hard for his 30 minutes with an extended absence.

Amateur Puppy

Only had one puppy finish, and that was "Joker," a pointer male for Brian Stockrahm. Joker had a big forward race, always to the front.

Brian Stockrahm had a very big day. His dogs won the Derby, the Gun Dog, and the Puppy. Also, Brian approached the Central Prairie members and asked to be part of this club. That request met with an enthusiastic heck yes. The impending weather kind of changed the trial slightly, but all in all, we had a really good day with good dogs

and really good people. We need to thank our judges and Jae Crunk for preparing lunch. See everyone in the fall.

McLeansboro, Ill., March 15

Judges: Brad Hire and Scott Kermicle

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 14 Entries

1st-NO LIMITS LITTLE SLICK, F1702850, German Shorthair female, by Right Stuff's Rock N Roll-Outbak's Attitude. John & Myah Landolina, owners; John Landolina, handler.

2d-ELM HILLS TO THE TRIGGER, F1701516, pointer male, by Redhawk's Clyde-Rolling Hill's Alice. Steve Fuess, owner and handler.

3d-FAITH'S MAXIMUM JUSTICE, F1660276, pointer male, by Nelson's Van Max-Wild Apple Faith. Kenric J. DeLong, owner and handler.

NBHA AMATEUR DERBY – 8 Pointers

1st-PB JOHN THE BAPTIST, F1708723, pointer male, by Small's White Charge-Blue Mound's Mainstreet. Brian Stockrahm, owner and handler.

2d-JD'S HAPPY JACK, F1712298, pointer male, by Phillips Linebacker-Bluemound's White Reign. Dan Crunk, owner and handler.

Judges: Dan Crunk and Rick Stanford

NBHA AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG – 6 Entries

1st-PB HARD DRIVING MATTIE, F1705951, pointer female, by Shorty Gotta Skeet-Peregrine's Jersey Girl. Brian Stockrahm, owner and handler.

2d-MARKEY BLUFF BUDDHA, F1721632, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Grouse River Woodcock Annie. Jeremy Scheel & Ann Ricci, owners; Jeremy Scheel, handler.

NBHA AMATEUR PUPPY

– 3 Pointers and 3 Setters

1st-PB JOKERS WILD, F1720600, pointer male, by Small's White Driter-Blue Mounds Ransom Fee. Brian Stockrahm, owner and handler.



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KANSAS RED SETTER FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Kansas Open Derby and Open Puppy Classics

By Don Beauchamp | Dexter, Kansas | March 17, 2026



Kansas Open Derby Classic (front row): Brian Kennedy with Hackberry's Callin The Shots, Scott Hadley with High Speed Come Apart, and Ron Stearns with High Expectations. (Second row): Bud Moore, Bob Lais, Chuck Maxson, Scott Henning (judge), Justin Crook, Gregg Gibson, Nathan Berendzen (judge), Don Beauchamp, and Frank Schoenborn.

The Kansas Red Setter Field Trial Club, in conjunction with the Wichita Bird Dog Club, hosted the annual Kansas Open Derby and Open Puppy Classics trial commencing on March 27, 2026, on the Radcliff Ranch at Dexter, Kansas. This was the 50th anniversary of the Kansas Red Setter Club and Don Beauchamp hosting trials on this 12,000-acre Ranch in the Southern Flint Hills of Kansas.

We would first like to thank our generous landowner, Mrs. Paula Radcliff, for allowing us to use these grounds for the past 50 years. Because the State of Kansas does not allow the use of public grounds for field trials, without landowners such as Paula Radcliff, we would not be able to hold our trials.

Thanks to our judges Ed Berendzen and Nathan Berendzen, Klaus Schmidt, Scott Henning, Frank Schoenborn, and Greg Gibson for their time in the saddle and their well-received placements. In addition, we thank Linda Beauchamp for preparing the lunches and the Saturday night banquet with the help of Frank Schoenborn, who prepared the pulled pork, sausage, and beans. Also, thanks to the people who

helped with the gates and grounds, necessities. Finally, thanks to Nutri-Source for their sponsorship and bags of dog food for each winner.

The All-Age was the first day of running on Friday, with temperatures at 43 degrees and an extraordinarily strong north wind, which affected scenting conditions. First place was earned by Rayray's Juke Joint, a pointer male owned and handled by Lynn Oxendine of Neosho, Missouri, who had a beautiful forward race but no birds. Second place was Nickajack Doc Holliday, a pointer male owned and handled by Mike Rost of Malcolm, Nebraska. "Jack" had a nice forward race and a wild covey find. Third place went to Fast Money, a female pointer owned by Bud and Patty Moore of Toronto, Kansas. "Molly" went birdless but had a good race.

The Open Derby Classic began Friday afternoon, about 2 p.m., with the temperature at 60 degrees and the strong north wind. Scott Henning, who judged the All-Age with Klaus Schmidt, also judged the Derby Classic along with Nathan Berendzen.

Third place in the Derby Classic was High Expectations, a pointer

female owned and handled by Scott Hadley of Sayre, Oklahoma, who also took second place with High Speed Come Apart, a pointer male. First place was won by Hackberry's Callin The Shots, a pointer male owned and handled by Brian Kennedy of Shelby, Iowa. Both the first and second-placed dogs were braced together in the last brace of the day.

Saturday morning began with a temperature of 39 degrees and a mild southerly wind. It was unbelievable how the scenting conditions changed from Friday to Saturday. The Shooting Dog began Saturday morning, and every brace of shooting dogs had contact with wild coveys. Course 1 had four or five wild coveys, Course 2 had three, and I believe Course 3 had three. Nathan Berendzen continued judging the Shooting Dog along with his father, Ed Berendzen. Third place was Chukarhill On The Rocks, an Irish Setter male, owned by Tyler Hosler and handled by Kelli Aitken Thompson. "Rock" had a good race with one wild covey find. Second place running in the last brace Sunday morning was Fast Money, a pointer female owned and handled by Bud and Patty Moore. Fast Money had a nice forward race and one covey find. Wild Dial Rose, a pointer female, was braced in the fourth brace with "Rock," the third-place winner. "Rose" is owned and handled by Tom Lovett of Vinita, Oklahoma. She had a very nice forward race and handled a wild covey.

The Open Puppy Classic was run on Sunday, beginning around noon, with a temperature of 64 degrees. Gregg Gibson of Goddard, Kansas, and Frank Schoenborn of Wichita, Kansas, judged this event. All three placements were based on ground races. Third place went to Guard Rail's Cowboy Mickey, a pointer female owned and handled by Mike Taylor of Sallisaw, Oklahoma. Second place was Quantonas



Kansas Open Puppy (front row): Quantonas Cast Away with Clayton Thompson, Quantonas Fool Me Twice with Kelli Aitken, and Guard Rail's Cowboy Mickey with Mike Taylor. (Second row): Frank Schoenborn, Justin and Nicole Hildebrand, Gregg Gibson, Bud Moore, Don Beauchamp, and Chuck Maxson.



Open Shooting Dog (front row): Justin Crook with Wild Dial Rose, Bud Moore with Fast Money, and Kelli Aitken with Chukarhill On The Rocks. (Second row): Tom Lovett, Justin and Nicole Hildebrand, Chuck Maxson, Don Beauchamp, Gregg Gibson, Mike Rost, Ed Berendzen, Frank Schoenborn (judge), Nathan Berendzen (judge), and Clayton Thompson.



Open All-Age (front row): Bob Davidson with Rayray's Juke Joint, Mike Rost with Nickajack Doc Holliday, and Bud Moore with Fast Money. (Second row): Lynn Oxendine, Chuck Maxson, Brian Kennedy, Justin Crook, Gregg Gibson, Don Beauchamp, and Frank Schoenborn.

Fool Me Twice, a pointer female owned and handled by Kelli Aitken Thompson of Box Elder, South Dakota. The first-place winner was Quantonas Cast Away, a pointer male owned and handled by Clayton Thompson of Box Elder, South Dakota.

This turned out to be a very pleasing event with owners and handlers from South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Kansas. Thank you all for your support. A real surprise was the increase in the wild bird population. We have not seen this many wild quail coveys in several years. Hope everyone had an enjoyable time, and hope to see you all again next time. Thanks for your entries and company.

Dexter, Kan., March 17

Judges: Scott Henning and Klaus Schmidt

OPEN ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

– 8 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-RAYRAY'S JUKE JOINT, F1700806, pointer male, by Touch's Grey Street-Touch's Wimbledon. Lynn Oxendine, owner and handler.

2d-NICKAJACK DOC HOLLIDAY, F1693508, pointer male, by Touch's Smooth Rider-Cocklebur Stripper Candie. Mike Rost, owner and handler.

3d-FAST MONEY, F1681232, pointer female, by Stash The Cash-Lester's Speed Queen. C. W. & Patty Moore, owners; C. W. Moore, handler.

Judges: Nathan Berendzen and Scott Henning

KANSAS OPEN DERBY CLASSIC – 10 Pointers

1st-HACKBERRY'S CALLIN THE SHOTS, F1709761, pointer female, by Elhew Sinbad-Hackberry's Addie Blackhawk. Brian Kennedy, owner and handler.

2d-HIGH SPEED COME APART, F1727403, pointer male, by Elhew Sinbad-Aim High Elhew Hadley. Scott Hadley, owner and handler.

3d-HIGH EXPECTATIONS, F1712180, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Hadley's Honky Tonk Song. Scott Hadley, owner and handler.

Judges: Ed Berendzen and Nathan Berendzen

OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

– 11 Pointers, 4 Setters, and 1 Vizsla

1st-WILD DIAL ROSE, F1706745, pointer female, by Texas Cool-Baby's On Speed Dial. Tom Lovett, owner and handler.

2d-FAST MONEY, F1681232, pointer female, by Stash The Cash-Lester's Speed Queen. C. W. & Patty Moore, owners; C. W. Moore, handler.

3d-CHUKARHILL ON THE ROCKS, F1709886, Irish setter male, by Quantonas Rolling Rock-Chukarhill No News. Tyler Hosler, owner; Kelli Aitken Thompson, handler.

Judges: Greg Gibson and Frank Schoenborn

KANSAS OPEN PUPPY CLASSIC

– 7 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-QUANTONAS CAST AWAY, F1722208, pointer male, by Cheyenne Jack-Heat Seeker's Smoking Gun. Clayton Thompson, owner and handler.

2d-QUANTONAS FOOL ME TWICE, F1722213, pointer female, by Cheyenne Jack-Heat Seeker's Smoking Gun. Kellie Aitken Thompson, owner and handler.

3d-GUARD RAIL'S COWBOY MICKEY, F1722650, pointer male, by Guard Rail Platinum Arrow-Guard Rail Rhodium Arrow. Mike Taylor, owner and handler.

NATIONAL AMATEUR PHEASANT CHAMPIONSHIP

Erin's Southern Comfort Named Champion; Lam's Prime Choice, Runner-up

By Tommy Smith | Gentry, Missouri | March 21, 2026

The Pony Express Field Trial Club members came together to host the National Amateur Pheasant Championship for the third consecutive year! This prestigious trial is the second-oldest amateur field trial championship. This year's event was not only highlighted by amazing performances but also maintained the camaraderie that everyone looks forward to each spring. The club felt honored to host an event of this magnitude. Larry and Linda Smith have created an amazing field trial venue with over 2500+ acres of rolling cropland hills,

long tree lines, waterways, CRP strips, and over 43 ponds! This layout consists of four consecutive one-hour courses to showcase the all-age performance. Smith Farms has a quail program with habitat designed to sustain wild quail and pheasants, plus birds are released every day prior to the day's running to ensure every entry has ample opportunity to find game. Larry's vision and attention to detail helped him achieve his goal of creating an "experience" of hospitality for the field trialer and spectator alike. He would commonly say, "What is best for field trialing!"

Smith Farms was designed with ample covered horse corrals, 55 dog kennels, a comfortable clubhouse, complimentary meals and hay for all, a Polaris Ranger UTV for spectators/owners, and onsite lodging for judges.

We would like to thank Mrs. Linda Smith in advance for the opportunity to host this event on her beautiful farm! We would also like to thank all the handlers and sponsors for their support of this National event; without their support, this event would not be possible. Sponsors for this year's event included Purina Pro Plan and



National Amateur Pheasant Championship (front row, seated): Emerie Smith, Aisling Derrig, Rosie Derrig, Wren Smith, and Nuala Derrig. **(Back row):** Linda Smith, Tommy Smith, Jeff Wallace (judge), Brian Sheehan with Erin's Southern Comfort, Sean Patrick Derrig, Jon Lam with Lam's Prime Choice, Bruce Bryant (judge), Steve Auxier, and Thomas Smith.

Garmin, with additional sponsors including Haggis Saddles, The Saddle Guy, Gun Dog Supply, US Rider, Good Life Fitness, Wild Covey Kennels, Big Gun Kennels, Conkey's Outdoors, and the Escape Ranch. For this event, we held several raffles and giveaways. We would like to thank the Escape Ranch, Mr. Orrin Ingram, Mr. Nathan Phillips, and Mr. Mike Small for the donation of Stud Service to Phillips Linebacker, as well as Vincent Kennels and Mr. Allen Vincent for his donation of one month to his puppy program. The Escape Ranch and Mr. Geoff Beane also sponsored a catered Beef Tenderloin meal on Saturday evening, courtesy of Ms. Charmaine Hughes of Denver, Missouri. We enjoyed excellent beef filet, 7-layer salad, seasoned green beans, broiled mushrooms, and mashed potatoes, topped off with a wonderful, rich chocolate cake for dessert!

Special thanks go to Donna Gladstone and Wendy Hanson for keeping everyone fed with breakfast, lunch, and dinner each day of the event. Bruce Huffman and Eddie Berendzen kept up with the dog wagon to ensure smooth transitions and hot coffee and snacks between braces, too!

The judges for the championship were Mr. Bruce Bryant of Silver City, Iowa, and Mr. Jeff Wallace of Knoxville, Iowa. The Pony Express Field Trial Club is truly honored

to have these fine gentlemen in the judging seats. The judges noted a great trial with many dogs finding birds. They also noted the sportsmanship from everyone helping each other turn a dog loose and always being willing to help—a great trial with great camaraderie from all.

The Winners

Champion: Erin's Southern Comfort (Mr. Sean Patrick Derrig)

Runner-up Champion: Lam's Prime Choice (Mr. Jon Lam)

Erin's Southern Comfort, handled by Mr. Sean Patrick Derrig, started the ninth brace of the stake on the west side of Center Farm Road at the Eagle's Nest Draw. He started his race with his first find coming at 4 on a quail found in the draw south of Andy's crossing. His handler flushed a single bird, Southern Comfort, displaying exceptional manners. His next find came just north of Killam's Corner. The dog was found by the gallery, buried way down into a ravine. Derrig joined his dog near the bottom of the ravine and produced a pheasant. The dog was released to the front and made a huge cast down the center farm road fenceline to the north. After a brief absence, Southern Comfort was shown to the front and returned to his handler right before the Ol' Tree Bridge. Southern Comfort was released into No Man's Land and

was found standing to the front along the 520 fenceline where the handler produced a covey of quail. Sean then took a gamble and opted to attempt the "Big Swing," a mile-long fenceline encompassing half of an entire 160-acre section, a move that separates the men from the boys. Southern Comfort obliged, heading directly into the wind, made the huge move, and was pointed out by the handler way up along a row of evergreen trees. He finished the move only to be found standing to the front of his handler. This find produced another pheasant. Southern Comfort's fifth find, a single quail, came just north of the Cowboy Shack along Center Farm Road. He was released only to have three more separate pheasant finds east of the Cowboy Shack. With time winding down and trying to finish strong, Sean opted to place the dog on the opposite side of the road and hit the whistle. Southern Comfort was seen at time, making a large cast down to the South end of the property on the east side of Center Farm Road, thus concluding his exciting run and securing his second consecutive National Amateur Pheasant Championship with an impressive eight finds.

Lam's Prime Choice, handled by Mr. Jon Lam, began his brace on Sunday morning. The wind was howling from the southeast at around 25-30 mph, putting the odds against the team. Prime Choice made a large cast to the west from breakaway. After a brief absence, Prime Choice was found to the front near the Tornado Shelter. His handler placed the dog on the east fence line to ensure the dog would be downwind to stay in contact with his handler. He made a big move to the east after Broken Bit Pond up and around 30-minute pond, handling well and staying always connected to his handler. His first find came around 32 on a pheasant near the Honeymoon Shack. Prime Choice displayed excellent manners during and after the flush. He was released along the South Timber line, headed back west towards the "W" tree. He was found standing near the "W" tree, and a bird was produced. After making a large cast around the North 40, Lam

called Point when he noticed his dog standing along the Center Farm Road fence. As Jon dismounted his horse, a hen pheasant was seen flushing from the brush pile. Prime Choice was released to the front where his tough, hour-long assignment would conclude.

Gentry, Mo., March 21
 Judges: Bruce Bryant and Jeff Wallace
**NATIONAL AMATEUR PHEASANT
 CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 21 Pointers**
Winner-ERIN'S SOUTHERN COMFORT, F1693833, pointer male, by Erin's Lone Star Law-Erin's Irresistible Jane. Sean Derrig & Sean Patrick Derrig, owners; Sean Patrick Derrig, handler.
Runner-Up-LAM'S PRIME CHOICE, F1696981, pointer male, by Game Warden-Wiggins White Angel. Jon Lam, owner and handler.

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GREENFIELDS FIELD TRIAL CLUB

The Virginia Classic

By Tommy Stargell | Scottsville, Virginia | March 26, 2026

Our Spring trial is always a special event, and this year was no different. We met with adversity as both our regular bird planter extraordinaire, Darryl Miller, and our dog wagon driver extraordinaire, Mike Winchester, had to beg off. Mike was sick, and Darryl was attending a funeral. Believe me, we gained a new appreciation for their talents! We utilized Til Hankley and me at the bird planting, and Doug Mays and Kirk Regensburg at the dog wagon. A deep and hearty thank you to everyone who filled in.

Julie Richards performed her kitchen magic as usual and prepared suppers and lunches far above normal field trial fare. Our Saturday night supper was sponsored, as our ad advertised, by our stalwart Calico Kennels crew. We can always count on them to fulfill their promises and commitments, a rarity nowadays. They are true friends to this trial. Tiffany, Alex, Frank, Brayden, and April, it is a pleasure to have you and your dogs in our trial always. We thank you.

Where would we ever be without Donna McGuire? Answer, far less complete in quality, that's for sure! If there is a job that needs doing, she will have it done in an instant, and it will be done better than you would have. Before, during, and after our trials, she is always busy and always with a smile. Lordy, Donna, you are a jewel.

Our judges are highly experienced and top-notch. Kirk Regensburg stopped by to have me as a partner in the All-Age. Til Hankley and Steve



Amateur Shooting Dog: Calico's Country Strong with Brayden Smith, Nomads Uncle Sam with Chloe Lewis, and Southbound Hotdog Homer with Alex Smith, joined by participants.

Mills handled the Derby, and you know that was done right. Al Dahl and Steve Mills ran the Shooting Dog show in fine fashion. There is absolutely no better field trial judge in America than Steve Mills, and you can take that to the bank, NONE. If your dog is judged by Steve, you have been analyzed by the absolute best. And we got him in our Club; how lucky can we be?

John and Vivian Milton are our wonderful hosts. Nobody knows more about the mechanics of a first-rate trial than these two, so every year we strive to do our best to live up to their standards. We try hard. They are quality folks. We thank them with all our hearts.

Purina is our trial sponsor. We thank them and Greg Blair. They are

a professional team and are matched by no other.

This trial started with the Amateur All-Age on Friday morning. Birds were extremely hard to come by. Running in the second brace, however, Al Dahl's Buffalo Junction Klaus showed us it could be done. We had several dogs in this stake with ample and spirited race, but only one who coupled race with bird work. He successfully found Mr. Bob and pointed well off from him along the Lone Oak Farm fence line. He won it in nice fashion.

With 100% chance of rain forecast, we had a hasty lunch and went back to the fray. Our winner came from the first brace with Sadie Ridge Rip for Grayson Francis. This well-made, handsome male ran the course about



Amateur Shooting Dog Judges: Al Dahl and Steve Mills.

as well as any derby has ever run it. He finished going into the airport field (most derbies finish considerably before this). His bird work was finished and pretty.

Second was the youthful Buffalo Jct Fly. She was fast and light on her feet. She coupled her fleetness with a good nose and bird contacts. She indeed showed potential.

Just as we finished, a few raindrops were beginning to fall. These were soon replaced by a lot of raindrops falling very close together. We adjourned to Miss Julie's chicken et al. supper, which, although advertised differently, was put on by the Greenfields Field Trial Club.

It rained most of the night, and the temperature dropped. Saturday was cold, but the dogs found birds, and that made it worthwhile. Our winner came in the fourth brace with Calico's Country Strong putting on a clinic. In reality, nobody came close

to her performance. Alex and Tiffany were pretty much just along for the ride and to flush. Her four finds were crisp, clean, and beautiful. Her race was animated and flawless. Her win, going away.

Nomads Uncle Sam was second, and Southbound Hotdog Homer was third. Sam was stronger on the ground. Both had two finds and one unproductive.

A goodly number of folks joined us for supper provided by Calico Kennels (Alex, Tiffany, and Brayden Smith, plus Frank and April Henderson). This terrific meal was cooked and served by Julie Richards. Thank you, Calico. It's nice to have friends you can count on.

We appreciate Pat and Marilyn Lockhart for being loyal supporters, and we thank you for being you. Lastly, it's nice to have Larry King back. What a terrific guy and loyal supporter of all field trials.

What else can I say? It was fun. Please, y'all come back.

Scottsville, Va., March 26

Judges: Al Dahl and Steve Mills

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

– 15 Pointers and 1 Setter

1st-CALICO'S COUNTRY STRONG, F1679850, pointer female, by Waybetter Rocky-Calico's Touch of Class. Calico Kennels, owner; Alex Smith, handler.

2d-NOMADS UNCLE SAM, F1695093, pointer male, by Caladen's Tennessee Red-Caladen's Struttin Dixie. Worth Lewis, owner and handler.

3d-SOUTHBOUND HOTDOG HORNER, F1714695, pointer male, by Erin's Redrum-Calico's Country Strong. Linda Casey, owner; Alex Smith, handler.



Amateur All-Age: Buffalo Junction Klaus with Al Dahl (owner/handler).

Judges: Steve Mills and Til Hankley

AMATEUR DERBY – 4 Pointers

1st-SADIE RIDGE RIP, F1714960, pointer male, by Rocky River Loaded-Sadie Ridge Sally. Grayson Francis, owner and handler.

2d-BUFFALO JCT FLY, F1722067, pointer female, by Dragonfly-Buffalo Junction Calico. Al Dahl, owner and handler.

Judges: Kirk Regensburg and Tommy Stargell

AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]

– 6 Pointers

1st-BUFFALO JUNCTION KLAUS, F1698145, pointer male, by Sugarknoll Bushwacker-Buffalo Junction Mae. Al & Jenna Dahl, owners; Al Dahl, handler.

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

The deadline for the
July print issue is June 5!

INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR WOODCOCK CHAMPIONSHIP

Chasehill Poison Ivy Named Champion; Mohawk Mill Good Advice, Runner-up

By Bruce Mueller | Philipsburg, Pennsylvania | March 27, 2026

The 2026 International Amateur Woodcock Championship has taken place at the Black Moshannon State Forest near Philipsburg, Pennsylvania. The first running of this stake occurred in 1977 at the Mazerolle settlement in New Brunswick. The trial originally was supported by the New England field trial community, and over the years, many from the cover dog world have run in this trial. The first winner,

an English setter named Ghost Star, was owned by T.O. Shermore and handled by Bryant Shermore. Twenty-four English setters, 12 pointers, and one Brittany were in the running the first year, and birds were noted to be 162 woodcock and 21 grouse moved. During their one-hour brace, the dogs needed to negotiate the heavy cover and were expected to run with speed and style.

Because of the nature of woodcock coverts, having judges with a great

eye, along with keen hearing and physical stamina to walk behind braces for three days, is required. The Championship has a policy of having one local judge serve alongside a judge from outside the area. This year's judiciary assignment was Mark Hughes of Pennsylvania and Ben Mergens of Minnesota—two bird dog people with years of cover dog experience.

The Black Moshannon State Forest was again chosen for this event.

Preparing the courses for the running was a person who has no peer in course preparation, Jeff Keller of Sandy Ridge, Pennsylvania. Several years ago, when it was said, "There are no grouse in Pennsylvania," Jeff took it upon himself to show people that there are wild birds in Pennsylvania. Jeff had the grounds meticulously groomed and flagged for the event. He had eight courses laid out for the running, six braces per day, allowing two courses to remain idle, helping reduce pressure.

Many other people need to be thanked for their willingness to help out. From moving cars, preparing meals, marshaling braces, and any other necessity that needed assistance, to all who pitched in and helped make this trial a success, we say "Thank you!"

Saturday evening, a dinner sponsored by Purina was well attended at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. We all enjoyed the roast beef and chicken dinner with sides, along with a nice piece of chocolate cake. Purina continues to sponsor our events, and we all owe a debt of gratitude for their continued support. Without their support, many of the extras that are included in a trial would not happen.

The Winners

Champion, Brace 14, Course 6.

Breakaway was fast and sporty with both dogs searching in the "pocket." Chasehill Poison Ivy (McFadden) is a pointer with exceptional ground speed, and her brace mate Grouse Trails Bathilda (McKellop) is another pointer with eye-catching appeal. As the dogs moved up the hill, Ivy's bell was lost to the right. Bathilda was heard in the same area where her bell also went silent. As Bathilda's handler approached, Ivy was found on point with Bathilda backing. As Ivy's handler approached, a woodcock rose, and McFadden fired his gun. Both dogs stood with head and tail held high. Both dogs were led forward and released. The course traveled over a small spring stream that paralleled a high woven wire fence when both bells were to the left when they stopped. When found,



International Amateur Woodcock Championship (l-r): Mark Hughes (judge), William McFadden with Chasehill Poison Ivy, John Stolgitis with Mohawk Mill Good Advice, Bruce Mueller, and Ben Mergens (judge).

both dogs were facing each other. Each handler flushed for their dogs, but no birds were flown. Ivy was led out of the area while McKellop relocated his dog without success. Ivy raced forward, staying in the pocket, when her bell was lost at the 47-minute mark. After a long search, she was found literally buried deep in a "nasty" piece of cover. She had been standing the bird for approximately 10 minutes (an eternity in the grouse woods) prior to being found. The judge's concerns led him to ask the handler if he could relocate Ivy with a command. With confidence, McFadden said "yes," and with a command, Ivy moved straight forward less than 10 yards and stopped like a statue in Union Springs, Alabama. The handler flushed a woodcock and fired his gun. No other bird work by either dog finished the hour. During the hour, Ivy was in the pocket and hunted the cover with speed and authority. When her bell stopped, she was found standing—a very pleasing, championship-worthy experience.

Runner-up Champion, Brace 9, Course 1.

The brace broke loose at 11:06 a.m. as the day was warming into the 40s. Two pointers, Hifive's Northern Gold (Miotto) and Mohawk Mill Good Advice (McFadden) were turned free and headed up the hill. The course

turned right, and "Blaze" (McFadden) went left but was easily handled back on course. As we entered the popple stand, the bell of Blaze went silent to the left. Not long after, Gold's bell was also silent ahead in a different area. A woodcock was produced by Blaze's handler with a shot fired. All the while, Gold was cautioned on his bird repeatedly when the handler produced a bird and fired his gun. Blaze was noted standing with head and tail high through both sequences. Both dogs were collared and moved forward where the course turned left. Both dogs hunted likely cover and pressed forward. Gold was lateral at times, but Blaze worked the cover at a constant 10 and 2. As the brace approached an area where both sides of the two-track were dominated by mountain laurel on a gentle sloping hillside, Blaze was seen making his way, weaving aggressively to the front. Both judges commented on seeing Blaze cross the course from left to right as far as you could see through the woods, then a short time later crossed back. No other bird work was seen for the remainder of the hour. Blaze's application to the cover, his running style, and his style on point awarded him runner-up.

The Running

The running of 33 dogs: 20 pointers, 11 setters, and 2 Red

setters, began on Course 1, starting at 7:52 in the morning. Grey clouds with sprinkles of rain were present with great expectations. The dogs headed up the hill with as many as 20 spectators in tow. Grouse Trails Little Bud (McKellop) with bracemate Grouse Hill Rambo (Capocci) were excited and energetic. Both dogs responded to their handlers' voices as the course made its way through the popple. At 21, Bud was stopped. The handler walked in, put up a woodcock, fired his blank, and all in good order. After being released, Bud continued forward. He stopped again at 27 for an unproductive and, unfortunately, Rambo was ordered for a breach of manners. Continuing along the long straight stretch, "the runway," Bud stopped again at 40 with lots of splash but no bird produced. Relocation was unsuccessful, and he finished the hour strong.

Resin, an English setter (Lahoda), and Lightning Flash Dude (Arkley) were off on Course 2 for Brace 2 after some coffee and donuts. The course had been rerouted to touch areas of likely cover. Both dogs hunted forward and hit areas that looked promising, but unfortunately, without birds.

Double Deuce Jack (McMillen) and Doodle Ridge Elroy (Mueller) broke away on Course 3 at 10:33. The course progressed up the side of a hill, and "Zeke" and "Roy" were moving nicely. There were some benches that Roy maneuvered down over, requiring extra handling to keep him on track. Both dogs continued, reaching the limits of their bells. After crossing Dug Road, Roy was seen making a move to the left while Jack was on the right as time was called. Jack was gathered, but Roy required scouting. He was found forward standing and the handler was made aware. Judge Mergens was standing next to the dog when the handler approached and began the flush. No bird was produced; the dog was relocated, stopped again, and no bird was produced. The final relocation popped a woodcock, and the brace was over.

The fourth brace on Course 4 began at 12:05. Hitail Roxy Afield

(Fazio) and Wildland Sweet Caroline (E. Munden) were on the clock. The course passes under a deadfall leaning against another tree, creating a potential "widow maker." Both dogs were making good use of the cover. The top of the hill was covered by stands of popple on both sides. Along with the popple stands, wet seeps provided excellent habitat to hold woodcock. Caroline made good use of the cover and stopped on point. The handler flushed a woodcock, he fired his gun, and all was good. The dog was led back to the course to continue. Roxy's handler, not feeling that this was her day, elected to pick her up. Caroline continued to finish clean.

A great tailgate pizza lunch was provided after the fourth brace was completed.

Brace 5 on Course 5 broke away at 2:20. Rowling's Star (Rowlings) and Deb's Jane (Kennedy) had their turn at Black Moshannon. Both dogs were animated in their movements, but after 60 minutes, neither dog had a bird.

The final brace of the day broke away at 3:38 p.m. on Course 6. The course runs perpendicular to the end of a runway protected by a high fence. Grouse Trails Black Knight, last year's winner, and McKellop and Sump's Murphy's Law (Sumple) were our next dogs up. The course covers low-bush huckleberry and wet, swampy terrain. Knight was found standing tall at 30. The handler flushed a woodcock, fired his gun, and Knight remained tall. He was led out and turned loose, pushing forward. The 40-minute mark found Knight standing as before with the same results. Woodcock flushed, gun fired, dog led forward, a very nice piece of bird work. Murphy worked her tail off but was unable to come up with a find. Both dogs finished strong.

For day one, seven woodcock and four grouse were seen, and three dogs were clean.

Day two unfolded under bright sunny skies at 29 degrees for Brace 7 on Course 7. One Acre Wood Flash (Rector) was moving down the course. Her bracemate, Rock

Solid Sweet Baby Ray (Arkley), was weaving her way through the cover. The course makes a left-hand turn and pops out on top of a hill. Both dogs continued hunting the cover diligently. Just as the course crosses Shirks Road, Ray stopped to the right. Flash was to the left, unable to see Ray. Flash approached the area when a woodcock got up in front of her, and her day was over. Ray stood motionless, and the handler fired his gun at the 23-minute mark. Six minutes later, Ray again stopped, was relocated, and no bird produced, finishing the hour.

Brace 8 on Course 8 had a flashy setter, Mia Star, handled by Ralph, along with a Red setter, Conneaut Creek Scenic River (Fazenbaker). Mia was off, having sparkle and shine driving throughout her hour. River was a bit more methodical but with exuberance. As we traveled along the top of the ridge, both dogs worked the cut to the right. At the 22-minute mark, Mia stopped, and a woodcock was flown, and a shot ensued with Mia standing tall. River continued along the course, but there were no other bird contacts for either dog.

Brace 9 was discussed under "The Winners."

Brace 10 on Course 2 turned loose at 1:01 after a tailgate lunch of hamburgers and hot dogs fresh off the grill. The fourth brace of the day pitted two pointers, Wildland Wild Man (K. Munden) and Mohawk Mill Dreamer (Dix). As the dogs went to work, we coursed through multiple moss-covered stumps from previous cuts, giving us the cover needed. Both dogs hunted hard and covered all the likely cover with style. Wayne had a stop at the 18-minute mark, and the handler was unable to produce a bird. Dreamer was seen almost floating through the cover, but no birds were seen in the hour.

Brace 11 on Course 3 was started with anticipation. Grouse Trails Warrior Cat (McKellop) and One Acre Wood Bandit (Rector), fresh off her runner-up performance in New England. Both dogs had fashionable, eye-catching races and reached the farthest extent of the course. In the

end, their hour produced no bird contacts.

Brace 12 on Course 4 broke at 3:25 p.m. This had been a productive course on previous days. Sudden Silence (Hetrick) and Mulberry Fields Molly (E. Munden) were off. Silence is a flashy pointer, and Molly is a compact, fast setter. After passing under the "widow maker" and summing on top of the hill, both dogs were found standing parallel to one another at the 23-minute mark. Silence was to the left and Molly to the right. Both handlers flushed, and Hetrick produced a woodcock for Silence while Munden was unable to produce a flush. Hetrick fired his gun and moved on. Both dogs hunted intensely, and at the 50-minute mark, Molly was found standing. The handler flushed a woodcock, and after firing, all was in order. Both dogs finished with a woodcock.

Day two ended with 10 woodcock, three grouse, and five clean dogs.

Day three began with Black Moshannon Lake looking like a pane of glass with the temperatures in the high 20s.

Brace 13 on Course 5 had Double Deuce Zeke (McMillen) and Ralph's Chasehill Rip (Ralph). Both dogs have multiple championships, and this brace had anticipation similar to the Ali-Frazier fight. Both handlers wished each other good luck like fighters touching gloves at the opening bell. Rip was the first to score a woodcock at 19, looking like a champion. They were both moving

well and crossed Shirks Road heading right up to a cut. The course veered left when Rip, for his second find at the 26-minute mark, stood tall and proud. The handler flushed a woodcock and fired his gun. Zeke continued to hunt deep with range and style, and at the 29-minute mark was scouted and found standing to the right. As the judge and handler approached, his bracemate also showed up in the area. The judge noted a breach in manners occurred, and Rip was ordered up while McMillen fired his gun, and Zeke was moving on after a woodcock was confirmed. He finished his hour without further bird contact.

Brace 14 on Course 6 was previously discussed.

The running of Brace 15 on Course 7 began at 10:32 a.m. Course 7 starts by heading down a grade and then cuts across a prime beech popple stand. Previous experiences found woodcock in the vicinity, but not today. Hypointe Monarch Express (Fazio) was moving gracefully through the cover along with Happy's Warbird Farmgirl (Hopkins). At 24, Fazio's dog stopped with nice style. As the handler approached, a woodcock took flight, and a shot fired with all good. Farmgirl required a fair amount of handling and at 48 was picked up by the handler. Fazio's dog finished the hour without further bird contact.

Brace 16 on Course 8 started at 12:40 under a bright sky. It was Backwoods Wild Fire Blaze (Mason) and CC Leni Lenape's (Fazenbaker)

turn to perform. As all traveled along pole timber, a cut with mountain laurel was to the right, and both dogs were spending the majority of their time in this likely cover. Leni moved down off the hill that supported a hemlock shelter belt and searched for a bird. Blaze made a nice move off the same hill and headed to the next cut. Both dogs did an admirable job for the hour, but no birds were produced.

The last brace of the trial was on Course 1 with Bell Stop Boomer (Hetrick). Boomer ran as a byedog. Progressing through the cover that previously held birds, Boomer hunted hard, but no birds were found. However, at 29, Boomer's bell stopped in some likely cover, and the judges and handler approached. Just when the handler was beginning to flush, a turkey rose. Boomer stood calmly, and the handler jokingly asked, "Should I shoot?" The hour finished with no further contacts.

At the end of day three, nine woodcock and two grouse were seen with three clean dogs, totaling 26 woodcock and eight grouse, with 11 clean dogs for the judges to choose.

Philipsburg, Pa., March 27

Judges: Mark Hughes and Ben Mergens

INTERNATIONAL AMATEUR WOODCOCK

CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats] – 20 Pointers,

11 Setters, and 2 Irish Setters

Winner-CHASEHILL POISON IVY, F1694453, pointer female, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. William & Karen McFadden, owners; William McFadden, handler.

Runner-Up-MOHAWK MILL GOOD ADVICE, F1685480, pointer female, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Hirollins Fancy Lady. William & Karen McFadden, owners; William McFadden, handler.

MINNESOTA GROUSE DOG ASSOCIATION

First Spring Trial

By Ryan Hough | Mora, Minnesota | March 27, 2026

At 8 a.m. on Friday, March 27, entrants, judges, and trial organizers watched as the first brace of spring trial season broke away on the MGDA grounds. With a draw of 36 shooting dogs, 27 derbies, and eight puppies, the club would have their hands full with the largest spring entry in club history. Due to new logging operations in the

area, much effort had to be spent creating new courses before the club could host trials. Without the outstanding efforts of club members mapping, flagging, and cutting new courses, this trial would not have been possible.

With the leadership of new club president Eric Saetre and the

determined efforts of many club members, the trial would conclude as a resounding success. Grouse were observed on nearly every brace of the stake over the three days, and several dogs would finish their hours clean with work on grouse and woodcock.

Although judges Dave Moore (Big



Open Puppy: Rachel Furnish with Clover Valley's High Hopes, Paul Bokovich (judge), Chris Bye with Northwoods Peregrine, Ben Brettingen (judge), and Jeremy Moore with Aspen's Edge Moore Than Dandy.

Lake, Minnesota) and Ryan Hough (St. Bonifacius, Minnesota) would enjoy overseeing many strong performances, it would be a pair of female setters along with a female pointer that would earn the judges' nod.

Coming in first place was Ch. Little Hawk, owned and handled by Paul Cook. "Little" had a strong forward race, reaching for distant objectives while maintaining contact with her handler, despite a strong wind that made things very difficult. A gorgeous find on a drummer, while in a full run through unlikely cover, caught the attention of judges and gallery alike. Little maintained perfect composure and style when Paul flushed a grouse that was flattened and hiding in very close proximity to the dog.

Second place was claimed by 3-year-old female setter Northwoods Cedar Edge, owned by Lindsey and Eric Saetre, and handled by Lindsey Saetre. "Enni" displayed a fancy, powerful forward race and maintained it throughout the entire hour. About halfway through Course 6, she would fall off her bell and be found standing forward to the right of the course. As Lindsey was flushing, a grouse flew with all in order.

Coming in third place, running in the third brace was female pointer Blind Faith, owned and handled by Ben Fleischacker. "Cece" had a purposeful and fast application, rarely operating out of the pocket.



Open Derby (front): Lead Belly with Scott Anderson, Clover Valleys Pure Grace with Jordan Pharris, and Clover Valley's High Hopes with Rachel Furnish. (Behind): Lindsey Saetre (judge) and Brett Edstrom (judge).

Two early scores on woodcock, paired with a stylish back on her bracemates' grouse find left a great impression on the judges that would hold throughout the three-day stake.

The Derby was judged by experienced trial regulars Lindsey Saetre (Holyoke, Minnesota) and Brett Edstrom (Hudson, Wisconsin). With such a large entry, it was crucial to have the discerning and keen observations of these two successful trailers to sort things out.

First place went to an orange and white male setter named Lead Belly ("Wayne"), owned and handled by Scott Anderson. Wayne was in likely cover and found a woodcock in a thick aspen cut. He stayed steady as the handler and judge searched for him.

Second place went to a tri-colored female setter named Clover Valleys Pure Grace ("Gracie"), owned and handled by Jordan Pharris. Gracie stayed forward and hunted hard in likely cover. She flushed a grouse along a swamp edge.

Third place went to a black and white female setter named Clover Valley's High Hopes ("Hope"), owned and handled by Rachel Furnish. Hope ran a strong race and was connected to her handler. She flushed a woodcock in cover along a swamp edge.

The Puppy stake was run on a single course and judged by Paul



Open Shooting Dog (front): Little Hawk with Paul Cook, Northwoods Cedar Edge with Lindsey Saetre, and Blind Faith with Jordan Pharris. (Behind): David Moore (judge) and Ryan Hough (judge).

Bukovich (Sauk Rapids, Minnesota) and Ben Brettingen (Waconia, Minnesota). The judges had very nice things to say about all entrants.

Mora, Minn., March 27

**Judges: Ryan Hough and Dave Moore
OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]**

**– 8 Pointers, 24 Setters, 1 Brittany,
and 1 German Shorthair**

1st-LITTLE HAWK, F1698254, setter female, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-War Paint. Paul Cook, owner and handler.

2d-NORTHWOODS CEDAR EDGE, F1703153, setter female, by Snyder's Pioneer Scout-Northwoods Cedar. Eric & Lindsey Saetre, owners; Eric Saetre, handler.

3d-BLIND FAITH, F1706568, pointer female, by Miller's Blindsider-Nine To Five Nation. Ben Fleischacker, owner; Jordan Pharris, handler.

**Judges: Brett Edstrom and Lindsey Saetre
OPEN DERBY – 27 Entries**

1st-LEAD BELLY, F1713001, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Snyder's Josephine. Scott Anderson, owner and handler.

2d-CLOVER VALLEYS PURE GRACE, F1724092, setter female, by Northwoods Sir Gordon-Clover Valley's Millie. Jordan Pharris, owner and handler.

3d-CLOVER VALLEY'S HIGH HOPES, F1724089, setter female, by Northwoods Sir Gordon-Clover Valley's Millie. Rachel & Jerry Furnish, owners; Rachel Furnish, handler.

**Judges: Paul Bukovich and Ben Brettingen
OPEN PUPPY – 3 Pointers and 5 Setters**

1st-CLOVER VALLEY'S HIGH HOPES, F1724089, setter female, by Northwoods Sir Gordon-Clover Valley's Millie. Rachel & Jerry Furnish, owners; Rachel Furnish, handler.

2d-NORTHWOODS PEREGRINE, F1723767, setter female, by Cold Creek Hank-Northwoods Stardust. Chris Bye & Roberta Scherf, owners; Chris Bye, handler.

3d-ASPENS EDGE MOORE THAN DANDY, F1723295, setter female, by Northwoods Homer-North Star Ash. Jeremy Moore, owner and handler.

Visit us at: www.americanfield.com

UNITED STATES AMATEUR DERBY INVITATIONAL

Game Pride Named Champion; Coldwater Swagger, Runner-up

By Jim Atchison | Dancyville, Tennessee | March 27, 2026

The 12 high point amateur derbies in the nation competed March 27-29, on the historic field trial grounds at Dancyville, Tennessee, as the United States Amateur Derby Invitational Club sponsored the seventh renewal of their Amateur Derby Invitational. The West Tennessee Field Trial Club again served as co-sponsor and host for the outstanding competition, which was run on their grounds.

The organization of the trial was phenomenal, with the gifts and awards likely being the most impressive of any amateur competition in the nation. Information about the organizers, sponsors, and awards is lengthy and merits sharing, but we will first spotlight the outstanding derbies that competed, and then spotlight the organizers, sponsors, and awards.

Luke Eisenhart and Judd Carlton, two of the most successful professionals in the sport, judged. The pair, both from Georgia, is not only successful but also well respected, and their services were very much appreciated.

The Winners

Game Pride, owned and handled by Dr. Fred Corder from Corinth, Mississippi, was the winner. Game Pride ("Red") competed in the last brace on the first day of competition, the first brace of the second, and in the first brace of dogs called back on the third. On the first afternoon, he participated in a divided find at 15 on the third-hour course, in which he demonstrated excellent self-control, as his bracemate did not hold after the flush and shot. He had birds again at 20 in the northwest corner of a long field near the Russell Grove Church on Fayette Corner Road. In the second outing, on Saturday morning on the first-hour course, while backing his bracemate at 12, the same situation arose: the bracemate did not hold after the flush and shot. But Red, again,



United States Amateur Derby Invitational (center, l-r): Chris Cagle Jr. with Game Pride and Kent Walker with Coldwater Swagger. (Back, l-r): Brad LaVerne, Harper Wiseman, Jay Lewis, Carla Lewis, Jase Lewis, Judd Carlton (judge), Todd Babbel, Rita Corder, Tommy Davis, Dr. Fred Corder, Luke Eisenhart (judge), Gary McKibben, Gailen Cooper, Keith St. John, Julia Currie, Bill Currie, Quintin Wiseman, Cindy Currie, Tasha Wiseman, Allen Currie, Michelle Mullen, and Chris Mullen.

handled the situation with unaltered style and stature. He later had a strong independent find, at 38, along a terrace on the Taylor/McCloud land. Loosed on the second-hour course during the Sunday morning callbacks, Dr. Corder shot three times. The first was at 5 during a divided find, the second at 27, after another divided find, and again at 44 along a terrace on the Todd tract, approaching the end of the course at Coffee Gap Road. Red's win was unquestionable, as he had three days of running that were solid, stylish, impressive, always front running, punctuated with clean bird work, and in which he did not yield to strong distractions.

Coldwater Swagger ("Pete") won second under the whistle of owner Gary McKibben from Hernando, Mississippi, as he had birds on all three days of competition and got stronger the second day than the first, and even stronger the third. Drawn for Brace 4 on the first afternoon, Pete had birds at 18 while backed by his bracemate. McKibben's pistol would not fire, but after a short delay, the other handler, whose dog was backing, fired the mandatory shot. Pete then came

around an edge at 22 and backed a find of his bracemate perfectly. On the second morning, in the third brace, McKibben shot twice, first at 4 and again at 7, with birds being easily moved both times along the north edge of the breakaway field on Alex Rickert. In the first callback brace, this second-place winner scored two divided finds with the first-place winner. Those birds flew at 5 and 27, as the handlers shot with the dogs standing perfectly. Coldwater Swagger checked all the boxes, and his efforts were appreciated by the judges and rewarded accordingly.

Also Called Back

Haney's High Dollar and Dialed Again were also called back to run in the second brace on Sunday.

Haney's High Dollar, owned by the father/son partnership of Chris Cagle Sr. and Chris Cagle Jr., was handled by Senior and scouted by Junior. "Cash" had birds once at 23 in the second brace on Friday morning. The find was in dense honeysuckle in the mouth of a ditch on Gordy Jones' tract and took considerable effort, but Cagle persisted, and the effort was worthwhile. In the sixth brace on Saturday, Cash participated



Competitors (l-r): Lance Servais with Stevie Ray Lane, Dr. Fred Corder with Game Pride, Matt Pendergest with Pendency's Next Chapter, Megan Pendergest with Dialed Again, Chris Cagle with Haney's High Dollar, Scott Jordan with Iron Cloud Nation, Judd Carlton (judge), Luke Eisenhart (judge), Jay Lewis with Bocomo Iceman, Brad Macke with Emperor's Stone Cold Warrior, Jim Pendergest with Pendency's Specialist, Gary McKibben with Coldwater Swagger, Erick Parsons with Phantom's Zip, and Chris Perkins with Perkins Live Stream.

in divided finds and scored an independent find at 38. He found no birds during the callback on Sunday. Yet, he was an outstanding dog; strong, stylish, fast, forward-running, requiring little scouting, and with tremendous all-age promise.

Dialed Again, owned and handled by Matt Pendergest with Jim Pendergest scouting, was called back after initially running in the fourth brace on Friday and the second on Saturday. On Friday, "Spec" backed the bracemate at 18, stood in the superior position at 22, while backed by the bracemate, and had an unproductive stand at 30. On Saturday, in the second brace, he backed at 4 and later had an unproductive in Dr. Spiotta's pines at 17. No birds were moved during the callback, but Dialed Again ended the derby season as one of the top four of the best 12 in the nation, and one holding excellent all-age promise.

The Other Contenders

The other eight contenders were drawn to run on the first day in the following order. Iron Cloud Nation, owned and handled by Scott Jordan, competed in the first brace on Friday and the fifth on Saturday. He had game at 17, with the birds under a cedar tree on the Taylor land. On Saturday afternoon, he had divided finds at 5 and 9 and finished the 45-minute braces both days.

Pendency's Specialist ("Jean") is owned by Jim Pendergest and was handled by Matt Pendergest, with Jim scouting. The Pendergest father-and-son team, who own three of the best 12 derbies in the nation, attest to their strong commitment to field trialing and their superior training

skills. They achieve many wins each year. Jean found birds at 9 in the first brace on Friday and twice on Saturday, both in divided finds in the sixth brace. She ran strong forward races both days.

Chris Perkins traveled from Idaho with Perkins Live Stream, representing the Western Region in this Invitational. Live Stream ("Kate") found no birds in the second brace on Friday. On Saturday, in the fourth brace, she backed her bracemate at 3 and found birds independently at 27 near the back of the horseshoe and again at 33 before finishing the brace.

Bocomo Iceman ("Ike"), co-owned by Jase Lewis and his grandfather, Jay Lewis, was handled by Jay in the third brace on Friday and the fifth brace on Saturday. On the first day, he pointed at 11 but failed to hold properly during the flush and shot. He continued and found game at 31, with everything in good order. On Saturday, in the fifth brace, at 9, Ike shared a divided find with his bracemate.

Phantom's Zip, owned and handled by Erick Parsons, competed in the third brace on Friday and the fourth brace on Saturday. Zip was absent for a while in the early part of his Friday campaign, but was back to the front and found birds at 38 on the Spiotta land. He then found birds at 3 and was backed by his bracemate hunting the first hour course on Saturday afternoon, and continued to finish the hour.

Pendency's Next Chapter was the second dog owned and handled by Matt Pendergest, and the third dog he ran in the Invitational. "Sydney"

had an unproductive stand at 39 in the fifth brace on Friday and found birds at 5 and 20, with everything in good order in the first brace on Saturday. But between the two finds on Saturday, there was another find where the birds were chased. Yet, Sydney got it together and finished the hour flawlessly.

Brad Macke from Georgia went next, with Emperor's Stone Cold Warrior ("Rocky"). Rocky found no birds in either of his fifth-brace or third-brace efforts. Nonetheless, Brad and Rocky handled the courses well, and Brad, a Special Education teacher and most likely the youngest competitor, demonstrated excellent skills and enthusiasm for field trialing.

Stevie Ray Lane ("Ray-Ray"), owned by Lance Servais and handled by Brian Peterson, was in the sixth brace on Friday and the second brace on Saturday. Unfortunately, Ray-Ray failed both days to hold during flush and shot situations, and the Cecil, Alabama, owner-handler team picked him up at 11 on the second day.

Production of the Invitational

Saying this Invitational was a "production" was an understatement. Quintin and Tasha Wiseman, joined by the club's board of directors, probably worked year-round or longer, as they started working on next year, even before the current Invitational was held. Additional members of the board of directors included Todd Babel, Rich Heaton, Whitley Stephenson, and Jay Lewis. Todd Babel and Jay Lewis attended the trial and helped with the event.

Quintin Wiseman did an outstanding job on Saturday night

at the Purina Awards Dinner, acknowledging and thanking those who helped make the seventh renewal of the Invitational successful. Purina has always been the primary sponsor and, again, generously provided eight bags of dog food to the winner, four bags to the runner-up, and one bag to every participant.

Wiseman expressed special thanks to his farrier clients, Phil and Melissa Town of Rule One Investing, for their annual cash gifts. Wiseman said, "I don't even ask them. They ask me."

Wiseman's remarks thoroughly covered information about the contributions of many. He started by presenting a gift to Jim Atchison and voicing appreciation for Atchison's reporting of all seven Invitationals, since their inception in 2020. Next, he asked Leah Brigham to reveal the painting of last year's winner, Southern Margarita Lane, to owner Lance Servais. Servais and Brian Peterson accepted the amazing creation with great appreciation to both the artist and to Brian and Brooke Sanchez, who commissioned the annual award.

Next, Henry rifles donated by Alex and Bryana Rickert were presented to the owners of the high-point dogs from each of the Invitational's three regions. Those owners were: East Region (Lance Servais for Stevie Ray Lane), Central Region (Chris Cagle Sr. and Chris Cagle Jr. for Haney's High Dollar), and West Region (Erick Parsons for Phantom's Zip).

Each Invitational has always been preceded by three Super Qualifiers, with one Super Qualifier held in each of the three regions. Owners who participated in at least two of

the three were eligible to win a \$500 gift card. Six owners were eligible to win, and the winner was Chris Cagle. Adding three super qualifiers to the annual schedule made each Invitational a four-trial series, not just one. Wiseman thanked Chris Perkins for handling the West Region qualifier for the 2026 series.

Trophy saddles by Haggis Saddles to be presented to both the owners of the winner and runner-up were on display. One saddle was purchased by Scott Griffin, and the other was purchased by Chris and Mary Jo Cagle, Chris Cagle Jr., and John Mathys.

Garmin Pro 550 Plus and Alpha TT25 products for the winner were exhibited. Also displayed were the Jim Crouse Memorial High Point plaque for 2025-2026 and the Gary Phillips Memorial Breeder's Plaque. Nathan Phillips has donated the breeder's plaque each year in memory of his father. Two copper flasks, bearing the Invitational logo and donated by Chris Cagle Jr., were on the winners' table, one each for the winner and runner-up.

The winning scout, Chris Cagle Jr., was awarded custom-made briar chaps, made by Patty's Custom Chaps. In addition to gifts for winners, participants received vests, caps, and swag bags filled with numerous products. Wiseman said Gailen Cooper was available to explain some of the contents of the swag bags.

Matt and Stacey Brown purchased the quail planted for the Invitational, and their generous gift was acknowledged and greatly appreciated.

West Tennessee Club members Bill Currie, Chris Mullen, Allen Currie, Julia Currie, and Jim Atchison helped in numerous ways: picking up and planting birds, cooking, marshaling the courses, hauling dogs and horses, providing road crossing safety, and many other tasks during the three-day event. Fayette County Sheriff's Department deputies contributed their blue light presence to road safety, and all of the above were thanked for those additions that were part of the local contribution toward helping sponsor and host the gathering.

Wiseman thanked Ike Todd for his contribution of puppy training, which was sold, generating funds for the Invitational. He also thanked judges and others who had helped with the super qualifiers.

Food was outstanding for every meal. In addition to having everything imaginable planned and organized, Tasha Wiseman prepared a hot breakfast for everyone each morning. West Tennessee club members, led by Chris Mullen, prepared lunch each day; Lance Servais and Brian Peterson hired Gail Haynes to cater dinner on Friday night; and Purina sponsored the prime rib for the Saturday night awards dinner.

This Invitational, like the other six, was truly a "successful production."

Dancyville, Tenn., March 27

Judges: Judd Carlton and Luke Eisenhart


UNITED STATES AMATEUR DERBY

INVITATIONAL – 12 Pointers


Winner-GAME PRIDE, F1710580, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Game Belle. Dr. Fred Corder, owner and handler.

Runner-Up-COLDWATER SWAGGER, F1717640, pointer male, by Miller's Blindsider-Rebel Belle. Gary McKibben, owner and handler.

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LANCASTER COUNTY FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Spring Trial

By Jimmy Crandall | Warsaw, Virginia | March 29, 2026



Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Cathy Horton and Frankie Barnes with Hirollins All American, Garrett Priest (judge), Jameson Crandall with Pinekone Rappatomac Hawk, Arnold Ripley (judge), Ashby Morgan with Mohawk Mill's Big Stuff, and Lee Flanders (scout).

The Lancaster County Field Trial Association (LCFTA) held its Spring 2026 trial on March 29 at Sabine Hall Plantation in Warsaw, Virginia. We began the day with the Puppy stakes, which included nine puppies. First place went to Charm City Mac, a pointer male handled by Mike McIntyre. Our second-place winner was Lancaster's Captain, a pointer male handled by Jimmy Crandall. Bobby Phillips' Bob's Whippoorwill Wendy, a pointer female, placed third. The winning puppies ran with a purpose and showed to the front.

The Amateur Derby first-place winner was Bob's Elhew Coco, a pointer female. Coco scored four finds on quail, showing shooting dog manners, and ran a forward classy race. Tuff, a pointer male, was

awarded second place. Tuff had two nice finds with a straightforward race and demonstrated good manners. Frankie Barnes was his handler. Jimmy Crandall's third-place dog, Lancaster's Spot On, a pointer male, ran a forward race with two finds, a back, and a divided find showing advanced manners.

Lancaster's Amateur Shooting Dog stake was won by Hirollins All American, an English setter male handled by Frankie Barnes. He had a tremendous race with four mannerly finds. Pinekone Rappatomac Hawk, an English setter male, owned and handled by Jameson Crandall, had three finds, a good reaching ground race, and a strong finish. Hawk received second place. Third-place shooting dog, Mohawk Mill Big Stuff, a pointer male handled by Ashby

Morgan, had a solid out-front race with three finds.

The Lancaster club would like to thank the Wellford/O'Hara family, owners of Sabine Hall, the participants, and spectators who made the trial a success. We would also like to thank our Puppy judges, Grace Anne Lawson and Steve Graham, and our Derby and Shooting Dog judges, Garrett Priest and Arnold Ripley. A special thanks to Steve Graham, who was also the bird planter.

We extend sincere appreciation to Purina for their continuous sponsorship and support.

Warsaw, Va., March 29

Judges: Grace Anne Lawson and Steve Graham

AMATEUR PUPPY – 5 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-CHARM CITY MAC, F1721991, pointer male, by Hifive's Sonny Side Up-Hifive's Top Shelf. Mike McIntyre, owner and handler.

2d-LANCASTER'S CAPTAIN, F1722155, pointer male, by Haney's All In-Calico's Guns N Roses. James Crandall, owner and handler.

3d-BOB'S WHIPPOORWILL WENDY, F1727055, pointer female, by Hirollins Tenacee Rowdee-Lowder's Little Dottie. Bobby Phillips, owner and handler.

Judges: Garrett Priest and Arnold Ripley

AMATEUR DERBY – 5 Pointers

1st-BOB'S ELHEW COCO, F1708921, pointer female, by Tenacee Cooper-Bob's Elhew Smokie. Bobby Phillips, owner and handler.

2d-TUFF, unreg., pointer male, breeding not given. Frankie Barnes, owner and handler.

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 6 Pointers and 5 Setters

1st-HIROLLINS ALL AMERICAN, F1702820, setter male, by Grouse Feather Hawk-Sky's The Limit. Warren Parrott, owner; Frankie Barnes, handler.

2d-PINEKONE RAPPATOMAC HAWK, F1699732, setter male, by Erin's Big Casino-Mohawk Mill Charmer. Jameson Crandall, owner and handler.

3d-MOHAWK MILL BIG STUFF, F1691821, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Ashby Morgan, owner and handler.

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CHIPPEWA VALLEY GROUSE DOG ASSOCIATION

Planet Queen Wins Don Didcoct Memorial Classic

By Roger King | Augusta, Wisconsin | April 1, 2026

The 33rd running of the Didcoct is now history. You often hear, “Never know what to expect when running a Spring field trial.” That turned out to be an understatement! A spring storm delivered wind, rain, snow, and ice, which forced us to cancel day two of the Open Shooting Dog. Factors in our decision included weather, safety of the handlers and dogs, birds, judges, and just plain common sense. It was decided to end the Open Shooting Dog at 14 of the 28 entries. Never an easy decision, but given all the options, this was the best we could do. Believe me, there was much discussion with the officers and the field trial committee.

Don Didcoct would be proud to see how the Chippewa Valley Grouse Dog Association has flourished since his untimely death in 1988, some 20 years after the CVGDA was founded in 1968. Currently, there is an abundance of “Positive Energy” and new blood in our membership. His wife, Judi, keeps in regular touch and is always happy to hear of the impact this trial brings to our sport in many ways. She and Don have much to be proud of for having the influence it has had on our cover dog sport. In addition, the collaboration and cooperation between CVGDA, Minnesota Grouse Dog Association, and Moose River Grouse Dog Club are at an all-time high. Hosting the very successful 80th Grand National Grouse Dog Championship in November of 2024 at the Eau Claire County Forest grounds certainly played a large part in this.

Our judges were Jordan Pharris, a very successful young professional from Brainard, Minnesota. Jordan always has a smile on his face, he’s willing to help in any way he can, and he won the 2025 Grand National Grouse Championship—one of his many impressive wins. His judging partner, Scott Luther, blessed us with his presence from Marshall, North Carolina. Scott has



Don Didcoct Amateur Shooting Dog Classic: Roger King (stake manager), Scott Anderson with Planet Queen, Ben Mergens (judge), Lindsey Peterson with Berg Brothers Hatchet, Kyle Peterson (judge), and Ed Graddy with North Slopes Allie.

been successfully trialing dogs on the East Coast circuit. He always finds time to spend a week or two in Northern Wisconsin hunting grouse and woodcock. They complemented each other well and gave each dog their undivided attention.

[Note: The following are comments assisted by the judges and course marshals.]

In the Open Shooting Dog, North Slopes Allie, owned and handled by Ed Graddy, put forth a “Big” forward race; however, she remained well connected with her handler. She was often to the edge of bell range, then back. Allie ran on the Highline course, which starts in mature aspen with small pockets of swamp, surrounded by an alder/aspen mix along the Eau Claire River. This course ends in a 10-12-year-old aspen cut, perfect for migrating woodcock. Early in the brace, Allie’s bell went silent with a nice find on woodcock. To make this find special, Allie stood tall with a huge distraction. One of the judges commented, “Rarely do you see a dog stand through incredible temptation of the bracemate running around Allie.” She stood it all!! Allie moved forward alone, and prior to crossing under the

highline, she had another woodcock find left near the river in a flat area dotted with aspen/dogwood and thick brush. Allie finished the last 20 minutes forward and was responsive to Ed’s occasional guidance—job well done! Second- and third-place dogs ran on the Davidsons Culvert course, which also meanders along the Eau Claire River. It has a nice mix of alder and areas of hardwood ending in a 7-8-year-old aspen cut. The course is very diverse and a good place to show a coverdog and most importantly to find birds.

Second went to Northwoods Fallset Hope run by Josh Matel and owned by Mark Fouts. Hope also had a far-reaching forward race. Early in the brace, both bells were silent 75-100 yards forward. In walking to the dogs, unseen at this point, the handlers and judges flushed a grouse. Handlers were instructed by the judge to shoot; the dogs were still ahead. As the handlers and judges moved ahead, they found both dogs standing in dog hair popple facing each other. Hope was buried in a slight dip and was hard to see. Josh flushed a woodcock in front of his dog. Both dogs did a nice job.

Third was Single Note Run



Open Shooting Dog: Jordan Pharris (judge), Ed Graddy with North Slopes Allie, Roger King (stake manager), Josh Matel with Northwoods Fallset Hope, and Scott Luther (judge).

("Petra"), owned and handled by professional Paul Cook. 10-15 minutes later in the brace, Petra was standing to the right on the course with Hope backing. Paul flushed a woodcock in front of his dog, and both dogs stood tall. The dogs finished the brace well to the front and ran hard.

Other dogs to mention, in no order

Lindsey Peterson and Berg Brothers Hatchet had two woodcock finds and an excellent run. (Hatchet would go on to place second in the Don Didcoct Memorial stake). Mark Smith with Blue Ridge Kobe had an outstanding grouse find, requiring extensive searching, only to find him forward standing a pair of grouse. Holden Baker ran the only Brittany of the stake and had a classy, energetic run, only to crash on his fourth woodcock. The judges said he would likely have been in the placements had it not been for the last woodcock find, with less than five minutes to go. The words "broke my heart" came from one of the judges. A shortened, but very competitive, high-quality stake, to be sure!

The featured stake of the weekend, the Don Didcoct Memorial Classic, and the coveted William Koelpin ruffed grouse bronze casting, waiting to be awarded to the winner, started Friday morning. This traveling trophy has been the cherished goal of many handlers over the years. This stake is one of the premier events for cover dog amateurs in the Midwest. There have been 21 winners who have adorned their mantle with the traveling Didcoct trophy for a year; several have won it multiple times.

Our judges were Kyle Peterson

from our neighboring club, Minnesota Grouse Dog Association, and Ben Mergens from Chippewa Grouse Dog Association. Kyle has been very active and successful in trials for 10 years and is well respected as an arbiter for these events. We are fortunate to have him look at our dogs. Ben Mergens needs no introduction in the cover dog world. His judging assignments are far and wide across our sport. In addition, he has been very successful with his dogs over the years. His quiet wisdom and leadership contribute to the success of CVGDA's and our events. He touches on all aspects of CVGDA and always reminds us that "have fun" is high on our desired list. "Rhonda," the first-place dog owned by Scott Anderson, would run on the gas line course on the morning of the second day. As usual, she ran with purpose and hit all the right spots out front, and at 25, she was buried on the right side of the course. Scott approached her and flushed to no avail. He then attempted a risky relocation on these wary birds. Rhonda showed her experience and ultimately pinned a running grouse. The judges reported that this was an "outstanding piece of bird work," which is hard to accomplish without putting the bird to air. After the turn on the east side of Hamilton Falls Fireline, she pointed a woodcock at 45 along a swampy alder-circled section of the course. She had a minor blemish at 50 with a nonproductive; however, this would not detract from her winning run. Scott usually has a smile on his face. Who wouldn't? This was the fifth time the trophy garnered his mantle. Berg Brothers Hatchet, owned by Colin and Lindsey Peterson and run by Lindsey, was the second-place dog. Hatchet ran on day one on the "H" course. Hatchet is a beautiful tri-color setter that runs with purpose and power. He had an unproductive at 25; the judge noted that there were plenty of woodcock splashings in the area. On the second half of the course, Hatchet was buried in a wet alder swamp, a perfect hiding area for ruffed grouse. It took quite a while for Lindsey and the judge to get to him. In that time, it could be surmised that the grouse took the opportunity



Open Derby: Ed Graddy (judge), Brian Vander Maazen with Kenzie's Cookies & Cream, Roger King with Rib River Best Bet, Scott Anderson with Lead Belly, and Colin Peterson (judge).

to move on a bit. After the initial flushing, Lindsey commanded that Hatchet move up. The result was that Hatchet pinned the wary grouse, and the judges were again impressed to see this quality bird work. Hatchet then moved to the front to end the brace with notable style. North Slopes Allie, owned by Ed Graddy, winner of the Open Shooting Dog stake and previously the 2022 Didcoct, would be awarded third place. Allie would secure third place running on day one on the Diablo Jake-King course, a rolling course dotted with pockets of alder thicket, through what used to be called "Woodcock Haven" back in the day. The course then proceeds through a 6-year-old aspen wildlife cut perfect for woodcock and grouse on the perimeters. Allie had a nonproductive at 20 in likely woodcock cover along the left side of the course in a dense alder thicket. Just past the picnic table at the halfway point, she was pointed deep on the left side just past the 2024 wildlife cut. Ed would produce a woodcock in front of her in excellent style.

The Open Derby ran Saturday on continuous courses. For whatever reason, this Derby stake was smaller than most this spring, but it was very competitive. Ed Graddy and Colin Peterson judged the Derby stake, and there is no need to mention their qualifications; just read the placements for the other stakes run at the Didcoct. Ed has been very successful in the cover dog world for a long time and is always a joy to have around. His answer is 100 percent "Yes" when asked to give back to our sport. His accomplishments are many:



Rod Lein enjoying a conversation with Lindsey Peterson, Lindsey Saetre, and Rachel Furnish.

numerous championships, multiple winner of the Didcoct, and an invitee to the Grand National Grouse Dog Invitational. Colin is a tireless young worker and officer for CVGDA, and his dogs are well recognized for doing a great job. We are fortunate to have him as a member of our team, and he is well qualified to judge. The first- and second-place dogs were bracedmates on the Crash course. A circular course starting in thick brush dogwood mix and moving to a 10-year-old aspen cut notorious for holding numbers of grouse and woodcock; today would be no different. Kenzie's Cookies & Cream ("CC"), owned by Brian Vander Maazen, would get the blue. Rib River Best Bet, owned by Roger King, would get second. Both dogs were fast and fancy, starting strong and racing through the heavy cover. Betty showed some signs of immaturity at first, but soon settled in. At the 6-minute mark, a small creek crossing that was usually easily crossed was now a small river with boiling eddies that made you think, "Where's my trout rod?" This author, a nearly 75-year-old, took a header into the cold water, resisting the temptation to look back to see the smiles on the faces of the gallery behind. Both dogs literally flew across the water and up the hill, dove into the aspen cover. CC scored a nice woodcock find to the right side of the course with excellent derby manners. At about 20, Betty was out front, right in the aspen, and stopped and pointed a grouse. Needless to say, both dogs were charged and hunting hard. CC had another woodcock find before we headed back, crossing the water again to finish the brace. Judges commented, "They were the cream of the crop".

Lead Belly ("Wayne"), owned by Scott Anderson, and most likely leading the Minnesota/Wisconsin Derby of the Year competition after a big win in Minnesota the prior week, ran on a portion of the Culvert course. Judges commented, "Wayne was more workman in his application but settled in nicely and hunted the right cover throughout." Scott's dogs usually handle well, and with little effort, Wayne was no different.

It's always hard to thank everyone involved in hosting a successful trial. Josh Pederson, Parks and Forest Director, Eau Claire County, and Jody Gindt, Supervisor, Eau Claire County Parks and Forest, deserve our overwhelming gratitude for being our partners for many years. These grounds are recognized as among the top venues in the nation to show our dogs. The list is long on what we have: beautiful courses along the scenic Eau Claire River, an abundance of native grouse and woodcock, roads that make logistics easy to navigate, an outstanding new shelter at Knights Pool, access to lodging and restaurants/bars, and a local culture that welcomes our members and participants with a smile. We are blessed and grateful for it. Purina has been a sponsor for many years (maybe five decades), providing us with certificates and monetary support. We thank Greg Blair and Purina! Many club members add to the success: Rod Lein, Colin Peterson, Denny Baumann, Greg Johnson, Ben Mergens come to mind; however, there are certainly more. Course marshals are an integral ingredient—thanks to Jeremy Moore, Josh Patel, Brett Edstrom, Eric Saetre, Scott Anderson, and Ed Graddy. I apologize in advance to



For 33 years, handlers have strived to have this Bronze casting to adorn their mantles.



Family-friendly atmosphere at the Didcoct.

anyone I may have missed. The 2026 Didcoct is history, the 33rd rendition, and despite Mother Nature throwing us a few curve balls, a resounding success. See you next year!

Augusta, Wis., April 1

Judges: Scott Luther and Jordan Pharris

OPEN SHOOTING DOG [One-Hour Heats]

– 5 Pointers, 22 Setters, and 1 Brittany

1st-NORTH SLOPES ALLIE, F1683547, setter female, by A Keystone Kid-Signature Ridge Cody. James Graddy, owner and handler.

2d-NORTHWOODS FALLSET HOPE, F1694804, pointer female, by True Confidence-Northwoods Comet. Mark Fouts, owner; Josh Matel, handler.

3d-SINGLE NOTE RUN, F1698250, setter female, by T's Nickleback-Hidden Jasmine. Paul Cook, owner and handler.

Judges: Ben Mergens and Kyle Peterson

DON DIDCOCT AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

CLASSIC [One-Hour Heats]

– 4 Pointers and 18 Setters

1st-PLANET QUEEN, F1702708, setter female, by Rufus Del Fuego-Stumbo's Scarlet. Scott Anderson, owner and handler.

2d-BERG BROTHERS HATCHET, F1691718, setter male, by Berg Brothers Easy Glide-Berg Brothers Rory. Colin Peterson, owner; Lindsey Peterson, handler.

3d-NORTH SLOPES ALLIE, F1683547, setter female, by A Keystone Kid-Signature Ridge Cody. James Graddy, owner and handler.

Judges: Ed Graddy and Colin Peterson

OPEN DERBY – 5 Setters and 5 Setters

1st-KENZIE'S COOKIES & CREAM, F1717431, pointer female, by Bluestem's Blackhawk Frank-Lee's Yellow Rose. Brian Vander Maazen, owner and handler.

2d-RIB RIVER BEST BET, F1710626, pointer female, by Toth's Tornado Reloaded-Grouse Trails Warrior Cat. Roger King, owner and handler.

3d-LEAD BELLY, F1713001, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Snyder's Josephine. Scott Anderson, owner and handler.

COCKADE BIRD DOG CLUB

Spring Trial Held At Cutawhiskie Farm

By Ellen Winall | Ahoskie, North Carolina | April 3, 2026



Amateur Puppy (front row): Ashby Morgan with Mohawk Mill Easy, Gary Winall, Ellen Winall with Mohawk Mill Sky Jack, and Bruce Conover with Forever In Blue Jeans. (Back row): Barbel Fetkoter, Rob, Sharon Townley, Phil Townley, and Gene Hogge.



Open Derby (front row): Ashby Morgan with Mohawk Mill Captain, Gary Winall with Mohawk Mill Geronimo, and Ellen Winall with Mohawk Mill Commander In Chief. (Back row): Barbel Fetkoter, Rob, Sharon Townley, Phil Townley, and Bruce Conover.



Amateur Shooting Dog (front row): Ashby Morgan with Mohawk Mill Charmer, Gene Hogge with Pagan Creek Atticus, and Bruce Conover with Bad News Bob. (Back row): Barbel Fetkoter, Phil Townley, Sharon Townley, Rob, Parke Brinkley, and Ellen Winall.

The Cockade Bird Dog Club held its trial at the Cutawhiskie Farm in Ahoskie, North Carolina, on April 3. The weather has been a roller coaster ride this winter, and the week of this trial was no exception. By the end of the week, it was 80+ degrees. The dogs, handlers, and judges all fared well; my hat off to all. I have to say a big thank you to Purina, Sharon Townley, Ashby Morgan, J. Parke Brinkley, Phil Townley, Bruce Conover, Gene Hogge, Barbel Fetkoter, and my right-hand man, Gary Winall. We had three meals a day, a social hour, and good conversation. Now, what we came for—the competition.

We started the day with some very exciting puppies running 30-minute braces. The winner, Mohawk Mill Easy, came out of the shoot and rimmed the first field and started into the second field. He went out into the wheat field and pointed a wild covey, knocked and chased, and came back and got him a sleeper, and he proceeded to have a very strong forward race. The second-place puppy, Mohawk Mill Sky Jack, ran all the edges he could find and was very responsive to his handler. Third-

place puppy, Forever In Blue Jeans for Bruce Conover, was responsive to the handler; you could tell Bruce had a good rapport with her, and she had been worked.

Moving on to the Open Derby, Mohawk Mill was well represented with Mohawk Mill Captain taking first place. He ran the edges, pointed birds, was beautiful on his find, and handled the course intelligently with a good finish. Second was Mohawk Mill Geronimo. He ran all the country presented to him, showing all-around potential with a tremendous finish. Third was Mohawk Mill Chief, who was very classy, handled well, adjusted as needed, and finished well.

The day got warmer, and the competition heated up. Smelling was tough, being dry and warm. Moving on to the Shooting Dog stake, it was tough smelling and pointing birds. Mohawk Mill Charmer, for Ashby Morgan, came up with a beautiful find, was very classy running, and finished beautifully to take first place. Second place was awarded to "Pete" for Gene Hogge. He is a very classy running and pointing pointer that handled well for his handler. Third was Bad News Bob for Bruce

Conover. Bob is a seasoned dog and handled the weather with a nice find.

Ahoskie, N. C., April 3

Judges: Ashby Morgan and Sharon Townley

AMATEUR PUPPY – 6 Pointers

1st-MOHAWK MILL EASY, F1720935, pointer male, by The Treasure Chest-Mohawk Mill For Real. Gary & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary Winall, handler.

2d-MOHAWK MILL SKY JACK, F1722616, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Jet Stream-Mohawk Mill Country Girl. Gary & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary Winall, handler.

3d-FOREVER IN BLUE JEANS, F1727400, pointer female, by Miller's Heat Seeker-Calico's Sugar 'N' Spice. Bruce & Karen Conover, owners; Bruce Conover, handler.

OPEN DERBY – 15 Entries

1st-MOHAWK MILL CAPTAIN, F1708987, pointer male, by Imagine-Mohawk Mill For Real. Gary & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary Winall, handler.

2d-MOHAWK MILL GERONIMO, F1718297, pointer male, by Rocky River Halo-Mohawk Mill Tequila. Gary & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary Winall, handler.

3d-MOHAWK MILL COMMANDER IN CHIEF, F1718296, pointer male, by Rocky River Halo-Mohawk Mill Tequila. Gary & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary Winall, handler.

Judges: John Parke Brinkley and Ellen Winall

AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

– 3 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-MOHAWK MILL CHARMER, F1682716, setter female, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Fort River Jackie. Ashby Morgan, owner and handler.

2d-PAGAN CREEK ATTICUS, F1692037, pointer male, by Goldberg-Mohawk. Gene R. Hogge, owner and handler.

3d-BAD NEWS BOB, F1678771, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Pirate-Mohawk Mill Southern Belle. Bruce & Karen Conover, owners; Bruce Conover, handler.

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MICHIGAN AMATEUR FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Moss Meadow Seeker Wins Judd Kinne Memorial Shooting Dog Classic

By Tyler Miller | Meredith, Michigan | April 3, 2026

Winter let up just in time to allow the Michigan Amateur Field Trial Club to hold its annual spring trial. The snow and ice that had still covered some of the Gladwin Field trial Area and even the freezing rain that had brought down trees and limbs across the grounds in the week leading up to the event thawed just enough to allow the trial to proceed as planned. And while it was a cold start Friday morning, with temperatures still in the 30s when the first brace broke, the organizers, dogs, and handlers brought their best, giving us a wonderful weekend of trialing at Gladwin.

The Gladwin Field Trial Area is a beautiful piece of American bird dog heritage, maintained by the Michigan DNR. Wild bird habitat is constantly changing, as the early-successional forests that provide grouse and woodcock with cover quickly age out of suitability. The State of Michigan has done an incredible job of managing and maintaining the grounds for optimal wild bird habitat. Further, the constant effort and attention of all Michigan's trial club volunteers have meant that each course continues to be as fair as possible, with an even mix of dense and open cover through the grounds' scrub oak, aspen, pine, alder, and cedar.

Thanks go to the judges, Christie Helmes and Richard Hollister (Shooting Dog); Tom Vanecek and Bill Darr (Puppy); Tammy Chaffee and Nick Brown (Derby); and Marc Dozeman and Ken Moss (Hunting Dog), for braving the wind, rain, and cold, while holding dogs and handlers to a high standard of conduct and performance.

Also, special thanks must go to the organizers, Richard Hollister and Bob Wheelock. Rich, in addition to his duties as judge, provided the horses for the trial and acted



Judd Kinne Memorial Shooting Dog Classic (front, l-r): Moss Meadow Seeker with Ken Moss (owner), Confidence Squared Kelly with Rachel Butler (owner/handler), and Rowling's Stormy with Chuck Rowling. (Back, l-r): Richard Hollister (judge), Christy Helmes (judge), and Tom Butler. [Photo by: Tyler Miller].

as stakes manager. Without his supportive presence in the Michigan bird dog community, trialing would not be what it is in Michigan. Bob, as MAFTC president, provided lunches and coordinated the event. With 33 braces and a bye across four events, there were a lot of moving parts at work over the weekend, and Bob did an incredible job keeping them all running smoothly. Thanks also go to Marc Dozeman and his wife for providing breakfast each morning, and to all the volunteers who moved vehicles from course to course for the handlers.

Judd Kinne Memorial Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

The first brace broke on April 3, 8 a.m., on Course 4 with Ken Moss's Moss Meadow Able against Lonnie Rademacher's Otto. Otto pointed a woodcock at minute three to the left of the trail, making an impressive start. Able followed suit at 15, pointing a woodcock to the right of the trail, with Otto pointing another a minute later. Unfortunately, Rademacher lost contact with Otto at around 20, over a long rise of young cover. He asked for the tracker at 28.

Able rounded out a forward race with one more woodcock with a minute left on the clock.

Sandy Maclean's Wicked Pursuit ("Sue") ran alongside Chuck Rowling's Rowling's Star in the third brace. Sue managed a woodcock with two minutes to spare in a hard-run brace through Course 6.

Rob Ellis's "Dottie" and Rachel Butler's Confidence Squared Kelly both ran a forward race in the fifth brace. Kelly managed a spectacular limb find at 21 that, paired with her fine, elegant gait, earned her second place in the trial.

In Brace 12, Andrew Purcell's Silvershot's TC Tilly and Chuck Rowling's Rowling's Stormy broke across the dense terrain of Course 15. Stormy made quick work of finding a bird, with a point at 2, a modest distance off the trail. Her aggressive run and strong, showy patterns impressed the judges and earned her third place.

Lonnie Rademacher's Springpond Rockin Gibby and Ken Moss's Moss Meadow Seeker ran against each other in the 13th and final brace of the day. Both dogs have a long



Chuck Pagano Puppy Classic (l-r): Lucy's Just Have Mercy with Ken DeLong (owner), Pigeon Creek CJ with Steve Colvert (owner), and Clough's Outcast Will with John Clough (owner). [Photo by: Bob Wheelock].



Chester Halley Derby Classic (l-r): Hifive's Raising Cain with Travis Whitfield (owner), Tammy Chaffee (judge), Clough's Outcast Will with John Clough (owner), Nick Brown (judge), and Northwoods Wanderlust with Frank Ilijanic. [Photo by: Tyler Miller].



Hunting Dog (standing, l-r): Riot with Brent Kroll (owner), River with Liz Edson (owner), Marc Dozeman (judge), Libby with Brent Pike (owner), and Ken Moss (judge). (Front): Honorable Mentions Wyatt with Justin Samsell (owner) and Rosie with Tyler Miller (owner). [Photo by: Bob Wheelock].

history of wins in field trials, and both performed admirably with a forward, showy style, hunting hard through the dense cover of Course 16. Seeker made a strong, steady woodcock point at 18 and followed it up at 28, with the only ruffed grouse find of the day, earning him first place in a competitive trial.

Chuck Pagano Puppy Classic

Six dogs ran in the Puppy stakes, with the first brace breaking away just before 9:30 a.m. Ken DeLong's Lucy's Just Have Mercy netted herself another win with an impressive race. Steve Colvert's "CJ" earned second place, and John Clough's "Will" took third.

Chester Halley Derby Classic

The morning of April 4 was rainy and cold, which made for challenging conditions for the judges, dogs, and handlers. The birds were out, though, and in addition, the birds pointed in the trial, the gallery walked up five woodcock and four ruffed grouse. Nineteen dogs in nine braces and one bye broke away.

Frank Ilijanic's "Ruby" broke with Rob Ellis's "Delta" in the second brace. Both dogs ran an aggressive race and handled well, but Ruby's forward style and exceptional handling earned her third place in the judges' eyes.

The fourth brace set John Clough's "Will" against Ben Wilson's "June" on Course 7. Will had a woodcock find one minute into the brace and followed it up with another not long after in a run the judges called "fast and fancy." Will's impressive performance earned him second place in the trial and his second placement of the weekend.

In the sixth brace, Thomas Reed's "Fitz" ran against Dan Gehring's "Boomer" through a hilly Course 9. Boomer pointed a woodcock just shy of the five-minute mark, and both dogs ran big and hunted hard for the remainder of their time.

In the 10th and final run of the day, Travis Whitfield's "Kane" broke away on Course 13. Kane ran an impressive, forward race that yielded the day's only grouse find, earning himself first place.

Hunting Dog

Sixteen dogs participated in the Michigan Amateur Field Trial Club's annual Hunting Dog stakes, with the first brace breaking away just before 9 a.m. on Course 14.

Brent Kroll's "Riot" took first place, Liz Edson's "River" second, and Brent Pike's "Libby" earned third. Justin Samsell's "Wyatt" and Tyler Miller's "Rosie" earned honorable mention. The judges said the decision was easy, with the top two

dogs finding birds, citing the winning dogs' ease of handling as the primary factor behind their decision. They would be happy to hunt behind any of them.

Meredith, Mich., April 3

Judges: Christy Helms and Rich Hollister
JUDD KINNE MEMORIAL AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC

– 8 Pointers, 16 Setters, and 2 Brittanys

1st-MOSS MEADOW SEEKER, F1676726, setter male, by Moss Meadow Rambler-Moss Meadow Maggie. Ken Moss, owner and handler.

2d-CONFIDENCE SQUARED KELLY, F1703363, pointer female, by True Confidence-My Lucky Lady. Rachel & Tom Butler, owners; Rachel Butler, handler.

3d-ROWLING'S STORMY, F1710741, setter female, by Moss Meadow Seeker-Rowling's Star. Chuck Rowling, owner and handler.

Judges: Nick Brown and Tammy Chaffee
CHESTER HALLEY MEMORIAL DERBY CLASSIC
– 14 Pointers and 6 Setters

1st-HIFIVE'S RAISING CAIN, F1722002, pointer male, by Ralph's Chasehill Rip-Hifive's Unsweetened Brandy. Travis Whitfield, owner and handler.

2d-CLOUGH'S OUTCAST WILL, F1721337, setter male, by Boatright's Maverick-Outcast Siren Song. John Clough, owner and handler.

3d-NORTHWOODS WANDERLUST, F1722885, pointer female, by Confident Nation-Northwoods Comet. Frank Ilijanic, owner and handler.

Judges: Bill Darr and Tom Vanecek
CHUCK PAGANO MEMORIAL PUPPY CLASSIC – 2 Pointers, 3 Setters, and 1 German Shorthair

1st-LUCY'S JUST HAVE MERCY, F1723542, pointer female, by Highbanks Final Justice-Highbanks Diamond Lucy. Ken DeLong, owner and handler.

2d-PIGEON CREEK CJ, F1719455, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Lockwood Mae. Steve Colvert, owner and handler.

3d-CLOUGH'S OUTCAST WILL, F1721337, setter male, by Boatright's Maverick-Outcast Siren Song. John Clough, owner and handler.



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NATIONAL RED SETTER FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Championship Series

By Bonnie Hidalgo | Pinckneyville, Illinois | April 9, 2026

Firefly's Beeline captured the title in the National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship. "Bee" is owned by Bonnie and Dennis Hidalgo of Brighton, Colorado, and was handled by Dennis. Gratitude earned runner-up honors in this 20-dog championship. Gratitude is owned and handled by Roger Boser, Seven Valleys, Pennsylvania.

In the National Red Setter Amateur Shooting Dog Championship, Red Bird's The Fifth Element was declared champion. "Griffin" is owned by Kelli Aitken-Thompson, Box Elder, South Dakota, and Kristi Gallino, Madras, Oregon; he was handled by Kelli. Silver Creek Wild Again was awarded runner-up in the National Red Setter Amateur Shooting Dog Championship. He is owned by Tim and Kristine Hammons of Berea, Kentucky, and was piloted by Tim.

The 54th National Red Setter Futurity winner is Red Rambling Ranger. This handsome young dog is owned by Tim and Kristine Hammons and was handled by Tim. Cedar Creek Edy was second for owner/handler Ed Liermann of Palmyra, Wisconsin. Third place went to Dale Creek Busy Bee, owned by Andrea Ward, Burlington, Wisconsin, and handled by Tom Waite. Dale Creek Firecracker Josie was fourth and was also handled by Tom Waite. She is owned by Chris and Beth Fields of Deforest, Wisconsin.

Rounding out the stakes' winners, in the Open Walking Shooting Dog stake, first place went to Cedar Creek Duke, handled by Sam Nutting and owned by Ed Liermann. In second was 13-year-old Grayson Fox handling Foxy Abralena for Mike Fox. Amy Gauthier handled her Cedar Creek Asa's Reign to third place.

The Open Walking Derby winner was Dale Creek Firecracker Josie,



National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship (front): Bonnie Hidalgo with Firefly's Beeline and Kelli Aitken-Thompson with Gratitude. (Back): Don Beauchamp, Dennis Hidalgo, Jeff Wallace (judge), Dave Capstick (judge), Roger Boser, and Ed Liermann.

owned by Chris and Beth Fields and handled by Chris. Second place went to Four Crows, handled by Ken Dinn for Larry Puddister and Ken Dinn of Newfoundland, Canada. Foxy Red Jewel was third for Mike Fox.

In the Open Walking Puppy, first place went to Four Crows Fiona and Ken Dinn. Foxy Red Jewel and Mike Fox placed second, and Backwater Annie Roux placed third for newcomer Bart Armstrong of Minnesota.

The trial was conducted on April 9-13 over the Captain Field Trial grounds at Pyramid State Park, near Cutler, Illinois. It was the third year in succession that the National Red Setter Field Trial Club had run its Shooting Dog Championship trial on these grounds. Each year, these grounds have been significantly improved over the previous year. This trial has seen these grounds go from "nice grounds" to "premier grounds" that the club is proud to call home for our spring trial. Over the past year, many ditch crossings have been improved, making them easier and safer. Course 2 had one of its fields cleared; it had become

overgrown to the point of making it difficult to watch a dog. While some felt it had been over-cleared, the long-range plan for feed plots and hay should make it near-perfect by next spring. We applaud the efforts of the IL DNR and of the local field trial people, Jim Lawless and Jon Lam in particular, who work with the State of Illinois employees to make these improvements happen. In addition to the birds planted during the trial, a few native coveys were moved.

The drawing for all stakes was held at the home of Milt and Wendy Schafer in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, on Sunday evening, April 6. There were 20 entries in the Open Championship, and 16 were entered in the Amateur Championship. The Futurity attracted seven contestants. The Open Walking Shooting Dog stake drew 14 entries, while the Open Walking Derby and Open Walking Puppy each received eight entries. It was a strong attendance and made for a good trial, especially with some great new folks added to the mix.

Judges for all horseback stakes and the Walking Shooting Dog stake

were Dave Capstick of Jonesburg, Missouri, and Jeff Wallace of Knoxville, Iowa. They are top-caliber dog men and have judged numerous championships around the country. Dave Capstick was recently inducted into the Brittany Hall of Fame. He has trained his own dogs and won championships with them. Dave is also known as a worker; he helps out wherever he goes. When this trial concluded, he stayed to help tear down the corral panels with Jim Lawless and Jon Lam. Jeff Wallace has been active and successful in trialing German shorthairs and putting on events, in addition to judging. The NRSFTC is very appreciative of the hours they spent in the saddle watching our dogs. The knowledge they brought to the table was evident in their conduct and quick decisions in the field. Their decisions on the winners in every stake were well received.

Judges for the Walking Derby and Walking Puppy stakes were Kristine and Tim Hammons. They volunteered to judge so that the main judges could rest their horses and themselves by having a few hours off. These two NRSFTC members have a ton of field trial experience and have covered numerous judging assignments over the years. We thank them for pitching in where needed.

Purina is a major sponsor of this Club and its events. The members of the NRSFTC are very grateful for their support; they have stood by us for many years. Their financial and product support have allowed the NRSFTC to put on quality events. They sponsor a "Purina Banquet" at each of our trials; this spring, it was held on Saturday evening. A good-sized crowd enjoyed the meal and the camaraderie of the evening. We enjoyed the company of their representative, Terry Trzcinski, during the event and at the dinner. He is very knowledgeable about all things Purina.

Purina's products are top of the line; they feed a high percentage of field trial winners across all breeds

and trial formats. If you aren't feeding Purina Pro Plan Sport, your dog will thank you for switching to it. If you are feeding it, the NRSFTC greatly appreciates your support of our No. 1 sponsor!

Garmin is also an important sponsor. They generously provide us with top-quality training products awarded to the winners of our major stakes. At this trial, they supplied collar sets to the winners of both championships and to the futurity winner. Thank you, Garmin, for your many years of support for this club.

Our third corporate sponsor is SportDOG. Their representative, Jim Morehouse, continues to supply us with various products for our fundraising efforts. Thank you, Jim and SportDOG!

It has become a tradition at this club's events for various members to donate and serve an evening meal. This keeps the club's social aspect alive and well. In addition to Purina, the meal sponsors for this trial were Wendy and Milt Schafer, Kristine and Tim Hammons, and Dennis and Bonnie Hidalgo. Linda Beauchamp brought some of her delicious desserts, and she and Wendy created more during the trial. Many people pitched in on the meal clean-up, especially noted were Kelli Aitken-Thompson, Kristine Hammons, Wendy Schafer, and Linda Beauchamp. There is never an evening meal charge, and we rotate through the members so that no one carries the full burden. If you would like to sponsor a lunch or an evening meal at our fall trial, please reach out to Dennis Hidalgo or Milt Schafer, the co-chairmen of the fall trial. If you want to sponsor a meal but aren't a cook, we can handle that for you.

A trial takes a lot of effort from many people to run efficiently. Ed Liermann served as chairman, but he had plenty of willing workers. Milt and Wendy Schafer helped Ed take the entries, and they conducted the drawing. Dennis and Bonnie Hidalgo finalized and printed the running orders and posted them on Facebook. Sam Nutting helped Ed

fill in the judges' books. During the trial, Milt planted the birds early each morning from his UTV, sometimes with Sam Nutting's assistance. Milt also resalted behind the morning braces for the afternoon dogs. He was aided in this at various times by Sam Nutting and Dennis Hidalgo. Ed Liermann served as the field marshal for the entire trial. The dog wagon duties were handled by Don Beauchamp, Andy Weik, Bart Armstrong, Dennis Hidalgo, and Amy Gauthier.

The NRSFTC was thrilled to welcome some new contestants to the spring trial. Ken Dinn drove all the way from Newfoundland, Canada, with three horses and a string of nice young red setters. Ken attended this event as a spectator in 2024 and said then that he would be back, and we're happy he's back! Ken showed us some fine dogs and took away a couple of placements.

Andrew Campbell came all the way from Massachusetts to run some young dogs for one of his clients. Andrew was ready and willing to help when needed and was a welcome addition to the group.

Bart Armstrong came from Minnesota with his brother-in-law, Jim, to run some pups and check out the club and the trial. Bart pitched in right away and fit in well with the group. His dogs proved to be competitive, and he claims to have had a great time. He has been a club member for some time, and we were all glad he decided to join us at an event. Welcome to the gang, Bart!

National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship

This was the opening stake of the NRSFTC spring trial, which commenced on Thursday morning, April 9. Twenty dogs were entered and competed, many of them champions. The weather was seasonably warm for southern Illinois, with cool mornings and highs in the 70s and low 80s. The three one-hour courses were exceptionally well groomed and seeded with quail. Judges for this stake were Dave

Capstick and Jeff Wallace.

The Winners

Firefly's Beeline won the 2026 National Red Setter Open Shooting Dog Championship. She appeared in the 10th and final brace, which ran after lunch on Friday. The 9-year-old female was sired by Ch. Dawson's High Chaparral out of the 2011 Red Setter Futurity winner, Firefly's Hot Tip. She was bred by Dennis and Bonnie Hidalgo and has been owned and trained by them her entire life. Dennis handled her to this win; Bonnie scouted. She also holds the title of the 2024 National Red Setter Open All-Age Championship.

Bee ran a textbook shooting dog race. She was always forward, always on an edge if there was one, and she used the wind to her hunting advantage. She took her handler's direction willingly when asked. Bee scored her first find at 28, at the end of the lake, she remained high and tight as her handler rummaged through the brush to locate her birds and fire. At 44, she pointed on the dam of the waterway. Bee showed intensity and style throughout, without a word spoken to her. She took the right edge of the corn field and carried it all the way to the cedars on the west end. She pointed there at 57, all in perfect order. Firefly's Beeline's race had a smooth flow; she handled kindly at excellent range.

Gratitude took runner-up honors in this championship. The five-time champion is owned and handled by Roger Boser. Kelli Aitken-Thompson was his scout. Gratitude was sired by Come Back Cutter and is out of Come Back Doodle. He was bred by Joe Edwards. Roger purchased him as a young dog and has trained and handled him to all of his wins. "Grady" has several other runner-up titles to his credit. Gratitude turned nine in January.

Gratitude appeared in the third brace of this championship. He started with a bang, scoring a beautiful find at 2, displaying high class and manners throughout. He

quickly caught the front, taking the lines forward and swinging on the next line as the course turned. He scored his second find at 11. He was impressive in his stance, high on both ends with rigid intensity for the flush of his game. He scored a third find beyond the road crossing; again, it was all in order. He had a barren stand at time on the far west end of the grounds. Grady's race had a smart flow to it; it was a fine performance that was not challenged until the final brace of the stake.

The Running

Chukarhill On The Rocks (Aitken-Thompson) and Cedar Creek Sixgun (Liermann). "Rock" was on point at 5; Sixgun slipped in and pointed beside him. The birds were put up while both dogs stood steady. Sixgun pointed in crop stubble at 27, before the first road crossing; Rock failed to back and was up. Sixgun stood mannerly. He scored two finds within yards of each other at 34 and 37 and handled them nicely. At the far end of the field, Sixgun pointed again at 47, corrected, and pointed again further into the cover. The bird was flushed with the dog standing mannerly. At 50, on a perpendicular line, he pointed, moved into the trees, and pointed again. The bird was in close proximity to him, and he had movement at the flush. His speed and range lessened late in the hour.

Foxy Lady Sadie (Waite) and Firefly's Quantonas (Hidalgo). Sadie notched a good find at 4; "Quint" failed to back. Sadie continued mainly forward. She pointed on the hillside east of the lake at 38. She was relocated and directed to the edge of the lake, where she pointed again at 45. At 47, her handler called sight of the bird and fired, but it was not seen by a judge. At 58, she pointed again but made a jump when her birds were flushed.

Firefly's MacKinnon (Hidalgo) and Gratitude (Boser). Gratitude was the runner-up; his performance is given above. "Nate" was out of pocket early, returned only to be out of pocket again. His tracker was taken at 23.

Little More Shine (Hammons) and Raintree Blue Moon (Waite). Kate had her own ideas today, and her tracker was out at 27. Friday made some good moves but had no birds; he was lost late in the hour.

Cedar Creek Skyline Lady (Liermann) and Ruff Country Simply Ginger (Weik). Both dogs hunted to the front, each with a kind handle. Lady was under a bird on the hillside at 39. Ginger was picked up at 50 due to the heat.

Red Bird's The Fifth Element (Aitken-Thompson) and Full Red Afterburn (Waite). These two powerful dogs broke strong; Afterburn with a left-hand move, Griffin hit the edge on the right. They covered their edges, showing on the edge of the corn stubble, well to the front. He had a nonproductive just before the road crossing at 36. After crossing the road, he stopped to the flush of a turkey. He had a second unproductive at 47. Afterburn was lost.

Slingblade (Boser) and Silver Creek Wild Again (Hammons) had a divided find at 5, Slingblade had movement at the flush and was up. Wild Again stood high and mannerly through flush and shot. Wild Again was running a big and mainly forward race. He pointed at 41 and again at 46, but both were unproductive.

Cedar Creek Titan (Liermann) and Dale Creek Simply Next (Waite). Titan ran mostly forward and looked good on the edges. He had a nonproductive at 49. Torrin was forward in pattern and made good moves on the edges. Neither setter made game contact.

Quantonas Reckless Abandon (Aitken-Thompson) and Raintree Simply Singular (Waite). Reckless Abandon's maturity was enough to cause her handler to pull the plug on her performance at 27. "Bachelor" was seen on deer, and his tracker was out at 26.

Hotrod Ricky Joe (Hammons) and Firefly's Beeline (Hidalgo). Beeline's championship-winning run is listed under "The Winners." Ricky had a

good, strong start but was lost.

Pinckneyville, Ill., April 9

Judges: Dave Capstick and Jeff Wallace
NATIONAL RED SETTER OPEN SHOOTING DOG
CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]
– 20 Irish Setters

Winner-FIREFLY'S BEELINE, F1674096, Irish setter female, by Dawson's High Chaparral-Firefly's Hot Tip. Dennis & Bonnie Hidalgo, owners; Dennis Hidalgo, handler.

Runner-Up-GRATITUDE, F1676458, Irish setter male, by Come Back Cutter-Come Back Doodle. Roger W. Boser, owner and handler.

The National Red Setter Futurity

There were 11 litters nominated for the 54th Futurity. From those litters, 14 individual dogs were nominated; only seven were entered. While the entry was disappointing, the quality of the stake was high. Since none of the dogs had the opportunity to show on point in the first series, a second horseback series was set up. The judges took charge and found a location where the wind and the cover worked to the dogs' advantage, setting them up for success. They called back four dogs for the second series. The judges were Dave Capstick and Jeff Wallace.

Futurity Winners

Red Rambling Ranger, the 54th Futurity winner, ran a fast and mainly forward race in the first series. He displayed an attractive gait and beautiful tail carriage, all the attributes of a future champion. Ranger was a thrill to watch. In the second series, Ranger pointed his bird with lofty style to win the stake. Ranger is owned by Tim and Kristine Hammons. He was handled by Tim and scouted by Kris. He was sired by S C Simply Irresistable and out of S C Miss Behaving. He was whelped on June 16, 2024.

Cedar Creek Edy placed second. She was fast and snappy, covering a lot of ground. Her pattern was less forward than Ranger's. In the second series, Edy pointed with a twelve o'clock style; she showed good promise for the future. Cedar Creek Edy is bred, owned, and handled by Ed Liermann; she was scouted by Bonnie Hidalgo. Edy was sired by Come Back Billy Boy out of Cedar Creek Shooting Star and whelped on



54th National Red Setter Futurity (front): Tim Hammons with Red Rambling Ranger and Ed Liermann with Cedar Creek Edy. (Bottom): Dale Creek Busy Bee with Andrea Ward and Dale Creek Firecracker Josie with Chris Field. (Back row): Don Beauchamp, Dennis Hidalgo, Kristine Hammons, Jeff Wallace (judge), Dave Capstick (judge), and Tom Waite.

February 28, 2024.

Dale Creek Busy Bee, handled by Tom Waite, took third place. She was scouted by her owner, Andrea Ward. Bee ran a good, forward race with a kind handle. In the second series, she showed beautiful style on point. Bee was sired by Ch. Heavy Chevy Jason, and her dam is Lincoln's Red Penny. She was whelped on May 25, 2024.

Fourth place was awarded to Dale Creek Firecracker Josie, a litter sister to Busy Bee. She is owned by Chris and Beth Fields and was scouted by Andrea Ward. Owner Chris Fields was present for Josie's performance. Josie was mainly forward with reasonable speed. Her pattern was slightly less consistent than the third-place dog's. In the second series, Josie pointed her bird staunchly with pretty style.



Red Setter Open Walking Shooting Dog (front): Sam Nutting with Cedar Creek Duke, Grayson Fox with Foxy Abralena, and Jerry and Amy Gauthier with Cedar Creek Asa's Reign. (Back row): Ed Liermann, Dennis Hidalgo, Andrea Ward, Terry Trzcinski, Roger Boser, Jeff Wallace (judge), Dave Capstick (judge), Kristine Hammons, and Bonnie Hidalgo.

54TH NATIONAL RED SETTER FUTURITY – 8 Irish Setters

1st-RED RAMBLING RANGER, F1716556, Irish setter male, by S C Simply Irresistable-S C Miss Behaving. Tim Hammons, owner and handler.

2d-CEDAR CREEK EDY, unreg., Irish setter female, by Come Back Billy Boy-Cedar Creek Shooting Star. Ed Liermann, owner and handler.

3d-DALE CREEK BUSY BEE, unreg., Irish setter female, by Heavy Chevy Jason-Lincoln's Red Penny. Andrea Ward, owner; Tom Waite, handler.

4th-DALE CREEK FIRECRACKER JOSIE, F1716360, Irish setter female, by Heavy Chevy Jason-Lincoln's Red Penny. Chris & Beth Fields, owners; Chris Fields, handler.

Red Setter Open Walking **Shooting Dog**

This stake ran first on Saturday; there were 14 entries. The judges were Dave Capstick and Jeff Wallace. The course was run as an out-and-back, with the UTV hauling dogs and handlers for the return brace. It also hauled dogs up the hill to the starting line on the east end of the course. One buggy to do all the hauling and plant birds caused a delay between braces, and the stake ran into the early afternoon. Club members were already thinking of better logistics and a more efficient course for next year's event.

The winner emerged in Cedar Creek Duke, handled by Sam Nutting for Ed Liermann. He ran a pleasant, forward hunting race and scored one stylish find with perfect manners. Duke is a 6-year-old son of Cedar Creek Sixgun out of Cedar Creek Ciara.

Foxy Abralena, handled by 13-year-old Grayson Fox, placed second. "Lena" did a nice job on the ground for her young handler and scored one good find. Grandpa Mike Fox is Lena's owner. She is an 8-year-old daughter of Zansett Simply Red out of Foxy's Lil Red Missy.

Cedar Creek Asa's Reign was third for Amy and Jerry Gauthier of Bay City, Michigan. Amy handled Asa to the placement. Asa scored one excellent find and hunted close. Asa is turning six in May. He was sired by Cedar Creek Talon and is out of Cedar Creek's Skyline Belle.



Red Setter Open Walking Derby (front): Chris Fields with Dale Creek Firecracker Josie, Ken Dinn with Four Crows Fiona, and Mike Fox with Foxy Red Jewel. (Back): Don Beauchamp, Ed Liermann, Dennis Hidalgo, Terry Trzcinski, Tim and Kristine Hammons (judges), and Bonnie Hidalgo.

RED SETTER OPEN WALKING SHOOTING DOG – 14 Irish Setters

1st-CEDAR CREEK DUKE, F1693591, Irish setter male, by Cedar Creek Sixgun-Cedar Creek Ciara. Ed Liermann, owner; Sam Nutting, handler.

2d-FOXY ABRALENA, F1682017, Irish setter female, by Zan Sett Simply Red-Foxy's Little Red Missy. Mike Fox, owner; Grayson Fox, handler.

3d-CEDAR CREEK ASA'S REIGN, F1692805, Irish setter male, by Cedar Creek Talon-Cedar Creek's Skyline Belle. Amy Gauthier, owner and handler.

Red Setter Open Walking Derby

The judges for this stake were Tim and Dr. Kristine Hammons of Berea, Kentucky. The Club thanks them for their time in the saddle. They commented on the good quality of the placing dogs.

Dale Creek Firecracker Josie won this stake with a good race and one nice find. Josie showed good ground speed and a mostly forward pattern. She pointed with good style. Josie is owned by Chris and Beth Fields of Deforest, Wisconsin, and was handled by Chris. Josie was sired by Heavy Chevy Jason and is out of Lincoln's Red Penny.

Second place in the Walking Derby went to Four Crows Fiona, an entry that came all the way from Newfoundland, Canada! Fiona was quick and classy and was placed on the quality of her race. She was handled by Ken Dinn and is owned by Larry Puddister and Ken Dinn. Fiona is from the mating of Braeval Rory to Foxy Lady Sadie; the litter was bred by Mike Fox.

Foxy Red Jewel placed third for owner and handler Mike Fox of Patriot, Indiana. Jewel is a littermate to Fiona. Jewel was attractive on the ground and was also placed on race.

Judges: Dr. Kristine Hammons and Tim Hammons RED SETTER OPEN WALKING DERBY

– 8 Irish Setters

1st-DALE CREEK FIRECRACKER JOSIE, F1716360, Irish setter female, by Heavy Chevy Jason-Lincoln's Red Penny. Chris & Beth Fields, owners; Chris Fields, handler.

2d-FOUR CROWS FIONA, F1722762, Irish setter female, by Braeval Rory-Foxy Lady Sadie. Larry Puddister & Ken Dinn, owners; Ken Dinn, handler.

3d-FOXY RED JEWEL, F1722760, Irish setter female, by Braeval Rory-Foxy Lady Sadie. Mike Fox, owner and handler.

Red Setter Open Walking Puppy

Tim and Kristine Hammons officiated the Puppy stake and mentioned that there were some nice young dogs in this stake.

Four Crows Fiona was declared the winner of this stake by virtue of her attractive gait, her mainly forward pattern, and her drive, which all combined into a good race. She is owned by Larry Puddister and Ken Dinn and was handled by Ken. She was whelped on April 18, 2025.

Foxy Red Jewel acquitted herself well in this Puppy stake; she encountered game but did not point it. She has an attractive way of going, but was not as strong on the ground as the winner. She is owned and handled by Mike Fox.

Backwater Annie Roux, owned and handled by Bart Armstrong of Minnesota, placed third. She showed potential with good hunting drive. Annie was sired by Backwater Drifter's Huck Finn; her dam is Backwater Mosquito Roux. She was whelped on June 1, 2025.

RED SETTER OPEN WALKING PUPPY – 8 Irish Setters

1st-FOUR CROWS FIONA, F1722762, Irish setter female, by Braeval Rory-Foxy Lady Sadie. Larry Puddister & Ken Dinn, owners; Ken Dinn, handler.

2d-FOXY RED JEWEL, F1722760, Irish setter female, by Braeval Rory-Foxy Lady Sadie. Mike Fox, owner and handler.

3d-BACKWATER ANNIE ROUX, F1724137, Irish setter female, by Backwater Drifter's Huck Finn-Backwater Mosquito Roux. Bart Armstrong, owner and handler.

National Red Setter Amateur Shooting Dog Championship

The Amateur Championship drew a field of 16 and commenced first thing on Sunday morning. It was not possible to run the entire stake in one day; Judges Dave Capstick and Jeff Wallace graciously committed to



Red Setter Open Walking Puppy (front): Ken Dinn with Four Crows Fiona, Mike Fox with Foxy Little Red Jewel, and Bart Armstrong with Backwater Annie Roux. (Back row): Don Beauchamp, Andrea Ward, Dennis Hidalgo, Terry Trzcinski, Tim Hammons (judge), Bonnie Hidalgo, and Kristine Hammons (judge).

staying over an extra day. The skies were overcast early, keeping the temperature somewhat lower than the predicted 82 degrees. Monday morning was comfortable for the final two braces.

The Winners

The winner, four-time champion Red Bird's The Fifth Element, has the distinction of winning this championship three of the past four years. In 2025, he went runner-up to his kennelmate. That's a pretty consistent record! Griffin is proudly owned by Kelli Aitken-Thompson and Kristi Gallino. He was handled to this win by Kelli and scouted by Clayton Thompson. Griffin was sired by Eshod's Barn Burner and is out of Red Bird's River Wild. He was whelped on December 4, 2018.

Red Bird's The Fifth Element appeared in the fifth brace. He ran a consistent, forward race; he could be seen on the edges of the tree-lined fields. In the open fields, he hunted the available cover and headed for the trees up ahead. Griffin ran with a purpose, that of searching for game in the likely places and pleasing his handler with a cooperative attitude. He ran with speed and carried himself stylishly. He scored a very nice find on the hill at 34. Griffin carded a second find at 42, perfectly in order. Red Bird's The Fifth Element finished his hour forward with gas left in the tank, a worthy performance.

Silver Creek Wild Again was named runner-up. He is owned by Tim and Kristine Hammons and was handled by Tim; Kristine scouted. He

was sired by Zansett Ricky O’Ryan; his dam is S C Miss Behaving. Wild Again was bred by Tim Hammons and was whelped on March 10, 2020.

Silver Creek Wild Again appeared in the sixth brace, the last on Sunday afternoon. He scored a good find along the edge, just past the ditch. He has an attractive, lofty stance on his game. Wild Again’s second find came at 59, all in good order. He ran a big race, which occasionally put him out of pocket. He used the edges wisely and was usually forward.

The Running

Quantonas Reckless Abandon (Aitken-Thompson) and Cedar Creek Titan (Liermann) ran first thing on Sunday morning. Point was called for Titan at 16; it was discovered that Melody was already pointing there, but buried in the cover where Titan couldn’t see. Birds were flushed, and both dogs received credit for the find. Melody broke on the flush and was up. Titan had a minor absence after his find but showed on the left, past the woods. Titan scored another nice find at 42. He pointed again at time, but no birds were produced. Titan made some good moves during the hour.

Firefly’s Quantonas (Hidalgo) and Switchblade (Boser) broke away from the third road crossing. Quint was under birds at 6. Switchblade pointed a covey on the edge of the lake with excellent manners at 37. At 42, on the hillside, he was under birds.

Firefly’s Beeline (Hidalgo) and Little More Shine (Hammons) broke



National Red Setter Amateur Shooting Dog Championship: Dennis Hidalgo, Kelli Aitken-Thompson, Clayton Thompson with Red Bird’s The Fifth Element, Dave Capstick (judge), Bonnie Hidalgo, Jeff Wallace (judge), and Tim and Kristine Hammons with Silver Creek Wild Again.

away on the top of the hill, heading southeast. Bee ran her edges nicely and scored a solid find at 12. She continued running the edges and handling kindly. At 36, she pointed on the edge of the corn stubble. She was high and tight through flush and shot. As her handler walked back to her, he flushed a single into her, she made a jump and was picked up. Shine had a very nice find at 19. She was lost with the tracker out by 39.

Red Rambling Ranger (Hammons) and Gratitude (Boser) were on Course 1 after lunch. Both dogs were forward when Little More Shine showed up. Tim caught her, and she was put on the wagon. At 36, Gratitude scored a nice find on the edge of the woods; Ranger failed to back. Gratitude finished his hour forward with good edge-running moves.

Cedar Creek Skyline Lady (Liermann) and Red Bird’s The Fifth Element (Aitken-Thompson) were released at the third road crossing. Red Bird’s The Fifth Element won the title, and his performance is listed

above. Lady was forward on the edges but erratic in the cleared field. She released herself after bird work at 34 and was up.

Silver Creek Wild Again (Hammons) and Firefly’s Mackinnon (Hidalgo) turned loose after the second road crossing. Silver Creek Wild Again was the runner-up, and his performance was related earlier. Mackinnon was predominantly forward, although at less than desirable range. He was picked up at 45.

Slingblade (Boser) and Hotrod Ricky Joe (Hammons) were the first brace on Monday. Slingblade was under a bird at 4. Ricky Joe had an early, lengthy absence. He was returned and showed forward for a time before becoming lost; his tracker was out at 42.

Cedar Creek Sixgun (Liermann) and Chukarhill On The Rocks (Aitken-Thompson). Sixgun scored a find at 36, on the hillside. His birds were out in the grass, but he handled them perfectly. He was predominantly forward for the hour. Rock scored a nice find in the cedars before the cleared field; he showed good style and polite manners. Rock was up before the hour for an indiscretion on game.

**Judges: Dave Capstick and Jeff Wallace
NATIONAL RED SETTER AMATEUR SHOOTING
DOG CHAMPIONSHIP [One-Hour Heats]**

– 16 Irish Setters

Winner-RED BIRD’S THE FIFTH ELEMENT, F1687076, Irish setter male, by Eshod’s Barn Burner-Red Bird’s River Wild. Kristen & Nicholas Ennis, owners; Kellie Aitken, handler.

Runner-Up-SILVER CREEK WILD AGAIN, F1692221, Irish setter male, by Zansett Ricky O’Ryan-S C Miss Behaving. Tim Hammons, owner and handler.



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RUFFED GROUSE FIELD TRIAL CLUB

Spring Trial

By Tammy Chaffee | Meredith, Michigan | April 10, 2026

The Spring event commenced on April 10 with the 50th (and final) running of the Jack Secor Memorial Open Shooting Dog stake. We were honored (as we have been for the past 11 years) to have Jack Secor's grandson, Jeff Secor, attend and award the trophy. Beginning with our fall trial, we will host the inaugural running of the Harold (Doc) Holmes Open Shooting Dog stake. In 2027, the Woodcock Championship stake will move from the fall to the spring. This will provide championship competition opportunities in Michigan, Wisconsin, the East Coast, and Pennsylvania each spring.

We were fortunate to have the following slate of judges: Bob Wheelock and Travis Whitfield for the Shooting Dog stake; Mike Brown and Frank Ilijanic for the Derby stake; and Denise Peters and Tom Butler for the Puppy stake. It is tough to find good judges, and these six did an exemplary job; we thank them.

We had a full day of running on Friday and Saturday, and Sunday handed us a dismal, cold rain. We had several people who stepped up to keep things running: Rob Ellis, Scott Chaffee, Lonnie Rademacher, and Eric Naus (marshal extraordinaire!). There were others who helped to move vehicles and marshal braces, and we thank them all. In addition, Rich and Jenny Hollister had their dependable steeds on hand to carry the judges for the three days of running. As always, a huge shoutout to Purina and Greg Blair for their continued support of our beloved coverdog sport.

Note: We estimate that over the course of 20 shooting dog braces, 28 grouse and 46 woodcock were moved. This does not include the multitude of wild birds moved during the Derby stake. We even had a grouse pointed during the Puppy stake! This accomplishment is due



Jack Secor Memorial Open Shooting Dog: Jeff Secor, Scott Chaffee with Meredith Grade Penny, Chris Wasserman, Bob Wheelock (judge), Lonnie Rademacher with Springpond's Addy's Boy, Travis Whitfield (judge), and Ken Moss with Moss Meadow Seeker.

to the ongoing efforts of our resident DNR conservation officer, Bruce Barlow. The four Michigan clubs that call the Gladwin Game Refuge home are very blessed to have arguably the best grounds for cover dog field trials in North America.

The 50th running of the Jack Secor Memorial Open Shooting Dog Stake (as written by judge Bob Wheelock)

Course 6

In first place was Meredith Grade Penny ("Penny"). A very smooth, steady, forward race that covered the terrain presented. She reached the edges and handled when required. At 15, her bell was silent. Bracemate "Katie," handled by Mike Singleton, came across the front right to left and stopped hard about 80 yards down and in the aspen. We all headed in that direction, both dogs standing. A better picture couldn't be painted; two grouse lifted from the edge of a small opening 30 feet in front of Penny. Both dogs looked great and held steady.

In second place, Lonnie Rademacher's setter male,

Springpond's Addy's Boy ("Otto") ran on Course 5. The course starts in a 10-year-old aspen cut bordered by hardwoods. Otto covered the woods from side to side, working steady and forward. At 15, he stopped 80 yards down in a steep valley, standing tall when we arrived. Lonnie put a woodcock to flight, all in order. On our way back to the course with Otto at heel, Otto spun and locked up again. A woodcock did a 10-yard flip and wandered off. Otto stood tall throughout this. At time, both bells were silent. It took six minutes to find the dogs, who were both standing tall about 30 yards apart. A wide flushing attempt ended with a third woodcock lifting between the two dogs.

In third place was Moss Meadow Seeker, handled by Ken Moss on Course 2. The course starts in an oak forest bordered by small openings on one side and 20-year-old aspen cut on the opposite side. Seeker was forward, hard driving, and covered the terrain with little handling. At 18, the course moves to a 10-year aspen cut. A few minutes in, Seeker was standing left of course. A woodcock took flight all was in order. Right at time, both bells stopped forward; we



John R. Stuart Derby Classic: Tom Butler, Mike Brown (judge), Rachel Butler with White Indian Outlaw, Chris Wasserman, Ken Moss with Moss Meadow Searcher, Frank Ilijanic (judge), and Dan Gehring with White Moby's Essex.

found both dogs separated by 30 yards. Ken walked in front of Seeker and put a second woodcock to flight.

We had very good bird doggin' weather and a great bird count. Grouse were seen on every course each day, with multiple grouse on most courses. Woodcock were abundant on every course.

Meredith, Mich., April 10

Judges: Bob Wheelock and Travis Whitfield
JACK SECOR MEMORIAL OPEN SHOOTING DOG
 - 7 Pointers, 31 Setters, and 1 Brittany

1st-MEREDITH GRADE PENNY, F1694628, setter female, by Ponderosa Mac-Eldridge's Beauty And Beast. Dennis Keysor, owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.
 2d-SPRINGPOND'S ADDY'S BOY, F1699904, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Springpond's Autumn Adeline. Lonnie Rademacher, owner and handler.
 3d-MOSS MEADOW SEEKER, F1676726, setter male, by Moss Meadow Rambler-Moss Meadow Maggie. Ken Moss, owner and handler.

John R. Stuart Derby Classic
(Per judge Mike Brown):

In first place was White Indian

Outlaw, handled by Rachel Butler. "Wyatt" handled well with a mature, front-running-to-the-edge ground pattern. He capped his run with a broke find on Course 5.

In second place, Moss Meadow Searcher, handled by Ken Moss. Searcher had a nice, big punching race coupled with two woodcock finds. The judges considered his run very close to the winner's.

In third, White Moby's Essex, handled by Dan Gehring. Moby also handled well with a far-reaching race. He carded a woodcock find at the 15-minute mark to secure his placement.

Judges: Mike Brown and Frank Ilijanic
JOHN R. STUART DERBY CLASSIC
 - 11 Pointers and 15 Setters

1st-WHITE INDIAN OUTLAW, F1709779, pointer male, by Light of Day-Perkins Beautiful Disaster. Thomas Butler, owner; Rachel Butler, handler.
 2d-MOSS MEADOW SEARCHER, F1709320, setter male, by Moss Meadow Seeker-Tupelo Honey. Ken Moss, owner and handler.
 3d-WHITE MOBY'S ESSEX, F1709780, pointer male, by Light of Day-Perkins Beautiful Disaster. Dan Gehring, owner and handler.

Bernie Bauman Memorial Open
Puppy (Per judge Denise Peters):

In first place was Redrock Horizon Rainmaker ("Poncho"). Handled by Scott Chaffee, Poncho checked all the boxes for a spring puppy. He kept his focus forward and ran a mature and consistent race from start to finish.



Bernie Bauman Memorial Open Puppy: Denise Peters (judge), Scott Chaffee with Redrock Horizon Rainmaker, Chris Wasserman, Bruce Minard with Terry's Mayday, Tom Butler (judge), and Frank Ilijanic with Northwoods Wanderlust.

In second, Terry's Mayday ("Daisy"). Handled by Bruce Minard, Daisy started as she finished, hitting the cover with a well-balanced race to the end.

In third, Northwoods Wanderlust ("Ruby"). Handled by Frank Ilijanic, Ruby made some nice casts to the cover, with consistent energy throughout her brace.

Judges: Thomas Butler and Denise Peters
BERNIE BAUMAN MEMORIAL OPEN PUPPY
 - 2 Pointers and 4 Setters

1st-REDROCK HORIZON RAINMAKER, F1719457, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Lockwood Mae. Derek Farrell & Cody Groover, owners; Scott Chaffee, handler.
 2d-TERRY'S MAYDAY, F1723339, setter female, by Snyder's Fireside Ed-Grouse River Patti Cakes. Ryan Terry, owner; Bruce Minard, handler.
 3d-NORTHWOODS WANDERLUST, F1722885, pointer female, by Confident Nation-Northwoods Comet. Frank Ilijanic, owner and handler.

VIRGINIA AMATEUR FIELD TRIAL ASSOCIATION

Trial Held At Cutawhiskie Grounds

By Gene Hogge | Ahoskie, North Carolina | April 10, 2026

What was originally scheduled for November 2025 turned into an April 2026 trial. Scheduling conflicts and seriously bad weather forced two postponements before we would squeeze our trial in at the end of the season.

Many thanks go out to those who made it possible. Thank you to Purina and Greg Blair for the continued support of this trial. Ellen Winall

handled the paperwork, including the drawing, the ad, Facebook updates, programs, judges' gifts, and even a little judging when she wasn't scouting. Gary and Ellen Winall secured Purina sponsorship and trophies. Rob Maguire and Grace Anne Lawson judged the one-hour All-Age, Rob and Lee Flanders judged the 30-minute Puppy, Jeff Smith and Bruce Conover judged the 30-minute Derby, and Ellen Winall

and Larry King took care of the half-hour All-Age stake. Barbel Fetkoter, J. Parke Brinkley, Gary Winall, and Ellen Winall made sure everyone was well fed with breakfast, lunch, and dinner each day. Mornings began early with coffee, juice, eggs, salted ham, bacon, sausage gravy, biscuits, and milk. Lunches were expertly prepared by Barbel and dinners by Barbel Fetkoter, Jim Jones, and Ellen Winall, with lasagna the night before

the trial and BBQ with all the fixings, cakes, and banana pudding. Barbel also raised the quail from day-old chicks for the trials held at Ahoskie. Jimmy Jones, J. Parke Brinkley, and J. R. Hastings helped with the dog wagon duties. Ashby Morgan not only ran dogs, but kept the course well stocked with quail. It was good to see Gary Ansell accompanied by his grandson, Andrew, who rode both days of the trial. We had Andrew scouting instead of gallery riding one time, but if you don't get them out there, they will not learn.

The trial was held at the Virginia Amateur Club's Cutawhiskie trial grounds near St. John, North Carolina. The weather was decent, but on the warm side with highs in the 70s both days.

The Verle Farrow Puppy stake was a good one with Jeff Smith's pointer female, Treetop Helen, showing the judges what they were looking for with a hard-driving race. Second was Ellie's Domino, a pointer male owned and handled by Gene Hogge with a good, forward effort. Third went to Bruce Conover's pointer female, Forever in Blue Jeans, who was braced with the winner and gave a good account of herself as well. Nothing like getting those puppies out and getting them experience.

Larry King's pointer female, Southbound Priscilla, had a very good performance on the ground, highlighted by two finished finds to win the Parke Brinkley Derby stake. Mohawk Mill Captain, a very athletic



Open All-Age (front row): Ellen Winall with Mohawk Mill Hawkeye and Gary Winall with Mohawk Mill Jet Stream. **(Back row):** Gene Hogge, Grace Anne Lawson, and Barbel Fetkoter.

and classy pointer male handled by Gary Winall, had one find and a classy race to take second. Mohawk Mill Country Girl, just coming off of whelping pups in January, handled by Gary Winall, rounded out the placements with an attractive way of going and one bird contact.

The one-hour All-Age Classic proved tough for many participants. However, Mohawk Mill Hawkeye prevailed with a big going, classy race and two well-executed finds. Just behind him was his kennelmate Mohawk Mill Jet Stream with two finds, classy running, pointing, and a race to be very proud of.

Moving on to the 30-minute All-Age stake, Ashby Morgan handled the first and second-place dogs. First went to Mohawk Mill Charmer, a big, classy female setter that took

to the course with purpose and had two beautiful finds and a strong, showy finish. Close behind was Mohawk Mill Big Stuff, a big gliding pointer male, that had two finds and one unproductive for second place. Pagan Creek Atticus, a pointer male handled by Gene Hogge, also had two finds to round out the placements.

Ahoskie, N. C., April 10

Judges: Lee Flanders and Rob Maguire
VERLE FARROW AMATEUR PUPPY CLASSIC
 - 6 Pointers

1st-TREETOP HELEN, F1727396, pointer female, by Miller's Heat Seeker-Calico's Sugar 'N' Spice. Jeffrey Smith, owner and handler.

2d-ELLIE'S DOMINO, F1722154, pointer male, by Haney's All In-Calico's Guns N Roses. Gene Hogge, owner and handler.

3d-FOREVER IN BLUE JEANS, F1727400, pointer female, by Miller's Heat Seeker-Calico's Sugar 'N' Spice. Bruce & Karen Conover, owners; Bruce Conover, handler.



Amateur All-Age (front row): Ashby Morgan with Mohawk Mill Charger, Rob Maguire with Mohawk Mill Big Stuff, and Gene Hogge with Pagan Creek Atticus. **(Back row):** Barbel Fetkoter, Susan, Kimberly Maguire, and Jim Jones.



Parke Brinkley Amateur Derby Classic (front row): Larry King with Southbound Priscilla, Ellen Winall with Mohawk Mill Captain, and Gary Winall with Mohawk Mill Country Girl. **(Back row):** Bruce Conover, Barbel Fetkoter, Lyn Smith, Jeff Smith, Ashby Morgan, Jim Jones, Grace Anne Lawson, and Gene Hogge.



Verle Farrow Amateur Puppy Classic (front row): Jeff Smith with Treetop Helen, Lyn Smith, Gene Hogge with Ellie's Domino, and Bruce Conover with Forever in Blue Jeans. **(Back row):** Ellen Winall, Gary Winall, Barbel Fetkoter, Ashby Morgan, Jim Jones, Grace Anne Lawson, and Larry King.

Judges: Bruce Conover and Jeff Smith
PARKE BRINKLEY AMATEUR DERBY CLASSIC
– 6 Pointers

1st-SOUTHBOUND PRISCILLA, F1715114, pointer female, by Haney's All In-Calico's Guns N Roses. Larry King, owner and handler.
2d-MOHAWK MILL CAPTAIN, F1708987, pointer male, by Imagine-Mohawk Mill For Real. Gary & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary Winall, handler.
3d-MOHAWK MILL COUNTRY GIRL, F1708992, pointer female, by Imagine-Mohawk Mill For Real. Gary & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary Winall, handler.

Judges: Grace Ann Lawson and Robert Maguire
AMATEUR ALL-AGE [One-Hour Heats]
– 8 Pointers

1st-MOHAWK MILL HAWKEYE, F1703193, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk-Full Effect. Gary Winall, owner and handler.
2d-MOHAWK MILL JET STREAM, F1710281, pointer male, by Cas Slim Speedy Halo-Gigi Broken Halo. Gary & Ellen Winall, owners; Gary Winall, handler.

Judges: Larry King and Ellen Winall
OPEN ALL-AGE – 5 Pointers and 1 Setter
1st-MOHAWK MILL CHARMER, F1682716, setter female, by Mohawk Mill Lucky Charm-Fort River Jackie. Ashby Morgan, owner and handler.
2d-MOHAWK MILL BIG STUFF, F1691821, pointer male, by Mohawk Mill Trail Warrior-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Ashby Morgan, owner and handler.
3d-PAGAN CREEK ATTICUS, F1692037, pointer male, by Goldburg-Mohawk. Gene Hogge, owner and handler.

BEAVERTON GROUSE DOG CLUB

Spring Trial

By Tom Fruchey | Meredith, Michigan | April 17, 2026



Wayne Fruchey Open Shooting Dog Classic (l-r): Scott Chaffee with Ralphy's Chasehill Rip, Tom Fruchey, Marc Dozeman with Moss Mac Daddy, Travis Whitfield (judge), and Ken Moss with Meadowink Rae of Sunshine.

point wild birds. "Rip," a powerful, strong pointer male owned by Brian Ralph and handled by veteran pro Scott Chaffee, stepped up to the challenge and ran a very nice race, and was able to locate, point, and handle a woodcock to capture the title. Second place went to "Mac," a very nice setter male owned and handled by Marc Dozeman. During the heat of the day, Mac was able to pin a woodcock and finished his 30 minutes nicely. Rounding out the placements was "Sadie," a classy setter female owned by William Yant and handled by Scott Chaffee. Sadie hunted hard and smoothly and was able to dig up a woodcock in the 17th brace of the stake to take home the yellow ribbon.

The Michigan Grouse Dog Puppy Classic Ran on Friday. While the quantity of contenders was low, the quality was extremely high. Eight young grouse dogs went to the line, and six of these could have claimed the title. Hairs had to be split by the judges, who were Ken Moss of Mt. Pleasant and Brent Peters of Gladwin, to make the separations between the placements. The dog earning the top spot was "Mercy," a very nice pointer female owned and handled by Ken DeLong. Mercy was forward, fast, and classy, always showing at the right place at the right time. Second place was awarded to "CJ," a very nice setter male owned by Steve Colvert and handled by Scott Chaffee. CJ negotiated the puppy course well and showed great

The Beaverton Grouse Dog Club held its annual spring trial April 17-19 on the famed grounds of the Gladwin Field Trial area near Meredith, Michigan. The weather for the trial was warm and dry, and while very nice for the people, the dogs found it challenging to find and handle wild birds. Under the direction of President Shane Haskin, the event went off very smoothly, making for a very enjoyable weekend in the grouse woods.

We want to extend our thanks to our most gracious sponsor, Purina, who has supported our sport for many years and continues to offer programs and awards, helping to allow clubs to host good-quality field trials and continue to see the sport

flourish. The Hollisters still provide high-quality mounts for the judges to ride. We thank them very much for this top-quality service that we never take for granted.

The Saturday night steak fry was the highlight of the trial; more than 40 people attended and enjoyed a perfectly grilled steak by Chef Moss, along with beans, potatoes, salads, and sweets, along with cocktails, making for a very nice social gathering. Fun was had by all!

Jeff Sweet and Travis Whitfield graciously accepted the role to judge the third running of the Wayne Fruchey Open Shooting Dog Classic. This year, 39 entries took to the field, and the weather was very warm and dry, making it hard to locate and



Amateur Shooting Dog (l-r): Chuck Rowling with Rowling's Star, Scott Chaffee (judge), Ken Moss with Moss Meadow Seeker, Rich Hollister (judge), Eric Naus with Glenrae's Copper Too, and Denise Peters.

potential for future placements. Third place went to "Braveheart," a very classy setter male owned by Jack McNulty and handled by Adam Dubriske. He ran strong, showing to the front and showed a lot of promise for the future.

The Eaton Spring Derby Classic started at 8 a.m. on Saturday on Course 13. The judges for this year's classic were Shane Haskin and Marc Dozeman. Capturing the title was "Searcher," a very nice setter male owned and handled by Ken Moss. He ran extremely well and had a broke grouse find towards the end of his run. Second place went to "Ruby," a very nice pointer female owned and handled by the club's newest member, Frank Ilijanic. She put down a very stylish forward race and had a nice woodcock find. Third place was awarded to "Cain," a very young, stylish pointer male owned and handled by Travis Whitfield. Cain ran strong and pointed a woodcock during his brace to round out the placements in this large 29-dog Derby stake!

The Amateur Shooting dog ran on Sunday and drew 24 dogs. Judging the event were two of our local pro trainers, Scott Chaffee and Rich Hollister, who were very attentive



Eaton Spring Derby Classic (l-r): Ken Moss with Moss Meadow Searcher, Shane Haskin (judge), Frank Ilijanic with Northwoods Wanderlust, Marc Dozeman (judge), and Travis Whitfield with Hifive's Raising Cain.

and helpful to the amateurs in the stake. First place was awarded to "Star" with a snappy fast forward race coupled with a gorgeous grouse find, and also a nice woodcock find. Star was handled by owner Chuck Rowling. Second place went to "Seeker," a well-known setter male owned and handled by Ken Moss. He had a strong forward race with a very nice woodcock find. "Cooper," a very fast forward running Brittany male owned and handled by Eric Naus, took home third place honors with a good woodcock find and nice strong forward race.

The Beaverton Club would once again like to thank our judges who volunteered their time and talents to help make the trial a huge success. For our sport to continue, we all need to give some of our time back to it, as these fine gentlemen did this year!

Meredith, Mich., April 17
Judges: Marc Dozeman and Shane Haskin
EATON SPRING DERBY CLASSIC
- 13 Pointers and 16 Setters

- 1st-MOSS MEADOW SEARCHER, F1709320, setter male, by Moss Meadow Seeker-Tupelo Honey. Ken Moss, owner and handler.
- 2d-NORTHWOODS WANDERLUST, F1722885, pointer female, by Confident Nation-Northwoods Comet. Frank Ilijanic, owner and handler.
- 3d-HIFIVE'S RAISING CAIN, F1722002, pointer male, by Ralphy's Chasehill Rip-Hifive's Unsweetened Brandy. Travis Whitfield, owner and handler.



Michigan Grouse Dog Puppy Classic (l-r): Ken DeLong with Lucy's Just Have Mercy, Brent Peters (judge), Scott Chaffee with Pigeon Creek CJ, Ken Moss (judge), and Adam Dubriske with Mooselook Tina's Braveheart.

Judges: Jeff Sweet and Travis Whitfield
20TH WAYNE FRUCHEY OPEN SHOOTING DOG CLASSIC - 10 Pointers, 28 Setters, and 1 Brittany
 1st-RALPHY'S CHASEHILL RIP, F1697746, pointer male, by Panola Bacon-Chasehill Little Izzy. Brian Ralph, owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.
 2d-MOSS MAC DADDY, F1686015, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Moss Meadow Lil. Marc Dozeman, owner and handler.
 3d-MEADOWINK RAE OF SUNSHINE, F1705287, setter female, by Dun Rovens Zip-Castle Rock's Autumn Breeze. William Yant III, owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.

Judges: Ken Moss and Brent Peters
45TH MICHIGAN GROUSE DOG PUPPY CLASSIC - 2 Pointers and 6 Setters
 1st-LUCY'S JUST HAVE MERCY, F1723542, pointer female, by Highbanks Final Justice-Highbanks Diamond Lucy. Kenric DeLong, owner and handler.
 2d-PIGEON CREEK CJ, F1719455, setter male, by Ponderosa Mac-Lockwood Mae. Steve Colvert, owner; Scott Chaffee, handler.
 3d-MOOSELOOK TINA'S BRAVEHEART, F1723237, setter male, by Super Storm Cliff-North Country Shooting Star. Jack McNulty, owner; Adam Dubriske, handler.

Judges: Scott Chaffee and Richard Hollister
AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG - 5 Pointers, 17 Setters, and 2 Brittanys
 1st-ROWLING'S STAR, F1675772, setter female, by Long Gone Studly-Rowling's Nike. Chuck Rowling, owner and handler.
 2d-MOSS MEADOW SEEKER, F1676726, setter male, by Moss Meadow Rambler-Moss Meadow Maggie. Ken Moss, owner and handler.
 3d-GLENRAE'S COOPER TOO, F1705703, Brittany male, by Anchor's Lucky Numbers-Maddie May Dogwood. Eric Naus, owner and handler.

SUBMIT YOUR HALL OF FAME ENDORSEMENTS

The Field Trial Hall of Fame was established in 1954 to honor excellence in performance and contributions to our sport. Since that time, deserving dogs and worthy field trial personalities have been elected and honored.

There are two time-honored categories of candidates:

- Distinguished bird dogs that are no longer living.
- Persons, deceased or if living, of at least 64 years of age, who have made outstanding contributions to the field trial sport.

To endorse your candidate for the 2026 Hall of Fame, visit www.americanfield.com/hall-of-fame.

ENGLISH SETTER CLUB OF AMERICA

Waybetter Bobby Wins Garden State Amateur Shooting Dog Classic

By Megan McKay | Lacey Township, New Jersey | April 17, 2026

The English Setter Club of America Garden State Amateur Classic was held April 17–18, 2026, at Greenwood WMA in Lacey Township, New Jersey. A total of 22 dogs were drawn and competed in a very competitive, high-quality stake, featuring a number of impressive performances.

We extend our sincere thanks to judges Gus Alimonos and Joe Amatulli for their time and expertise. We would also like to give special recognition to the many volunteers who worked behind the scenes to make this event possible, especially those who assisted with setup

and bird planting throughout the weekend.

Special thanks to Norman Basilone for coordinating.

Lacey Township, N. J., April 17

Judges: Gus Alimonos and Joe Amatulli
GARDEN STATE AMATEUR SHOOTING DOG

[One-Hour Heats]

– 18 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 2 German Shorthairs
1st-WAYBETTER BOBBY, F1682880, pointer male, by Waybetter Rocky-Nehawka Amazin Sue. Robert Verderosa, owner and handler.

2d-THREE Z'S SUNRISE RUBY, F1697289, German Shorthair male, by Keg Creek MC's Big Lick-Monica's Q P B R Duchess. Stephen Zozzaro, owner and handler.

3d-MOHAWK MILL PATRIOT, F1703194, pointer male, by Indian Creek Spur-Hirollins Fantasy Girl. Edward & Megan McKay, owners; Edward McKay, 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.]

USCSDA MID-ATLANTIC OPEN SHOOTING DOG CHAMPIONSHIP

Smoke Rise Jake Named Champion; Backcountry Bruiser, Runner-up

By Al Fazenbaker | Houtzdale, Pennsylvania | April 20, 2026



U.S. Complete Mid-Atlantic Championship (first row): Mark Hughes with Smoke Rise Jake and Chris Catanzarite with Backcountry Bruiser. (Second row): Tony Bingham, Al Fazenbaker (judge), Bruce Mueller (judge), and Eric Munden.

Smoke Rise Jake is the 2026 U. S. Complete Mid-Atlantic Champion, besting a field of 27 contenders at the Warriors Mark trial grounds near Houtzdale, Pennsylvania. Jake was handled by the veteran professional

Tony Bingham from Shelby, North Carolina. Jake, owned by Fred Rose of Pinehurst, North Carolina, is a 7-year-old liver and white ticked pointer out of Stoney Run's Buddy x Smoke Rise Mariah. The runner-up was awarded to Backcountry

Bruiser, no stranger to the winner's circle, handled by long-time trialer Chris Catanzarite of Scenery Hill, Pennsylvania. Bruiser, owned by Chris, is a 10-year-old orange and white pointer, bred out of Erin's War Creek x Backcountry Tornado.

The Mid-Atlantic Championship was sandwiched between the National Walking Shooting Dog Futurity and the Region 2 (AFTCA) Walking Shooting Dog Championship, making for a week of competitive bird dog stakes at Warriors Mark. These grounds are owned and managed by Eric and Bernadette Gilliland, who have turned this former strip mine land into a premier venue for bird hunting and field trials. The grounds are noted for wide open vistas, marked by long edges of conifers and interspersed with long strips of prairie grasses, making for a superior venue for showing a good bird dog.

The weather was a major factor for the trial. Warriors Mark is located

in the low mountains of central Pennsylvania, and in mid-April, weather conditions can range from sunny and 80s to 20s and snowy! This year was no exception, as extreme weather on both ends of the spectrum visited the grounds during the week of trialing. Coming off an exceptionally hot several days during the Walking Futurity, the Mid Atlantic opened on Monday morning to frigid temperatures and biting winds, reaching 40 mph or more throughout the day, pushing wind chills below freezing. Conditions were tough for handlers, and exceptionally so for judges Al Fazenbaker from Kingsville, Ohio, and Bruce Mueller from Bedford, Pennsylvania, who were diligent and thorough in their judicial duties and gave the dogs every opportunity to perform. The dogs seemed to enjoy the cooler weather, and some gave their handlers a run for their money as they worked hard to keep them in the pocket on a cold day.

Chris Catanzarite, the trial chair, did an outstanding job making sure all was in place for the event. Birds were plentiful, horses were saddled and ready for judges, and a dog wagon was always present to expedite the trial process. U.S. Complete wishes to thank the many volunteers who lent a helping hand during the trial, notably Eric and Krysta Munden who provided logistical support at the grounds, Dave and Mark Hughes for the use of their machinery and handling the dog wagon, Russ Fazio for use of his machinery, and a big thank you to Chris Catanzarite and Tony Bingham for providing safe and comfortable horses for the judges.

The trial was hosted by the Greensburg Pointer & Setter Club, a club with a rich history of hosting both walking and horseback field trials; this was the ninth consecutive year of hosting the Mid-Atlantic Championship. Running under the auspices of the U.S. Complete Shooting Dog Association, the trial was sponsored by two icons of the sporting dog world, Purina and Garmin. We appreciate the efforts of

these two sponsors and encourage you to try their products if you haven't already. You won't be disappointed.

This year's event garnered an entry of 27 dogs; we want to acknowledge and thank those amateur and professional handlers who competed in this stake, including professional handlers Tony Bingham, Mark Hughes, and Zach Erne.

The Running

Brace 1: Mohawk Mill Big Trouble (PM/Bingham) and Wildland Hide The Wine (PM/Munden). Big Trouble was big out of the gate but did not last the hour, as he was not pleasing his handler and was on the leash at 50. Wildland showed a wide, forward race, scoring two finds handled with excellent manners; he was absent for some time but finished the hour.

Brace 2: River City Free Agent (PM/Erne) and Mohawk Mill War Hawk (PM/Bingham). Free Agent scored a find at 30 but was on the leash after moving on the flush. War Hawk was lost early, and the tracker was called at 20.

Brace 3: Hypointe Monarch Express (PF/Fazio) and Miller's Special Upgrade (PF/Hughes). Monarch Express showed a very nice and forward race, scoring nicely handled finds at 5, 10, 13, and 27, including a pheasant on the far side of the breakaway. She was picked up after retrieving a bird at 38. Miller's Upgrade was on the leash at 35 after suffering two unproductives.

Brace 4: Emert's Grouse Ringer T (ESM/Bingham) and Double Deuce Zeke (PM/Hughes). T showed a wide race throughout. He scored quail finds at 22, 40, and 50, and one nonproductive at 55. His bird work was clean, and he finished strong and to the front. Zeke likewise showed an aggressive and forward race, and he was a bird finder during his time in the brace, scoring clean finds 15, 24, 26, 32, and 40. He failed to finish after scooping a bird at 50.

Brace 5: Smoke Rise Doc (PM/Bingham) and Backcountry Bruiser (PM/Catanzarite). Doc had a short reign on the course, as he was not

pleasing the handler and was on the leash. Bruiser, the runner-up, broke away showing a strong forward race and was absent for a short time; he was found standing at 20, and then dug up two additional finds at 35 and 42, showing impeccable manners on his birds. His race was wide but with a very positive handling disposition, finishing strong and to the front to earn his placement.

Brace 6: Smoke Rise Jake (PM/Bingham) and River City Hit Man (ESM/Erne). Jake showed a championship-caliber performance. He ran big, covering the vast country found at Warriors Mark, yet stayed in the pocket and responded to his handler. He was also a bird finder and was rewarded for his efforts with contacts at 15, 17, 35, 27, and 54, all handled with outstanding manners and class. He was always forward and showed the class of a top-notch bird dog in his movements to win this championship. Hit Man was lost to judgment, and the tracker was called.

Brace 7: Backwoods Dine & Dash (PM/Hughes) and Cates Rocket Girl (ESF/Erne). This was a shortened brace, as both handlers elected to pick up.

Brace 8: Lincoln County Big Stuff (PM/Bingham) and Warrior Zeke (PM/Hughes). Big Stuff was picked up at 20, not pleasing the handler. Zeke scored finds at 27, 30, and 40 but was on the leash after an indiscretion on a bird at 41.

Brace 9: Wildland Wild Man (PM/Munden) and Mohawk Mill Knight Hawk (PM/Bingham). Wild Man was strong out of the gate, showing a wide race and range. He scored finds at 9 and 36, with good manners displayed. At 42, he was found standing buried in a stand of pines; he located the prey after a significant relocation, but was up after a breach of manners on the relocation flush. Knight Hawk was up after two unproductives.

Brace 10: Saddled Up Sadie (PF/Hughes) and Backcountry Pure Gold (PF/Catanzarite). Sadie scored three nicely handled finds but showed only a moderate race through the hour.

Pure Gold suffered a nonproductive at 10, but dug up three finds at 16, 36, and 45. She was on the truck after moving on her last bird.

Brace 11: Smoke Rise Bull (PM/Bingham) and Double Deuce Jack (PM/Hughes). Bull was strong out of the gate but shortened considerably with time. He scored two finds, at 35 and 59, and finished the hour. Jack suffered a nonproductive at 10 and was then lost to judgment, with the tracker called at 35.

Brace 12: Backwoods Wild Fire Blaze (PM/Hughes) and Santee River Pawley Girl (PF/Bingham).

Blaze showed a powerful forward race and scored one find at 37 but was stymied by several unproductives. He finished the hour strong and forward.

Brace 13: Hitail Roxy Afield (ESF/Fazio) and Miller's Hopped Up Version (PF/Hughes). Roxy suffered a nonproductive early and scored two finds at 30 and 50. She showed a moderate race. Miller's Version was lost to judgment.

Brace 14: Millers Dusty Version (PF/Hughes). Running as a bye, Dusty scored her first find at 14. She suffered a nonproductive at 20, then

came back to score finds at 27 and 54. She finished the hour forward.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this trial a success. We hope to see you at a U.S. Complete trial soon!

Houtzdale, Pa., April 20

Judges: Al Fazenbaker and Bruce Mueller
U. S. COMPLETE MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats] – 23 Pointers and 4 Setters
Winner-SMOKE RISE JAKE, F1684876, pointer male, by Stoney Run's Buddy-Smoke Rise Mariah. Fred Rose, owner; Tony Bingham, handler.
Runner-Up-BACKCOUNTRY BRUISER, F1672645, pointer male, by Erin's War Creek-Backcountry Tornado. Chris Catanzarite, owner and handler.

NEW ENGLAND SHOOTING DOG FUTURITY

Dunn's Step N' Out Wins 90th Running

By Margaret C. Drew | East Windsor, Connecticut | April 24, 2026



90th New England Shooting Dog Futurity (l-r): John Stolgitis (judge), Wendy Tracy Harman, Mary Tracy, Zaynah Tracy with Dunn's Step N' Out, George Tracy, Mark Janiec with Bryant's Silver Lining, Brian Sanchez, Mike Tracy with Peek A Bull, Grace Sanchez with Erin's Standing Ovation, Joe Cincotta, Thor Kain (judge), and Doug Ray.

When the New England Shooting Futurity was first proposed as a regional futurity in the 1930's, the proposal was not well received. Herbert G. Silver pushed forward and headed a group that proposed a regional futurity despite recognizing the need for more breeders. He and the group found that defining eligibility and other rules proved challenging. Despite these roadblocks, they still moved forward, and in April 1937, the first futurity was held, although in name only, as no set rules could be agreed upon for the entry of 17 derbies. However, breeders and other dog people acknowledged that

a regional futurity was necessary to move the bird dog community forward, so a regional set of guidelines was established, and 21 dogs were entered. These rules and whelping dates were adhered to until 1939, when a June whelping date helped to change the venue to run in October beginning in 1941. The futurity nominations and entries remained a regional entry base for several years, expanding in the late '70s. In the '80s, a few litters from outside of New England increased futurity. By the early '90s, litters and entries were once again declining, but were followed by a surge to 50-60 entries from 35

litters in the early 2000s. During that time, a guaranteed purse of \$2,000 encouraged participation. However, with the litter nominations declining, which means entries as well, this policy could not continue. The association would like to return to that position; however, litter nominations and entries are the key. Nominations for the 91st have already begun. Contact Margaret Drew now.

The Flaherty Field Trial Area is a perfect location and facility for field trials. The clubhouse displays a wall of Life Patron plaques, taxidermy of upland game, various regional historic plaques, and engraved retired trophies. In an adjacent room is a pictorial history of the construction and progress of the present clubhouse. In a second framed plaque, there are historic photos from trials with identified patrons, dogs, and the trial portrayed. This is a very nice historic piece of work. Most of the elderly participants in those photographs are much younger, and many of the people in them are no longer with us. We now need to gather photos of today's events to create another pictorial of "now." Many of the photos displayed are thanks to Truman Crowles' family

and to Dick Bembenek for gathering and compiling them. Dick is also responsible for making and donating a wooden memory board of all the New England open winners from its origin in 1929, with spaces through 2028. The New England Open is most noted for its many years at the Ragged Hill Farm in Pomfret, Connecticut; however, about 10 years ago, the land was lost to field trials, and it is now run at Flaherty just prior to the futurity. The original sterling silver tray, donated by Harry and Deb Townsend, is full and now is well displayed at the Bird Dog Hall of Fame in Grand Junction, Tennessee. A trip to the museum is a must for all bird dog followers, including the walk of memory bricks as you enter the building. Plan on a few hours there, as it is an impressive display of all types of bird dog events.

The grounds at Flaherty were in excellent condition this spring. The grounds are still easily accessible for horseback and walking as a result of the road improvements made a few years back. Gravel-filled walkways and culverts over wet areas are all still functioning well. The beavers had tried to dam an area below the clubhouse by the lowest culvert; however, the state was taking the dam apart on both Thursday and Friday, so walking was not as wet. The next project will be relocating

the beavers. As noted earlier, the Flaherty area has ample parking for all types of vehicles, running water, fenced areas for several horses, and ample room for staking out horses and dogs. The clubhouse has bathroom facilities and heat for colder weekends, a full kitchen, and a modern bird room. There is also a gallery wagon, which was in use during the futurity, thanks to trucks provided by Chairman Bonnetti and Smooth Carter. Drivers were Bill Bonnetti, Tom Smith, and Darren Boyer. Maybe even someone I missed. The advantage of having a gallery wagon for at least part of the course is that it encourages more participation. Everyone wants to watch a bird dog work, especially if you are the owner or breeder.

The 90th New England Futurity once again used a single course for 30-minute heats, breaking away down a slight hill on the northeast side of the grounds near the wooden rails approaching the horse corrals. We then moved forward toward the open area leading to the pond, with plenty of choices for a dog to venture. After passing the traditional tree stop area, dogs are encouraged to search the wooded quail habitat to the left of the pond before reaching to the front and through the tree island. Following the tree island area, the course swings westerly, where

dogs can make three choices: up the center road, to the left through an open field toward Fox Hill, or right down a wooded edge where birds were often located. At the end of this area, we are about 15 minutes to the first large culvert crossing and up the long tobacco hill. After frequent bird contact at the top of Tobacco Hill, the course makes a long cast down a hill with full cover to the culvert, where the beavers were trying to impede our fun. After crossing the culvert, the course winds through cover and trees and below the clubhouse, where folks can get to view at least a few minutes of bird dog excitement before the course finishes in the area below the starting hill and on toward the long "deerborn" area under the power lines. These final five minutes often make or break a dog, and a scout is often required. Did the derby have the desire and energy left in it to finish, still hunting?!

East Windsor, Conn., April 24
Judges: Thor Kain and John Stolgitis
90TH NEW ENGLAND SHOOTING DOG
FUTURITY – 19 Pointers and 5 Setters
1st-DUNN'S STEP N' OUT, F1708353, pointer male, by Touch's Malcolm Story-Treeline's Sunflower. William Dunn, owner; George Tracy, handler.
2d-BRYANT'S SILVER LINING, F1710183, pointer male, by Haney's Silver Dollar-Haney's High Price Penny. Kenton Bryant, owner; Mike Tracy, handler.
3d-PEEK A BULL, F1712607, pointer female, by Bully Rock-Sandspur Belle. Ernie Saniga & Karen Saniga, owners; Mike Tracy, handler.
4th-ERIN'S STANDING OVATION, F1716694, setter male, by Erin's Hidden Shamrock-Erin's Princess Rene. Joe Cincotta, owner; Doug Ray, handler.

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REGION 9 (AFTCA) AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP

Mauck's Wyeast Molly Named Champion; Painted Hank, Runner-up

By Sharon Bowden | Ontario, Oregon | April 26, 2026



Region 9 Amateur All-Age Championship (l-r): Kris Wall, Bill Owen with Mauck's Wyeast Molly, Lance Schulz, Alex Mauck, Talmage Smedley, Bridget Ledington with Painted Hank, Ray Larrondo, Jim Ledington, Ron Brody, Ed Mayhew, Sergio Velez, Taylor Phillips, and Tammy Larrondo.

The Region 9 Amateur All-Age Championship was held on the grounds about 10 miles outside of Ontario, Oregon, off Moores Hollow Road. This venue offers many benefits, along with all the wild birds. Chukar, Hungarian partridge, and California quail can be

found in the sagebrush-covered hills.

Boise Valley Pointing Dog Club would like to thank Jim and Martha Ledington, Phil and Sharon Bowden, Alex Mauck and Kristina Wall, Bill Owen, and all the others who helped to make this trial successful. Without the efforts of all these people, the

Amateur All-Age trial would not have been possible. Also, the club thanks the attendees who come each year. The BVPDC would like to extend our deepest gratitude to the landowners, Purina, SportDOG, and the judges for spending the time in the saddle.

The Region 9 Amateur All-Age Championship started on a cool Sunday morning with nine entries. The champion was Mauck's Wyeast Molly, owned and handled by Alex Mauck. This setter had a nice performance. The runner-up was Painted Hank, a pointer with a quality brace, owned and handled by Jim Ledington. The judges were Sergio Velez and Talmage Smedley.

Ontario, Oreg., April 26

Judges: Talmage Smedley and Sergio Velez
REGION 9 AMATEUR ALL-AGE CHAMPIONSHIP
[One-Hour Heats]

– 4 Pointers, 2 Setters, and 3 German Shorthairs
Winner-**MAUCK'S WYEAST MOLLY**, F1699454, setter female, by P W Sunrise-High Prairie Gypsy. Alex Mauck, owner and handler.
Runner-Up-**PAINTED HANK**, F1690839, pointer male, by Painted Owyhee Toad-Painted Owyhee Sagebrush. Jim Ledington, owner and handler.

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CECIL RESTER FOR FIELD TRIAL HALL OF FAME



I have had the privilege for 38 years to watch my husband, Cecil Rester, pursue his never-ending love of field trialing. For the past 50 years, Cecil has been passionately involved in the sport. Over his career, he has achieved uncommon success in the sport on every level, as a breeder of Champions, a handler, a judge, a club official, a friend, and a mentor to newcomers to the sport.

Cecil's passion for the sport and the dogs has never wavered. He still enjoys breeding and developing young dogs, and working them as much as he ever has. Over the years, Cecil has given much of his time to judging trials from major Championships to youth field trials. He always says he never gets tired of watching a good dog work.

I believe over the years in the sport, he has exceeded all expectations of a worthy and deserving candidate for the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

I proudly nominate and ask for your support in electing Cecil Rester to the Field Trial Hall of Fame.

— Yours truly, Holly Rester

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RECOGNIZED FIELD TRIALS

[No trials scheduled]

ABHA TRIALS

[No trials scheduled]

NBHA TRIALS

[No trials scheduled]

SBHA TRIALS

[No trials scheduled]

USCSDA TRIALS

[No trials scheduled]

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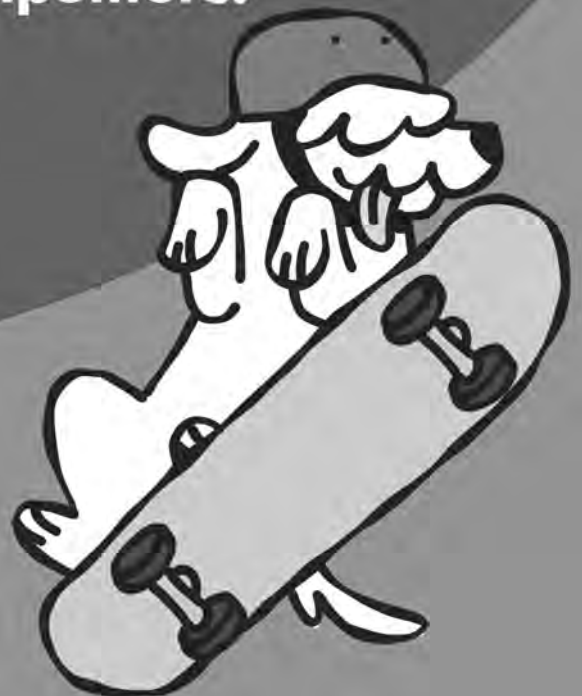
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